

# Smoke Signals

ISSUE 13 APRIL 2023 THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF TOBACCO PIPE MAKERS & TOBACCO BLENDEES



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**2-5 Reflections of a Master's Year**





## Reflections of a Master's Year

It has been a privilege and honour to serve as your Master and as I write this, I'm three quarters of the way through my one-year term – how time has flown! My objective was to serve the Company as best I could, to do as much as possible and to relish the opportunity I was given. The Mistress has been a tower of strength, fully supportive of Livery life. Together we have made many new friends from all facets of life!

None of this could be possible without the support of so many – my mentor, Past Master Simon Orlik, my Wardens, Immediate Past Master Jerry Merton and, most significantly, the Clerk and also the Treasurer, Beadle and Honorary Chaplain. I have counselled their opinions and guidance on many occasions – if I hadn't, I'm not sure which dark alley I would be down!

It's been fascinating, interesting and intriguing – the comradeship amongst the movement is enormous.

Despite the global challenges we're up against, Livery Companies have worked tirelessly to make their very significant contribution to the City of London and surrounds – in terms of philanthropic giving not only in hard funds, but also man hours.

The year coincided with our beloved late Queen's Platinum Jubilee, and sadly her death. In commemorating her reign and life there have been several State, Royal, military and ceremonial events – some of which I have attended.

I was installed on 1st June 2022 at Armourers' Hall, a most memorable and unforgettable day. We remembered the recent passing of Past Master and Chairman of the Benevolent Fund Ralph Edmondson and gave thanks for the huge amount of work he put into our Company. It was an emotional day.



And so, the year began...changes had to be made to my normal routine! Less travel and golf, plenty of steps, good use of my 60+ London travel Oyster card, google maps, checklists and plenty to indulge!

The Master's Blog on our website covers my year to date. Here are some highlights:

Within a few days of being installed we headed to Sheffield for the Livery weekend – graciously hosted by The Company of Cutlers in Hallamshire and joined by almost all Masters and Consorts, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress and Sheriffs for a full program of educational and social events – an ideal platform to meet many others – we being the most recently installed!

**Civic Functions:** The Election of the Sheriffs, Election and (silent) admission of The Lord Mayor and The Lord Mayor's Show stand out as some of the highlights that I have been fortunate to attend. The Elections follow an intriguing and ancient process; and The Lord Mayor's Show on 12th November was a true and colourful spectacle in the vibrant City welcoming the incoming Lord Mayor, Alderman Nicholas Lyons.

**Military:** Our affiliations with The Irish Guards Association and Number 15 (Loos) Company continue to strengthen and afforded me the privilege to attend several events hosted by them – dinners, balls, and military parades. We can thank the late Alan Beggs, Clerk's Assistant, for cementing our affiliation with the Irish Guards Association. Alan sadly passed away in October 2022 – he was a very popular officer of our Company.

**Initiatives:** As always, the Livery movement is proactive, and I have attended several initiatives covering equality, diversity, inclusion, climate change and pollination / environment sustainability. These have been by way of meetings, receptions, lectures and zoom.

**Church Services:** It's always a pleasure to attend Church services at St Pauls, St Stephen Walbrook and Westminster Abbey. Two standouts were The Festival of St. Cecilia and the Musicians' Company's Evensong.

**Other Livery events:** There have been numerous lunches, receptions, dinners and events hosted by those on our circuit and other Companies. They have all been unique in their own way and thoroughly enjoyable – lectures, tastings, awards, sports events

and so on. Highlights include being Jailed and Bailed at the Tower of London in aid of the British Red Cross and I must thank those members who donated, so I could be Bailed; playing Pétanque with the Immediate Past Master and Past Master Charles Miller and visiting 'Superbloom' at the Tower of London.





And to a few of our own events...

The Company Golf Day at Tandridge in late June attracted 23 players and gave me an excuse to dust off my clubs and witness Past Master Nigel Rich win the Charles Rich Cup – fittingly, a cup donated by Nigel in 2002 in honour of his father Charles, a founding member of our Modern Company. Past Master Derek Harris has run this annual event for 20 years – this being his last – we gave thanks for his commitment and years of service!

The Autumn Court Meeting and Dinner on board HQS Wellington was, as always, a most jolly affair, and we enjoyed the good company of the Master Mariner who graciously allowed us to raise some smoke on deck.



The Annual Banquet at Grocers' Hall was magnificent in all respects. The Hall was a spectacle with grand towering chandeliers, and over 140 members and guests. We were thrilled at the quality of the London Fanfare Trumpets who played a mixture of nostalgic and well known African pieces.

Into December and our annual Carol Service was absolutely fabulous, taking place at St James Garlickhythe, with the order carefully designed by Past Master Mark Gower-Smith and led by our Hon Chaplain David Parrott. The choir from Sevenoaks School were simply outstanding. Many members brought children's gifts which Sharon donated to the charity Growbaby UK. And the reception at The Little Ship Club served us very well!

We gathered breath over Christmas, recharged the batteries and soon into January I hosted the January Court and Dinner at one of my favourites, Drapers' Hall. It was a pleasure to welcome such a great attendance of members and guests and we were treated to an exceptional repertoire from Guildhall School of Music scholars – baritone Emyr Jones, being one of our students and already making the headlines!



Our Benevolent Fund, the charitable arm, continues to distribute in a variety of directions making a difference to all recipients. I have been fortunate to visit a few - The Sheriff's and Recorder's Fund AGM with our Clerk at the Old Bailey was most enlightening as was a visit to Arundel Cricket Castle Foundation. The Big Breakfast for the Children's Magical Taxi Tour to Disneyland in Paris was positively moving, as was a visit to Barrow Farm Horse-riding School for the disabled.



The Membership Committee has done an outstanding job in promoting the Company, recruiting new members and hosting events such as theatre trips and Smoking Clubs – my thanks to the committee. I've had the good fortune to interview many prospective new members as well as admit Freemen and gown Liverymen.

The Past Masters' Dinner at The In & Out Club, back in September, saw the attendance of 12 Past Masters and it was a special evening, allowing me to be seated next to our Senior Past Master Rolf Christophersen, who was on top form, and I was most grateful for this honour.



So, by the end of February, I've done around 70 events – another three months and some exciting events still to come, including trips to Companies in Sheffield and Bristol and also to HRH The King's Garden Party!

Thank you to Sharon for being so supportive and fulfilling her role as Consort – it seems like she's a natural!

And Sandra – I've seen first hand how much hard work is needed looking after a Master and running the Company affairs – you do an amazing job.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to have served as your Master. It has been a stimulating year and full of happy memories.

We have an amazing Master-Elect – I wish Elise and her Consorts Courtney and William all the best and have no doubt they too will have an enjoyable and memorable year!

**Paul Taberer**  
Master

And the Mistress and I have attended several functions at The Guildhall School of Music and Drama – meeting and hearing from talented musicians. On behalf of The Company, I can only thank all Trustees of the Benevolent Fund for the incredible work they do. Special recognition to Court Assistant Jonathan Fell for taking on the Chairmanship of the Benevolent Fund, Past Master Roger Merton for his many years (50!) on the Welfare Committee, and Third Warden Anthony Scanlan for succeeding Roger as Chairman of the Welfare Committee.

The Broseley Pipe Museum in Ironbridge surpassed my expectations. Sharon and I were delighted to visit – along with Renter Warden Henry Tuck and Carolyn. I highly recommend visiting – the pipe industry being very much our heritage. Henry continues to oversee this aspect of our responsibilities and does an amazing job at it.



## Appointments

### The Court

**Liveryman Jonathan Fell** was elected to the Court as an Assistant and was installed at the meeting of the Autumn Court on 21st September 2022 and **Liverymen Geoffrey Strickland** was elected to the Court as an Assistant and was installed at the meeting of the Election Court on 22nd March 2023.

### Members Gowned with the Livery

<b>Kelly Cushman</b> Vice President of Government Relations at Elevation Capital	1st June 2022
<b>Sarah Saunders</b> President & Founder, Women's International Cigar Club, Private Chef	1st June 2022
<b>Andrew Charles Pinto</b> Insurance Consultant	21st September 2022
<b>Ian Anthony Narbeth</b> Solicitor	18th January 2023
<b>Rosamund Beattie</b> Diamond Evaluator	22nd March 2023
<b>David Smith</b> Transport Planning Consultant	22nd March 2023

### New Honorary Freeman

<b>Ms Catherine Hampson</b> Past Mistress 2021-22	1st June 2022
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### New Freemen

<b>Kevin Burd</b> CEO North America Nicotine, CEO Chemular	1st June 2022
<b>Marie Cooper</b> Solicitor	1st June 2022
<b>Ricardo Carioni</b> CEO, Tor Imports Ltd	21st September 2022
<b>Michael de la Fargue</b> Consultant in Tobacco Industry	21st September 2022
<b>Michael Bond</b> President, Labstat International Inc	18th January 2023
<b>Laurent Charbonnier</b> Chief Commercial & Development Officer, SibanyeStillwater	18th January 2023
<b>Donald Featherstone</b> Financial Restructuring Advisor	18th January 2023
<b>Nikesh Madhvani</b> Industrialist	18th January 2023
<b>Neal Neilinger</b> Investment Banker	18th January 2023
<b>Michael Prince</b> Retired Fellow Chartered Accountant	18th January 2023
<b>Rosamund Beattie</b> Diamond Evaluator	22nd March 2023
<b>Vivian Eiroa</b> General Manager, JRE Tobacco Company	22nd March 2023
<b>Ambrosian Harold-Shaw</b> Managing Director, Albion Smoke International	22nd March 2023
<b>David Smith</b> Transport Planning Consultant	22nd March 2023
<b>Christopher Sokol KC</b> Retired Barrister, Master of the Bench, King's Counsel/ Antiquarian Bookseller	22nd March 2023



## Lost Brethren

### Clerk's Assistant Alan Beggs

Alan grew up in Rathcoole, Northern Ireland. Alan would tell you that he wasn't an academic but he found out that if he joined the school orchestra, he could leave the school premises to have music lessons. He started in the school orchestra on violin (which he didn't like) but the clarinet became available and this became Alan's instrument. School became interesting because of music and he became involved not only with the school orchestra but with the County Antrim Youth Orchestra and the Grosvenor Hall Military Band.

In 1968, the Irish Guards Band gave a concert at his school and the idea of a music career in the forces was sown. In late 1968 he signed on the dotted line and in July 1969 at the age of 15 years and six months he joined the Band of the Irish Guards. He actually thought he was going to the Barracks in Ballymena so it was a bit of a surprise when he found out he was going to Pirbright in Surrey! After 18 months as a junior Musician at Pirbright, Alan moved to the Royal Military School of Music, Kneller Hall to complete the pupil's course. In 1972, Alan was posted to the band of the Irish Guards in Chelsea Barracks. He travelled widely with the band visiting many countries around the world.

Alan retired from the Army in 1993 after 24 years' service. In his last six months in the band, he was fortunate to secure a job with the Order of St John. It was here that he met the Clerk when she joined the Order of St John in 1995 and they worked closely together for the next 18 years. Alan was honoured to be made a Serving Brother of the Order of St John and subsequently promoted to Officer Brother.

In 2013, Alan decided to leave St John during a major reorganisation of the charity, as the Clerk did, and Alan eventually ended up back with the Irish Guards as Honorary Secretary of the Irish Guards Association, London Branch; it was a role that he really enjoyed. About the same time, the Clerk started work with the Tobacco Pipe Makers, and they agreed that Alan would help the Clerk with the Pipe Makers events and if he needed it, the Clerk would

help with Alan's events for the Irish Guards Association (London Branch). So that's how Alan came along to help the Pipe Makers.

In 2018, the Pipe Makers asked Alan to become the Clerk's Assistant, thus formalising what Alan had been carrying out since 2014. Alan thoroughly enjoyed the Pipe Makers' events and the company of its members.

Alan was extremely pleased to be involved in the formation of a new Affiliation between the Pipe Makers and the Irish Guards Association in 2020 and his hope, as he and the Clerk talked about many times in his final months, was that the Affiliation would continue to flourish in the future.

Due to his health deteriorating, Alan had to give up his role as Honorary Secretary and on St Patrick's Day 2022, His Royal Highness The Duke of Cambridge (as he was then) presented Alan with the Colonel of the Regiment's Certificate for outstanding service to the Regiment. It was an incredibly proud moment for Alan.

Alan accepted his ill health as 'it is what it is' but he didn't want many people to know and those few who did know, kept his confidence. The Clerk felt very privileged that Alan allowed her to visit when he became housebound in July. They talked, laughed, and reminisced over their long history. Alan was also thankful for the messages, phone calls and gifts from the Pipe Makers who knew about his situation.

Alan was admitted to hospital on 4th October and very sadly passed away on 5th October at the age of 68. Alan is survived by his wife, Ginny, his two sons Stephen and Andrew and grandchildren Mark and Emily.

In memory of Alan, the Irish Guards Association has confirmed that Alan will be commemorated with a plaque in the Guards Chapel, where he played





with the Irish Guards Regimental band on many occasions. A small but lasting memorial from the Irish Guards Association London Branch to which he gave so much.

With the agreement of Alan's family, the Irish Guards Association and the Court, the Immediate Past Master will introduce the 'Alan Beggs Pipe Makers Trophy' in memory of Alan and in recognition of his efforts in arranging our affiliation

with the Irish Guards Association. The trophy will be awarded to a member of the Irish Guards Association who has made a significant contribution to the work of the Association, or who has done something outstanding to improve the life or lives of one their members or their families. It is hoped that the first recipient will be selected from the branches of the Irish Guards Association in the Autumn of 2023 and the Trophy presented at the January Dinner in 2024.

### Freeman David Winters

It is with immeasurable sadness that I write of the untimely, devastating loss of our dear friend David Winters. Many in the sector will remember David from his time as the senior fund manager, CIO and CEO of Mutual Series, part of Franklin Mutual, prior to the formation of his own fund management business, Wintergreen Advisers.

A committed value manager, David's funds were stalwarts of tobacco company share registers from the late 1990s when the sector was deeply unfashionable, buying when others were seemingly willing to give shares away. Major positions were established in British American Tobacco, Imperial Tobacco, RJ Reynolds and then Reynolds American, Japan Tobacco, Altria and Philip Morris International at various times. He was also an early and major investor in Gallaher, displaying the finest attributes of a long-term style of investing and stewardship sadly too rare these days: a loyal supporter of the management when things were going well, but vocally and publicly holding the company to account when necessary, most obviously in an excruciating conference call when Gallaher bought Liggett Ducat. Even then, however, he maintained his impeccable manners, the company being skewered with calm politeness. And he was there, in size, for the bid, of course.

Woe betide any shareholding where the management were deemed "nitwits" and there have been a few, indeed there still are around the Globe. David took governance very seriously, long before it was fashionable, and was four-square and central in 2014 in first highlighting and then forcing a



retreat by Coke's management from their plan to engorge their personal remuneration at the expense of shareholders. David had also written extensively on the hidden costs to investors of passive investing through the rote acceptance of dilution to shareholders from excessive stock issuance for directors' remuneration.

A lifelong fan of trains, he was a cornerstone investor in Railtrack at IPO, apparently the only other major investor interested alongside a rather less talented UK fund manager who heard stories at the time of "some American who wants to come over and travel the length and breadth of the UK. On a train!". We should have met earlier. The ultimate demise of Railtrack may be what most will remember but it should also be remembered that the share price rose from 380p at IPO to a high of almost 1700p in the space of just two years, and not many owned it.

In the end our first meeting was in 1998 on a sunny day in New York when that once UK fund manager had become a broker and was attempting to extol



the virtues of the demerger of financial services by BAT Industries and its new-found (re-found?) focus on tobacco. That quiet politeness and searing intellect which typified David saw attempts to flannel an answer about Souza Cruz efficiently and utterly exposed, but despite that a firm and lasting friendship was founded.

A regular visitor to the UK, it was for him that we hosted a near legendary dinner at the Cazenove flat where Paul Adams as CEO of BAT first met Gareth Davis, CEO of Imperial. There was some squaring up over the starter, but by the end of a particularly well-oiled dinner they left as great friends and had cemented their own relationships with David, which endured.

David was also in the UK to witness at first hand the start of the UK's financial crisis as we stood on Moorgate and saw the queue with their camping chairs outside of Northern Rock. He bought some more tobacco shares in response.

### Honorary Liveryman Ian Kimmins Clerk of the Livery Company from 1975 to 1996

Ian James Kimmins, who died on 2nd January 2023, was one of the major architects of our Livery. He became an Honorary Freeman in 1977, an Honorary Liveryman in 1978, and served as a member of the Court from 1996 to 2010 and was only the second Clerk of our Company, equalling the 21 years' service of the first Clerk, Bill Wilson. His 21 year period of office as Clerk coincided with the third and fourth decade of the modern Livery's existence

He was one of the few in his generation who could pull off a full Yorkshire rendition of the Lion and Albert. It took a good meal and a glass or two of wine before he could be persuaded to perform, but this illustrated his remarkable memory, his sense of humour and surprisingly his origins. Not many knew about his early life in Yorkshire or his love of the county.

Born December 20th 1935 in Doncaster, Ian spent the first 13 years of his life in Yorkshire. His father was a senior manager in the National Coal Board, his mother a nurse. In his early years he recalled

Last year saw the equally devastating loss of Ralph Edmondson, formerly head of IR at BAT. He and David were friends and, after being invited to Ralph's January Dinner in 2018, in his year as Master, David cemented his long relationships with the City and with the tobacco industry by becoming a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders.

Last year David became a Freeman of the City of London, becoming the first member of the Tobacco Pipe Makers' Company to swear his oath of allegiance to the King.

The tobacco sector has lost one of its largest and most colourful long-term supporters; the City of London has lost a huge fan; we have lost a very dear friend; and my son has lost a much-loved godfather.

David Winters, in the company of Past Master Ralph Edmondson, in happier days.

Assistant Rae Maile

sitting in air raid shelters during bombing raids on Sheffield and hoping for the best. He admitted to having been a bit of a solitary child and used to spend hours at the top of a large tree in their garden observing and eavesdropping on the locals below.



In 1943 his sister Jenny was born and he was packed off to boarding school in Derbyshire, apparently plotting her imminent demise. Fortunately for both of them his plans did not materialise and he flourished. Like his father before him he was sent to Bradfield where he became head of his house, an achievement which his younger son Andrew (who also went to Bradfield) did not learn of until Ian's last few days. He also distinguished himself as a good hockey player performing at Club standard until well into middle age.



His father on promotion was working from Hobart House, in London, representing Britain on the European Steel and Coal Community. The family had moved to Woking and Ian did National Service as an officer in the RASC, somehow arranging to spend most of his time playing golf in Lichfield. Golf was his lifelong passion. Usefully their garden gate opened directly on to Woking Golf Club. He inspired the Livery to annual golf days and ultimately to win the prestigious Inter Livery Golf competition at Walton Heath, the Prince Arthur Cup in 1997.

After National Service Ian might have gone to university, but on encouragement from his father to get a professional qualification, he took Articles in Lincolns Inn with Speechly Bircham, where he qualified in 1960 and remained until his retirement in 1994. Colleagues mention his kindness, his sense of fun and a perspective on life which endeared him to clients as well as his fellow solicitors. Among his private clients were Eamon Andrews, Anthony Hopkins, and a certain popular author who featured Ian in his book *First Among Equals*, where the hero is caught for drink driving. Ian was not pleased since nobody had asked his permission, and no attempt had been made to disguise his name or that of his firm. The pen portrait was fortunately of a kind and sensible lawyer who got his client off lightly.

Ian was always a ready and clubbable volunteer and had taken on the role of secretary to the Bradfield Masonic Lodge. He was Trustee of an Old Peoples Home in Eastbourne, and a supporter of Chailey Heritage near Haywards Heath, which had been founded by his illustrious great Aunt, Dame Grace Kimmins in 1903.

Whilst studying for his Law finals he had met his future wife Heidi who was looking after a neighbour's children in Woking. They married in Heidelberg in 1962 and she graced many a Livery function.

City Livery Clerks at the time tended to be solicitors so when Bill Wilson, the Company's first Clerk, retired in 1975, the call went out to find one. The Senior Warden at the time was Barrington Hooper, who owned the trade magazine *Tobacco* which used Ian's services. Hence the introduction and Ian was appointed at the modest fee of £1500pa in June 1975. Considering that all the work had to be

done by hand, including the dreaded table plans, it is no wonder that Heidi recalls endless late nights and weekends before big events. His secretary at Speechly's, Katie Taponnier, was also drafted in to help and became well known to the Livery.

In the relatively short history of the Tobacco Livery, Ian stands out as the Clerk who consolidated our position as a worthy member of the modern post war Liveries. He was the first and only solicitor to occupy the role, and, by his precision and adherence to the wider City Livery traditions, he earned great respect. He singlehandedly wrote all the procedures and rubrics that we use in Court meetings and ceremonies, and instructions on staging our various events. In particular he enforced the rule, not always with success, that speeches must not exceed 8 minutes. He ensured that all our dealings were conducted without any pomposity or patronising, and usually with a twinkle in his eye.

He was widely respected and in 1990 served as President of the Fellowship of Clerks.

As well as being a strong member of our winning golfers in the Prince Arthur Cup, he was proud that the Livery won the Inter Livery Bridge competition so many times that the organisers rewrote the rules to disqualify our talented team members.

He always maintained that he should never let the Master out of his sight, and in his self-effacing but quiet way assisted the Master to do everything correctly and show the Livery at its best.

Among other pursuits he was a keen gardener, owning an allotment from which emanated a succession of prize vegetables. He had an unexpected talent for creating elaborately iced cakes. He also enjoyed sailing with his brother-in-law on their 33ft yacht.

He and Heidi celebrated their Diamond Wedding in 2022 but for the last five years of his life he was on dialysis, which he endured with typical courage and stoicism. He succumbed to flu and died in hospital on 2nd January 2023. He is survived by his wife, their three children (a daughter and two sons), six grandchildren and one great grandchild.



### Liveryman Ernest Threshie

Ernest Mitchell Threshie passed away peacefully at home on 18 October 2021, aged 90 years after a long illness. He was married to his loving wife Gillian, who died in 2020, for 65 years with a son and three daughters (Vanessa, Duncan, Fiona and Kathryn) as well as grandchildren and great grandchildren. Ernest was a family man whose greatest pleasure was having his family and friends around him.

Ernest was born on the 9th March 1931 to Francis and Ruby Threshie in Glasgow.

Ernest was sent out by his father to Southern Rhodesia at 17 to learn the tobacco trade by spending the first years working on a farm, preparing the soil, planting, growing, harvesting drying and packing the tobacco to go to the auction floors. Living in the Capital, he cycled out to the Keelifs farm each day.

### Past Master Ralph Edmondson

It with great sadness that we write of the loss of our dear friend Ralph Edmondson, for so many years the Head of Investor Relations at BAT Industries and then British American Tobacco. Ralph's long and illustrious career in investor relations started by accident - it was meant only to be temporary - but he defined the role and, as so memorably said by a former Partner of Cazenove, "he was a professional at a time when the others were all rank amateurs".

In the early days of analysts' meetings, he even used to present the results, then a heady combination of a tobacco operation beset by US litigation and an insurance company beset by domestic mortgage indemnity problems (which is why he had been drafted in) and the aftershocks of earthquakes in LA. At least Argos and Wiggins Teape had gone.

Ralph deserves much credit for the strong standing which BAT had in the investment community during his tenure. The "high single digit EPS growth" target was one which he was instrumental in developing and presenting, and which subsequently adorned his number plate ("H18 EPS") in a retirement which was far, far too short.

He initially then worked for Simpson Threshie but soon after his father's death spent many happy years with Rhodesia Tobacco Packers initially as a buyer on the auction floors. He remained in the tobacco industry throughout his working life, based in Zimbabwe and later in Europe primarily selling African tobacco to Europe and the Middle East markets.

He made many close Tobacco friends across Europe when he lived and worked in Belgium and England.

Ernest was admitted to the Freedom in 1983 and Gowned in the Livery in 1986.



The opening comment on a phone call of "I have seen your note" could be delivered with either warmth and bonhomie, or with an utterly chilling tone of disapproval. Stories of long lunches ("this is a two-bottle problem ... we are keen on ETI and might pay more than you think"), overseas trips ("we were hoping that not all of you made it back from the firing range"), prebriefs on profit warnings which never had to be published and the like could fill many, many pages, but are too raw and too difficult to write.

And so just two stories, colourful and informative in an age when far too many favour precision over accuracy and cannot get beyond the second decimal place of growth rates with no understanding of the story. The demerger of Financial Services by BAT Industries into Zurich Financial Services required Zurich to codify its strategy for the Listing Particulars. The model of "Separate Business Units" (SBUs) reporting into the "charismatic" CEO was brilliantly described and was the basis of more than





one buy note describing an operational structure without parallel in the insurance industry or even wider. Little did we know at the time that the strategy was written by Ralph over the course of a weekend (and more than the one bottle of claret) in a Zurich hotel room, and bore not a jot of resemblance to the internal workings of the company or to a strategy which was largely the last thing said by the CEO. But once Financial Services was demerged, we could look just at the tobacco operations.

Results were quarterly, but there was no prebrief in those early days: “We have never made the numbers up before the night before” joked Ralph. Although it was not a joke. The first draft of a set of quarterly results had seen the entire costs of British American Racing (remember that?) set against the European division run then by Paul Adams. “And your division was loss-making” giggled Ralph to an ashen-faced Paul, by that stage shortlisted for elevation to CEO. In response to a stammered “what did you do?” came the jovial answer “well, we sent the numbers back upstairs ... and told them to spread it around a bit”. Thereafter my modelling of divisional results became suitably circumspect. Not just shareholders of BAT but the wider investment community owes Ralph a huge debt for his role in developing investor relations as a profession.

Ralph became a Freeman in 2006 and a Liveryman in 2012. He joined the Court in 2012 and in May 2014, Ralph became Secretary to the Benevolent Fund Committee until 2019, when he became a Trustee, and in 2020, became Chairman and Trustee. Ralph enjoyed the work connected to the Benevolent Fund and even more, liaising with the various Charities that the Company supported. The new systems he put in place throughout the Benevolent Fund Committee are a testament to Ralph, his hard work and his incredible mind.

Ralph became Master in June 2017 and in August of that year, he received a diagnosis. Throughout his year as Master, he juggled Livery commitments and events with his treatment, with many people not knowing, and that’s how Ralph wanted it. He had many highlights in his year but his Mansion House Banquet was one of those evenings you do not forget, especially as he and the Clerk had had a few sleepless nights in the lead up to it. Ralph loved the Livery movement and attended as many events as he could.

Ralph was very happily married to Maureen and he was very proud of his sons, James and Laurence. Maureen was his constant support and Ralph was so happy when Maureen became an Honorary Freeman of the Company.

Ralph passed away on 30th May 2022 at the age of 67 and he will be truly missed by his family and many friends.

**Assistant Rae Maile**



## A Message from the Master-Elect

**It is a great honour to have been elected as Master-Elect of our esteemed company. I am particularly proud to be only the second woman Master, following in the auspicious footsteps 12 years after my amazing mentor, Past Master Fiona Adler, who inspired me to join the Company in the first place. I am, however, even more delighted that our current Fourth Warden, Jacqueline Burrows, who has years of industry and business experience, will further pave the way for many more women Masters.**

My own unique expertise within the tobacco and vaping sector will hopefully enhance our Company and continue to broaden our membership. As the publisher of the leading tobacco magazine as well as the leading business-to-business magazine for vape companies, I see the industry from the periphery, and as the founder and president of the GTNF (Global Tobacco & Nicotine Forum) and executive director of the GTNF Trust, I have been fortunate enough to facilitate dialogue and discussions between all stakeholders as well as governments, regulatory bodies, finance and public health. It is a privilege to embrace the tradition of tobacco pipe making as a craft and artistry and also to be intricately involved in industry transformation.

My late husband, Brian Ace, was a Liveryman of our company as well as the retired Chairman and CEO of the largest filter making company in the world. He loved the company and would have been a

wonderful supporter during my year. As sad as I am that Brian cannot join me, I am pleased to say that I have broken tradition and selected two Consorts to be by my side during what promises to be an exciting and daunting year—in equal measure. My children, Courtney Lambert and William Rasmussen, both Freemen of the company, are looking forward to participating in Company and Consort activities while expanding on the many contributions that Sharon Taberer and others before her have made. I am grateful to all the Consorts whose tireless dedication to our company will make Courtney’s and William’s year much more enjoyable!





When I joined the industry 40 years ago, I was told that I needed to learn how to play golf. Regrettably, I never did. However, both our present Master, Paul Taberer, and his wife, Sharon, play magnificently, and it will be a privilege to present them with prizes at this year's Company golf day. The golfers will appreciate my confidence that both Paul and Sharon will receive prizes on the day. They have worked incredibly hard this past year and have earned the opportunity to spend more time playing the game they both love! Paul and, indeed, all the Masters I have had the privilege of working closely with during my years as a Warden have taught me so much about the Company and leadership. Paul and Sharon have been particularly generous this year with advice and have included me in numerous activities. Please accept my gratitude and remember that the good decisions I make are in no small part because of my predecessors, the GPC, the Court, our Clerk, Sandra, our Treasurer, Ian, and our Beadle, Mark.

No path should be travelled without some roadmap, even if, ultimately, you veer from it and seek alternative routes. Every year, I hear that the main responsibility of the Master is to leave the Company in a better position than where it was when they take office. Certainly, Paul is going to make this goal very difficult, but I shall do my utmost to achieve it. Firstly, I will support the Membership Committee in its quest to grow and benefit the Company by admitting strong, committed individuals with a desire to contribute to our Company. Further, I will strive to form an even closer bond between our Company and the charities our Benevolent Fund supports. It is each of you, our Liverymen and Freemen, whose generous donations impact the lives of groups and individuals whose needs are so much greater than our own.

Finally, "there is no 'I' in team" is a statement one hears in business, on the sporting field, in classrooms and even in marriage vows. Since my first dinner at Mansion House as the guest of Past Master Michael Prideaux, I have felt part of the team, part of a family who cares. Our Company consists of individuals with incredible knowledge, business acumen in many disciplines, notable leaders and experts, but, most importantly, each of you have fun, laugh, enjoy life and relish one another's company and companionship. I will strive to ensure our magnificent balance endures.

Thank you for this incredible opportunity. I hope that my term as Master of the Worshipful Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders will be remembered as a year of adventures, advancement and altruism. With your continued help and counsel, whatever road we take as a Company will be enhanced by the strength of our community.

**Elise Rasmussen**  
Master-Elect



## The Benevolent Fund: Standing on Shoulders

**"I just want to take this opportunity of thanking you and the Charity for their enormous support over the last 45 years. I cannot tell you how much it meant to my mother to have a secure roof over her head, she loved her home. You do incredible work for people at their most vulnerable."**

It is hard not to get a lump in your throat, and to feel real pride in the work of the Company, when you read testimony like that from the daughter of one of our charity's long-term beneficiaries.

On joining the Livery movement, it is immediately clear that charity is a big part of what it is all about. So, when Past Master Ralph Edmondson asked me if I would be interested in becoming a Trustee of the Benevolent Fund I jumped at the chance. I got to know Ralph when he was BAT's head of investor relations and I was an equity analyst following the tobacco sector. Over the years he became a good friend and had a major influence over the course of my career, so it was with a strange mix of sadness, honour, and some nerves at the responsibility involved that I found myself becoming Chair of the Benevolent Fund last summer after Ralph's untimely passing.

The major impact that Ralph had on the Benevolent Fund during over eight years of service is touched upon elsewhere in this newsletter, and has been brought home to me again as I have read through old papers and minutes in an effort to get to grips with the history of our charity, and make sure that, as a relative newcomer to the Company, I can do justice to this role.

### Strong and deep roots

My background reading has also been a reminder that, beyond Ralph, we have benefited from the dedicated service of quite a number of devoted servants of the Company over the sixty-odd years since the Benevolent Fund was founded. Not least among those stalwarts were the first three Trustees – Past Masters Frank Warwick, Robert Freeman, and Roy Siemssen – who served a remarkable 93 years amongst them, and two secretaries, Guy Morris and John Maxwell – who covered most of the charity's first 40 years.

Our Livery charity was created in October 1961 but, following a merger in 2010, one branch of the Benevolent Fund has roots over a century older. The Tobacco Trade Benevolent Association (TTBA) was founded in March 1860 "to supply a want hitherto unattempted by the large body engaged in the Trade, of affording temporary relief or otherwise to aged and distressed persons, who have for a series of years been honourably engaged in the Trade, or who from unforeseen circumstances may have fallen into difficulties from which they have no means of extricating themselves". Over 160 years later that work continues via our Welfare Fund, with essentially identical aims.

Jacqueline Burrows, Fourth Warden and Honorary Archivist, recently accompanied me to Faversham in Kent where the TTBA archives are stored. There we found minutes books and accounts dating right back to the TTBA's start plus a TTBA 'strong box' full of other goodies, including a tablecloth embroidered with signatures celebrating the TTBA's 100th anniversary. Over the next few months, we will scan and archive these documents, which look like they will provide a rich source of material for future editions of Smoke Signals.







### Some personnel changes

We are fortunate in having a strong and dedicated group of Trustees to build on the work of our predecessors. Over the last year we bade adieu to Assistant Martine Petetin and Past Master Mark Gower-Smith, Trustees since August 2016 and February 2018, respectively. On behalf of the Benevolent Fund, I would like to record our sincere gratitude to both for their service and the effort they put into the Trustee role. I am very glad that, in Immediate Past Master Jerry Merton and Freeman Marie Cooper, we have been able to persuade two new Trustees of an equally high calibre to take their seats.

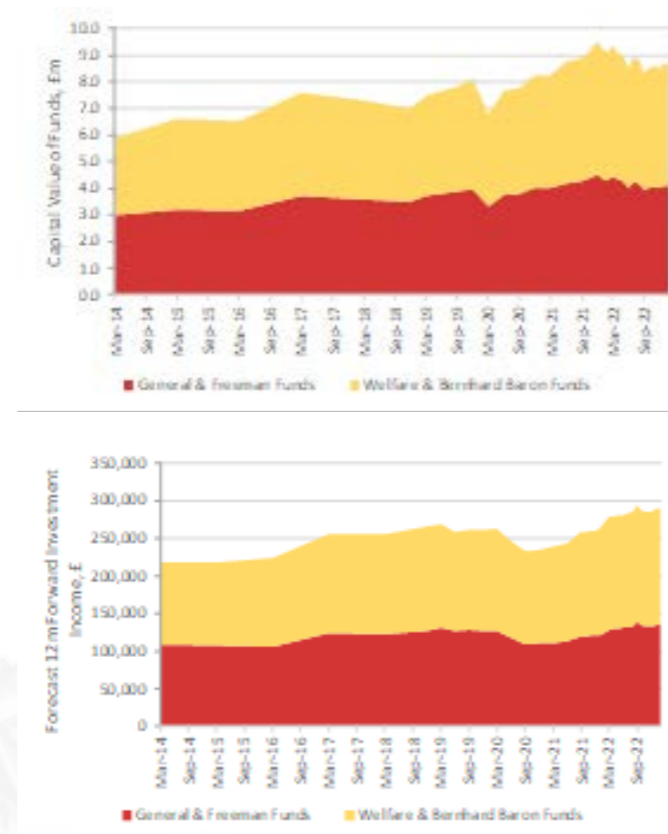
A change in the Chair of our Welfare Committee is also covered elsewhere in this newsletter, but I would like to record my thanks too to Past Master Roger Merton, who stepped down in November after a remarkable 50-plus years of service to the Fund and the TTBA. Third Warden and Trustee Tony Scanlan has inherited the TTBA's splendid ceremonial badge, and we are grateful that we will continue to benefit from Roger's experience as he becomes the Welfare Committee's Vice-Chair.

### Still punching above our weight

Ralph used to say that The Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Trade Benevolent Fund 'punched above its weight' relative to our position in the Livery Companies order of precedence. A few evenings spent perusing the annual reports of other Livery charities confirms that this is still the case: the generosity of Company members and the good stewardship of prior Trustees allows us to fund charitable activities at a level similar to companies much higher up the order.

Readers will be aware that the last year or so has been a choppy period for financial markets due to the war in Ukraine, a spike in inflation and rising global interest rates. At the end of February 2023, the total capital value of the Benevolent Fund stood at £8.7m, representing a dip of around 7% compared to the March 2022 level. Fortunately – and as designed by our investment managers, Quilter Cheviot – the investment income from our portfolios is significantly less volatile. At the end of February, Quilters was forecasting income of around £290,000 over the next 12 months, actually about 4% up on the figure they were forecasting in March 2022.

The Benevolent Fund looks to spend substantially all of the income it receives from donations and investments each year. In the year to the end of March 2023, we are on track to have made grants of around £155,000 from the General and Robert Freeman Master's Funds, and to provide benefits and relief of almost £190,000 on the Welfare side.



### Humbling feedback on the work of our Welfare Fund

Our push to find and make sure we are reaching as many beneficiaries as we can has resulted in a tick-up in applications for the Welfare Committee to consider at its meetings. Recognising that many people are facing hardship because of inflationary pressures, particularly on basics like fuel and food, we have also upped the amounts we pay to beneficiaries for maintenance and regular relief.

This year we have once again asked the Field Welfare Officers who support the work of the Welfare Fund to solicit feedback from beneficiaries. 'Humbling' might be an over-used word, but it feels absolutely apposite for some of the responses we received when we asked what would have been different if they had not received financial support from us this year:

"I would have struggled to pay day to day costs and to provide care and support to my wife."



"Lots of things have risen in price, and since my wife died I have only my income for household bills so I struggle. The cost of living is so expensive... so anything I receive is welcome."

"I would not have been able to socialise and meet my new lady friend whom I am getting along very well with."

"I don't know what I would do without the help, due to managing on one income rather than two now."

A more detailed summary of findings from the impact survey follows this article.

### Donations from our General Fund

On the General Fund side of the Charity, around 3% of our giving is to charities chosen by the Master in their year of office (from the Robert Freeman Master's Fund), and a further 6% goes to charities with associations with our Company or the broader Livery movement (e.g. The Irish Guards Charity, The Children's Magical Taxi Tour, The Clergy Support Trust). The remaining 91% is allocated to larger donations, which can be grouped into four broad categories: Disadvantaged Youth (40%), Disability (14%), Education (23%) and Disadvantaged Adults (13%).

### Disadvantaged Youth

We support two programmes at Pembroke House in Walworth, South London. Inclusive Dance is aimed at young people aged between 16 and 25 with learning disabilities, and participants learn movement and social skills that can be transferable to the world of work. The Academy of Music provides high-quality music tuition in a range of musical instruments for around fifty children who would otherwise miss out.

The Katherine Low Settlement is a charity based in Battersea, and we have supported its 'Love to Learn' programme since 2016. This initiative provides young people from a refugee background with educational and well-being support via homework clubs and learning mentors. Over the last year, KLS supported 340 young people aged 5-21 from fourteen different countries of origin, including Somalia,

### Afghanistan and Eritrea

The mission of the Mark Evison Foundation is to promote the personal development of young people in the London area by providing planning assistance

and funding for groups to undertake challenges and expeditions. In the year to August 2022, the Foundation had a record year, providing 144 awards which benefited 459 young people across 69 London state schools, having received over 600 applications.

Arundel Castle Cricket Foundation focuses on promoting the personal, social, and educational development of young people from inner London boroughs and the surrounding Sussex area, and those with special educational needs and disabilities. In the year to October 2022 1,250 young people benefited from the Foundation's projects, including 300 visitors with special educational needs and a further 400 from London (85% of whom were from ethnic minority groups). As well as cricket coaching, the programmes include woodland activities such as building dens and campfires, plus visits to beaches and landmarks in the local area.

This year we are for the first time supporting Build Up, which runs practical construction projects in London for young people aged 10-23 to design and build structures such as play areas, seating, shelters, and treehouses.

### Disability

The Bobath Centre, which celebrated its 65th anniversary in 2022, provides specialist therapy to people living with cerebral palsy. Although the Centre works with all ages, our donations contribute to the costs of running its Early Intervention Service; research shows that working with young children and babies can have the greatest impact. CEO Madeleine Cassidy told us that our funds make "an enormous contribution to the number of babies that we can treat... Your support will help us change the lives of many vulnerable babies with developmental delay and we are so grateful to you."

We have supported Barrow Farm Riding for the Disabled, near Chelmsford, for over 30 years. The Charity has over 130 riders and drivers, many of them children, and Barrow Farm provides them with physiotherapy and exercise, and the chance to make new friends and build self-esteem and confidence. We were pleased to hear that over the last year, the centre is now back to catering for pre-pandemic numbers.



## Education

Guildhall School of Music and Drama (GSMD) was one of the very first charities supported by the Benevolent Fund; we made our first award in 1964. Nowadays GSMD provides world-leading training in music, drama and production arts and is the top-rated music conservatoire in the country. We support four music students, each of whom has sent us a heart-felt thank you letter. The awards we make are critical in helping these students to concentrate fully on their studies and practice rather than having to find part-time jobs to help fund themselves. In the words of one of our students: “My first year was a transformative experience for me... I have always longed to pursue music to the highest level available – without your support for my study at Guildhall, this simply would not have been a feasible reality for me, and for that I am profoundly thankful.”

The mission of Physics Partners is to improve physics teaching in state schools, often through leveraging the resource available to private schools. It supports newly qualified teachers and those who find themselves teaching the subject without a physics qualification to give better and more exciting lessons in this important STEM subject. With the Institute of Physics having recently stepped back from direct training in schools, the importance of Physics Partners’ work has only increased, and the charity has been able to expand beyond its initial London strongholds to serve schools across the country. Their Chairman told us “our position of relative strength has been created in no small measure by your generosity. Your unrestricted grants have supported us over many years and allowed us to grow into the significant charity we have become.”

Barrier Breakers provides life-changing training to young Londoners (aged 16-25) who experience multiple disadvantages, including poverty, bullying and abuse, or having English as a second language. Working primarily through further education colleges, the charity runs workshops that enable participants to develop the soft skills – including communication, teamwork, confidence, and time management – that are vital to employers. Our donation provides some support for core funding plus the delivery of eight workshops, which will reach 160 beneficiaries.

## Disadvantaged Adults

We have supported Spitalfields Crypt Trust, which works with men and women in East London, since 2016. In their October report to us they said “SCT would like to say a huge thank you to the [TPMTTBF]... Sustained supported such as this makes a huge difference to people who have experienced homelessness and addiction, enabling them to move on positively in their lives.” Our money helps to support therapy and aftercare programmes at their Acorn House rehab centre, as well as furniture restoration and art projects.

We are a significant donor to the Sheriffs’ & Recorder’s Fund, which gives grants to ex-prisoners and their families to help with rehabilitation and to prevent re-offending. In its most recent financial year, to March 2022, the S&R Fund made 998 grants, typically for clothing, electrical goods and furniture, or training courses.

### Are you involved in a charity you would like us to support?

As usual, we would like to remind readers that any specific request from a Liveryman for support to a registered charity in which they are 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](mailto:BenevolentFund@tobaccolivery.org)

### Supporting the Benevolent Fund

We would like to take this opportunity to thank members of the Company for their generous donations to the Benevolent Fund: those make a big difference to the size of the grants we are able to make.

The easiest way to donate to the Benevolent Fund is by direct debit. Please email the Treasurer at [treasurer@tobaccolivery.org](mailto:treasurer@tobaccolivery.org) if you would like to set up a direct debit or change your annual donation. Or you can visit the Benevolent Fund’s page on the Company’s website and press the “Donate Now” button.

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.

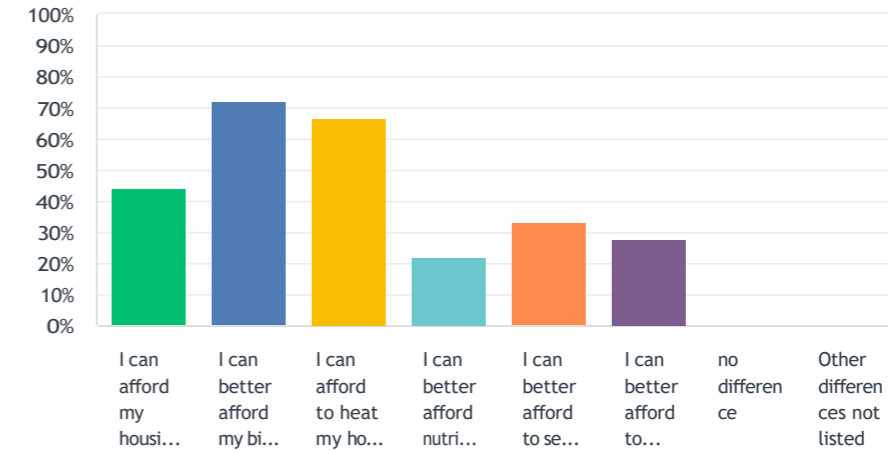
Jon Fell, Chairman



## Impact Measurement

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

Answered: 18 Skipped: 1



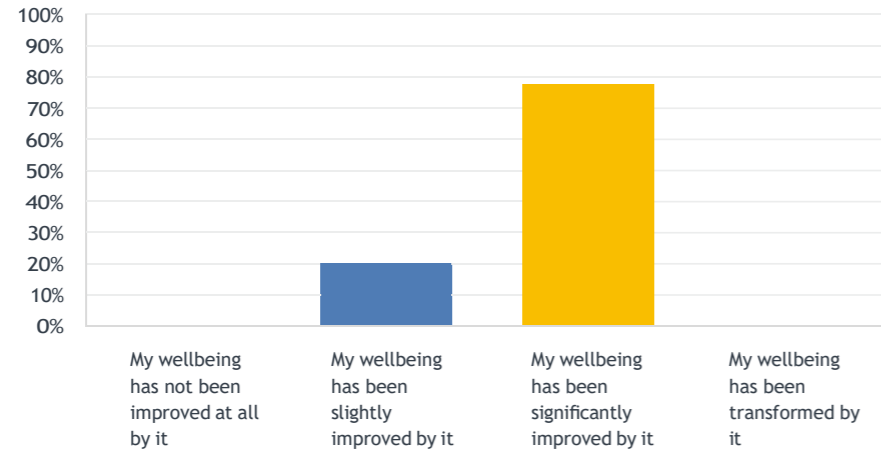
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
I can afford my housing costs	44.44% 8
I can better afford my bills such as council tax/water/electricity/gas	72.22% 13
I can afford to heat my home more	66.67% 12
I can better afford nutritious food	22.22% 4
I can better afford to see or keep in contact with my family of friends more regularly	33.33% 6
I can better afford to repair or replace items such as fridge/tv/washing machine	27.78% 5
no difference	0.00% 0
Other differences not listed	0.00% 0
Total Respondents: 18	



Impact Measurement

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

Answered: 18 Skipped: 1



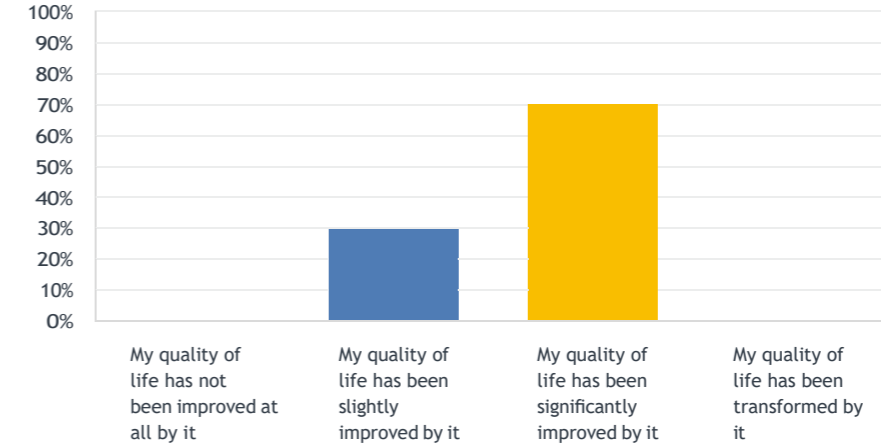
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
My wellbeing has not been improved at all by it	0.00% 0
My wellbeing has been slightly improved by it	22.22% 4
My wellbeing has been significantly improved by it	77.78% 14
My wellbeing has been transformed by it	0.00% 0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18</b>



Impact Measurement

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

Answered: 17 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
My quality of life has not been improved at all by it	0.00% 0
My quality of life has been slightly improved by it	29.41% 5
My quality of life has been significantly improved by it	70.59% 12
My quality of life has been transformed by it	0.00% 0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17</b>

### 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?

Appreciate grant, washing machine and regular visits.

I would have struggled to pay day to day costs and to provide care & support to my wife

I would not have been able to socialise and meet my new lady friend whom I am getting along very well with.

Cost of living and energy bills are both afforded due to TTBF benefit received, therefore I don't know how I would cope otherwise. Welcomes the continued support.

Lots of things have risen in price, and since my wife died, I only have my income for household bills so I struggle. The cost of

living is so expensive. Everything has gone up in price so anything I receive is welcome.



## Impact Measurement

I appreciate the support. I don't know what I would do without it.

I don't know what I would do without the help, due to managing on one income rather than two now.

I am very grateful for the help I receive. Thank you!

Appreciate the one of grant received for kitchen essentials. Very grateful for the help received.

Very grateful for the support

Without the support it would have affected my mental health.



## The Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers

Registered Charity No. 1172474

*The* **CHILDREN'S MAGICAL**  
*Taxi Tour*

*Presented to*

*The Worshipful Company of Pipe Makers*



*We appreciate your generous support of this year's tour.  
On behalf of all the children, their helpers and drivers, we thank  
you for giving them a happy and most memorable weekend.*



## The Welfare Fund

After over 10 years as Chair of the Welfare Fund, Past Master Roger Merton has stood down and assumed the role of Vice Chair. He handed the reins over to Third Warden Tony Scanlan at the November 2022 meeting of the Fund and was presented with the Chairman's badge. Roger was presented with small tokens of appreciation at a lunch which followed, making a heartfelt speech which highlighted his 50 plus years of involvement with the Fund in its several guises.

The Fund has its roots in the Tobacco Trade Benevolent Association which was created in 1860. A document which details the original donations was recently uncovered in an iron strongbox which had been stored at the Fund administrators, Forum Court, along with original minute books dating from 1860. The Clerk and Secretary of the Benevolent Fund Committee will arrange for these archives to be digitally scanned, so they can be added to the Company archives.

As of November 2022, the Welfare Fund had 104 beneficiaries, 49 of whom were recipients of regular relief.

**Tony Scanlan**  
Chair and Third Warden



## The Membership Committee

The Membership Committee continued to successfully carry out its function of recruiting new members to the Company during 2022, so a big thank you to all committee members for their efforts.

Eight new members were introduced into the Company during the year, which more than offset the inevitable sad losses from our ranks, so we had increased our numbers by the end of the year. Several additional applications were approved by the Court in January 2023.

We also had successful Smoking Club events during the year, including evenings at the In & Out Club, the Goldsmiths' Company garden and JJ Fox. All were well attended by members and potential applicants, but some people were unable to make the JJ Fox event due to transport strikes, which seems to be a feature of life at the moment.

In addition, Court Assistant Mallory Factor has opened up a new front with a Livery group attending a wonderful performance of 'Jersey Boys' at the Trafalgar Theatre on 14th September. We had a delightful evening with drinks before and members of the cast joining us in the bar afterwards.



The next theatre trip will be in May 2023 to 'The Rocky Horror Show', so it looks as though we are developing a new company tradition!

As I stand down as Chairman, I would like to thank the committee members for their efforts and support and to Assistant Mallory Factor, who will succeed me as Chair.

**Henry Tuck**  
Chair and Renter Warden





## Tales of a Cheap Chaplain: My 12 years in the City of London

**It was many years ago that I read an advertisement for a post in London. The details made no sense whatsoever, and so I applied, just to find out more. The rest is history. I was appointed as the Guild Vicar of St Lawrence Jewry. A job for which in many ways I was neither qualified nor suitable, but one in which I thrived. I had been working as a trainer of younger clergy in the Barking Area of the Chelmsford Diocese. St Lawrence Jewry is in the city ward of Cheap, so I used to joke in my early years that having left my job to avoid been called a Barking trainer I became a Cheap Chaplain.**

On my arrival, I quickly discovered two things which had not been clear. The roof was leaking, and the general finances of the church did not stack up at all. Long term research and planning were required. And so, in the background throughout my time the building restoration project evolved. But day to day ministry was more important.

Living in the flat at Guildhall inside the church was a challenge and a privilege. From our lounge windows we saw the world come and go, and yet after they had gone the noise continued every night into the early hours as the Guildhall was 'de-rigged' and sleep was not always easy. But we got on with the job and loved it.

Perhaps the best story of the noise occurred in the first year. On the nights before the Lord Mayor's Show, known as the world greatest unrehearsed show, the rehearsals happened outside the bedroom windows. The horses which pull the Lord Mayor's carriage had to practice and that first year we had no idea what was going on at 4am! The Yard was covered in sand by a road sander which took about two hours. The horses did their rehearsal and then the sand was all swept up again by 5 mechanical road sweepers. In later years we could just turn over in bed and say - it's just the horses rehearsing, but the first time it was all a bit of a shock.

Chaplaincy to the Livery Companies of the City was a key part of the job. Some companies have centuries of links with the church at St Lawrence Jewry. Others are collected by each incumbent. At one point I had 13 Chaplaincies, and I loved all that went with that.

The role of Livery Chaplain looks like madness to the public face. I turn up at black tie dinners and say grace; but grace became an important role. In that 15 seconds I make my ministerial pitch. If people smiled and I had set the tone for the dinner, I become someone who could be approached afterwards by those in need. The secret life of conversations with Liverymen was the real work – unreported, confidential, and often profound.

I was also privileged in my time to help Lord Mayor's Chaplains as they came and went, but I was also Chaplain myself in one year. Dame Fiona Woolf asked me to support her in her year. Her daughter is a Vicar, so we acted as joint Chaplains. Lizzie Woolf came to London when her parish commitments allowed and I stood in when she could not be there. This caused some odd looks at dinners, when Dame Fiona talked about being proud that her daughter was the first female Lord Mayor's Chaplain, but I had said grace, so people looked at me wondering what strange operations I had undergone.

The job at St Lawrence Jewry involved many 'parishes'. Each Livery Company or organisation was different, and I sought to serve each in its distinctiveness and difference. This came into focus when Covid hit. My new set of parishioners was a small team who ran the Covid testing station on the Guildhall Yard. I made them cakes and chatted to them as they were doing such an important job.

This in turn reminds me of another kind of parish. The homeless in the City would come to the church regularly. Some were newcomers who needed redirection to support. Some were just scammers – my grandma died in Glasgow, they cry. I always wanted to reply: Again? But some were the long-term guys who just loved being on the street. I will always remember Gordon (name changed) who used to sleep in a variety of places in the City including the benches on the Yard. I used to say hello and feed him from time to time. If we had chips, I'd take him a plate down to his favourite bench outside the flat. He knew I smoked a pipe so he would come in and ask if I had any 'baccy'. I shall never forget one day:



he arrived at my door and told me that he had received his giro. He had bought me a bag of crisps to say thanks. What a powerful moment that was.

Talking of the pipe, a huge amount of my pastoral work was done standing outside the church smoking my pipe. People talk to a man with a pipe. They would never come into the church to find me, but they would chat outside. A lesson about how to be available to people. It's called lurking with intent. I suppose in the context of this magazine it is sending smoke signals that I am there for people.

Another group of people I ministered to were the many and various tourists. The main attractions were the Wren and the Thomas More window. I used to love to tell them that Wren was not God, but Jesus is!

And there were more congregations. We had a great tradition of music, and I was privileged to work with one of the country's greatest organists. I am no musician by background, but against all the odds we had a wonderful time working together and setting the services at St Lawrence Jewry to music befitting of the Lord Mayor and other dignitaries. The music was piano on Mondays and the organ on Tuesdays. They were a vital part of all that we did at St Lawrence.

Behind the scenes for 10 years, I was working on the restoration project. The City of London Corporation owns the freehold of the church and after much negotiation the project to restore the church to its former glory was funded by the Corporation. We lived inside the church building, so when the repairs began, we had little choice but to move out. We were asked to move three times in the following three years. Instead, I took early retirement, and we moved down to Lydd. Sue's health deteriorated, and I am now Sue's full-time carer. I love the fact that after all the years I was working in parishes, Kent County Council decided to designate me a carer. No-one accused me of that before!

So, what have I learnt in all this time in the City?

First: Never believe an offer till you get the cheque! That is not to be ungracious, but people will say they can pull off some financial support and then one hears nothing else. A bit of a reality check.

Next: Be yourself. I am not the typical City Vicar. The boy from Hastings Secondary Modern is not quite the Oxbridge and ex City chap that people expected. But the reality is that people respect the simple fact that one is real to oneself. It's no good pretending to be someone you are not.

The Livery Companies are often seen by others as some sort of cash cow. They are not. However, when the right approach is made the Livery can be generous beyond most people's wildest imagination, and I have been a beneficiary of this kindness. Between them they give about £75 million each year to good causes.

So, there we are. A brief reflection on 12 years working in the City of London. I am grateful for all that I have been able to offer and for the support I have received. I remain Chaplain to the Tobacco Pipe Makers' Company and continue to enjoy your fellowship and support you in any way I can.

**The Reverend Canon David Parrott**  
Honorary Chaplain



## Presentation of Colours to the Irish Guards

**On Tuesday 17th May 2022, Alan Beggs, Clerk's Assistant invited a group of Pipe Makers which included the Master, Mistress, Clerk, Master-Elect, Third Warden and Fourth Wardens, to attend the Presentation of Colours to the 1st Battalion of the Irish Guards by His Royal Highness The Duke of Cambridge, Colonel of the Regiment at Windsor Castle.**

The first set of Colours was presented to the 1st Battalion Irish Guards by His Majesty King Edward VII on 30th May 1902. The second set of Colours was presented by His Majesty King George V on 28th June 1913. His Majesty King George V presented the third set of Colours on 27th May 1927. The fourth set of Colours was presented by His Majesty King George VI on 27th July 1949.

Her Majesty The Queen presented the fifth set of Colours on 10th June 1966; the sixth set of Colours on 11th May 1978; the seventh set of Colours on 24th May 1988; the eighth set of Colours on 22nd May 1997 and the ninth set of Colours on 6th May 2009.

It was a glorious day and a lovely family occasion for the different generations of 'Micks'.

The ninth set of Colours was marched off parade on 17th May 2022, to the tune of 'Auld Lang Syne' and will be laid up in due course in the Guards Chapel. The Colonel of the Regiment and the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel then inspected the Regiment. This was followed by the tenth set of Colours being consecrated and presented by the Colonel of the Regiment, His Royal Highness, The Duke of Cambridge to the 1st Battalion. The Duke of Cambridge gave a short address and the Battalion gave three cheers for Her Majesty The Queen and three cheers for HRH The Duke of Cambridge, Colonel of the Regiment. Finally, The Duke of Cambridge took the salute as the Battalion marched past and off parade. During the presentation, we were treated to a programme of music from the Irish Guards Band including many well-known Irish marches and tunes.



Watching a couple of Guardsmen 'go down', we were told of a true story of a young Irish Guards Officer who accompanied a Guardsman when he was 'marched in' to face the wrath of the Commanding Officer for 'falling out' on the Birthday Parade. As the Guardsman was being lectured about professionalism, preparation, not drinking to excess, idleness, letting everyone down etc, the young officer himself fainted, collapsing elegantly to the floor. No-one could stifle their mirth and the Guardsman was given 'case explained' and dismissed.

At the end of the presentation, we took a short walk to where the refreshments were waiting for the guests, the 1st Battalion, the Irish Guards Band, and of course Seamus, the Irish Guards Mascot, and we all enjoyed a well needed drink.

It was a truly amazing spectacle that we all felt privileged to be able to attend and watch.

**Sandra Stocker**  
Clerk and Liveryman





## Trooping the Colour

On Saturday 28th May 2022, it was a great honour for the Irish Guards to be the Regiment Trooping their Colours in Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee year.

With thanks to our Clerk's Assistant, formerly Secretary of the Irish Guards Association, a number of us gathered in Horseguards Parade for the final rehearsal (The Colonel's Review) before the official Queen's Birthday Parade.

The fact that this was a rehearsal did not detract at all from the pomp and ceremony of the occasion, nor from the magnificent performances from all the soldiers (and their horses) on parade.

Special mention, as always, must go to Seamus, the Irish Guards' Mascot Irish wolfhound, who led the procession down the Mall into Horseguards.

After the parade, we de-camped to Wellington Barracks, for a barbecue and some liquid refreshments – a marvellous day.

**Jerry Merton**  
Master 2021-22



## Military Musical Spectacular

Major Robbie Wilmont, Assistant Adjutant, Irish Guards, extended an invitation and along with the Immediate Past Master and Past Mistress, Mistress and Senior Warden, we met at Wellington Barracks for drinks and snacks before making our way to Horse Guards for a 7.30pm start on a perfect summer's evening.

The concert was a 90-minute Military Musical Spectacular presented by the Household Division to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen and the Commonwealth in the Platinum Jubilee Year.

The Massed Bands of the Household Division were joined by the Pipes from the Irish Guards and London Scottish Regiment Association, The Royal Choral Society and the Commonwealth Youth Choir.



They put on a magnificent show with a delightful range of music, marching, and fireworks and displaying deep talent and discipline!

The programme was cleverly constructed to cover the range of Her Majesty The Queen's reign, encompassing The Coronation, Commonwealth, UK, Falklands, Balmoral, the Queen's Green Canopy, Jubilee and Finale!

**Paul Taberer**  
Master



## The Shamrock Ball

On 13th October 2022, a table of ten from The Tobacco Pipe Makers and Blenders were seated at 'Norway 1940' for the Shamrock Ball at Merchant Taylors' Hall, for the Irish Guards Charity fundraising event. Along with me, were the Immediate Past Master and Mistress, the Mistress, the Fourth Warden and Simon Burrows, Past Master Charles Miller and Camilla Brace and Past Master Andrew Golding and Kate Golding.

Master of Ceremonies, Major Robbie Wilmont, well known to many of us, orchestrated the night, with the Regimental Band of the Irish Guards setting the scene for a colourful evening. It was fitting that he mentioned the recent passing of our Clerk's Assistant, Alan Beggs – Alan being largely instrumental in helping to establish our association with the Irish Guards Association.

The singing waiters, 'Incognito', took us all by surprise and raised the Hall's roof!

By all accounts a significant amount of funds was raised for the charity with Past Master Andrew Golding and Fourth Warden Jacqueline Burrows making it to the final stages of the guess the answer game!

For those late goers a casino and disco operated – unfortunately I cannot report on how that went!

**Paul Taberer**  
Master







## The Irish Guards Association Dinner

On Saturday 26th November 2022, the Mistress and I were invited to the Irish Guards Association Annual Dinner, this year held at the Union Jack Club in Waterloo. We enjoy an affiliation with them – established, in large, through the efforts of the late Alan Beggs, at the time their Honorary Secretary and our Clerk's Assistant. Alan was fondly remembered during the evening toasts.

We had the honour of being seated amongst the high ranks at the top table. An Irish piper processed us in!

Major General Christopher Ghika, Major- General commanding the Household Division and Regimental Lieutenant of the Irish Guards, gave the keynote speech. He played a large part in the Platinum Jubilee celebrations and Her Late Majesty The Queen's funeral arrangements. His speech touched on the armed forces modernizing their weaponry (drones etc) and the need for Russia to fail in Ukraine.

The Commanding Officer of The Irish Guards, Lieutenant Colonel James Aldridge, also spoke, focusing on the many achievements of the Irish Guards this year, both in action and ceremonially.



There was no doubt as to the high morale in the room and their proud affiliation to the Irish Guards.

Our thanks to Ron Kirkland, Honorary Secretary, for graciously hosting us and organising the evening.

**Paul Taberer**  
Master



## The Irish Guards St Patrick's Day Parade 2023

It was a very wet St Patrick's Day this year, but that didn't diminish the pride and enjoyment of the members of the Irish Guards, the Irish Guards Association and their families, in welcoming TRH The Prince and Princess of Wales to Mons Barracks in Aldershot.

The party of Pipe Makers comprised the Master, Mistress, Immediate Past Master and Past Mistress, Senior Warden and Clerk, who had been invited to attend the celebrations through our affiliation of the Irish Guards Association. A coach took us and members of the Irish Guards Association from Wellington Barracks to Mons Barracks. The parade, of course, took place on the parade square, with guests in seated areas, in weather that moved between light to heavy rain showers. Everyone got wet!

TRH The Prince and Princess of Wales arrived and took their places on the covered dais. They weren't under cover for long, as the presentation of Shamrock took place on the parade square, to all those on parade. The last to receive their shamrock was Seamus, the Irish Guards Mascot, with his handler.





HRH The Prince of Wales spoke of his 13 years as Colonel of the Regiment, of his enjoyment and pride, and of his sadness at stepping aside as Colonel. He stated that in HRH the Princess of Wales, the Regiment had a committed, focussed, and loyal 11th Colonel. In response, the new Colonel of the Regiment, HRH The Princess of Wales spoke about looking forward to continuing her involvement with the members of the Regiment and their families.

All those on parade then proudly marched past their old and new Colonels and off the parade square.

We left in a lovely warm coach, to make our way back to Wellington Barracks. The Irish Guards Association had taken over the Sergeant's Mess with live Irish music, a choice of Irish stew or curry, and plenty of Guinness! A raffle took place with proceeds going to the Irish Guards Association and the Senior Warden won a prize, a book on the history of 'the Micks'.

It was a most enjoyable day, albeit wet (but no one has control over that), and our thanks go to Major Robbie Wilmont, Assistant Regimental Adjutant and Ron Kirkland, Honorary Secretary, Irish Guards Association (London Branch) and members of the Irish Guards Association for including us in the celebrations.

**Sandra Stocker**  
Clerk and Liveryman



## The Battle of Loos Dinner

We have a close affiliation with No 15 (Loos) Company, Irish Guards, 1st Battalion The London Guards and I was privileged to receive an invitation from Major Oliver Bambrick, Company Commander, to join an all-rank dinner, which is in itself unusual, on 15th September 2022, in memory of the Battle of Loos at the Union Jack Club near Waterloo station. It was a battle that witnessed the Company's valiant leadership of its Brigade in France on the Western Front on 25th September 1915. It was recognised at the time as being one of the greatest actions of the First World War and it won battle honours.

I was seated alongside Major Robbie Wilmont, Assistant Regimental Adjutant, Irish Guards and Lt Col Chris Sykes, Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, London Guards.

In front of me was the SIRRAH trophy which was very fitting! (Past Master Derek Harris who donated the 'SIRRAH' Trophy – a stunning piece which is battled out for, at an annual shooting competition - saw it as a way of establishing a closer relationship between the Pipe Makers and our two affiliations.)

We heard about the fantastic work the Company does in supplying Reserve troops to the Irish Guards; the commitment of the Reserves; the additional time many of them devote and the admirable way they 'stick together'.

A lovely evening amongst our dedicated forces.

**Paul Taberer**  
Master



## No 15 (Loos) Company, St Patrick's Day Parade 2023

**Sunday 19th March saw No 15 (Loos) Company, 1st Battalion London Guards, enjoy their St. Patrick's Day Parade at the Headquarters in Camberwell, London commencing at 11am.**

On parade were Reservists from the Company, the Association (London Irish), Cadets (Irish Guards) and musicians from the Pipes and Drums. I was graciously looked after by Warrant Officer Saxton.

Company Commander, Major Oliver Bambrick welcomed their Honorary Colonel Brigadier Mooney (Chief of Staff) to inspect the parade. Brigadier Mooney retires as Honorary Colonel this year, and he thanked the reservists for their tremendous duty and commitment.

The traditional sprigs of shamrock were presented by me, the Master Founder (Robin Holmes) and Major Bambrick's mother.

Awards were presented to 6 recipients – and I was asked to present the “Frederick Tranter Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders” trophy to the outstanding performer across all ranks – Colour Sergeant Alan Roberts being the deserving recipient.

Following the parade and before socially gathering in the mess, a few of us popped into their museum for an interesting ‘quick’ tour and handling, with utmost delicacy, the famous Loos football!

We are privileged to have an affiliation with this professional and passionate Company and they too value the relationship.

The London Irish Rifles (LIR) was a Reserve Infantry Regiment and then Company of the British Army. The unit's final incarnation was as D (London Irish Rifles) Company, the London Regiment.

On 1 April 2022, soldiers in the London Regiment transferred to Guards' Regiments and the D (London Irish Rifles) Company became No 15 (Loos) Company, Irish Guards, 1st Battalion London Guards.

**Paul Taberer**  
Master



## Heritage activities in 2022

**We have continued our efforts to support the craft of clay pipe making and its heritage.**

To support the Queen's Jubilee celebrations, we commissioned Oliver Meeson, “our apprentice”, to make some special Jubilee pipes for the company. These were decorated with a royal crown, a “70” stamp and royal purple paint on the tip. Sadly, by the time we gave them to our guests at the Annual Banquet, they had of course become memorial pieces to her late Majesty The Queen.

Two visits were also made to Ironbridge last year by both the 2022 Masters and most of the Wardens, to visit the Broseley Pipe Museum and meet various senior staff, including the CEO Nick Ralls. We were fortunate enough to be given excellent guided tours by Kate Cadman, the Museum's ceramics curator, and demonstrations of clay pipe making by Oliver.

Seeing clay pipes being made for real brought the whole craft alive for us and made the museum tours thoroughly worthwhile. The display of our treasures and artefacts has also been done very well and explains some of the more difficult aspects of the tobacco trade.

We have therefore continued discussions with Ironbridge to see what we can do to help both the Pipe Museum and support Oliver in his quest to make a living from the clay pipe business. Given the current economic times, the company has agreed to contribute to the Broseley Pipe Museum running costs to ensure

it can open this year and can continue to offer a good explanation of the craft and its history.

We also paid the final tranche of support funds to the National Pipe Archive (NPA). Originally the support was for three years, but the Covid restrictions delayed the final payment for some considerable time. Discussions continue about future collaboration between us and the NPA.



**Henry Tuck**  
Renter Warden





## The Importance of Clay Tobacco Pipes in the History and Archaeology of the City of London

**The City of London stands proudly on many layers of history, its secrets hidden in the earth until the construction of a new office block, road or railway cuts deep into the mud. Then the archaeologists arrive, searching for treasures to add to the understanding of our history and heritage.**

Almost everyone has found a fragment of an old clay tobacco pipe in their garden, mudlarking at the edge of a river or on a country walk. Often it's a piece of stem; sometimes part of a bowl; occasionally it carries an interesting design or mark.

First produced in the late-1500s and widespread until the Second World War, humble clay tobacco pipes are prized by archaeologists, invaluable for what they can reveal. The reason? Clay pipes were a throwaway commodity, hand-made in vast quantities, often purchased and used in one day. Unique marks and designs mean they can be dated and provenanced more accurately than coins or pottery which often

remained in use for decades. Pipemakers' marks first appeared in the Tudor period; bowls increased in size; stems grew longer; decorations were added; names or addresses were applied. From a combination of these evolving styles and marks, clay pipes have become one of the most valuable artefacts for accurately dating archaeological layers.

During the late sixteenth century, London emerged as an international trading hub and one of the first places in Europe where clay pipes were made. The industry grew rapidly and in 1619 our Company was founded to control the trade. Pipe styles established in London influenced makers across Britain, while ships sailing down the Thames traded millions of clay pipes across the world. Most seventeenth-century pipes were plain, although often stamped with makers' marks similar to gold and silver assays. During the eighteenth century, moulded decoration became popular, often depicting Royal Arms or military victories. In the nineteenth century there was an explosion of styles and



decorations, including bowls modelled as portraits of famous personalities.

By the 1950s clay pipe-making was a vanishing craft, overtaken by cigarettes, cigars and briar pipes. At Broseley in Shropshire, one of the last remaining manufactories closed its doors for the final time in 1957. The owners locked up and abandoned the factory - set in a row of pretty brick-built cottages in the heart of the town - leaving it just as they had walked into it that morning. It was rediscovered in the 1990s: a delicate cobweb of social and industrial history. With our Company's support, the bottle kiln and buildings were secured, the collection was conserved and in 1996 this fragile and beautiful place was re-opened as a fascinating time-capsule and one of the famous Ironbridge Gorge museums ([www.ironbridge.org.uk](http://www.ironbridge.org.uk)).

Our ancient craft is now officially listed as being critically endangered. Only four pipe-makers remain in the UK: two work part-time producing pipes for ceremonial occasions, collectors and the TV and film industry, one of whom demonstrates his craft at the Broseley Pipe Museum. Our Company continues to explore ways to assist in creating a sustainable business so that the craft's skills are not lost irretrievably.

We also support the invaluable National Pipe Archive at the University of Liverpool, a registered charity which curates the UK's largest collection of clay tobacco pipes, specialist literature and research material. The Archive's collection is being catalogued and its website ([www.pipearchive.co.uk](http://www.pipearchive.co.uk)) has become an essential resource for academics, archaeologists and historians worldwide, as well as for anyone who simply wants to identify a newly-discovered pipe. Through our support, the Archive allows everyone to learn about this endangered craft and to access our valuable shared heritage.

**Jacqueline Burrows,**  
Fourth Warden and Honorary Archivist,  
incorporating contributions from Dr David Higgins  
and Marek Lewcun.





## Collaboration with the National Pipe Archive

**For the last three years the Livery has been supporting curation work at the National Pipe Archive (NPA), a registered charity and the only organisation in the country that actively collects, preserves and researches material relating to the pipemaking industry. The Archive was set up 30 years ago to promote the general education of the public in the study of the tobacco pipe industry and to encourage archaeological, historical, sociological and economic research into the subject, by making its collections as widely accessible as possible.**

Most of the work in building up and developing the NPA's collections since 1993 has been carried out on a voluntary basis by academics in their spare time, working in conjunction with the University of Liverpool, who house the archive and provide lab space for research. The archive's collections now run to many tens of thousands of objects as well as books, papers, drawings, photographs, digital files and research notes. The cataloguing and management of this collection now requires a significant amount of time, which is where financial support from the Livery has proved to be so beneficial. This has enabled a regular curatorial input over the last three years to maintain and develop the collections and to provide placements, for students and volunteers, to help with cataloguing and making the collections more accessible to others.



Curator Dr Susie White washing pipes with student Loz Spencer, who wants to work in a museum.

The principal means of disseminating information held in the archive is via its website [www.pipearchive.co.uk](http://www.pipearchive.co.uk), which is freely available to members of the public. This includes lists of known pipemakers for the whole of the British Isles as well as digital scans of key papers arranged on a county or regional basis. There are also copies of research notes and drawings, as well as an index of makers' marks. Over the last three years support from the Livery has enabled many thousands of additional pages to be added to these online resources, with an accompanying rise in the numbers of users now accessing the material. Over the last year the website has had nearly 8,000 visitors – an average of around 22 per day.

The archive also gets a lot of email queries with requests for information or the identification of stray finds. Around 600 emails were sent over the last year, showing the level of administration that is also required to keep the archive running. Other avenues of outreach include a Twitter account, which now has hundreds of dedicated followers, and individual 'tweets' that have reached up to 23,000 people. There is also a blog site where occasional longer notes can be posted. This level of outreach and public interaction not only fulfils the archive's aims of promoting education and research, but also raises the profile of the whole pipemaking industry and the rich heritage that is associated with it.



A novelty Victorian match safe, in the form of an outside toilet (LIVNP 2021-05-3236).



Support from the Livery has also allowed a lot more 'behind the scenes' work to take place; cleaning, cataloguing, and storing the collections in a proper manner. The collections include a wide range of objects made of different materials and reflecting different aspects of pipe production and use, as well as associated objects. Work has most recently focussed on cataloguing the Skinner Collection. Bob Skinner came from London and started collecting pipes from the Thames - made by the Livery's forebears - before branching out into associated smoking related artefacts, such as briar pipes, meerschaum pipes, snuff boxes, ash trays, lighters, match boxes, vesta cases, cigar cutters and the like. His collection was so large that the archive could only take a selection of the items offered to it – some 850 pieces in total. Amongst these is a novelty match safe, made in the form of an outside toilet, the roof of which lifts to take the matches. But a surprise awaits anyone opening the door, which reveals a seated man wearing nothing but a top hat!



Volunteer Debra Hayward helping catalogue some of the items from the Skinner Collection.

Other items in the collection represent high quality smoking items, such as some of the objects kindly donated by Past Master Richard Tranter from his family's business as tobacconists. Key amongst these are a gold mounted and cased meerschaum pipe that once formed the centrepiece of displays in the shop, a fine continental metal tobacco jar, and a meerschaum pipe that is reputed to have belonged to Napoleon. This is still complete with its flexible stem and features a sleeping dog curled up on the cover.



Meerschaum pipe reputed to have once belonged to Napoleon, from the Tranter Collection.

The archive also holds important ephemera, such as the extensive collection of late nineteenth and early twentieth-century trade catalogues donated by Past Master John Adler, which now provide a valuable resource for researchers. One of these is the only known surviving example of the first Kapp and Peterson catalogue from Dublin, published in 1896. This has been scanned and digitally restored in America, where a facsimile of the whole volume was reproduced by Briar Books Press in 2021, thus making this rare survival available in a printed format, as well as promoting the archive to a wider audience.

The National Pipe Archive provides an important function in collecting and preserving a record of our pipemaking heritage as well as promoting research into its collections. The NPA website provides access to a growing number of online resources that are now used by many hundreds of people each year. This fulfils one of archive's principal aims, which is "to promote and encourage the general education of the public in the study of the tobacco pipe industry and related matters". The support of the Livery has enabled great strides to be made in the cataloguing and curation of



these important collections, as well as enabling more of them to be made available to a wider audience via the archives' website. This year marks the thirtieth anniversary of the National Pipe Archive, during which time a considerable amount has already been achieved. It is hoped that this foundation can be built on and the momentum continued over the next thirty.

**Dr David Higgins**  
NPA Chairman

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Blog: <https://pipearchive.wordpress.com/>  
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/pipearchive>



## Our Inaugural Banquet in 1954 in Grocers' Hall

**On 24 November 1954, a chilly Wednesday night in the City of London, the newly re-founded Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders held its inaugural Banquet. The venue was Grocers' Hall in Princes Street, EC2, a site which has been home to the Grocers' Company since 1427.**

The host was our first Master, Mr Alan L Adler (1905-1966), and the guest of honour was Mr William G "Billy" Ibberson (1902-1988), the Master Cutler of Sheffield in Hallamshire, setting a hospitable precedent that we have maintained to this day. In October 2022, nearly sixty years after our inaugural celebration, our present Master, Mr Paul Taberer, chose the Grocers' Hall for his own magnificent Banquet, at which the current Master Cutler, Dame Julie Kenny, was a welcome guest.

However, in 2022 we weren't sitting in the original Grocers' Hall, nor were we in the hall in which our inaugural banquet had been held.

In 1666, the Great Fire of London damaged the roof and woodwork of the first hall. It was soon repaired, but bad behaviour in the new Court Room led to the imposition of strict rules.

"Owing to the unseemliness of taking tobacco and having drink and pipes in the court-room during business: ... to avoid offence and disgust, there shall be no taking of drink or smoking used during any sitting, under a fine of five shillings, and if any member desires to refresh himself with a pipe and a cup of drink, let him withdraw into a more suitable place."

Grocers' Hall was rebuilt in 1802 and again in 1893. When our Company gathered there in 1954, it had only recently survived the London Blitz with minor damage to the north wing.

The Hall in which Mr Adler hosted Mr Ibberson at our inaugural Banquet was destroyed by fire just a dozen years later in 1965. The hall in which we gathered in 2022 was the fifth on the site and was built in 1970.



Livery Hall 1960  
Fourth Grocers' Hall destroyed by fire 1965

*Photograph courtesy of the Grocers' Company*

**Jacqueline Burrows**  
Fourth Warden and Honorary Archivist



## Liveryman Adam Phillips meets His Majesty King Charles III

**On 23rd November 2022, His Majesty King Charles III helped to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the Goldsmiths' Centre by visiting the trainees and apprentices it supports at its workshops and exhibition space near Hatton Garden, London's famous jewellery quarter.**

During the visit, The King also hand struck the King's Mark (the town mark for London) onto a Processional Cross for the Church in Wales. This was overseen by Adam Phillips, Deputy General Manager of the Goldsmith's Company Assay Office and Liveryman of both the Goldsmiths' Company and the Tobacco Pipe Makers' Company.

The Cross was commissioned by The Goldsmiths' Company on behalf of the former Prince of Wales (now The King,) and will be shared by the Church in Wales and the Roman Catholic Church in Wales. Both Churches were represented at the hallmarking. The Cross has been made by the silversmith and master craftsman Michael Lloyd, and with the King's longstanding environmental priorities in mind – it is created from silver sheet produced from recycled bullion provided by the Royal Mint at Llantrisant, with a shaft of Welsh windfall timber.

**Liveryman Adam Phillips**





## The Lord Mayor's Show

**The Senior Warden, Mistress and I joined the parade in this year's Lord Mayor's Show on an amazingly mild and sunny mid November's morning...and to welcome our new Lord Mayor, Alderman Nicholas Lyons.**

Over 6,500 people, 200 horses, and around 150 groups and floats took part in the three-mile-long procession to mark the Lord Mayor's first full day in office.

The Show dates to the early 13th century, when a desperate King John allowed the City of London to appoint its own Mayor. The King insisted that each newly elected Mayor should come to Westminster and swear loyalty to the Crown, and the Mayor of London has been making that journey for over 800 years. Around the newly elected Mayor, grew up the noisy, colourful, joyous procession that over the centuries became known as the Lord Mayor's Show.

As per tradition, we were placed in and amongst other participating 'Modern' Companies where morale was high as we made our way past streets packed with well-wishers and along the traditional route from Mansion House to the Royal Courts of Justice and back again.

The halfway stop was a casual lunch on HQS Wellington – where we rested and mingled for an hour before commencing the parade again.

A most enjoyable day in a vibrant City of London atmosphere and great setting for the new Lord Mayor Alderman Nicholas Lyons. We wish him well.

**Paul Taberer**  
Master





## The Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders Annual Company Golf Day

**This year's annual Company golf day on 23rd June 2022, was once again organised by Past Master Derek Harris at his wonderful club Tandridge - on a somewhat humid but beautiful summer's day. It was however bittersweet as it marked Derek's retirement after 20 years of faithfully running the event for the Company.**

A record number of entrants (23) made for a competitive and fun competition. The morning kicked off with golfers donning the stylish, Company crested golf shirts that Derek had had made especially for the occasion. A mass of maroon clad golfers tucked into bacon rolls and coffee to fortify themselves for 18 holes of golf. They were armed with elegant score card holders, balls, tees and sweets. Special thanks to the Tandridge Green staff for presenting a wonderfully conditioned course with challenging greens. The incredible views from the golf course went a long way to appease all the 3+ putts endured by most!

The social side of the day began early with non-playing members and guests arriving from 11am having given themselves extra time to overcome the busy roads resulting from the Rail Strike. Cigars were produced by the Master to help pass the time until lunch. It was especially lovely to see Immediate Past Master Jerry Merton and his father Past Master Roger Merton, The Clerk, The Honorary Chaplain, The Treasurer and other Liverymen and Freemen. We welcomed Sheila Harris and various members of the Harris family too.

The Tandridge carvery lunch was as outstanding as usual - the famous Tandridge Pudding did not disappoint either. Many thanks to the Tandridge Chef and catering staff.

Prize giving followed this delicious feast and it was a fitting tribute to Past Master Nigel Rich on winning the ultimate prize - The Charles Rich Cup - which Nigel donated in 2002 in memory of Nigel's late father Past Master Charles Rich, one of the Founders of our Modern Company.



### Other prizes presented by the Master included:

Court Assistant Colin Ritchie and Past Master Ian Panto as runners up to the trophy.

**Best Guest** - Michael O'Connor - with an outstanding individual score.

**Best Lady** - Fiona Wigglesworth.

**Longest Drive** - Mike Brown.

**Closest to the Pin** - Lloyd Wigglesworth.

Special thanks to the sponsors of the prizes – British American Tobacco (BAT) and Past Master Nigel Rich for the magnums of quality Mirabeau Rose.

On behalf of the Company, Past Master Nigel Rich thanked Past Master Derek Harris (capably supported by his wife Sheila) for his many years of dedicated commitment and organisation to the Livery Golf Day. Derek and Sheila were presented with a teak garden chair and a cushion printed with the Company Coat of Arms on behalf of the Company and a hip flask and tobacco soap by the Master, who hoped Derek would enjoy his retirement sitting comfortably in their garden.

**The Date for the Company Golf Day is Thursday 22nd June 2023.**







# The Tobacco Trade Golf Association (TTGA) Golf Day

For the first time in many years, we entered a team for this somewhat prestigious event on 15th September 2022, the proceeds of which go to The Welfare Fund for the benefit of past-industry persons who have fallen on hard times.

The event receives generous sponsorship from several tobacco industry related companies, and that, along with entry fees and a charity raffle, allows for The Welfare Fund to receive a meaningful donation.

It was once again held at The Berkshire Golf Course (Ascot) – presented in top condition on a fine day.

Our team, comprised of Past Masters Nigel Rich and Ian Panto, the Mistress Sharon Taberer and me, was one of seventeen 4-man teams.

Tee-off was at 09:30am, after registration and a breakfast roll, on the Blue course.

We started very well and at the halfway stage made the fatal mistake of checking our progress on the electronic device – we were leading the team event. Alas, the excitement got the better of us and we failed to sustain the momentum!

However, in the over-60’s individual, Past Master Ian Panto played consistently well to come runner-up and be awarded the Vets Falcon Pipe Cup – a lovely piece of silverware. The prize was awarded following a lovely 3-course lunch – so typical of The Berkshire!

Our thanks go especially to Janet Poole of JTI, for all her organisation.

A fabulous day amongst like-minded players! Next year’s event is on 14th September 2023 at The Berkshire.

**Paul Taberer**  
Master





## The Inter-Livery Clay Pigeon Shooting Competition

The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor Alderman Vincent Keaveny wrote a warm welcome to all participants in the day's programme, thanking them for the funds raised from the shoot for The Lord Mayor's Appeal and other charities.

This is a popular event and this year attracted 91 teams from 75 Livery Companies - that's 300 shootists!

Our 4-man team included 3 regulars, Master-Elect Paul Taberer, Past Master Adam Bennett and Court Assistant Colin Ritchie - plus, for the first time, and certainly not last, Liveryman Adam Phillips...the competition is held over two days and our allotted day was 19th May.

The Holland & Holland was looking at its very best and the weather was kind to us. Chris Parr (Environmental Cleaners) and an integral part of the organising team welcomed the troops - and our thanks and gratitude to him, Richard Ferrand (Fishmongers) and all others on the team for ensuring another successful day.

The grounds boast 10 shooting stands, each with its own identity and challenge plus an onslaught of 80 clays from the high tower known as the Flush. We did pretty well with the Flush, killing 60 of the 80 clays - probably the highlight of our performance.

Now to the results! Not surprisingly The Gunmakers, with two teams, came 1st and 2nd; followed by a team from The Butchers and then a team from The Grocers.

The Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders pitched a spot at 64 out of the 91 teams - inching up year by year! There was plenty of talk that we won the best hatted team - but no prizes for that!

Lunch followed back on the patio and the numerous prizes were announced.

The 2023 event will take place on 17th and 18th May - and we will take part on 17th May.

**Paul Taberer**  
Master





## The Inter-Livery Pancake Race

**The Worshipful Company of Poulterers welcomed participants from 30 Livery Companies to the 19th Inter-Livery Pancake Race at Guildhall Yard on Shrove Tuesday, 21st February 2023, where conditions were perfect for racing!**

This is a fabulous fund-raising event with profits going to the Lord Mayor's Appeal and The Poulterers Pelican trust, helping good causes across the City.

With the Clerk as Team Leader, the typical 4-man team comprises a Master, Liveryman (IPM Jerry Merton), Lady (Mistress) and Novelty (Senior Warden Elise Rasmussen) – in our case a powerful looking team - on paper!

Elise was dressed in an appropriate and cleverly designed outfit reflecting the Lord Mayor's charities and target to make London a better city for all. She came up against some very stiff competition in the Novelty fancy dress sector.

The event was opened by Sheriff Andrew Marsden in the presence of The Lady Mayoress. Clad in gowns, aprons, chef's hats and gloves, contestants sprinted Guildhall Yard, tossing a pancake against the clock.



Great fun, followed by lunch in the Crypts... amongst much banter and enjoyment.

**Congratulations to the prize winners:**

**Masters:** Framework Knitters

**Liveryman:** Water Conservators

**Lady:** Furniture Makers

**Novelty:** Management Consultants

**Overall Winner:** Furniture Makers

**Best Fancy Dress:** Water Conservators

Special thanks to The Worshipful Company of Poulterers and to their supporters: Clockmakers (time keeping), Fruiterers (lemons for pancakes), Glovers (chef gloves), Gunmakers (starters blast) and The Clink for providing the various refreshments.

**Paul Taberer**  
Master





## Women In Tobacco (WIT)

**Women In Tobacco celebrated International Women's Day on 8th March at BAT's head office in London.**

Tobacco Pipe Makers' Court Assistant Flora Okereke, Head of Global Regulatory Insights and Foresights at BAT, hosted the impressive event. Fellow Court Assistant Martine Petetin and Benevolent Fund Trustee Marie Cooper shared their experiences as non-executive directors of charitable and business boards as part of a panel led by Ancia Cronje, Head of Corporate Membership for Women on Boards.

Ancia encouraged women of all ages to consider a board seat as a way of distinguishing themselves in their workplace as well as an opportunity to become reenergised. This newfound enthusiasm will influence your perspective professionally and personally providing added value in your workplace in addition to the contribution you are making to the organisations you support.

The evening of cocktails and conversation benefited from some celebrity sparkle as the amazing Dr Patti Boulaye OBE dazzled the audience with an address that focused on women's strength. Certainly, no one

has shown more strength and endurance in her career spanning more than four decades than Patti.

My thanks to Court Assistant Flora Okereke for providing this incredible programme and to our sensational speakers who provided insights and observations that will make an enduring impact on WIT members.

**Elise Rasmussen**  
Chair



## The Inter Livery Quiz 2023

**The Pipe Makers' 2023 Quiz Team gathered in the Alderman's Dining Room at Guildhall to pit their knowledge against other Livery Company teams on 19th April. The team named 'Pipe Dreams' was made up of Immediate Past Master Jerry Merton (Team Captain), Assistant Fran Morrison, Liveryman Adam Phillips and Liveryman and Clerk Sandra Stocker.**

There were 9 rounds of questions across a very wide spectrum of trivia and knowledge. Also, a picture round on cheese, where we dropped a couple of points, maybe we need to do more research! Plus 60 questions on anagrams of names of movies, high street shops and towns in the UK, where we only dropped one point.

It was a most enjoyable evening and the results were a close-run thing in the end with 'Pipe Dreams' coming in 4th place, 1 point off 3rd place. Congratulations to the Information Technologists and Actuaries who tied for 1st place and agreed to share the trophy. Thanks to Kevin Offer of the Tax Advisers who organised the quiz and the evening.

**Sandra Stocker**  
Clerk and Liveryman



## Shamrocks & Dragons Gala Dinner

The Worshipful Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders put together a table for the extravaganza 'Shamrocks & Dragons' Gala Dinner, in support of The Irish Guards Charity in a wonderfully decorated Middle Temple Hall on 19th April 2023. It brought back memories of holding our 400th year reception celebrations in June 2019, in the same hall!

Seated at table 10, named Hindenburg Line 1918, were Renter Warden Henry Tuck with Carolyn, Court Assistants Colin Ritchie, with Carolyn and Rae Maile with Kathryn, Freeman Will Rasmussen with Dylan and the Master and Mistress!

Sadly, Third Warden Tony Scanlan and Maggie were last minute Covid-casualties!

The walled garden set the scene on a bright, fresh spring evening where we enjoyed a glass of bubbly and cigar and some excellent musical entertainment from the Irish Guards Band, before making our way in for dinner and receiving words of welcome from Lieutenant Colonel L J Callow and Major Robbie Wilmont.

We were served a very fine three course meal along with some delicious Bordeaux Blanc and Claret. The Table Captain's Pendragon Wine Game – in our case guess the aggregate age at our table (!!) – plus the silent auction and live auction raised, I believe, well over £50k – a huge success...and several team members bidding for prizes – successfully!

With more from the band and a finale from Fiddler Adam (all the way from Ireland) the time rapidly closed on us, and we bid farewell – have you ever tried to escape from the Temple maze after a few? Took the Mistress and I several circuits to find an unlocked gate!

As Major Wilmont said: for many the physical war may be over, but the mental war will have to be fought for a long time yet. Fundraising, such as this evening, is essential.

Paul Taberer  
Master





## 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](mailto: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)



**Bow Tie**  
(£25.00 including P&P)



**Company Cap**  
(£50.00 including P&P)



**Black and Gold Scarf**  
(£85.00 including P&P)



**Gold Scarf**  
(£85.00 including P&P)



**Silver Scarf**  
(£85.00 including P&P)

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



## Diary of Forthcoming Events

**Tuesday 16th May 2023**

The Master's Reception at the National Army Museum.

**Wednesday 7th June 2023**

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

**Thursday 22nd June 2023**

Company Golf Day at Tandridge Golf Club.

**Monday 26th June 2023**

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

**Thursday 7th September 2023**

Past Master's Dinner at The In and Out, Naval Military Club.

**Wednesday 27th September 2023**

Common Hall Election of Lord Mayor  
Autumn Court and Dinner (Court only) at Waterman's Hall.

**Friday 29th September 2023**

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

**Monday 6th November 2023**

Annual Banquet at The Mansion House.

**Tuesday 5th December 2023**

Carol Service at St James Garlickhythe.

**Wednesday 24th January 2024**

January Court and Dinner at Drapers' Hall.

**Wednesday 20th March 2024**

Election Court and Luncheon (Court only) at Apothecaries' Hall.

