

PIPELINE

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

IN REFLECTING IN THIS ISSUE ON HIS YEAR AS MASTER, Roger Merton comments with some pride on our reputation as a Livery Company. His words seem to be well justified but perhaps on some occasions the Master deserves more support. The 1996 Carol Concert which he describes as one of his "firsts" was a case in point. Those who attended in the beautiful Church of St Michael's Cornhill were able to enjoy not only the wonderful singing of the choir and some fine organ music but what was altogether a most uplifting service. All those who were responsible for its organisation are to be much congratulated. So the message is loud and clear. Do not miss the 1997 service.

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- ◆ 3rd DECEMBER 1997
6.30pm Carol Service St Michaels Cornhill.
7.30pm Supper at Simpson's Tavern.
- ◆ 20th JANUARY 1998
Court Meeting, and Dinner at Merchant Taylors Hall.
- ◆ 5th MARCH 1998
Shooting Competition with HQ Co London Reg't.
- ◆ 24th MARCH
Election Court Meeting and Ladies Lunch Glaziers Hall.
- ◆ 15th MAY 1998
Master's Reception. Visit to Knole at 3.30pm, followed by tour of Sevenoaks School and dinner with the Headmaster and staff at 7pm.



The triumphant team of ROBIN PHILPOTT, ALEC MURRAY, IAN KIMMINS and JOHN ROBSON

OUR GOLF TEAM WINS PRINCE ARTHUR CUP

Our Golf Team - Alec Murray, John Robson, Robin Philpott and Ian Kimmins achieved a memorable victory in this year's Prince Arthur Cup held at Walton Heath on 15th May. Two years previously the team had finished at such a lowly level that no place had been guaranteed for the 1996 competition.

The Pipe Makers team was first off at 8.00 am accompanied by a friendly Stationers Company team - many times winners. Our first pair of Alec Murray and Ian Kimmins experienced a shaky start but inspired by some fine tee shots by the former, they soon began to produce much steadier golf. The points began to mount and just behind them John Robson and Robin Philpott were producing the goods. In the event Alec Murray and his partner produced the best score of the morning. At lunchtime the team captain sniffed victory in the air and had to be calmed by his team mates and restrained from indulging in too much Club Claret!

The afternoon round was less successful than the morning's round but, in the event, good enough to win the Competition. Having been first off there was an agonisingly long

wait for the result to be declared but the Pipe Makers team produced the only plus score of the day (Plus 1) with the runners up being the Worshipful Company of Bakers, having a score of Minus 1. 56 Livery Companies were represented. On being presented with the Cup, Alec Murray thanked the organisers and said that he and his fellow team mates had been spurred on by the Pipe Makers Bridge Team which had won the Inter Livery Bridge Competition with some regularity. "We felt it was our time to do something".

So how was it all done. Was it those words in the first newsletter "Your correspondent has not checked the position but has a sneaking feeling that over the years the Company has always been 27th or thereabouts". Or was it the fact that the team actually practised together a fortnight or so prior to the Competition when, as your correspondent recollects, there was a non too serious discussion about tactics and at the end of a pleasant afternoon's golf a small amount of money changed hands?

In addition to the magnificent Prince Arthur Cup which was on display at the Installation Lunch the team also won the sweep of £360.00 and which was donated to the Benevolent Fund Trustees.

PAST MASTER ROGER MERTON REFLECTS ON HIS YEAR

To say that being Master of a Livery Company is a great honour and privilege is an understatement. It is the pinnacle of one's Livery life and one to which every Liveryman aspires.

The last year has borne this out for me but on June 12th it all came to an end. I look back with fond memories over a year in which the Company achieved three firsts:-

- the first Carol Service
- the first Newsletter
- the first victory in the Livery Golf Competition

and I wish to thank everyone who enabled them to take place.

I discovered, as my predecessors had often told me, that our reputation as a Livery Company in the City is highly regarded. I have made many friends, both in the City and outside, and everywhere I went I was greeted with real friendship and was generously entertained.

On behalf of the Company I have been privileged to attend some 60 meetings, presentations and dinners.

These have varied from many Livery Company dinners to the Riding for the Disabled Carol Service, to the Lord Mayor's Dinner at the Mansion House, to standing on London Bridge at 07.30 am for 2 hours collecting for the Red Cross, to a dinner given by the Corporation of London for the Mayor of Chicago, to the London Regiment -v- The Pipe Makers Company Shooting Competition, to the Cutlers Feast and visit to the Sheffield Hallam

University, to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party, to the Election of The Lord Mayor, to the United Guilds Service, to the visit to Ironbridge and the Broseley Pipe Works, to the annual visitation to Sevenoaks School to interview our Scholars, to the annual Livery Companies Visit to the Black Country Museum. All in all an action packed year. My waistline has suffered, but so be it!

It would be invidious to single out any one person to thank in particular, but I thank you all for allowing me, hopefully, to continue to uphold the Company's good name. I have been proud to have been your Master and I wish my successor an equally enjoyable year.

BENEVOLENT FUND

In our first Issue the Chairman of the Benevolent Fund Trustees, John Solomon, gave a general summary of the Fund's activities. He now talks a little more about the Sevenoaks Scene ...

The Benevolent Fund's principal charity is Sevenoaks School where we have 19 scholars. Tommy Cookson took over as Headmaster last September. He and his wife, Carol, came to the school from Southampton where he had been Headmaster of King Edward VI school.

Tommy was educated at Winchester College and Balliol College, Oxford.



The new Headmaster of Sevenoaks School TOMMY COOKSON and his wife CAROL

He teaches English Literature and Latin and has taught at Winchester, Hopkins Grammar School in Newhaven, Connecticut and Manchester Grammar School. Carol was brought up in Sri Lanka and has worked for the United Nations in New York before joining the Foreign Office and going to Kuala Lumpur. They have 3 daughters, two at University and one at Sevenoaks. Tommy's particular interests are the theatre (he has produced plays - and even films!) and most sports, especially golf and the Governors would be well advised to check his attendance during any of the golf classics.

The school has some 940 pupils, about a third are boarders and there are almost as many girls as boys. Our scholars range from 13 to 18 years of age and currently comprise 10 girls and 9 boys. The school unusually has intakes at three different ages - 13, 15 and 17. The latter are more usually from overseas and attend one of the two international houses, where scholars tend to take the International Baccalaureate which is a speciality of the school. Many of our scholars are in addition gifted athletically and we have a girl who has represented England Under 18s at show

SHOOTING COMPETITION WITH THE HQ CO LONDON REGIMENT

jumping, a boy represented England Under 17s at skiing and another girl is doing very well in the tennis world. Yet another girl came 2nd (amongst both sexes) in shooting at Bisley. The two senior Pipe Maker scholars are Eva-Mona Gotz (18) from Germany who received prizes in History, French and German (a rare achievement) and David Tabah Vertoont from Las Palmas, who will shortly read Biology at Oxford.



Two of our recent International Scholars
DAVID TABAH and EVA-MONA GOTZ

Eleven members of the Livery plus wives and guests descended on London Regiment HQ at Battersea to do battle with the sharp shooters of our affiliated Company. The organiser, Captain Mick Wall, possibly being aware of the result beforehand, had produced some splendid losers medals which our two teams obligingly "won". However, the surprise to them - and us - was for newly admitted Freeman, Matthew Cormack, to carry off the prize for the highest individual score. He admitted afterwards to having been lightly oiled.

Past Master Derek Harris captained

the team of Assistants Richard Anderton, Richard Yeo and Freeman Matthew Cormack. The Ladies had to make do with one honorary substitute - Liveryman Peter Knight - on their team which comprised Sheila Harris, Fiona Adler and Charlotte White.

The HQ Co put on a splendid evening, including an impressive display by their Corps of Drums. The Master - Roger Merton - presented the Regiment with a donation from the Livery towards the presentation of their new Colours. Next year they promise to give everybody a chance to shoot, and possibly a chance to win!



CLEARLY A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL - SHOOT OUT AT BATTERSEA

OUR NEW HONORARY CHAPLAIN

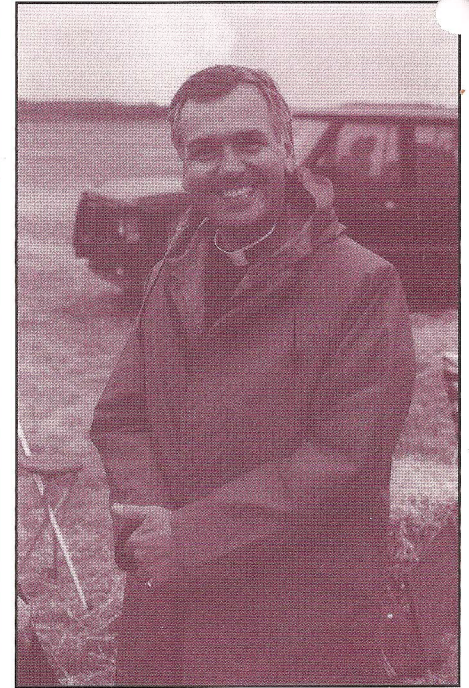
When you go into St Botolph's Aldgate, our Chaplain's church, there is a surprising whiff of soap powder as if you had strayed into a supermarket. But you are not wrong, since the gallery of the church acts as a warehouse for thousands of grocery items that have been given to the church to help in their great project of feeding and sheltering the homeless in the City and the East End.

Brian Lee, our Chaplain, masterminds this enterprise with a full time staff of fifty volunteers and a budget of £1.3 million which he raises partially through Government funding, but mostly through donations of money and goods, which he calls "harvests", reaped from the various donor organisations. Between 200/300 people are fed from the Crypt every night and in addition there are five associated hostels in the East End.

Brian has been Rector of St Botolph's since 1993 having established a reputation in his previous ministry for caring for the homeless. Interestingly he started adult life as a mathematics teacher after studying in York but he was drawn towards the church and went on to study Divinity at Kings College London before being ordained by Bishop Mervyn Stockwood in 1979.

He is also Chairman of the Governors of the Sir John Cass Foundation primary school, the only State School in the City, and to which our Benevolent Fund has just donated £500.

Born in Cheshire in 1951 Brian is a collector of antique clocks, a keen walker and traveller, and as all of us who know him have found, delighted to be associated with our Livery Company.



Our Chaplain BRIAN LEE

BUTT THAT'S NOT ALL ...

A big welcome to our new Master Richard Vanderpump who clearly has plans for an interesting year. Those who were present will not easily forget the magnificent banquet held in Goldsmiths Hall and in respect of which a full report will appear in the next issue.

Election Court. Congratulations to The Honourable Michael Richards on being installed as Fourth Warden and to Chris Boon and Ray Kelly on becoming Members of the Court.

Our Bridge Team Past Master George Ross Goobey and Warden Ian Panto came only 11th in this year's Competition. We cannot win it every year!

Millenium Celebrations. The powers that be are considering some form of big "bash" for the Millenium but will doubtless be delighted to hear of any constructive ideas!

Chief Commoner. For the second time in recent history a Member of our Company has achieved this high office. Past Master George Challis was the first Pipe Maker to be so honoured and he is now followed by Michael Bramwell to

whom we convey our congratulations and good wishes.

Golf Day. This was held at Woking GC on 3rd July. The weather was better than in the previous year but the turnout was down. Nevertheless, a good time was had by all. Robin Philpott was the main prize winner of the day.

New Freemen. A big welcome to Richard George Bevan, George Edward Cedric Lankester, Ronald Tully and Matthew Douglas Cormack as new Freemen of the Company.

Gownings. Congratulations to Michael Colley, Ralph Smith, Ivan Garwood, Richard Bevan, Ronald Tully and Fiona Adler on being gowned as Liverymen.

The City Livery Club is looking out to welcome new golfers. They have an interesting fixture list and it is not necessary to be a Member of the City Livery Club.

Past Master Stephen Preedy and some 60 of his contemporary fellow Masters took part in the 1996 Lord Mayor's Show by riding fully robed in a seaside train

provided by Eastbourne Borough Council. Most of the crowd thought that they were Eastbourne Councillors advertising the town as a holiday resort.

EU Citizens can now become Freemen of the City and can also become Liverymen of our Company.

Master's Reception at The Globe. This was attended by a party of some 80 or so and despite a chilly evening was much enjoyed.

Broseley Pipe Works. Twenty or so persons joined the visit on Saturday, 17th May. They included the Master, the Senior Warden and Past Master Tony Ostick who had been initially responsible for raising our contribution of £45,000. After an enjoyable lunch everyone was delighted and indeed impressed to see the completed Museum in full operation.

To mark his year as Master Roger Merton presented the Company with three walnut veneered cigar humidors.

Obituary. We are sorry to report the death of Michael Barford who was well known in the trade and had been a Liveryman since 1982.