

Smoke Signals

ISSUE 12 APRIL 2022 THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF TOBACCO PIPE MAKERS & TOBACCO BLENDEERS



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2-6 The MASTER'S YEAR





The Master's Year

As I sit and write this piece and reflect on the past 10 months in which I have been honoured to serve as Master of the Company, a number of thoughts spring to mind:

- I am amazed at how quickly the year has passed. I am in the home stretch, but it still feels like only yesterday when I was installed.
- I am blessed at the huge number of great events that I have been privileged to attend – they have been so very varied and interesting and, without exception, have provided me with experiences that will live with me into my dotage.
- I am excited at the number of events that I have still to attend over the next 8 weeks or so.
- I am surprised that I haven't (yet) managed to muck anything up (too much). I take no credit for the fact that I am approaching the end of "My Year" with the Company in such rude health; that this is the case is down to the very great efforts of the team that supports the Master – the Clerk, the Treasurer, the Clerk's Assistant, the Beadle and the Honorary Chaplain – all of whom have worked tirelessly to make my life, and those of the Wardens and the Mistress, so much more straightforward.

It has been incredibly difficult to identify some highlights of the year to share with you - there have been so many, but, in no particular order, here goes:-

I have been so fortunate that Covid has not had the devastating effect on my term as Master as it had had on that of my predecessor, Adam Bennett, but my Installation was an early victim of the restrictions in place last summer. It meant that my first event IRL ("In Real Life" for those of you over the age of 16) was the Company Golf day at Tandridge. Whilst this was my first Golf Day, it was the 26th that Past Master Derek Harris has organised, and he does it so well. The whole day was great fun, with the prizes distributed according to an algorithm that only Derek knows the mechanics of. The only inevitability was that Senior Warden, Paul Taberer, would win the Charles Rich trophy for best golfer.

Derek will be hanging up his clipboard after the 2022 event, and we owe him a great debt of gratitude.

Shortly after the Golf Day, I was privileged to be invited to the London Regiment's Anzio Dinner at the Cavalry & Guards Club. This was a truly special evening, which also enabled me to spend some time with Major Dominic Masters, the (then) Officer Commanding D (London Irish Rifles) Company – the Reserve Company with which we have a long affiliation. To hear about the great work that Dominic and his colleagues had been doing, particularly in relation to the Covid testing regime, was eye-opening. It was also reassuring to understand how grateful the men and women of the Regiment are for the support that we, and our Benevolent Fund, provide.

The first Smoking Club event for 18 months took place at the Caledonian Club in July. There were 30 of us, current and prospective members, who had gathered on the lovely terrace expecting to enjoy a balmy summer's evening of haggis, whisky and cigars. However, the weather was truly biblical, with torrential downpours causing us all to huddle under the awnings. It was not the evening that our hard-working Membership Committee had planned, but it was memorable nonetheless, and it was heartening to see how enthusiastic people were to re-engage with one another after so long being locked down.

I have hosted four formal Company events during my term, and they have each been special in their own way.



The first was our Autumn Court and Dinner on board HQS Wellington. The dinner is always an enjoyable, relaxed affair, with brandy and cigars flowing on the quarterdeck after dinner. Our guest for the evening, the Master Mariner, still describes the dinner as one of the highlights of his year.



Our Annual Banquet was held at Plaisterers' Hall, with our Principal Guest being Stefan Bomhard, the CEO of Imperial Brands. Despite a number of last-minute, Covid-related, absences, over 140 people attended our first large-scale dinner since

January 2020 and they were entertained not just by Stefan's speech, which highlighted the importance of the work done by our Benevolent Fund for those in very real need, but also by Laurence Williams' musical talents; I still find myself singing of "Poisoning Pigeons in the Park" at strange (and often inappropriate) moments.



At our January Dinner at Drapers' Hall, we were due to be addressed by Aaron Barbour, Director of the Katherine Low Settlement, which is one of



the charities supported by our Benevolent Fund. Unfortunately, Aaron had to pull out at the last minute, but he was (more than) ably deputised for by Paula Robertson, who heads the KLS 'Love to Learn' programme. Paula's description of some of the real-life situations with which they have to deal, and the very real, positive, differences that they make to people's lives, was truly moving. The evening was rounded off with music from two of our scholars from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama – Amy Holyland and Andrew Garrido clearly have very bright futures ahead of them.



There have been two unique events that I have been particularly pleased to attend this year. The first was the presentation of one of the Lord Mayor's Covid-19 Livery Awards to our Honorary Chaplain, Reverend Canon David Parrott. These awards were presented personally by the (then) Lord Mayor, William Russell, to members of the Livery who had made outstanding contributions to the City and to their own communities, during the pandemic. That David was recognised in this way was an apt pre-retirement tribute for all that he has done for us and for the City.



The second unique event was a lunch that I hosted to celebrate Past Master Rolf Christophersen's 100th birthday. It was a special afternoon at the In & Out Club, and it was lovely to be able to honour such a special gentleman who has contributed so much to our Company over the 62 years that he has been a Member, and to be able to include his lovely wife, Angela, in the celebration.



My final formal event was the Election Court Lunch at Watermen's Hall. This was special for two main reasons: firstly, Past Master Richard Tranter made presentations of hand-crafted pipes to four Past Masters and to our Honorary Chaplain. Richard had crafted each of these unique pieces with his own hands, and he had thought carefully about how to relate each pipe to their recipient – they were quite remarkable examples of the pipe maker's craft and of Richard's particular skills. The second special reason was the speech by my Consort, Catherine, who spoke most eloquently of the highlights of her own year.



A few other highlights of my year:

- In what was the first event involving both of our military affiliations, the London Irish Rifles and the Irish Guards Association, the Sirrah Trophy had a particularly Irish theme – with Irish Stew, Guinness and singing rounding off a fun day that saw the Trophy being retained by the Pipe Makers "A" Team, and the prize for top shot going to Liveryman Lt Col Geoffrey Strickland.
- The Irish Guards Association's London Branch Annual Dinner, at which Catherine and the Clerk were honoured to be the first female guests and at which I saw, first-hand, the truly wonderful relationship between the retired officers and their men. The evening was organised superbly by our own Clerk's Assistant, Alan Beggs, who is recently retired from his role as Honorary Secretary of the IGA.
- There had been some doubts as to whether we could, or indeed should, hold our annual Carol Service at St Lawrence Jewry seeing as the church was very much a building site. However, it was a magical evening, notwithstanding the scaffolding, at which the singing of the Sevenoaks School choir was truly magical and the presence of so many people, including many representatives from the charities supported by our Benevolent Fund, only added to the festive spirit.
- The Painter-Stainers' Court and Livery Dinner was the first (and, most likely, the last) Livery event at which I will hear Oasis played and see guests dancing in the aisles.
- The Lord Mayor's Dinner to the Masters, Upper Wardens and Upper Bailiff at Mansion House was an evening full of City pomp and ceremony, but also full of meaning, with references made in the speeches to the Lord Mayor's themes of People and Purpose, and to the benevolence of the wider Livery (£72m p.a. given in support of good causes generally, and nearly £1m already given in support of Ukraine).



The United Guilds Service brought together the whole Livery under the dome of a packed St Paul's Cathedral for a service celebrating our City, but also reflecting on other cities, particularly in Ukraine, where there is currently little to celebrate. This service brought home to me the fact that the Livery is an amazing community that can do, and does do, so much to help and support those who are in need. However, it can do, and must do, much more to share those good works with a wider audience.



I still have many more special events ahead of me, before I hand over to my Senior Warden, Paul Taberer on 1st June, including trips to Sheffield for the Cutlers' Feast, to Bristol for the Merchant Venturers' Spring Banquet and to Windsor for the presentation of new Colours to the Irish Guards.



I'm sure I'll need a lie-down at the end of it all.

It would be remiss of me not to take this opportunity to offer my thanks to a number of people, who have made this year so special:

- To the Membership Committee for all their hard work in promoting the Company and for securing such a strong flow of new members. In my period of office thus far I have installed eight new Freemen and gowned two new Liverymen, with more to come at our Installation Court in June;
- To my Wardens and to the Court for their support throughout the year, and to those who have stepped up to take on new responsibilities when asked;
- To Catherine, for fulfilling her own role as Consort with such grace and accomplishment, and for allowing me to gallivant around the City at all hours;
- To Ian, Alan, Mark and David who have performed manfully during the year to keep the Company moving in the right direction and have enabled us to transition away from lockdown in such a positive way;
- To Sandra. Only a Master really knows how much hard work is needed to make him, or her, look half-way competent. Only a Master really knows that all of that hard work is done by the Clerk. In what has been, in many ways, a challenging year, Sandra has performed with her customary calm efficiency and, most importantly, with good humour and a sense of fun. Anything I have done right is solely down to Sandra; any mistakes are my own.

My heartfelt thanks to all of you.

So, as I approach the end of my time in Office, I reflect on an active, fun (and slightly exhausting) year; I thank the Company for the very great honour that you have bestowed upon me for allowing me to serve as Master; and Catherine and I send our successors, Paul and Sharon, our best wishes for what we are sure will be an exciting year ahead.

Jerry Merton
Master



Appointments

The Court

Liveryman Mallory Factor has been elected to the Court as an Assistant and was installed at the meeting of the Election Court on 22nd March 2022.
Liverymen Susan Curran has been elected to the Court as an Assistant and will be installed at the meeting of the Installation Court on 1st June 2022.

Members Gowned with the Livery

Judith Donovan CBE <i>Marketing Consultant</i>	22nd September 2021
Darius Namdar <i>Hospitality Professional</i>	19th January 2022

New Honorary Freemen

Mrs Sheila Harris <i>Past Mistress 1988-89</i>	22nd September 2021
Mrs Hilary Walter <i>Past Mistress 2002-03</i>	22nd September 2021
Mrs Samantha Bennett <i>Past Mistress 2020-21</i>	22nd September 2021
Mrs Hilary Adler <i>Past Mistress 1982-83</i>	22nd March 2022

New Freemen

Kelly Rhodes Cushman <i>VP of Government Relations at Elevation Capital</i>	3rd June 2021
Sarah Elizabeth Saunders <i>President & Founder, Women's International Cigar Club, Private Chef</i>	3rd June 2021
Paul Joseph Thomas <i>Member HM Forces</i>	3rd June 2021
Ian Anthony Narbeth <i>Solicitor</i>	22nd September 2021
Judith Donovan CBE <i>Marketing Consultant</i>	22nd September 2021
Andrew Charles Pinto <i>Insurance Consultant</i>	19th January 2022
Thomas Elliott Zussman <i>Graduate Placement at Private City Bank</i>	19th January 2022
Shem Chevalier Baldeosingh <i>Public Affairs Manager, Philip Morris UK & Ireland Ltd</i>	22nd March 2022
Richard Gray <i>Investment Banker</i>	22nd March 2022
Meena Heath <i>Global Strategist</i>	22nd March 2022
Thomas Antony Little Heath <i>Global Marketing Consultant</i>	22nd March 2022



Lost Brethren

Past Master Anthony 'Tony' Ostick

Past Master Tony Ostick joined the Company in 1966 and became Master in 1990, following in the steps of his father who was Master in 1981. Both were dedicated to the success of the Company and it is fair to say that Tony's Mastership coincided with the Company being at its peak in terms of its reputation and its membership members.

The Ostick family business of wholesale Tobacconists and Confectioners was based in Retford, serving most of South Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire. Based as it was in Retford, much travel was involved to attend functions and meetings in London.

Tony had a keen sense of humour which was infectious and always shared great generosity.

It was in Tony's time as Master that the future of the Clay Pipe factory at the Ironbridge Museum came on the agenda and Tony with his Clerk paid what was probably the last visit to the derelict factory which was still as it was in the day that it had closed. It was the beginning of an imaginative restoration project.

All the Ostick family were devoted to the horses and rarely missed meetings at Doncaster racecourse. The family were also much in love with their splendid villa in Portugal and after selling his business, Tony spent many months in the Algarve.

So, Tony Ostick sadly departed us at the age of 87 on 10th June 2021, after what had been a full and active life and like many others had contributed so much to the success of the Tobacco Pipe Makers' Company.

He was married to Audrey for 53 years, who sadly passed away in August 2021. Father to Jacky and Penny, he was a much-loved grandfather and great grandfather.



Liveryman Ian Kimmins
Clerk to the Company 1975 to 1996

Past Master Dr Isidore Redstone

Dr Isidore Redstone applied to join the Company on 11th June 1954 as a Founder Member. Isidore's brother Isaiah applied to join the Company on the same day. Their father, David, started the Sobranie Company which became the Balkan Sobranie Company.

In 1954, Isidore and Isaiah were both working at the Sobranie Company, a cigarette and pipe tobacco manufacturer.

Sobranie of London was established in 1879 by the Redstone family, when cigarettes had just become fashionable in Europe. It is one of the oldest cigarette brands in the world. Several generations of the Redstone family blended this tobacco from a secret formula. The original cigarettes were handmade in the Russian tradition. Sobranie was the supplier of the Imperial Court of Russia, and of the royal courts

of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Spain, Romania, and Greece. In the early 1980s, the trademarks for Sobranie were sold to Gallaher Group.

Isidore had by the time of joining the Company, already trained as a Doctor at St Bartholomew's Hospital.

A Freeman in 1954, Liveryman in 1963, Isidore joined the Court in 1976 and became Master in 1991.

Isidore died peacefully at home on 12th January 2021 at the ripe old age of 96 surrounded by Mary Elizabeth, his wife of almost 67 years and some of his children.



Past Master Derek Harris



Liveryman John Hawkins

John was born in West Kensington in March 1929, the eldest of four children. In 1939, when the Second World War broke out, John was evacuated first to Buckinghamshire and later to Brighton. At the age of 18, and in the aftermath of the end of the war, John was called up to do his National Service in the RAF and in 1948 became involved in the 'Berlin Airlift', which lasted for more than a year and carried more than 2.3 million tons of cargo into West Berlin.

On returning to civilian life, he started work at a Bank in the City but soon decided that wasn't for him. He began work at Imperial Tobacco and through a life working in the Tobacco world, as a salesman, he also worked for Churchman's, Ogdens and finally for Joseph & Henry Wilson Ltd, producers of snuff.

It was while he was working for Joseph & Henry Wilson Ltd in 1983, that John became a Freeman and Liveryman of our Company.

At his funeral, it was said that even up to his death at the age of 92 on 16th January 2022, John had still recounted tales of his vast career in the Tobacco trade with great fondness and pride and in particular, his delight and honour of being an esteemed member of the Livery of our Company and a Freeman of our beloved City of London. His daughters recounted attending the Annual Banquets at the Mansion House with their father with great pride.

John's wife Mary predeceased him but John's two daughters Susan and Charlotte and his four granddaughters remember him as a much-loved father and grandfather.



Sandra Stocker
Liveryman and Clerk

Liveryman Don Higgins

Don Higgins was involved in the industry from the age of 14 and started working in a tobacconist in the Bristol area and then started his own shop which became shops.

In 1976 his life was to change. At the suggestion of Ken Barnes of Charatan Pipes, with Don's good friend and fellow tobacconist, Alan Darbey of Cardiff, they decided to form the 'Association of Independent Tobacco Specialists' (AITS), a group of specialist retailers to deal with major suppliers in order to obtain special terms.

The first meeting was held at Birmingham Airport and from an initial dozen retailers, the Association grew over the years to nearly 150. Don was appointed Secretary and shortly thereafter he produced a monthly Newsletter, always avidly awaited by the industry. Soon after the initial meeting, Don had the idea to set up an annual exhibition over 3-4 days for the industry where the AITS members could visit, talk to their suppliers,

view the products and place orders. Then a Trade dinner on one of the evenings was added every year at which raffles in aid of the Tobacco Trade Benevolent Association were held, raising many thousands of pounds over the years. The first shows were held at the St Johns Hotel in Solihull and eventually at Trent Bridge Cricket Ground, Nottingham.

A few years after the first show, the AITS members decided to establish a wholesale division for their members of which Don was appointed managing director. Don devoted his whole life for the benefit of the Retail Trade and ran AITS full time, ably abetted by his wife Trish. Don was a valued member of both the Pipe Smokers' Council and the Tobacco Trade Benevolent Association. Don was a proud Welshman, keen on cricket and an avid pipe smoker.

Don was admitted as a Freeman in 1988 and was gowned in the Livery in 1990 and passed away on 23rd March 2022.

Past Master Roger Merton



A Message from the Master-Elect

What an honour it is to have been elected at the Election Court Meeting on 22 March 2022 as your new Master, effective from Installation on 1 June 2022.

I am truly excited and very much look forward to being Master – how time has flown since becoming Fourth Warden!

We have a wonderful membership from all walks of life – such an interesting group. And it is exciting to see many new members joining – thanks in large to the energetic drive of the Membership Committee.

I am of real tobacco stock having spent my whole career in the industry at the heart of the product – raw leaf tobacco - the primary component of just about all smoking products!

I am a 4th generation Zimbabwean and after schooling and national service there, I went to the University of Cape Town in South Africa and obtained an honours degree in Business Science. I then returned to Zimbabwe to join my father's leaf tobacco trading company Tabex Limited, starting at the bottom, with training in growing and farming the leaf, buying it from producers, processing, packing and selling.

Three years later in 1987, I was transferred to the UK from Zimbabwe and joined the family holding company, Intabex Holdings Worldwide.

As Chief Operating Officer, it was from here that I had responsibility for international operations and global sales – a job that entailed extensive travel, good times and tough times and a lot of fun in a very competitive industry.

The family company was sold in 1997 and I remained with the new owner, a US entity publicly traded on the NYSE for several years until an opportunity arose in Amsterdam to acquire a leaf tobacco trading company along with several cigar leaf operations scattered around the globe – and so began 6 years of residence in the Netherlands along with my wife.

This company, the CdF International Group, was sold in 2011 and we returned to live in the UK in

2012 on a semi-retired basis. I have retained a consultancy role with the new owners.

My only other involvement in business today is as a director of a trade finance fund which provides lines of credit to, amongst others, leaf tobacco dealers.

Shortly after returning to the UK, I met with Past Master Fiona Adler who introduced me to the Company – which I joined in 2014 and I've had a fantastic journey so far, participating on the General Purposes Committee and the Court and attending as many functions as my schedule will allow, and especially enjoying a cigar whenever possible.

My wife, Sharon, and I married back in Zimbabwe. Our two children were born in the UK – Aimee, now married with 2 young sons, and Julian, currently living and working in Tokyo.

Sharon has been of enormous support to me in my career and I know she will embrace the role of Mistress.

We enjoy our trips back to South Africa and Zimbabwe where most of the family still live.

My hobbies revolve around sport and exercise and my target is to maintain this as much as possible during the coming year, though I do fear regular golf may suffer.

As Master, I will do my best to proudly represent your Company. The Mistress and I very much look forward to the year ahead. The current Master and Past Masters have certainly set the bar to a high standard!

Thank you again for your support and I'm hoping to meet with many of you during my term in 'office'.



Paul Taberer, Master-Elect



Past Master Rolf Christophersen's 100th Birthday

A Celebratory Birthday Lunch had been planned for Past Master Rolf Christophersen's 100th Birthday for almost a year. It was secretly discussed at the General Purposes Committee, discussed at the Court when Rolf was unable to attend and there was even a separate set of Court minutes sent to Past Master Rolf, so that he didn't find out before the plans were in place!

As the Master said, it was a truly remarkable achievement to have reached such a milestone, and we were delighted that Rolf, and his wife Angela, were able to accept our invitation to a lunch held in his honour on 1st December 2021. Rolf and Angela were joined by the Master, 19 Past Masters, the Wardens, the Clerk and the Treasurer.

The lunch was held in the Astor Room at the Naval & Military Club; Rolf told us that in this very room a few years ago, he had met and chatted with the King of Norway and the Queen of England – both of whom had sent him birthday greetings for his 100th Birthday.



Past Master Derek Harris proposed Rolf's health, and Rolf responded in his own inimitable style. It was a lovely afternoon, with much laughter and it was lovely to be able to honour such a gentleman. An afternoon that will remain in our memories for a very long time.

Sandra Stocker
Clerk and Liveryman



The Benevolent Fund

Uncertain times ahead ...

That was the title of my report two years ago when the country went into lockdown. I don't think anyone in March 2020 thought it may be two years before the Government would lift Covid restrictions.

Since late 2021, it has been possible for the Trustees to meet face to face on two occasions. I am grateful to my fellow trustees, our Secretary and Treasurer, the Welfare Committee and Forum Court for their hard work to ensure the Benevolent Fund could support its beneficiaries and chosen charities during the last two years.

Many of our charities have been able to resume their activities while taking care to manage the Covid risk. From my observations, life in London is returning to normal: underground trains are packed during rush hour and footfall in the shopping areas of London seem to be back to pre-pandemic levels. As economies around the world emerged from their Covid stasis, the Benevolent Fund's investment portfolios reached an all-time high of almost £10 million at the end of January 2022.

During the financial year to 31 March, donations from the General Fund and Freeman Fund exceeded the Annual Grant Target of £145,000 and the Welfare Fund will have paid grants and benefits of £180,000. Investment income plays a large part in the funds available for distribution and the latest forecasts of investment income are back to 2019 levels. Donations from members of the Company have continued to rise with the influx of new members.

As economies try to recover, there are demands on commodities, oil, gas, semiconductor chips, food and other essentials. These demands have pushed up prices and depressed supply chains. The inevitable result has been inflation rising to levels not seen for three decades. Those on low fixed incomes are likely to suffer the most.

I am grateful to the Welfare Committee for commissioning an impact study which measures how the payment of benefits and grants help beneficiaries. When reading the beneficiaries' comments, it is difficult not to be moved. The report is published below.

At the time of writing, it was just three weeks ago when Russian forces crossed the border into Ukraine. I make no attempt to predict how this conflict may play out. However, it is clear that the events in Ukraine will have financial consequences round the world. Before the invasion the government was preparing us for inflation of 8%. The markets' reaction to the conflict has seen stocks fall by 10%, with upward pressure on interest rates and even higher energy and commodity prices. Inevitably, this means that those who are on low fixed incomes will be squeezed the most. The Welfare Committee is reviewing its guidelines for benefits and grants.

The General Fund has continued to support the following charities:

Arundel Castle Cricket Foundation

Guildhall School Trust

Barrow Farm Riding for the Disabled School

Sheriffs' & Recordors' Fund

Pembroke House Academy of Music

Pembroke House Inclusive Dance Project

London Regiment Benevolent Fund

St Lawrence Jewry

Bobath Centre Early Intervention Programme for Infant Cerebral Palsy

Mark Evison Foundation

Katherine Low Settlement

Spitalfields Crypt Trust

Physics Partners

St Paul's Collections Fund

In addition, the Trustees agreed to make a one-off donation of £5,000 to Barrier Breakers Foundation. This charity works with disadvantaged young people aged 16-25, helping them develop the soft skills that the education system does not address. These essential skills enhance their life prospects by improving their employability, wellbeing, resilience, and personal relationships. We will review the charity again later this year with a view to making a further donation.



Did you know? Members' charities

Any specific request from a Liveryman for support to a registered Charity in which he/she is involved will be given special status and consideration by the Trustees. The maximum grant for Liverymen's charities is set at £1,000. Applications should be addressed to Sandra Stocker at BenevolentFund@tobaccolivery.org

Supporting the Benevolent Fund

The easiest way to donate to the Benevolent Fund is by direct debit. Please email the Treasurer at treasurer@tobaccolivery.org to set up a direct debit or change your annual donation.

Alternatively, you can visit the Benevolent Fund's page on the Company's website and press the "Donate Now" button on the Benevolent Fund page.

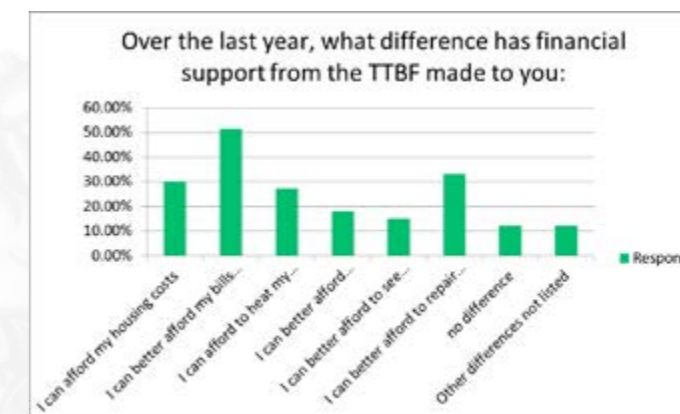
Finally, it is never too late to review one's estate and will. If you are contemplating such a review, please consider a legacy to "The Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Trade Benevolent Fund (Charity no.1135646)". Legacies to charities are free of Inheritance Tax.

Ralph Edmondson
Chairman

Impact Measurement Study

Q1. Over the last year, what difference has financial support from the TTBF made to you?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I can afford my housing costs	30.30%	10
I can better afford my bills such as council tax/water/electricity/gas	51.52%	17
I can afford to heat my home more	27.27%	9
I can better afford nutritious food	18.18%	6
I can better afford to see or keep in contact with my family of friends more regularly	15.15%	5
I can better afford to repair or replace items such as fridge/tv/washing machine	33.33%	11
No difference	12.12%	4
Other differences not listed	12.12%	4
Answered		33



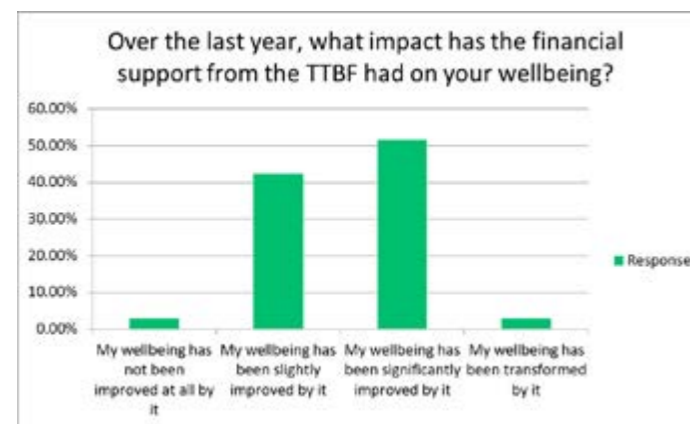
OTHER DIFFERENCES NOT LISTED

- Can better provide for board and lodging costs where I stay.
- Welcomes continued connection and annual visits.
- The grant for a laptop radically improved my life as everything is online.
- I feel it is nice to be remembered and someone is thinking about me.



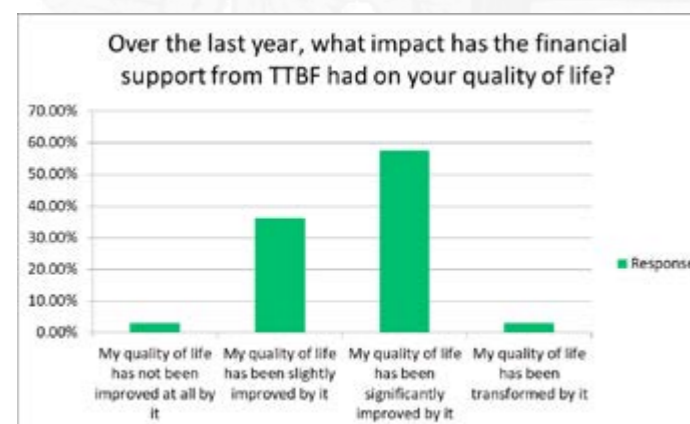
Q2. Over the last year, what impact has the financial support from the TTBF had on your wellbeing?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
My wellbeing has not been improved at all by it	3.03% 1
My wellbeing has been slightly improved by it	42.42% 14
My wellbeing has been significantly improved by it	51.52% 17
My wellbeing has been transformed by it	3.03% 1
Answered	33



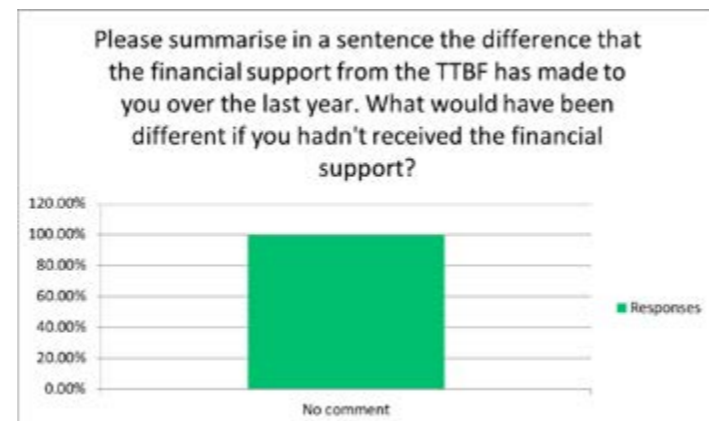
Q3. Over the last year, what impact has the financial support from TTBF had on your quality of life?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
My quality of life has not been improved at all by it	3.03% 1
My quality of life has been slightly improved by it	36.36% 12
My quality of life has been significantly improved by it	57.58% 19
My quality of life has been transformed by it	3.03% 1
Answered	33



Q4. Please summarise in a sentence the difference that the financial support from the TTBF has made to you over the last year. What would have been different if you hadn't received the financial support?

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
No comment	100% 9
Comment	24
Answered	9



COMMENT

One off grants have really helped, I would have had great difficulty otherwise.

Grant for one off items appreciated.

New TV supplied, smart TV and widescreen.

Enabled me to help pay for *illegible handwriting* cover while my daughter had hip replacement surgery and daily recuperation.

I receive gifts only but appreciate periodical contact and visiting by the FWO.

Would have had more difficulty paying my balance and now they pay my TV license too.

I have always been very grateful for the help the charity provides.

I know I have support if things go wrong. This means a great deal to me.

An odd year due to Covid so social outings are unregular but usually the grant better enables me to have regular outings with my female friend.

The quarterly grant for bills is really helpful and it is so lovely to receive a card and gift at Christmas.



The grant for the laptop was life changing as everything is online and is a massive form of communication especially during lockdown. Thank you very much.

For me it is nice to know that there is support if I need it and to be thought of at Christmas and birthdays.

It is very nice.

I would be lost without all the help I get.

Does not receive regular relief but has had help with grants for home repairs. Has peace of mind knowing that the charity is there to help if the need arises.

Knowing my family has not got to repay the undertaking to repay when I die has been a great relief to me.

I was concerned that I had left them with a lot of debt.

It has calmed my anxiety and worry. It is reassuring to know that there is a safety net for me.

Tobacco Trades has been good to me in the past and still are, I am delighted that they still think of me.

This means a lot.

In the early days the charity transformed my life and gave me basics. It's the little things that mean a lot, cakes, cards and the visit from the field welfare officer.

We are very reliant on the extra money and would have been in difficulty paying bills without it.

The charity helped to pay for serious tree damage after a big storm, which gave me and my family great relief. We were extremely grateful.

No regular support financially but appreciates the gifts and social contact of the visits.

I appreciate the financial and moral support in my very difficult family situation.

I am better able to pay my bills with the regular income from the charity, and I am very thankful for all the help they give me.

I would have found it difficult to manage financially without the help from the charity, and I am grateful for the help I receive.

We are thankful for the grants which helped us through a very difficult period, and we value the ongoing support and contact.





The Benevolent Fund Committee

The Trustees are also directors of the non-profit making company that holds the assets of the Benevolent Fund. Under the Articles of Association, Trustees can serve for a maximum of nine years and must be re-elected every three years.



Ralph Edmondson, Past Master, Chairman and Trustee

What is your/background/profession/company/area of expertise?

I started my career in the City making very wealthy people much richer through estate and tax planning, managing family trusts and administering estates. I had a career change which gave me four years as a company secretary of a major insurance company. The last 20 years of my career was spent running investor relations for B.A.T Industries and British American Tobacco. Investor relations was never dull and provided me with many opportunities.

Why did you join the Livery?

I attended my first Livery dinner with the Pewterers over 40 years ago and I always thought it would be a privilege to join a Livery but there seemed to be no way in. In the noughties, my boss Michael Prideaux joined the Pipe Makers and that presented me an opportunity to do the same.

What is your most memorable Livery moment/occasion?

I was elected Master in June 2017 and had the most wonderful year. I suspect most Masters will confirm that their white tie banquet was a very special occasion.

Why should others join our Company?

The Livery is like a family. You have a special friendship group that meets several times a year. Like many aspects of life, the more you put into it

the greater the rewards. The Tobacco Pipe Makers is a particularly friendly Company which may be partly due to the adversity tobacco has faced over many decades and the liberal instincts of its members. I don't think the Livery movement can continue to defend itself unless it can demonstrate its relevance to society. Charitable works are the livery movement's licence to operate. I am passionate about the work of our Benevolent Fund and, for our size and the fact we are a modern company, I believe we punch above our weight when it comes to charitable work.

Do you have a "soft spot" for any one particular charity we support and, if so, why?

I have been involved with the Benevolent Fund since 2014. I have a soft spot for the work of the Welfare Committee helping people below the poverty line to survive. I think Physics Partners, which was launched by Tommy Cookson in 2015, does vitally important work in helping comprehensive schools teach A level physics. There is a national shortage of physics graduates prepared to teach in schools. Finally, I get very emotional when I see one of our Guildhall School of Music & Dramatic Art students perform. These hugely talented people would not be able pursue their musical careers without financial bursaries from livery companies.



Nicola Snook, Liveryman and Trustee

What is your/background/profession/company/area of expertise?

Lawyer at British American Tobacco for 20 years, retired as Group Company Secretary in 2017.

Why did you join the Livery?

To maintain links with friends and colleagues and to carry on the traditions of the City.



What is your most memorable Livery moment/occasion?

The Annual Banquets are always amazing, and I love that we don't have our own Livery Hall as it means we get to see those of other Livery Companies. Their gardens are often as wonderful as the halls themselves. A perfect oasis in one of the busiest cities in the world!

Why should others join our Company?

We are a welcoming and friendly bunch who like to throw a good party from time to time!

Do you have a "soft spot" for any one particular charity we support and, if so, why?

I have only recently joined the Benevolent Fund Committee so am still learning about the various charities we support and don't yet have any 'soft spots' for any particular one. They all seem to be doing a fantastic job at alleviating suffering or supporting people in genuine need.



Jon Fell, Liveryman and Trustee

What is your/background/profession/company/area of expertise?

I'm a fund manager and before that worked in equity research at various investment banks following the tobacco industry and other consumer sectors.

Why did you join the Livery?

I was lucky enough to be invited to a couple of dinners and Smoking Club outings, realised I knew a lot of people, and worked out that those I didn't already know were great fun and really welcoming.

What is your most memorable Livery moment/occasion?

I've had the chance to visit some wonderful places: dinners in the Mansion House, Goldsmiths' and Drapers' Halls; a visit to the Tower of London on a beautiful Autumn evening to see the Ceremony of the Keys.

Why should others join our Company?

The Pipe Makers are a very friendly group of people from all sorts of backgrounds, and I love the way the Company combines that sense of fun, the history and links to the City of London shared with the other Livery companies, and the important work that we are able to do through the Benevolent Fund supporting charities that really make a difference, especially to young people in and around London.

Do you have a "soft spot" for any one particular charity we support and, if so, why?

Physics Partners does a great job in what seems an overlooked area, providing training and support to improve the teaching of physics in state schools. It's such an important subject for important careers like engineering, medical research and IT, but there's a shortage of qualified teachers. So, the charity helps those who don't have a physics degree to teach the subject in a way which really engages pupils and will hopefully result in more girls and boys studying the subject at A-level.

I'm also really pleased that we've just started to support Barrier Breakers, which helps youngsters in higher education, often from tough or disadvantaged backgrounds, to learn the softer skills such as communication, empathy and teamwork that will boost their wellbeing and help them in their future careers.



Susan Curran, Liveryman and Trustee

What is your background/profession/company/area of expertise?

I worked for Barclays Bank PLC in the City of London as a Project Manager in my early career. I now work for Aon Ltd, having taken on roles as a Service Manager and Project Manager over the years. More recently joining the Planning and Business Management Team.

Why did you join the Livery?

I attended several events as a guest of my sister



Sandra, the Clerk. I found the Company to be friendly and welcoming.

What is your most memorable Livery moment/occasion?

This question is difficult to answer as I have been to so many magnificent venues. Dinner on the HQS Wellington, the Banquet at The Mansion House but maybe the 400th Anniversary service at the Temple Church is the most memorable for me.

Why should others join our Company?

The Company and members are welcoming and friendly and the events are very enjoyable.

Do you have a soft spot for any one particular charity we support and, if so, why?

I have only recently become a Trustee and all the charities we support are very worthwhile. However, I am the Trustee connected to the National Bobath Cerebral Palsy Centre. The Benevolent Fund supports the Early Intervention Scheme in babies which makes a real difference.



Mark Gower-Smith, Past Master and Trustee

What is your/background/profession/company/area of expertise?

I am a Chartered Accountant and am partner in a practice in Tunbridge Wells. As well as advising companies, partnerships and individuals on their accountancy, audit and taxation requirements, I also have a portfolio of charities for whom I act.

Why did you join the Livery?

I was invited to one of the company's dinners by a client who owned a chain of newsagents and tobacconists in the South East. Having enjoyed a most convivial evening, he said he would propose me and I agreed to join. I was aware of the City Livery Companies having attended one of the Skinners' Company schools and had visited Skinners' Hall as a Sixth Former.

What is your most memorable Livery moment/occasion?

I have two! The first is having my Annual Banquet at Skinners' Hall when Master and presiding over dinner sitting in the Master Skinners' chair which was transported to my school's speech day each year for the Master Skinner to use. The second was having the privilege of choosing the music and contents of the Choral Evensong we held at the Temple Church in 2019 to mark the 400th Anniversary of the formation of the original Tobacco Pipe Makers' Company in 1619 and leading in the Lord Mayor locum tenens carrying one of the company's wands.

Why should others join our Company?

Our company is one of the friendliest out of the 110 Livery companies. Not having our own Hall gives the Master of the day the choice of Halls. It is a great privilege to be able to go inside these Grade I and II Listed buildings and enjoy friendship and hospitality with other likeminded folk.

Do you have a "soft spot" for any one particular charity we support and, if so, why?

As a musician, my soft spot is for the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. The Benevolent Fund has supported it over many years. It is inspiring to see the quality of young musicians being taught and nurtured to achieve at the highest level. Our musical heritage is in superb hands – and voices!



Martine Petetin, Court Assistant and Trustee

What is your/background/profession/company/area of expertise?

I joined BAT as General Counsel Europe in 1998, having previously held similar posts in IDV/ GrandMet (now Diageo) and Xerox. My main area of expertise was EU competition law but as GC I worked on most legal issues affecting the business. It saddens me that my old team, which comprised lawyers from all over Europe including Russia,



Ukraine and Bielorussia, is now split on either side of current geopolitical events.

Why did you join the Livery?

I was surprised to be invited as I do not fit the image of a 'city gent'. I feel fortunate to be a very small part of the ancient institutions of the City of London. My main motivation for joining the Livery was to take part in its philanthropic work through the Benevolent Fund.

What is your most memorable Livery moment/occasion?

Every meeting with the charities we support is memorable and I am amazed every time at the impact which our donations have on the lives of people who are not as fortunate as we are. On a more personal level, shortly after I joined the Livery, we had a private organ concert at St Paul's Cathedral where we had demonstrated to us all organs of the cathedral. It was a uniquely moving experience. We even heard an organ which the Queen has forbidden from being played in her presence as it is too loud. It certainly is!

Why should others join our Company?

It is a unique experience to learn about City traditions and how they adapt to our current world. It is an opportunity to access City events which are not usually open to the public. It is a way to meet smart interesting people and make new friends. It is a way to become a philanthropist by joining the Benevolent Fund.

Do you have a "soft spot" for any one particular charity we support and, if so, why?

They are all very impressive, but yes, I have a 'soft spot' for the Mark Evison Foundation. It was set up in memory of Mark Evison, a young Lieutenant who bled to death in Afghanistan whilst trying to save his men. He loved adventure and challenge. His mother set-up the charity to keep that spirit alive and give disadvantaged inner London city children the chance to stretch outside their comfort zone and realise their dreams, through grants of up to £500 a project. Thanks to the Foundation, students in their last school year, some of whom had never left their neighbourhood, have gone on to cycle to

France or Italy, walk Hadrian's Wall or from Land's End to John O'Groats, put on fashion shows, launch rockets, design racing cars and much more. Thanks to this charity, hundreds of 17 and 18 year olds have had life enhancing adventures which they planned and ran themselves, gaining the grit, resilience and confidence to take opportunities and face obstacles in their future life. For some, it is life changing. Such a simple way to help young people, but so effective!



Simon Orlik, Past Master and Trustee

What is your/background/profession/company/area of expertise?

I am a Chartered Accountant, and my background is working in the Tobacco trade and for a charity.

Why did you join the Livery?

I joined the Livery as I was in the trade and my father thought it would be sensible!

What is your most memorable Livery moment/occasion?

My most memorable moment is probably my Banquet at the Mansion House as Master or abseiling down St. Lawrence Jewry.

Why should others join our Company?

Join to learn about the Livery movement and its long traditions in the City, to meet friendly people and to support our charitable giving.

Do you have a "soft spot" for any one particular charity we support and, if so, why?

No particular soft spot. All our charities are worthwhile.



Kate Golding, Honorary Freeman and Trustee

What is your/background/profession/company/area of expertise?

My background was originally banking, I was then a mum for 15 years and now run a motel

housing homeless families and a community cafe.

Why did you join the Livery?

I was honoured to be invited to join as a thank you for being Mistress (which was also one of the most fun years of my life).

What is your most memorable Livery moment/occasion?

Without doubt our 400th anniversary service at Temple Church. The beautiful service, the exquisite music, the awe-inspiring church and the great honour that so many other Masters of other Livery Companies joined us which made it a unique and deeply moving service.

Why should others join our Company?

We have one of the most cohesive livery memberships who genuinely enjoy each other's company and friendship. In addition, we have a strong Benevolent and Welfare Fund that provides an enormous amount of support across the charitable spectrum.

Do you have a "soft spot" for any one particular charity we support and, if so, why?

I am the Trustee responsible for liaising with two charities, Pembroke House and Barrow Farm Riding for the Disabled.



Tony Scanlan, Fourth Warden and Trustee

What is your/background/profession/company/area of expertise?

My career is a game of two halves. The first 20 years was spent in living and working in the Middle East,

Africa and Europe for a tobacco company, Rothmans International.

The second half has been more entrepreneurial. I started my own business in the mobile phone payments sector which was in its infancy, growing a business that spanned Europe and the Middle East and finally selling it to a much larger rival.

In 2011 Vaping was in its infancy, and I was asked to lead a start-up which grew quickly across Europe and the US. This led me to joining a larger US based Vaping Company to become their CMO. I now find myself advising US companies that wish to expand their Cannabinoid businesses into UK and Europe.

Why did you join the Livery?

Having spent almost 30 years living outside the UK I was delighted when asked to consider joining the livery in 2013. It opened a whole new world of experiences and enabled me to reengage with old friends and meet a wealth of new ones.

What is your most memorable Livery moment/occasion?

Being asked to join and Chair the Membership Committee. It started me on a journey with the Livery which I am thoroughly enjoying.

Why should others join our Company?

The fellowship of the Livery is lifelong. It can become important to an individual as much or as little as they choose. It is there to help others, as well as providing fascinating insights into how the City of London has worked over the last 900 years.



Do you have a "soft spot" for any one charity we support and, if so, why?

I am particularly pleased that we recently began supporting Barrier Breakers. The work they do in helping young and often disadvantaged people prepare themselves for the workplace by giving them social and practical skills that complement their formal studies is critical. Having interviewed and mentored many people over the years I am acutely aware it is an area that is crying out for attention. With very little effort it can transform how they approach the workplace and indeed, life.



Roger Merton, Past Master and Chairman of the Welfare Fund

What is your/background/profession/company/area of expertise?

I ran a company in the industry as a pipe manufacturer, distributor, exporter, wholesaler (Merton & Falcon) and retailer (2 shops Smith & Sheringtons) for over 50 years.

Why did you join the Livery?

I joined the Livery Company in my early 20s as my Father was a Founder Member and eventually I followed in his footsteps as Master as has my son and son-in-law.

What is your most memorable Livery moment/occasion?

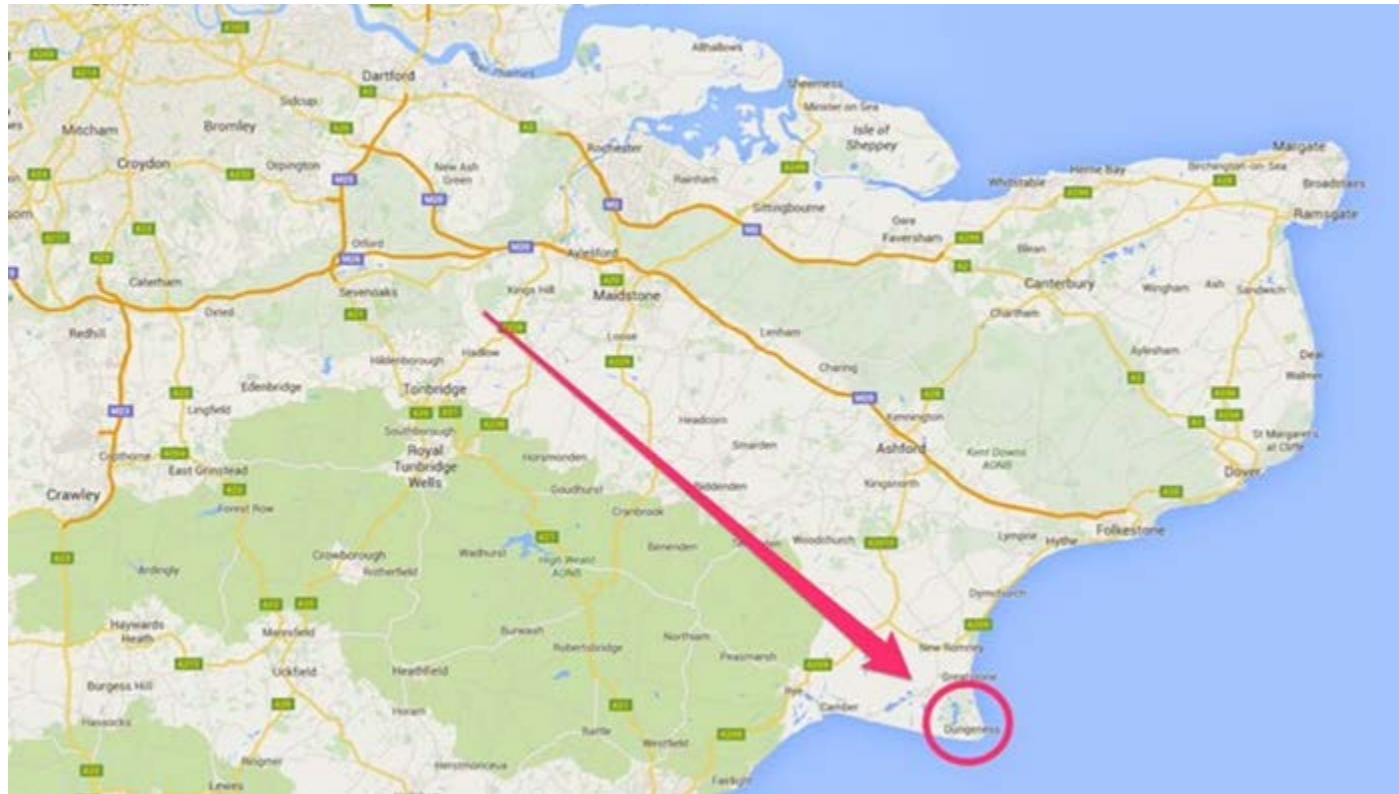
- (i) When I was Master, my guest Speaker at the January dinner in 1997 forgot he was attending and arrived just in time (having been reminded by another guest that afternoon)!
- (ii) when my Master's badge was stolen from my house in a burglary while my wife and I were in South Africa.
- (iii) when my Father (by mistake!) voted 'No' in the ballot box for a 'bloc vote' for new Members and so the Court had to vote for the individuals one-by-one.

Why should others join our Company?

Those interested should join the Livery Company as, apart from holding great social and enjoyable quality events, mainly in the City of London, they can also make contributions to the Livery Company Benevolent Fund Charity.

Do you have a "soft spot" for any one charity we support and, if so, why?

I have a soft spot for the Welfare Fund (was Tobacco Trade Benevolent Association (TTBA) founded in 1860) part of the Benevolent Fund. I joined the TTBA over 50 years ago and became Chairman in January 2012. The Welfare Fund is a very important part of the Industry, helping those who worked in the industry and who have fallen on hard times. The Welfare Committee make grants to beneficiaries for one-off household necessities (maintenance), funerals, general relief, TVs and TV licences, and Christmas and Birthday gifts. Each beneficiary is visited at least once a year by our experienced and paid Field Welfare Officers and before applications are considered by the Welfare Committee. All the administration of the Welfare Fund and Committee is carried out by a professional firm for an agreed annual fee.



A Message from the Honorary Chaplain

So... Here we are. A retired Vicar and his wife tucked away in a bungalow in Lydd. I get asked repeatedly: where is Lydd? It is a small village in the middle of that little bit that sticks out in south Kent on the weather maps, near Dungeness. (I shall have to change that phrase, because the locals all say: it's not a village. it's a town!) I am sorry but it is a village. Send round the Lydd mafia if you like, but it is not a town!!

When we first sourced the property the Church of England Pensions Boards said: NO. Their reason: it's too close to Dungeness nuclear power station. I just laughed.

When that explodes, I want go to my LORD in heaven right away. Where I grew up in Hastings, it would have taken longer to fade away. Here I will go straight away. It's like the HS1 train line. Fast into heaven.

Why am I telling you this?

Well. Retirement makes one think hard. I know I am only 63 but retiring makes you ask some of the more difficult questions in life. What is the future? Am I ready?

I have lived my entire life and ministry with some very simple faith. If I believe in Jesus and his saving death on the cross. By his grace I believe I will be saved and go to heaven to be with God.

Not very complex really. At heart I am a simple bloke.

I love being Chaplain to the company and I am always here for anyone who might wish to be in touch. I never thrust my own faith onto you but taking retirement makes one reflect and I am pleased to share my simple faith with you, at this life changing stage in my life. This is the thing that matters most to me.

My calling is to care for each and every one of you, no matter what you think or believe. Be in touch if you wish. Otherwise, just carry on enjoying the poetic and slightly mad graces!

David Parrott
Dwparrott01@aol.com
Honorary Chaplain



Affiliation Shooting Event

This year's battle for the SIRRAH trophy on 3rd October 2021, took a slightly different approach, and it was a cracker of a day!

We met at Wellington Barracks, SW1 in London – the home of The Irish Guards Regimental Headquarters – the same day as the London Marathon whose runners were a constant stream along the perimeter of the barracks!

At the suggestion of Major Robbie Wilmont, Assistant Adjutant Irish Guards and now also attached to the London Regiment in a TA role, and from Major Dominic Masters, Company Commander, London Irish Rifles, the competition, and event, became a three-team event with members of the Pipe Makers' Livery Company and our two affiliations – the London Irish Rifles of the London Regiment and the Irish Guards Association. Also

attending, but apart from our competition, were The Founders' Company (also affiliated to the London Irish Rifles).

Past Master Derek Harris who donated the 'SIRRAH' Trophy – a stunning piece - endorsed this suggestion and saw it as a way of establishing a closer relationship between the Pipe Makers and our two affiliations.

Major Robbie Wilmont and the London Irish Rifles conducted a competition shoot to establish a winning team to receive the SIRRAH Trophy between the Pipe Makers, the London Irish Rifles and the Irish Guards Association. All teams, including the Founders' Company for the first time this year, competed for an additional team prize and the best individual shot prize.



In addition to the shooting element of the event there were also a series of most interesting background activities. These were designed as interest periods in order keep participants gainfully occupied whilst waiting for their turn to shoot...and these were:

History of the Irish Guards - in the form of a hosted visit round the offices of Regimental Headquarters Irish Guards and Uniforms and Traditions of Guards Regiments which was delivered in the Irish Guards Regimental Headquarters library and highlighted some of the unique differences in Guards uniforms. We also had the opportunity to try on some of the military ceremonial jackets and bearskin!

In a nutshell, teams rotated round a series of activities including shooting, briefing on Guards Uniforms and Customs, and briefing about the history of the Irish Guards and this ran from 10.00am to 1pm. At 1pm, we were all transported by bus to the London Irish Rifles Headquarters at Flodden Road, Camberwell for prize giving, a bar

(serving Guinness which had to be replenished due to a higher-than-expected consumption rate!), a delicious Irish stew and live entertainment by way of a singer, Phil Trainor, and his guitar performing some Irish Music!

The Teams were drawn into five 6-man teams, as follows:

- **The Smoking Barrels** – The Tobacco Pipe Makers' Company
- **The Pipe Rangers** – The Tobacco Pipe Makers' Company
- **The Fighting Irish** – The London Irish Rifles
- **The Sniping Micks** – The Irish Guards Association
- **The Bronze Rifles** – The Founders' Company

The Smoking Barrels of the Tobacco Pipe Makers' Company were victorious in winning the SIRRAH Trophy and The Lt Co Wright Shooting Cup 1956!



This was a fine achievement... and it was a great effort from The Tobacco Pipe Makers who fielded 12 firers in all.

Our participants were the Master, Jerry Merton, Archie Smith, John Clark, Colin Ritchie, Paul Taberer, Tony Scanlan, Maggie Scanlan, Charles Miller, Adam Phillips, Geoffrey Strickland, William Rasmussen and Alan Beggs. Sandra Stocker, the Clerk was also in attendance as was Elise Rasmussen, Renter Warden.

Our Liveryman, Lt Colonel Geoffrey Strickland won the best individual firer award, The Major Black Shooting Prize 1912. Congratulations to Lt Colonel Geoffrey Strickland.

All in all, a fabulous day and with sincere thanks to the organisers Major Robbie Wilmont, Major Dominic Masters and our Clerk Sandra Stocker, but also to the representatives of The Irish Guards, The Irish Guards Association, The London Irish Rifles and the Founders' Company.

Paul Taberer
Senior Warden

The Irish Guards (IG), is one of the Foot Guards regiments of the British Army and is part of the Guards Division. Together with the Royal Irish Regiment, it is one of the two Irish infantry regiments in the British Army. The regiment has participated in campaigns in the First World War, the Second World War, the Iraq War and the War in Afghanistan as well as numerous other operations throughout its history. The Irish Guards claim six Victoria Cross recipients, four from the First World War and two from the Second World War.

One way to distinguish between the five regiments of Foot Guards is the spacing of the buttons on their tunics. The Irish Guards have buttons arranged in fours as they were the fourth Foot Guards regiment to be founded. They also have a prominent St. Patrick's blue plume on the right side of their bearskins.

The Irish Guards were formed on 1 April 1900 by order of Queen Victoria to commemorate the Irishmen who fought in the Second Boer War for the British Empire.





The Irish Guards Association Annual Dinner

The Irish Guards Association is one of our more recent affiliations and the Mistress and I, together with the Clerk and Past Master Andrew Golding, were delighted to be invited to their Annual Dinner in the Garrison Sergeants' Mess in Wellington Barracks on 20th November 2021. Catherine and I were honoured to be placed at the top table, with many very distinguished current and former officers, including the Principal Guest, Major General Christopher Ghika who is the Major General Commanding the Household Division.

Captain Giles Bromley-Martin spoke eloquently of what the Regiment has been up to over the last couple of years, and General Ghika talked of what it

means to him to be a "mick", the qualities of an Irish Guardsman and how those qualities will help them endure in whatever challenges lay ahead.

What was particularly apparent to me was the genuine affection in which the old soldiers held their officers, and vice versa. That camaraderie was more than evident in the bar afterwards. Many thanks to our Clerk's Assistant, Alan Beggs who, as Honorary Secretary of the Irish Guards Association, organised the whole splendid evening.

Jerry Merton
Master



Shamrocks in the City

On 7th October 2021, Paul Taberer, Senior Warden and Mrs Sharon Taberer, Elise Rasmussen, Renter Warden and her son William, Past Master Ralph and Mrs Maureen Edmondson and Past Master Andrew and Mrs Kate Golding joined the Clerk and the Clerk's Assistant, Alan Beggs in attending a Fundraising Event for the Irish Guards Benevolent Fund. Major General Sir Sebastian Roberts, ex Commanding Officer of the Irish Guards and Master of the Girdlers' Company, kindly allowed the Fundraising Event to take place in Girdlers' Hall.

Over 100 guests were treated to a very fine display by the Regimental Band, Drums and Pipes of the Irish Guards in the garden to start the evening's entertainment. They later entertained us in the Hall with a fine musical display including 'The Post Horn Gallop'.

We were also joined by the Regimental Mascot, Seamus, along with his handler, Drummer Adam



Walsh who some of the Pipe Makers later met at Drapers' Hall on the occasion of the January Dinner.

During and after a lovely meal, there was a Prize Draw, a Silent Auction and a Live Auction. Several of the Pipe Makers made successful bids to win prizes. It was a most enjoyable evening and raised much needed funds for the Irish Guards Benevolent Fund.



As a result of the intensity of recent operations, there is an ongoing need to continue their fundraising efforts in order to deal with the multitude of new welfare requests the Regiment faces, not just today but also in the years ahead. Whilst the immediate and short-term 'duty of care' for wounded Irish Guardsmen lies with the Ministry of Defence and thereafter with appropriate Government Departments such as Health, Social Security and Employment, the Regiment nevertheless wishes to continue to assist all Irish Guardsmen and their families as it has done in the past. Their fund-raising efforts over the last 3 or 4 years have been going strong and we have had massive support from both sides of the Irish border. For many the physical war might be over, but the mental war will have to be fought for a long time yet.

It would also be the final time that many of us saw Chelsea Pensioner Leo Tighe BEM who sadly passed away in January 2022. Everyone who met Leo couldn't help but like him, a Dubliner with a vast supply of witty stories and jokes and a truly lovely person. Leo had served twenty-three years in the Irish Guards, serving on many Tours around the world, and became a Chelsea Pensioner in 2016. Leo had invited several Masters of the Company over the past few years to Lunch at the Royal Hospital and he had facilitated a Mistress Visit to the Royal Hospital in 2018. He will be sadly missed.

Sandra Stocker
Clerk and Liveryman



Clerk's Assistant receives Colonel's Certificate from HRH The Duke of Cambridge

On St Patrick's Day 2022, Alan Beggs, the Clerk's Assistant was presented with the Colonel of the Irish Guards Certificate by His Royal Highness The Duke of Cambridge, for outstanding service to the Regiment.

Alan joined the Irish Guards Regimental Band, at the age of 15 years and 6 months, as a Junior Musician, at the Guards Depot in Pirbright. Completing his military training in 1971, he went to the Royal Military School of Music at Kneller Hall before joining the Regimental Band at Chelsea Barracks. For the next 24 years, he played in all major ceremonial events in London and travelled the world with the Band.

In 1993, Alan retired from the Band and for the next 20 years, worked very successfully with The Order of St John. I met Alan in 1995 when I joined The Order of St John and we worked together conducting the Honours and Awards and Ceremonial Events until 2013. I joined the Pipe Makers as Clerk in 2014 and I asked Alan if he would like to come and help out at the Livery Events, which he did and in 2018, this 'helping hand' was formalised when Alan became Clerk's Assistant.

However, Alan has always kept his association with the Regiment alive and since 2016, he has been Honorary Secretary of the London Branch of the Irish Guards Association and fully involved in the welfare and social side of Regimental life. In 2019, Past Master Andrew Golding and Alan discussed the possibility of a Pipe Makers' affiliation with the Irish Guards Association. This was formally approved in January 2020 and has resulted in a very successful affiliation with the Irish Guards Association which has been mutually beneficial for both organisations.

I was incredibly honoured to be present on St Patrick's Day as Alan's guest and introduced to Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. Unbeknown to me, the Pipe Makers affiliation was referred to in Alan's Citation for the Certificate. During our conversation with His Royal Highness The Duke of Cambridge, the subject of the Pipe Makers affiliation was mentioned by him.I did have to explain that the pipes were clay and not bagpipes as used by the Regimental Pipe Band!

A truly memorable day for Alan.

Sandra Stocker
Clerk and Liveryman



The London Regiment and The London Irish Rifles

I was delighted during my year to receive the following invitations from The London Regiment and The London Irish Rifles.

The London Regiment Anzio Dinner

I was invited by Major Dominic Masters, Officer Commanding D (London Irish Rifles) Company of the London Regiment, to a dinner, commemorating the battle at Anzio in northern Italy, when Allied Forces broke through enemy lines and linked up with the US 5th Army. The battle involved many Battalions which now go to make up the London Regiment, which is why Anzio Day (14th May) was chosen as the London Regiment's Regimental Day.

The dinner (which is traditionally held on the Thursday closest to Anzio Day, but which was postponed for obvious reasons) was held at the beautiful Cavalry and Guards Club, and it was a rare treat to have been invited. Before dinner we were read a moving first-hand account of the battle; after dinner the former Commanding Officer of the London Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel Geoffrey Strickland (who has recently become a Liveryman of our Company) presented the Regiment with a magnificent silver model of their Headquarters on St Johns Hill, Battersea. There were also bagpipes, lots of bagpipes ...

It was a pleasure to hear from Dominic of the great work that he and his colleagues have been doing, particularly in establishing the COVID testing regime at the start of the pandemic. The massive contribution that our reserve forces make to our country is, to a great extent, untold, which is a travesty.

D Company is also supported by the Worshipful Company of Founders, as well as by us, and it was lovely to meet their Master, David Robinson, and his wife Claire.

Evening with the London Regiment at the Tower of London

The Mistress and I were delighted to spend the evening of 11th October at the Tower of London, courtesy of the London Regiment. We were given a very animated and entertaining guided tour by Sean, one of the Tower's Yeoman Warders. He took us through a potted history of the Tower, and some of the personalities who have passed through its gates. A welcome drink followed at the Yeoman Warders Club ("The Keys"), before we were allowed to witness the historic Ceremony of the Keys. A very special evening, with thanks to Lt Col Stephen Lowe, Commanding Officer of the London Regiment and to Major Dominic Masters, Company Commander, D Company London Irish Rifles and Major Garth Millar.

The London Regiment Association Carol Service at the Guards Chapel

My final event of 2021 was the London Regiment Association's annual Carol Service in the Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks. The guests, which included the Master Merchant Taylor and the Master Ironmaker, were hosted for a drink beforehand by Major Robbie Wilmont, and we were greeted at the door of the Chapel by Seamus, the Irish Guards Regimental mascot (who I had met at the recent Irish Guards Association dinner). The interior of the Chapel is simply stunning, and the service was a fitting end to the year. As I walked towards St James's Park tube, I was humming Ding Dong! Merrily on High, and beginning to feel distinctly 'Christmassy'.

Jerry Merton
Master



The Lord Mayor's Show

The Master, Immediate Past Master and Senior Warden had the good fortune to participate in the Lord Mayor's Show on 13th November 2021, to welcome Alderman Vincent Keaveny's election as the 693rd Lord Mayor of the City of London! Gowned and badged we assembled for an 11am start on a somewhat mild winter's morning and no need for an umbrella!

The pandemic cancelled the 2020 show - according to historical records, the last cancellation of the Lord Mayor's Show was in 1852 to allow for a period of national mourning for the Duke of Wellington! This time, the Lord Mayor Alderman William Russell has been allowed two terms in office.

The City's businesses, Livery Companies, charities, Her Majesty's Forces, the City Police and Londoners from all walks of life came together to enjoy a splendid celebration of the City's ancient power and prosperity. The procession was comprised of 128 groups, led by a Combined Guards Band.

Our positioning was with The Modern Livery Companies (position 9); Gog and Magog, the ancient Guardians of The City were not far behind - The Rt Honourable the Lord Mayor was positioned 120



in the splendid State Coach, the oldest ceremonial vehicle in the world still in regular use.

Following at the end was The City of London Corporation Cleansing - as the ancient saying goes, after the Show comes the Dung Cart. There are many hundreds of horses taking part, so like many parts of the Show, this is both a mediaeval proverb and an important practical requirement!

The Show dates to the early 13th century when King John rashly allowed the City of London to appoint



its own Mayor. He insisted that each newly elected Mayor should come to swear loyalty to the Crown, and the Lord Mayor of London has been making that journey ever since (the sworn loyalty being at the Royal Courts of Justice) in and around the noisy, colourful, joyous procession.

The start and break for lunch allowed ample time to mingle with fellow Liverymen, establish new contacts and relish the atmosphere...and The Master generously offered his snuff out and about to several grateful recipients. Our thanks to the Master Mariner for having us on board HQS Wellington to

enjoy a sandwich lunch, glass of bubbly and a cigar (thanks to the IPM) and to refuel before the latter procession – somewhat rudely delayed by uninvited rebellions! When the show did get back on track, a leisurely hour's walk back to base...and a well-earned pint by kind courtesy of the Master which helped reflect on the fantastic day covering some 18,000 steps!

Paul Taberer
Senior Warden



The Company Golf Day

Thanks to Past Master Derek Harris, the annual Company Golf Day was once again held at Tandridge Golf Club on a somewhat overcast day on 17th June – and despite the forecast for rain all 12 players remained by and large dry!

The golf club projects a warm feeling to visitors – we assembled around 8am in the very cosy and welcoming club-house lounge for the traditional bacon roll, tea and coffee – and registration for play.

Past Master Derek Harris explained the competition rules and handed us all a variety of golfing apparel – including a score card holder, golf ball bag and golf ball marker all sporting the Company's new Coat of Arms – such a wonderful gesture.

Participants included Liverymen, Freemen and guests and the field may have been relatively low this year due to Covid concerns but it certainly did not detract from the day. The golf course was in glorious condition and presents such wonderful views from its various vantage points.



The prizes on offer included the longest drive, closest to the pin, best guest, best lady and overall 3rd, 2nd and 1st member of the company.

The ultimate prize is the Charles Rich Cup kindly donated by Past Master Nigel Rich in 2002 in memory of his late father, Past Master Charles Rich who worked for Imperial Tobacco Company and who was partly instrumental in forming our Company (for the third time). It was great to see Past Master Nigel Rich participating again this year.

After 3 to 4 hours of golf, the players returned to the club house to be met by the Master and Mistress, recently installed and enjoying some good banter on the patio with drink in hand! How blessed we were to have their company, along with our Honorary Chaplain David Parrott and Past Master Charles Miller and Camilla amongst others.

Our heartfelt thanks go to the sponsors for the generous prizes this year.

Tandridge yet again produced a fabulous lunch after which prize giving took place.



The results were:

The winner	Senior Warden Paul Taberer
Second	Liveryman Jeff Jeffery
Third	Past Master Nigel Rich
Best Lady	Sharon Taberer
Best Guest	Mike de la Fargue
Longest Drive	Mark Addison
Nearest the Pin	Freeman Tony Brown

A few retired later to the patio to enjoy a drink of sorts and a cigar/pipe before heading home after another most enjoyable day.

A very special thanks to Past Master Derek Harris and to Sheila for all their incredible preparation, organisation and management of the day – along with his generosity with the drinks!

Next year's date is set for Thursday 23rd June at Tandridge. Please save the date!

Paul Taberer
Senior Warden



The Lord Mayor's Inter Livery Golf Day

We succeeded in entering a 4-person team for the annual Lord Mayor's Inter Livery Golf Day which was held at Moor Park (Rickmansworth) Golf Club on 15th September 2021.

Our team played against 17 other Livery Companies - the weather was kind to us and we remained dry and enjoyed golfing on a great course.

Sharon Taberer stepped in at the last minute to ensure we remained intact after Colin Ritchie had to (sadly) withdraw...and she, along with Roger Southam, William Varley (on his first Livery golf outing!) and Paul Taberer did their best to navigate the course.

Moor Park Golf Course is located close to London but sufficiently protected by mature trees to shield from suburbia. Designed by the well-known golf course architect Harry Colt, the High Course opened for play in 1923.

It was the turn of The Paviers' Company to administer the day - and thanks to them for precise organisation. The format was better ball stableford, best 2 to count - and a 'yellow' ball game - the aim being to keep the yellow ball from being lost for as long as possible in order to have a chance at scoring from it. Following registration and a bacon roll, play commenced at 9.30am.

We had a wonderful time - despite not threatening the leader-board. The competition was won by The City of London Police - say no more! A late lunch followed during which raffle tickets were purchased, a game of heads and tails was played and 8 items were auctioned - all proceeds going to The Lord Mayor's Appeal - his charity selection being Place2Be, Samaritans, On Side and the Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

All in all, it was a wonderful day for a worthy cause.

Paul Taberer
Senior Warden





The Inter Livery Clay Shoot

There is much that has changed as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and the Inter-Livery Clay Pigeon shooting competition is no exception. Happily, though, I am able to report that in this rare instance, just about every 'Covid Secure' measure meticulously undertaken by the staff at the Holland & Holland shooting grounds in Ruislip, has been to the great improvement of what was always a good day out.

Our single Livery team of four consisted of Past Master Charles Miller (Captain); Immediate Past Master Adam Bennett; Senior Warden Paul Taberer and Assistant Colin Ritchie. We had had a foretaste of the way things were going when we attended the delayed shoot in September 2020, however this time things had been refined even further. Divided over two days (we were on the second day, 24th June 2021) meant that we arrived in relaxed fashion at 8am in the carpark where Colin was dispensing a breakfast sharpener of his home made sloe gin from a sort of minibar in the back of his shooting brake (well, Volvo estate at any rate), after which we checked in (no queues) and were allocated a 'breakfast' area (by the cannon in our case) where coffee and tea was

being served, and trays of bacon and sausage butties were passing by on a 'stop me and grab one' basis.

Luckily, we were blessed with a fine day – not too hot or bright, just pleasantly warm. At 9.00am sharp, we had the traditional briefing from Richard Ferrand (Fishmonger, and old hand with this event) which explained much that we knew, but then went on to add that this year, the 'birds' would be largely simulating driven game, quite different from our previous excursions where clays were made to behave as no mortal bird ever would! Our 'breakfast bubble' was then escorted by Max (up from Bristol for the day), one of the stand operatives to 6A, our first stand, which proved to be 'Grouse' – low and fast. The little blighters were fairly safe in my sights and we all scored moderately as we tried to get our eyes in.

The next stand was the 'Flurry' – a bit of a showpiece. The whole team line up with a loader and 80 'birds' are hurled high and fast over our heads at short intervals – we scored 61 which we reckoned not too bad. We'd been told there'd be no lunch until we'd completed all ten stands and so we set off at a good



pace to face 'Fur & Feather' where H&H seemed to think it important to show us how to shoot kangaroos whilst simultaneously bagging a fleeing snipe or something.. (Grrrr!). 'The Pond', 'Rough Shooting'; 'Walked up Pheasant'... on they came. We had some rays of hope when Adam, Paul and Colin each got their eye in, usually for the last couple of pairs (you have 4 pairs per stand), but there's no denying that lack of practice was much in evidence and, had we been on a real shoot, it would have been the birds smoking cigars and knocking back a sloe gin...

As it happens Paul started us off on a cigarillo at about 10.30 and then at 11am, Adam produced a very pleasing Oliva Serie G cigar which was helped along with Colin's hip flask of said sloe gin – obviously we reckoned we were in a bubble by now! At 11.30 Nicolas Ollivier, the French catering manager who we got on well with last September, sent out his teams in little wagonettes to deliver the most delicious sausage rolls to keep us going as we battled with the 'burds'. The morning wore on and we were still more miss than hit, so it was time for a pipe. Just the one 'my dad smoked one of those' (pipe smokers get this quite a lot) but mostly appreciative comments stirred up by the delicious Nat Sherman 518 blend (the last I'll ever have as Philip Morris bought Nats and closed down all pipe and cigar lines... Still, I enjoyed it whilst it lasted – and RIP Nat Sherman!)

I'm also pleased to report that, five years since their introduction, our Livery shooting caps (now designated and widely used as the Livery Smoking Cap) were widely applauded and drew much enthusiastic comment and praise from fellow teams and H&H staff alike. They certainly mark us out from the rest of the crowd (as intended) who inclined to subtler camouflaged head gear – did they think the clays would take fright or something?!

By 12.30 it was all over for us and, at our final stand, we collected some beer tokens and occupied a nearby set of table and benches having time for one of Colin's black Balkan Sobranie cigarettes before a wagonette appeared with lunch and beer. Three or four other teams had filled up the tables behind us and it was all very convivial. We'd been tailed all morning by a surprisingly jolly team from the WC Gunmakers – historically this Company fields a large number of teams that are the Nemesis of this event by wiping the board with an almost grim determination to win



everything. The organisers had done their best to undermine their natural advantages and perhaps it worked, as they seemed as foxed as we'd been by most of the targets presented.

As no bar could be organised, beer was free – but driving limited take up. Lunch proved to be the most delicious cold rare roast beef I'd had in a good while, with potato salad and a roll, followed by a posset and, again from Colin, some enormous Mexican cigars which were the envy of all our fellow diners. At about 2pm we tottered back to the Club House where Chris Parr (PM Environmental Cleaners – this being his 28th time in the chair!) was waiting for the score card. Results are to be posted online and there are prizes for the best – and worst – shots. As I handed my card in, I noticed the one in front (no names) had scored 38 on the flurry, so, whilst we certainly won't be top, we probably won't be bottom either, but, rather like a good Lib Dem, 'somewhere in the middle'. Of course, it wasn't about the score, but the taking part and, on that basis we got top marks: never was a team so well prepared for every sociable pursuit devised by man than ours and my thanks to team mates Adam, Paul and Colin for supporting the day (even if I brought down our average by more than I care to admit) and of course to the WC Environmental Cleaners and the whole team at Holland and Holland – a team that took Covid-19 in its stride, and won!

Past Master Charles Miller



The 18th Inter Livery Pancake Race

On 1st March 2022, the Pipe Makers' Team comprising of the Master, the Mistress, The Third Warden and Freeman Sarah Saunders joined the Clerk as Team Captain to compete against the 41 other Livery Companies taking part in the 18th Inter Livery Pancake Race.

The Pancake Race had been cancelled for the past two years due to the pandemic but 2022 was going to be better, wasn't it? Sadly, the weather decided this year to 'upset the applegart' and the inclement weather meant that the slippery flagstones of Guildhall Yard were deemed to be too much of a risk. The 2022 Race was abandoned!

However, Sarah, our entry in the Novelty Race, was still subject to the scrutiny of the Judges. We thought her costume representing the Duke of Edinburgh

Awards (one of the Lord Mayor's nominated charities), was a favourite to win. Sadly, the judges decided that others were more worthy.

Our thanks to The Worshipful Company of Poulterers who have organised this event for many years and if we are awarded a Team place in the 2023 Race, the Pipe Makers look forward to taking part and thoughts have already turned to what the Novelty Race costume might be!

Sandra Stocker
Clerk





The Inter Livery Quiz Night

Four of our members represented the Pipe Makers at the Livery's version of a pub quiz or Trivial Pursuits - the Inter Livery Quiz Night organised by the Tax Advisors in March.

This was the first Inter Livery Quiz for two years, since before lockdowns. It was as much fun as always, and it was good to see it revived again.

Master Jerry Merton, Past Masters Ralph Edmondson and Charles Miller, and Court Assistant Fran Morrison took the plunge to test their general knowledge amongst nine Livery Company teams in this ultimate test of how many obscure things you know.

It ranged from identifying chocolate bars from photos of their cross-sections, through the history of the Guildhall and geography of London, to how many actors have played James Bond. (We knew that one - it's more than you might think!)

Master Jerry Merton surprised us with his profound knowledge of punk, rock and pop, including important matters such as the names of the young

ladies comprising Little Mix, while in more refined mode, Charles identified Turandot as the opera answer in the music section. Fran knew that 'Wednesday's child is full of woe' and Ralph (who clearly has a sweet tooth) knew the three colours of Wall's Neapolitan ice-cream.

But who knew that the Royal Albert Hall was once nicknamed the 'Kensington Gas Works' or that polo is the only sport you can't play left-handed? We didn't!

The winners were the Information Technologists with 97 correct answers, and the Communicators were next on 90.5.

We scored a very respectable 82.5 and were just 'pipped' out of the bronze medal position by the 'Late Arrivals' on 83 points.

We all had great fun taking part, and I hope we can plumb the depths of our profoundly trivial knowledge again next year.

Fran Morrison
Court Assistant



Tobacco and the Great Plague

In 1663, following the restoration of Charles II, the Second Tobacco Pipemakers' Company was granted a Royal Charter of Incorporation, although without a Grant of Livery. Two years later, in 1665, the worst outbreak of bubonic plague in England since the Black Death of 1348 occurred.

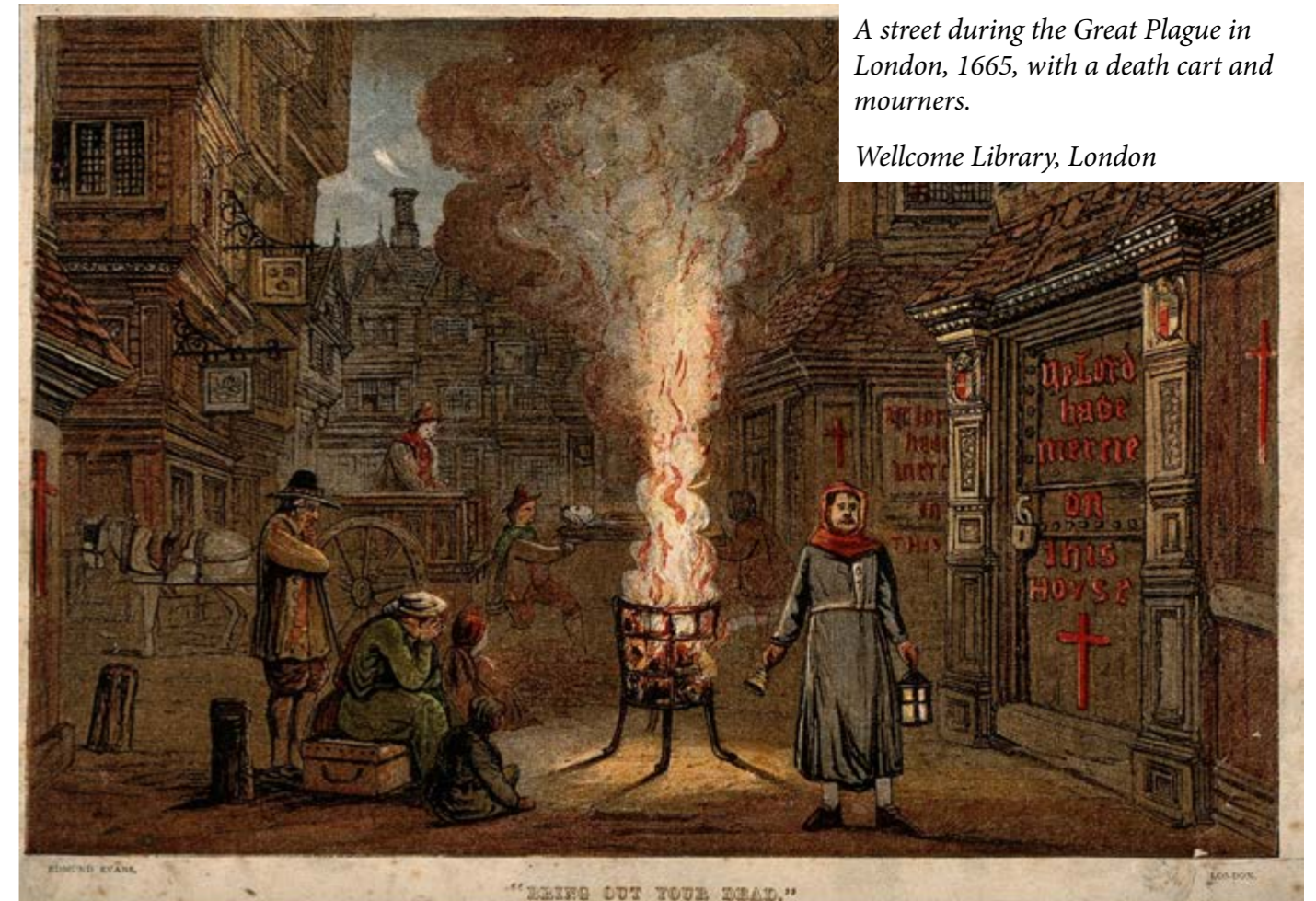
The earliest cases were noticed in 1664 but broke out with a vengeance in the Spring of 1665. Rats attracted by streets filled with rubbish carried fleas that caused disease. London lost some 20 per cent of its population within a year. While 68,596 deaths were recorded in the city, the true number was probably over 100,000. Non-conformists (Jews, Quakers etc) were not recorded. Other parts of the country also suffered. However, members of our Company may have suffered less than most ...

Those who could, fled the city. Charles and his court removed to Oxford, as did Parliament and

the judiciary. Only the Lord Mayor and Aldermen remained to try and enforce the King's orders for the prevention of plague.

Trade between London and other plague towns was stopped. There were to be no fairs or trade with other countries. Scotland closed its borders with England. All shipping attempting to enter the City was quarantined at Canvey Island.

Where trade continued, coins were placed in a bowl of vinegar on the counter rather than changing hands direct. Purchases were handed over on the end of a long hook. Many lost their jobs and were forced to beg or steal. London became so quiet that grass grew in the streets. Watchmen kept guard over infected houses, often shutting up families with their dead. Parish officials provided food. Bodies were taken to plague burial pits at night.



A street during the Great Plague in London, 1665, with a death cart and mourners.

Wellcome Library, London



There was little understanding of how the disease was transmitted: evil smells were blamed. There was a good trade in nosegays and pomanders stuffed with medicinal herbs and a proposal was made to float a ship of peeled onions down the Thames to counter vile odours. Some put their faith in amulets and charms.

The authorities ordered giant bonfires in the streets and house fires to be kept burning night and day, in the hope that the air would be cleansed.

Doctors treating victims wore 17th century versions of PPE. The head was enclosed in a leather hood fitted with a beaked mask stuffed with herbs, perfumes and spices. Glass in the eyeholes protected the face. The body was covered by a full-length gown of thick, waxed material and leather gloves protected the hands. Plague doctors carried wooden staves to drive away anyone who came too close.

Tobacco in particular was thought to be a prophylactic. During the plague a pipe was to be seen in almost every mouth. Men employed in collecting bodies smoked to avoid catching the plague. At Eton College, smoking became a requirement, and boys who did not smoke were punished by whipping. The benefits of syrup of tobacco, first recorded in 1610, were recalled. Samuel Pepys wrote in his diary on 7 June: 'I was forced to buy some roll tobacco to smell to and chew – which took away the apprehension.'

It was later claimed that no London tobacconist died from the plague during the epidemic. Dr Willis, who wrote a treatise on his treatment of the sick, said that no houses where tobacco was stored for manufacture or sale were infected, "nor indeed those who smoked tobacco, especially if they smoked in a morning, for the smoke of this plant secures those parts which lie most open ... and intercept and keeps the contagion that floats in the air from the brains, lungs and stomach. It also stirs the blood and spirits all over, and makes them shake off any contagion that might adhere to them".

Another famous physician, working with plague victims in Nijmegen in Holland, recorded that he smoked "a pipe of tobacco at ten in the morning and after dinner two or three more and the like again after supper" to protect himself. He survived his frequent contact with infection.

There were some narrow escapes. A Butcher in Newgate Market being by the Searchers given out to be dead of the Plague and by neglect not carried away the same night, was laid out in an upper room, whither his daughter going next day, the father beckoned to her and bade her bring him ale for he was cold. The man took a pipe of tobacco, ate a rabbit and on Sunday went to Church to give God thanks for his preservation.

The death rate peaked in September 1665 when more than 7,000 Londoners died in one week. Once the epidemic was over, the population quickly recovered. New people arrived in London to take over jobs left vacant by those who had died or fled. There was a sudden rise in marriages and births. Trade returned to previous levels.

The plague lingered on, but the last reported case occurred in 1679. The Second Company continued for nearly two hundred years, until it collapsed once again in 1868.

Assistant Jacqueline Burrows
Honorary Archivist

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Women in Tobacco

On March 22nd Women In Tobacco (WIT) went up North! Following in Dominic Cummings footsteps, SPI, - our Third Warden Henry Tuck is their Managing Director - hosted an eye-opening event in Barnard Castle!

Angela Harbutt, who heads the fundraising efforts as well as stakeholder engagement for the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) celebrated her birthday at the Witham Community and Arts Centre, which is the heart of Barnard Castle. Before a divine cake crafted by Gemma Jackson was devoured, Angela spoke movingly about the importance of recognising human fragility as well as the impostor syndrome and the impact both have played in her life. No one, no matter how strong they are, is as brave and stoic as their outside demeanour may appear. Never feel inadequate. Never set up comparisons.

Do seek out mentors: an experienced and trusted adviser who will support and guide you in your professional and often personal journey. Do not forget to recognise those individuals who have impacted your life. Thank them and let them know how much they mean to you. Angela called on several members of the audience to share the names of people who impact or have impacted their world. It was very moving and one name that was mentioned numerous times was WIT Deputy Chair, Lusia McAnna. Lusia is the glue that binds WIT together and the testimonies were affirmation. It is only fitting that as WIT is celebrating 12 years of existence this April and as part of an early celebration, Lusia was presented with a pewter wine goblet in grateful appreciation for 12 years as Deputy Chair of WIT: mentoring, mothering, motivating.

Angela's intense and heartfelt message went full circle as WIT members bestowed love and appreciation to Lusia and each other. It was an honour to participate alongside Maggie Scanlan, the Fourth Warden's Consort. Special thanks to Angela, our hosts: Danielle Roxborough and Jane Baldry of SPI, the amazing Witham team especially Suzanne Wallace and Shelagh Avery, Gemma Jackson, the fabulous baker, and everyone who ventured far and wide to make our first meeting up North so very memorable.

It is important to note that this meeting was our second in person event since our last Smoke Signals. In September, BAT hosted an event at the Rosewood Hotel in conjunction with the GTNF 2021 London. Diversity and Inclusion: Agents of Change was a lively and informative discussion that benefited from a varied group of expert panellists who spoke movingly about their own journeys and experience as well as insights gained from professional evaluation.

Moderator: Cheryl Olson, Health Behaviour Consultant. Panellists: Karen Blakeley, Independent Academic, Leadership Coach, Writer and Teacher; Carlista Moore Conde, Group Head of New Sciences at BAT; Lawrence Kutner, Behavioural Scientist and Consultant; Nermeen Varawalla, Chief Medical Officer and Head of Clinical Development at Atlantic Healthcare.

The next Global Meeting of WIT will be hosted by SWM and held 5th/6th May 2022 in Paris.

Elise Rasmussen
Renter Warden and Chair of Women In Tobacco



Livery Accessories for Purchase

With new members joining, it's probably a good time to remind members about our Livery accessories. All prices are inclusive of postage and packing.

To purchase any item, please contact the Clerk at clerk@tobaccolivery.org If you are ordering a Company Cap, please confirm the size required when ordering.



Company Tie
(£25.00 including P&P)



Formal Black Tie
(£25.00 including P&P)
(Proceeds from the sale of this tie go to the Benevolent Fund.)



Smoking Club Tie
(£25.00 including P&P)



Company Cap
(£50.00 including P&P)

Please confirm size required –
7", 7¼", 7½", 7¾"



Bow Tie
(£25.00 including P&P)



Diary of Forthcoming Events

Wednesday 1st June 2022

Installation Court, Installation of the Master and Wardens and Installation Luncheon at Armourers' Hall.

Thursday 23rd June 2022

Livery Golf Day
(The Clerk will circulate details in due course.)

Friday 24th June 2022

Common Hall Election of Sheriffs
(Liverymen only. Details will be circulated in due course.)

Thursday 8th September 2022

Past Master's Dinner.

Wednesday 21st September 2022

Autumn Court and Dinner (Court only) on HQS Wellington.

Thursday 29th September 2022

Common Hall Election of Lord Mayor
(Liverymen only. Details will be circulated in due course.)

Wednesday 19th October 2022

Annual Banquet at Grocers' Hall.

Tuesday 6th December 2022

Carol Service at a Church to be confirmed due to building works.

Wednesday 18th January 2023

January Court and Dinner at Drapers' Hall.

Wednesday 22nd March 2023

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

