



# PIPELINE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF TOBACCO PIPEMAKERS AND TOBACCO BLENTERS

## WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

SOME YEARS AGO the first of the Livery Company newsletters started to appear whereupon, in the course of time, the then Clerk and your present very amateur editor suggested that the Tobacco Pipe Makers Company should produce its own newsletter. The object of the exercise is quite simply to inform the Livery of what we are doing and what we are trying to achieve. I hope you will enjoy this first edition and may I thank all who have assisted in its production including John Solomon for his article on the Benevolent Fund, the Clerk, Katie Tapponnier and above all Gallahers for their great help in putting together the various articles into what I hope is a presentable form.

IAN KIMMINS

## SOME DATES FOR 1997

- ◆ 10th MARCH  
Inter Livery Bridge Competition at Plaisterers Hall.
- ◆ 14th MARCH  
United Guilds Service, St Pauls.
- ◆ 18th MARCH  
Court Meeting and Ladies Lunch at Glaziers Hall (Court and their Ladies only).
- ◆ 7th MAY  
Masters Reception at Globe Theatre (All members and guests).
- ◆ 15th MAY  
Prince Arthur Golf Cup Competition, Walton Heath.
- ◆ 7th JUNE  
Ironbridge Livery weekend.
- ◆ 12th JUNE  
Installation Court and Luncheon at Barber Surgeons Hall.
- ◆ 24th JUNE  
Common Hall Election of Sheriffs.
- ◆ 3rd JULY  
Livery Golf Day, Woking G.C.
- ◆ 10th JULY  
Globe Theatre Gala Performance with other liveries.



ROGER MERTON (photographed at the Mansion House) was installed as Master in June last. He is the fourth Master of the Company to have followed his father into the chair. As in 1995 on the occasion of Stephen Preedy's installation, when there were three generations of Preedys present, the Merton family kept up the good record! Roger is well known in the trade and is Managing Director of Merton & Falcon. He is married to Jennifer and their two children, Sally and Jeremy, are both Liverymen of the Company.

# BENEVOLENT FUND

**JOHN SOLOMON**, the Chairman of the Benevolent Fund Trustees, summarises in the following article the current activities of the Fund. His Co Trustees are John Adler, Nicholas Freeman, Derek Harris, Stephen Preedy and Alec Murray. The Secretary to the Trustees is John Maxwell. We can surely be proud of all that our Benevolent Fund has achieved and continues to achieve. But can we be proud of those nasty statistics in John Solomon's final paragraph ....

Over many years the Benevolent Fund has been able to embrace more causes than the two specifically mentioned in its trust deed. These are Sevenoaks School and the Tobacco Trade Benevolent Association. The latter had no need of our help for many years but some half a dozen years ago we started making a grant to them, though we do not do so at the present time.

Sevenoaks School is our prime charity and we currently provide 18 scholarships amounting to 20% of the day fees, and two special scholarships in honour of Frank Warwick, a Past Master and our original contact with the School, worth almost 50% of the fees, and of Alan Tammadge, a previous Headmaster, valued at just over 25%. We are instituting an additional special scholarship next year marking the Headmastership of Richard Barker who has just retired after 15 years. This is valued at almost one third of the fees and the Alan Tammadge award is being increased to the same level.

Our association with the School is not confined to sending them cheques to cover these. Each year the Master, Senior and Renter Wardens, together with three of the Trustees of the Benevolent Fund and the Clerk and Assistant Clerk visit the School and "interview" our scholars. What may seem a daunting prospect for them is not so in reality. They come into the Headmaster's drawing room in groups of three and the Master leads the way with enquiries about their progress, interests and hobbies. We all have a crib about them which helps us to steer the questions towards their particular interests but we always find it so encouraging that they all talk so freely and easily. The interviews last about a quarter of an hour. There was a famous occasion when the Master, with a twinkle in his eye, tried to

extract some candid opinions of the Headmaster (who is of course present) from one set of senior scholars!

The Trustees sponsor an annual concert at the School in honour of Alan Adler, our first Master, and who was Master again at the time the association with the School started. This concert now forms part of the Sevenoaks Festival which lasts for two weeks and which comprises plays, recitals, reviews, concerts and other entertainment, often featuring celebrities. The Master also attends Open Day on the last day of the summer term when prizes are awarded and a number of exhibitions can be visited.

Because we are one of the biggest benefactors, the Company has the right to nominate a Governor. This position is normally held by the Chairman of the Trustees and which all helps to build and cement our relationships with the School. At the Guildhall School of Music and Drama we provide 3 scholarships, each of one year's duration, usually for aspiring singers who stay on for an extra year. Our contact is limited but one of the singers normally comes to our January Dinner and provides a short performance after the meal. On occasions Trustees, the Master or Wardens have attended the annual musical put on by the School which is always of a most professional standard.

At Barts Hospital we provide one scholarship for an Intercalated course (it covers a 'gap' year when they get practical experience of their particular branch of medicine, often working with local GPs or in parts of the Hospital). More recently we have invited this student to one of our luncheons so that we may get to know them a little better.

These three projects have been going for

many years, together with an annual grant to the London Federation of Boys Clubs (now known as the London Federation of Clubs for Young People). Only a few years ago we were able to embrace two new causes. Riding for the Disabled at Barrow Farm, near Chelmsford, has been a most worthwhile venture. Each branch of this organisation has to raise its own funds and Barrow Farm has been struggling hard to fund their operation, to some extent through great self sacrifice by the Mitchell family who run it. It is really something to go to their Carol Service, led by the Bishop of Chelmsford. Some of the children need three helpers but the enthusiasm in their faces is wonderful.

Another recent addition to our list is the Arundel Castle Cricket Foundation. This may seem an unusual choice but this is a cricket school giving opportunities for boys (and girls) from schools in Southern England which do not have sports facilities to attend the indoor school for up to three days and matches take place regularly throughout the summer. We have so far sponsored four "scholars" - promising lads of about 17 who are taught not only how to play cricket but how to teach others, ground management, and indeed all aspects of the sport. Of our first two scholars, one now plays regularly for the Sussex 2nd XI (and occasionally for the first team) and another is on the ground staff at Lords.

How do we afford to do this? Over many years we have built up a capital fund, the income from which is dispensed in the grants we give and we are able to add a little to this most years. We rely heavily on covenants and donations and it is sad to realise that 40% of Liverymen and 75% of Freeman do not subscribe. If you should be one of these the Clerk or Assistant Clerk will be delighted to deal with your request for a covenant form - alternatively a donation, however small, is always welcome. After all, £10 is only half a dozen gin and tonics!

## NEW FREEMAN

WELCOME TO Ivan Garwood who was admitted to the Freedom of the Company by Redemption in June last. Rumour has it that he could be a useful member of the golf team.

## GOLF REPORT

SOME 15% of the membership of the Company are golfers/play golf! But despite this apparent wealth of talent, the Company team only achieved a position of 27 out of a total of 54 Livery Companies competing for the Prince Arthur Cup at Walton Heath in May. Your correspondent has not checked the position but has a sneaking feeling that over the years the Company has always been 27th or thereabouts! Alec Murray, who promises to continue striving for greater success in the Competition, captained the side and was joined by Peter Barrett-Lennard, John Robson and Bob Beazley.

In the meantime, Ian Kimmins organised a Livery Golf Day at Woking Golf Club on 4th July. This turned out to be a successful day attended by 15 members of the Company and one outside guest - Alec Murray, Simon Orlik, Aubrey Styles, Nicholas Freeman, Derek Harris, Jack Golding, Robin Philpott, Peter Barrett-Lennard, Mike Colley, Ralph Smith, Ian Kimmins, Richard Anderton, Patrick McGuinness-Smith, Ian Panto, Glyn Meredith (plus guest). Prizes were very kindly donated by Dunhills and amongst the prize winners were Peter Barrett-Lennard, Robin Philpott, Glyn Meredith and Richard Anderton.

It is hoped that the Livery Golf Day will become an annual event and a booking has already been made again at Woking for 3rd July 1997. So golfers should please make a note of the date. The intention is to keep the day restricted to numbers of 20 or so and to members of the Company. This year the Company was honoured by the presence of three of the Wardens and perhaps it can become a full house in 1997.

The question remains as to whether Alec Murray spotted any hidden talent at Woking. Only time will tell at Walton Heath in 1997 when at least the Company is assured of a place in the Competition.

## OBITUARIES

We are sorry to report the deaths of:

**LIVERYMAN ROBERT MARTIN-BALL.**  
A Liveryman of the Company since 1964

**PAST MASTER PETER SPEARING T.D.,**  
who was Master of the Company in 1984/85

**LIVERYMAN B.J. RYAN**  
who had been a Liveryman of the company since 1987



The Master with three of his Wardens. From left to right Aubrey Styles, Simon Orlik, Roger Merton and Richard Vanderpump.

## INTER LIVERY BRIDGE COMPETITION

THIS COMPETITION, organised each year by the Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards has been running since 1983.

We have been consistently represented by Past Master George Ross Goobey and Fourth Warden Ian Panto.

They have won the competition a quite remarkable six times!

Having won the competition in March 1996

they are the current holders of the Cup which was presented to the organisers by the Tobacco Pipe Makers in the early years of the contest.

We wish George Ross Goobey and Ian Panto every success in the 1997 competition which incidentally is not in any way limited to one pair per livery company. Anyone interested in taking part should contact the clerk for details.

## PIPE DREAM COMES TRUE...

IN THE EARLY 1990'S it was resolved to support the restoration of the Clay Pipe Works at Broseley with the intention that it should form a further part of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum. Broseley had closed down in 1952 and those members of the Company who visited the factory some six years ago were able to see that for the best part of 40 years the factory had remained pretty well undisturbed. Orders were boxed up but not actually despatched, there were piles of dusty invoices and much evidence of the small local workforce going home on Friday night but, in the event, not to return on the Monday.

Considerable sums of money were needed and we as a Company resolved to raise a substantial contribution towards the purchase of the contents of the factory and which were still privately owned. Past Master Tony Ostick headed the appeal and thanks to the generosity not only of the big tobacco companies but also to individual members of the Livery and their companies, the magnificent sum of £44,000 was raised.

The problems of complying with regulations to enable the public to be admitted to the factory whilst at the same time retaining its

original character proved to be much more costly and time consuming than had been originally envisaged. There were long delays but at the beginning of 1996 a shining knight in the shape of lottery money came to the rescue.

Thus it was that on the 14th September the official opening by the Chairman of the local Bridgnorth District Council and the Chairman of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust took place. The Company was well represented at the opening by Past Masters John Adler and Stephen Preedy, Renter Warden Simon Orlik, Assistant James Simonds and his wife Sally and the Clerk.

It is good to hear that the help we have given was well acknowledged in the speeches at the opening and likewise in the actual Museum. It is understood an Open Day for the Livery is being organised for the early summer of 1997. The Ironbridge Gorge with its famous bridge is one of only ten World Heritage sites in the United Kingdom and the Museum is well worth a visit. A long weekend is recommended since there is much to see.

## INTO THE LION'S DEN...

ASSISTED BY A LARGE PARTY of private guests invited by the Master, there was a good turnout for the 1996 Mansion House Banquet on 25th October. It has to be remembered that there are now 100 Livery Companies and therefore pressure to use the Mansion House with the additional bonus of the Lord Mayor being in attendance is severe.

But why the reference to the lion's den? Because there had been murmurings at the time the date was fixed that there would be a general ban on smoking in the Mansion House including the pleasure of an after dinner cigar in the Egyptian Hall. In the event all was well thanks, it is understood, to some astute diplomacy by the Clerk - the Civic Toast was proposed by Harvey White, a surgeon and president of the Medical Society. He admitted to having been raised on Three Nuns and the Master referred to him as being the proud owner of a Morgan sports car fitted complete with pipe rack! The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, Sir John Chalstrey, also a distinguished surgeon and a pipe smoker until comparatively

recently (he confesses to having purchased his first pipe from Preedys) responded and concluded by proposing the health of the Company.

Finally the Master, who had clearly been delving into his history books, proposed the health of the guests. This was the anniversary, he said, not only of Balaclava, but more happily of the Battle of Agincourt. Apart from the Lord Mayor, the Lady Mayoress, the Sheriffs and their Ladies, the guests included the Master and Mistress Cutler from Sheffield, the Master of the Society of Merchant Venturers in Bristol and his Lady, Bob Wilkinson, Chairman of the Board of Governors of Sevenoaks School and

Mrs Wilkinson, Lt. Col. R A Ingleby-Mackenzie, the new Commanding Officer of the London Regiment and his Lady and the Masters of the Worshipful Companies of Plaisterers, Glaziers and Makers of Playing Cards, accompanied in each case by their Clerks and respective ladies.

During the course of the proceedings, the Master presented the Lord Mayor not only with a symbol of our craft, a magnificently boxed briar pipe, but also with a cheque towards his appeal for St John's Ambulance. A good evening and congratulations to the Clerk for the excellent arrangements on the occasion of what was his first Mansion House function.

## BUTT THAT'S NOT ALL...

LIVERYMEN who may want to find out more about the government and administration of the City should contact the Clerk for details of courses which are available.

From time to time we are asked to raise teams to take part in sporting contests and which are organised by other Livery Companies to raise money for charity. So if you are interested in clay pigeon shooting, tennis, polo(!) or swimming etc please tell the Clerk.

There was no Shooting Competition against the London Regiment in 1996 but it is hoped to renew this annual event in 1997.

Haberdashers Hall, which has been the home for the great majority of our Installation Meetings since the present Company came into existence in 1954, is to go under the developers hammer. So it will mean pastures new for 1997.

The Worshipful Company of Clockmakers featured a complimentary article about the Tobacco Pipe Makers Company in one of their recent newsletters. The author

described our charitable activities as being "noteworthy" and also paid tribute to the £45,000 which has been raised towards the restoration of the Clay Pipe Works at Broseley.



Congratulations to the new Clerk Nick Hallings-Pott (left) and the new Beadle Albert Mayle (right) on their first well organised Mansion House Dinner.

We are delighted to welcome our new Beadle. He is Albert Mayle who has many interests and is tackling his position with enthusiasm. We shall feature him in our next issue.

Richard Vanderpump, our Senior Warden, is currently Master of the Worshipful Company of Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers. We understand he also serves on the Court of the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths. We hope he is watching his waistline!

Congratulations to Sally Brookes, the Master's daughter and our only lady Liveryman, on the birth of a son - Adam, a

fourth generation Merton. No doubt he will be applying to take up the Freedom of the Company by patrimony in 2017. Rumour has it that Adam has already attended his first Mansion House Dinner - as part of the outmess!

Court News. Congratulations to Ian Panto on his elevation to Fourth Warden. And to Nigel Rich CBE, the son of the late Past Master Charles Rich, John Alexander, an accountant in private practice and Ian Kimmins on being elected to the Court.

The Master's Reception will be held at the Globe Theatre on the 7th May.

Sadly our recently appointed Chaplain The Rev. David Burton Evans was posted from St. Michaels, Cornhill to Pau in the French Pyrenees and had to resign. We wish him well in his new posting where he will be looking after the English community. Presumably his fate could have been worse! In the meantime we are delighted to welcome as our new Chaplain the Rev. Brian Lee the Rector of St. Botolphs Aldgate. There will be a full profile in the next issue.