

# PIPELINE

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

## MEMORABLE YEAR FOR

## RICHARD VANDERPUMP AS MASTER

At his Installation at Barber Surgeons Hall it emerged from a speech by Past Master Derek Harris that there had been a time when Richard Vanderpump had been his permanent guest at Company functions but which in due course had been regularised by his taking up the Livery in his own right. Yes, this was all true, said Richard Vanderpump and therefore he was all the more honoured to become Master, particularly as he had to confess (with that well known twinkle in the eye) to not being one of "your tobacco tycoons but merely a humble artificer of metals".

From that moment and bubbling as always with enthusiasm we were treated to a vintage year. The highlight was without much doubt the chance to dine in the magnificent surroundings of Goldsmiths Hall in September last and which was due almost entirely to the initiative and generosity of the Master. We were entertained to a truly sparkling banquet and were greatly honoured by the presence of the Lord Mayor together with the Sheriffs and their ladies and a distinguished array of other guests. The after dinner speeches and entertainment all helped to round off a perfect evening and Sir Barry Sheen's amusing response to the toast of the guests is reproduced elsewhere.

And so to the January Dinner which was held this year at Merchant Taylors Hall where once again the enthusiasm of the Master set the pace for the evening. We



RICHARD VANDERPUMP

were entertained to a particularly fine speech by Sir Peter Yarranton and who was but one of many distinguished guests. The splendid organ at Merchant Taylors was brought into action and we were skilfully entertained by Neil Brocklehurst on his xylophone.

It was also very much due to the initiative of the Master that his Reception was held at Knole and Sevenoaks in May. This was well attended and the success of which was due in no small measure to the most generous hospitality of Sevenoaks School.

Prior to becoming our Master, Richard Vanderpump was Master of the Worshipful Company of Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers and has already been installed as Prime Warden of the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths. In wishing Richard Vanderpump a happy year in this high office we express the hope that the Goldsmiths Company will in due course be able to look back on a year which will be as rewarding for them as it has been for us and which for our part we say a big thank you.

## SOME DATES

## FOR YOUR DIARY

- ◆ 17th September 1998  
Ladies Banquet at Ironmongers Hall
- ◆ 27th October 1998  
5pm Court Meeting at Brewers Hall followed by 6.45pm Reception for all Liverymen and Freemen (*there will be a short briefing on City and Livery developments*).
- ◆ 9th December 1998  
6.30pm Carol Service and Supper at St Botolphs Aldgate.
- ◆ 19th January 1999  
January Dinner - Painter Stainers Hall.
- ◆ May 1999  
(*Date to be announced*)  
Master's Reception at Guildhall School of Music.
- ◆ Saturday 24th June 2000  
Millennium Ball Blenheim Palace  
ADVANCE BOOKING FORMS  
WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AFTER  
THE LADIES BANQUET



**OUR ARCHIVIST KEN PRITCHARD TAKES**

**A BACKWARD GLANCE TO 1961**

This was an important year for the Company in that on the 16th March 1961 the then Lord Mayor, Sir Bernard Waley-Cohen presented the Company with its Letters Patent and which can now be seen in Glaziers Hall. The Masters holding office that year were Francis Grant and Robert Freeman.

It had been a prerequisite of this event that the Benevolent Fund would have to be established as a result of which £50 was transferred from Company funds into the hands of the first Trustees - three gentlemen who, in the event, were to play substantial parts in the subsequent

development of the Company - Frank Warwick, Roy Siemssen and Robert Freeman.

At that time the Company comprised 83 Liverymen and 68 Freemen, it being a fair bet that almost without exception they would all have been involved in the tobacco trade. It cost 30 guineas to be admitted to the Freedom, 50 guineas to be gowned with the Livery and the quarterage was 5 guineas.

The Mansion House Banquet held on 28th September 1961 was attended by 294!

**SIR BARRY SHEENS RESPONSE TO THE TOAST**

**OF THE GUESTS AT GOLDSMITHS HALL**

When asked to reply on behalf of the Guests I racked my brain for some suitable jests. It seemed to me that at this time of night what you'd enjoy would be something quite light. But the muse whom I had sought to invoke let me down. She had not a single good joke. The days and the weeks passed; there wasn't much time. So I hope you'll forgive just a few thoughts in rhyme. You've drunk to our health. But we know that next morning your main raison d'etre will contain a health warning.

The rise and fall of smoking within 500 years has brought to some men fortunes - and to many others tears. The smoking of tobacco has given so much pleasure that men have squandered millions on this part of their leisure.

Indeed it seems to me that, no matter what they earn, you'll always find that smokers have some cash to burn. What then are its origins? I'll recount a little history. Though some of it is lost in time and must remain a mystery.

You've all heard of Drake, Sir Francis was his name, remembered by all schoolboys for finishing a game of bowls on Plymouth Hoe, when the Spaniards were in sight, before he took his ship to sea and put them all to flight. Drake's sailors filled their pipes with young tobacco seed before someone had found a way for the curing of the weed.

Then came Sir Walter Raleigh, who is famous for his cloak. He flourished in Virginia, well known to those who smoke. The natives of Virginia were the Redskins and the Braves. They were the world's first smokers.

Tobacco they did crave. We know they smoked a pipe of peace in colourful attire when they sat to sign a treaty in wigwam by a fire.

When tobacco leaves reached Europe aboard some brigantine His Excellency Jean Nicot gave his name to nicotine. When smoking came to England it spread like wild fire. It was thought to be a cure for ills, without which you'd expire. The coffee houses flourished, but a pipe you had to smoke. Without one you were outcast - you were not a social bloke. For pipes produce contentment, as was proved by Old King Cole, who called for his at midnight and was a merry old soul.

Now pipes were made at first from clay, until some country squire discovered wood which would not burn, which we all know as briar. Then came the meerschaum with a finely crafted bowl.

And in the East, of course, the hookah had its role. For the common man a pipe of clay was really good enough. But the rich desired distinction, and so they took to snuff. For taking snuff is different - an excuse for affectation enjoyed by those who sometimes like a little ostentation. In fashionable circles it was richly scented snuff which soon replaced the smell of smoke from pipes which men would puff.

And now the cigarette, which has brought the smokers' cough, a cause, I think, for sympathy, and not a thing to scoff. For many people nowadays think smoking's an addiction. I cannot argue that tonight; it really might be fiction.

Before I conclude this very brief reply on behalf of the guests, I really must try to offer their thanks, which are most sincere,



for the warmth of your welcome. We're so glad to be here. You've extended to us immense hospitality and shown that this Company has great vitality. Indeed - were I not such a chump I'd have found a rhyme for Vanderpump! To have dined with you in this sumptuous Hall has provided a memory we'll long recall. The meal was delicious; we finished each plateful. I know that your guests are truly most grateful. And so may I say to our hosts, one and all, "Thank you - your guests have just had a ball".

**PIPEMAKERS  
SHOOT**

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At one stage we were going to be 20 strong in our bid to wrest the Sirrah Cup from the London Regiment HQ Company Champions, but in the event we were 16. As last year it was a wonderfully hospitable evening with our generous hosts. The rules had been amended so that everybody could have a shoot - except it seemed the left handers. Something to do with the "weapon" having its safety catch on the right hand side. (Could this be a military secret or a hidden discrimination we are revealing?).

Sadly our "top gun" from last year failed to find form and despite the best efforts of our shooting Captain, Past Master Derek Harris, Senior Warden Simon Orlik, Assistant Richard Yeo, Liveryman Roger Makhlof and guest of left-handed Mike Butler - Arthur Bland - we came an honourable second.

At the prizegiving afterwards when all our team got splendid medals inscribed "Best Shot" - they have a good sense of humour at HQ Co - the Master was grateful that those responsible for the defence of the

realm had won, but felt that a suitable handicap might be considered for next year's competition - something like the HQ Co being asked to shoot with the lights out!

An excellent buffet was served, washed down with amongst other things the HQ Company's Vin de Table Rouge which drew such favourable comment that the Clerk served it at the Court Luncheon at Glaziers' Hall on the 24th March.

As a tailpiece the Master-Elect went down to the ranges at Longmoor as guest of the Regiment on Sunday 22nd March and more recently to their camp. The Master and Clerk attended a reception at the Mansion House with all the TA affiliated Liveries on May 7th so our connections with the military remain strong.

A cheque for £300 was presented to the HQ Company.

**THE CHIEF  
COMMONER**

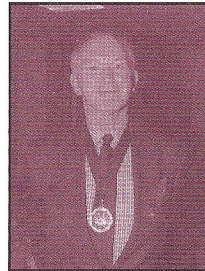
.....  
We have been honoured in recent years by the election to this important City position of two of our Liverymen - Assistant Michael Bramwell has recently completed a successful year as Chief Commoner as did Past Master George Challis in earlier years.

We asked George Challis to tell us something of the office and what is involved:-

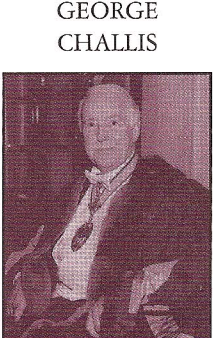
The title Chief Commoner has in the last hundred years or so been used to describe the Corporation's Senior Chairman or, to be more accurate, the Chairman of its Senior Committee, the City Lands and Bridge House Estates Committee. There is no requirement in Local Government law to have a Chief Commoner but the title has gradually been adopted and accepted. In the words of a former Town Clerk it has been "recognised by custom and usage". Liverymen can

see in the South Ambulatory of Guildhall a board recording the names of Chief Commoners for just over 100 years.

However, the Committee he chairs has a continuous history going back over 400 years. Its responsibilities include looking after all the Corporation's property including the maintenance of the four City Bridges - Tower, London, Southwark and Blackfriars. This Committee is only



MICHAEL  
BRAMWELL



GEORGE  
CHALLIS

part of the Chairman's duties. As the Senior Chairman he works in close liaison with other Committee Chairmen and particularly the Lord Mayor, the Town Clerk and other principal officers. The Lord Mayor frequently asks the Chief Commoner to join the Mayoral party on official visits overseas and, of course, at all State and official visits to the City the Chief Commoner has a major role to play.

The Chief Commoner is a frequent guest and speaker at City Institutions and Livery Companies. He takes part in the Lord Mayor's Show and attends at the Law Courts when the Lord Mayor is formally presented to the Lord Chief Justice and to the Court of Appeal. In my year I attended functions as diverse as the Cutlers Feast in Sheffield, the British Exhibition in Kiev and the 20th Anniversary of the Opening of old London Bridge at Lake Havasu City in Arizona.

It is a very busy year for the Chief Commoner and his spouse but it is also a great honour, and I feel all who are so elected look back on their time in office with pride and gratitude.



**OBITUARIES**

**AUBREY STYLES.**

It was with great sadness and a deep sense of shock that we heard the news of the death in early January last of Aubrey Styles. He was our Renter Warden and all things being equal would have become our Master in the Millennium. Aubrey was not only well known in the tobacco industry but a most keen supporter of the Tobacco Pipe Makers Company for which he spared no effort. Requests for help were unfailingly met with the words "leave it to me and I'll

see what I can do". In practical terms, this meant that whatever had been requested would be achieved. A typical example was the most recent of the Livery Companies Exhibitions where Aubrey ensured that our stand was of the highest standard. We will miss all that he did for us in as we suspect will many other organisations for whom Aubrey devoted his time and energies.

**GERRY DE BOINVILLE MC TD.**  
For many years and until

comparatively recently Gerry de Boinville was a senior and much respected member of the Court. He died in May last aged 76. He had been well known in the tobacco trade, had been awarded the Military Cross in the first World War and had served as High Sheriff of Hertfordshire.

We are also sorry to report the deaths in December 1997 of Nick Wheadon, a Freeman of the Company since 1983 and of Peter Sutton, a Liveryman since 1965.

**BUTT THATS NOT ALL ...**

**Golf.** No Headlines this year! Our Golf Team will tell you somewhat shamefacedly that having won the Prince Arthur Cup in 1997 they only managed to finish 40th this year. How are the mighty fallen! The 1997 team was unchanged - Alec Murray, Robin Philpott, John Robson and Ian Kimmins. John Robson and Robin Philpott played steadily enough throughout the day but our other pair were out of touch.

In the meantime, the Livery Golf Day was repeated for the third year at Woking and was attended by some 12 or so. Robin Philpott and Nicholas Freeman very kindly presented some prizes but as our two star golfers, Robin Philpott and John Robson, were away on holiday there was a chance for others! The main prize winners were the Master Simon Orlik, Ian Kimmins and Alec Murray and his guest.

Ian Kimmins believes he has details of everyone interested in playing golf but if in doubt (this particularly applies to new members of the Company) do not hesitate to contact him at Heatherside, Pond Road, Woking, Surrey GU22 0JT.

The Golf Day in 1999 will be held on 22 July.

**Bridge.** And our Bridge Team didn't win either. Once again the Company was represented by Past Master George

Ross Goobey and Third Warden Ian Panto but they only came 10th. George Ross Goobey complains that age is catching up with him and given that he is in his mid 80's this seems to be fair enough. On the other hand, it does not seem to stop him dashing here, there and everywhere. Our team still has the record of having won the trophy on more occasions than any other Livery Company.

**Carol Concert.** Don't forget this year's Carol Concert. It is going to be held at St Botolphs Aldgate which is our Chaplain's church. This will be our third Carol Concert. The first two were excellent occasions only marred to some extent by rather poor attendances. Do support our Master and Chaplain on this occasion. The date is 9th December.

**Congratulations.** To Simon Orlik on being installed as Master.

And to his newly elected Wardens, The Hon Michael Richards, Ian Panto, Alec Murray and Michael Walter.



MASTERS RECEPTION AT KNOLE

We also congratulate Michael Adler (the son and grandson of Past Masters John and Alan Adler) Roger Makhlouf and Paul Neate on being elected to the Court.

And finally we congratulate and welcome the following new Freeman - Robin Victor Aziz, Lionel Morrow Cashin, Simon David Glendenning, Michael George White, Gareth Davis, Robert Edwards and Julian Keevil.

Messrs Cashin, Glendenning, White, Aziz and Keevil have all subsequently taken up the Livery, together also with George Edward Cedric Lancaster. Julian Keevil jetted in from Virginia, USA to be gowned with the Livery!