

ISSUE 7 SPRING 2001

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The Worshipful Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders

LIVERY NEWSLETTER AND GAZETTE

Our Scholars sing for their Supper!

As members of the Livery are aware, the Tobacco Pipe Makers supports many scholars within the education system. Those attending the Livery carol service in December will well recall the delightful "Sennocke Consort" – the premier senior choir at Sevenoaks School where the Pipe Makers Company scholarships are the subject of keen contest. At the January dinner the Livery was entertained by the wonderful voice of Sarah Redgwick who was accompanied by Natalie Murray both of whom are studying at the Guildhall School which the Pipe Makers again supports with scholarships.

However special mention must be made of Gwen Jeffers – one of our Music Scholars – who sang grace at our Ladies Banquet in November 2000. Gwen is currently a member of the Opera Course at the Guildhall School where she studies with Rudolf Piernay, and has been selected as the candidate to represent England in the 2001 edition of "Cardiff Singer of the World".

The support given by the Livery is of vital importance to our Scholars and they never fail to make mention of this both publicly and at Pipe Makers functions which they attend.



The Sennocke Consort



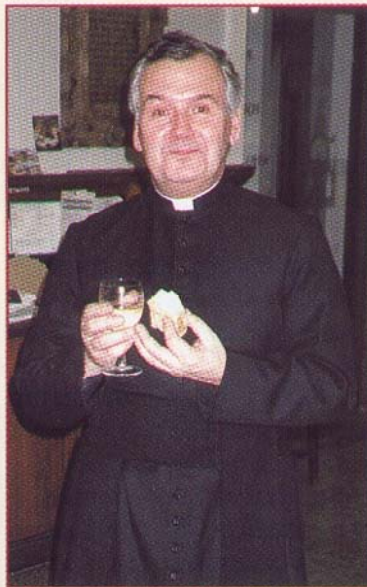
Gwen Jeffers sings grace at the Ladies' Banquet



Brian Lee is a native of Lancashire and although now of course, is an ordained priest in the Church of England, was originally a Mathematics scholar. It was whilst worshipping in the Minster at York City where he was teaching that he discovered his vocation to the ministry. He recalls one humorous incident whilst helping at the ordination of a Bishop in the Minster. Brian was about to expel a very humble clergyman who had no ticket for the ceremony when the gentleman meekly explained that he was the person about to be consecrated!

After theological training at King's College London and the College of the Resurrection, Mirfield, Brian began his career in Southwark diocese with curacies in Richmond and Surbiton, he then worked in Croydon for many years where he discovered his great passion for working for the disadvantaged and founded a hostel there for the single homeless. When the Parish of St. Botolph's in Aldgate became vacant in 1993, he was the obvious candidate as St Botolph's had for forty years cared for the homeless of the City and the East End. Under Brian's leadership and guidance St. Botolph's project has become the most respected and

A portrait of our Chaplain – The Revd Brian C Lee



The Chaplain dealing with the bread and wine at the Carol Service!

professional organisation working with homeless people in the capital.

Brian Lee is currently President of Sion College, the ancient institution in the City of London founded in 1630 which supports and encourages the clergy of London. At the same time he is Chairman of Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School, the only state-supported school in the City. Over the last seven years Brian has helped to guide the school into a position where it is now regarded as one of pre-eminence and has become officially recognised as Beacon School. Lastly, but certainly not least, Brian is Chairman of the grants committee of Sir John Cass's Foundation. In this position he has been able to support some of the poorest and most deprived young people of London, enabling them to benefit from improved school facilities as well as entry into further and higher education. Innumerable institutions, universities, colleges, schools and young people have benefited from the generosity of Sir John Cass's foundation, and education in London, both north and south of the river, is indebted to it.

Brian Lee makes a rare contribution to community life and the Livery is proud to have him as its Chaplain, and to support his work with the homeless.



The High Altar at St. Botolph's.



The Chaplain's dog 'Indy' (who sadly died recently).



Bullseye! (or "A Shot in the Dark!")

Our Clerk Nick Hallings-Pott reports on the Annual shoot versus Headquarters Company the London Regiment, which was even more of a success than usual!

When Richard Vanderpump was Master he made the rash remark, after another defeat by HQ Company, that perhaps the army had better shoot with the lights out if it was to be an equal contest! This time we were defending our surprise but splendid victory of last year, so HQ Company took us at our word and we literally went shooting in the dark.....but with night sights! Miracle of miracles.....we won – by one point! Clever scoring no doubt by Major Mik Wall who was organising the occasion for the last time before his retirement in April after 38 years in the Army and TA.

But we needed Jenny "Cats-Eyes"(!) Abbey, a guest of Roger Makhlof to see us home with a score of 75 after Liveryman Arthur Richards and his guest, both Cambridge TA members, had shown us the way with scores of 85 and 43. The Clerk's son Charles brought up the rear to make the winning team, and we carried off the best female and best male awards as well as the Sirrah Trophy.

Sadly the captain and "Old Contemptibles" of our shooting team found that spectacles and night sights didn't mix, and the eerie glow as you peered around to find the target made some of them distinctly queasy! (*Was this before or after the refreshments? – Ed*)

Sixteen liverymen and their guests were entertained by Captain Andy Wishart and members of the London Regiment, and a fine spread was served after the shooting. The prizes and a cheque for £300 to HQ Company were presented by the Master. It would be good if more members of the Livery could attend this excellent event.



Our host Captain Andy Wishart and Past Master Derek SIRRAH (or should that be Harris!)



The SIRRAH TROPHY being received by the Master.





Sadly we must report the death on November 24th 2000 of Luing Preedy, Senior Past Master and a Founder member of our Livery.

Luing's working life was spent in the business founded by his grandfather back in 1869 – Alfred Preedy and Sons. Based in Dudley the business was started as a wholesale tobacconist but soon moved into retailing, building up a chain of specialist tobacconists throughout the Midlands. Between the wars the company acquired the London based retail chain of Peter B Harris while at the same time expanding the number of wholesale warehouses.

After attending Bromsgrove School Luing joined the business on the wholesale side, but the war soon intervened and he enrolled with the Worcestershire Regiment. He married Joan in March 1939, but by the end of 1941 he had been posted abroad to India and Burma. He was ADC to General Nicholson, but before that, soon after arriving in India – when the pressure was not yet on – he helped Jack Hawkins set up an entertainment troupe called the Cross Keys.

Back in England after the war Luing involved

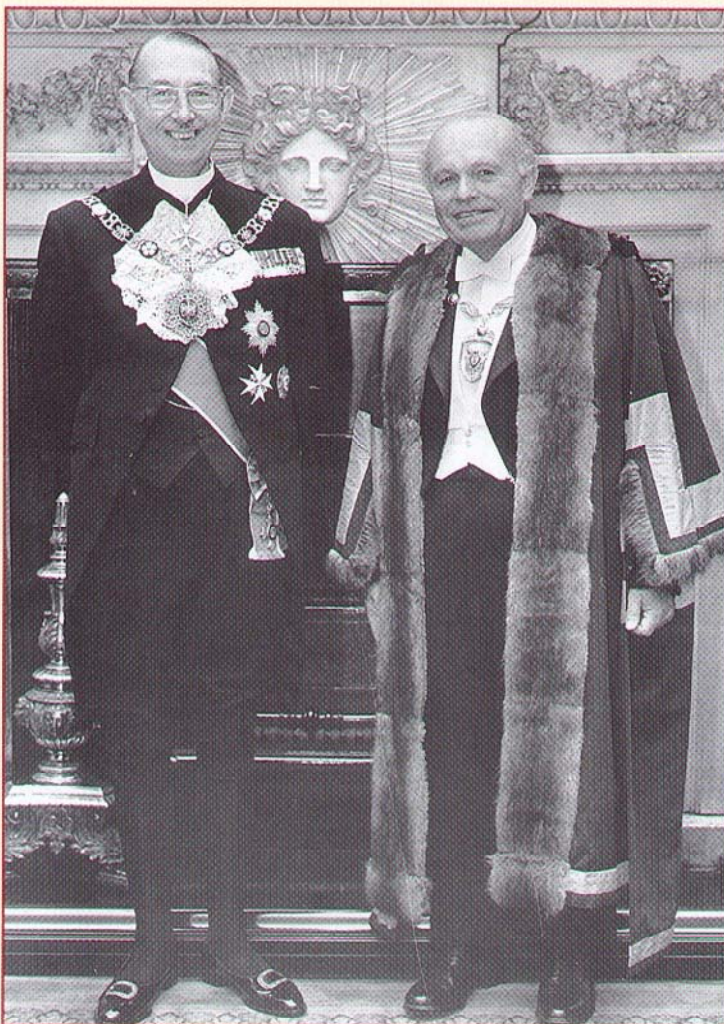
H. Luing Preedy, OBE 1915–2000 Master 1973–4

himself in local politics, first as a councillor then as Chairman of the West Midlands Conservative Association. He also became a JP and was Chairman of the Bench in Dudley.

In 1963 he was awarded the OBE. Luing became Chairman of the family business which was by then a public company – and he oversaw considerable changes there as the retail side expanded into

newsagencies and bookshops, while the wholesale side opened up cash and carry warehouses. His own particular interest in the wholesale side saw him heavily involved in the Wholesale Tobacco Trade Association, of which he was President. Luing joined the Court in 1964, and became Master in 1973 – a year slightly spoiled for all by the three-day week, which reduced the amount of entertaining done. Luing was pleased as Senior Past Master to be able to propose his son Stephen as Master in 1995, and equally pleased that his grandson Edward joined the Company in 2000.

He will be remembered for his good humour, sensible advice and active support of the Pipemakers over very many years.



H. Luing Preedy in his year of office with the then Lord Mayor, Sir Hugh Wontner. Luing Preedy

The remainder of the **Livery Gazette** and **Diary Dates** are on page seven. Any items of news for inclusion in future issues should be sent to the Editor Richard Tranter at 25, St. Margaret's Street, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire BA15 1DN. Tel/Fax: 01225 862720.



The Pipe Makers Company awards to the trade

The two prizes awarded to the Tobacco Industry are an integral part of the Company year and represent the Pipe Makers commitment to encouraging "best practice" in the trade in accordance with the concepts of Livery life.

The Retailer of the Year

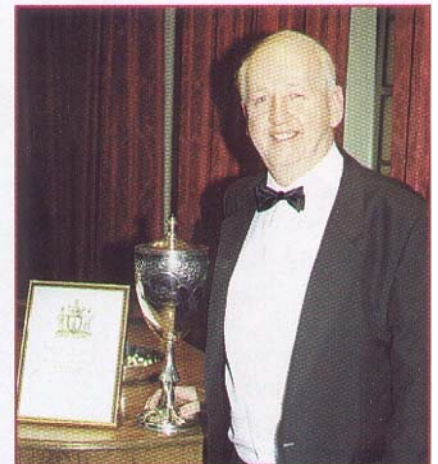
The Retailer of the Year Award – now in its third season – is presented annually to a retailer making a special contribution to the trade.

The 2001 winner was C. F. Colquhoun of Armadale, in West Lothian. The owner, Mr. John Strang was unfortunately ill with flu and was therefore represented by his son Craig. The presentation was made, as in previous years at the Pipeman of the Year Lunch at the Savoy in January of this year. Craig Strang is pictured below receiving the Pipe Makers Trophy, certificate and prize cheque from the Master Mr. Ian Panto.

(As a footnote, for those who did not attend this function, the Pipeman of the Year 2001 was the comedian Russ Abbott!)

The Frederick Tranter Trophy

The Frederick Tranter Trophy is presented on a bi-annual basis and is specifically awarded for excellence in craft work within the industry. The 2000 winner Mr. Terry Willmer is here pictured with the cup and certificate. Also shown is the winning entry – a superbly crafted straight-grain briar pipe.



Entries for the 2002 contest are now being invited and will be widened to include all British craft work allied to the tobacco trade. Details are available from the Clerk on 01323 844267 or the Editor on 01225 862720. Closing date for entries is November 30th and the winner will be presented with the Trophy at the Livery dinner in January 2002.





The Master looks back on a busy year



The Master and Wardens.

As my year of Office draws inexorably to a close, I would wish to place on record what a great honour it has been for me over the past nine months to act as the ambassador of the Worshipful Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders. The Master's year is a busy one and some of the functions outside our own calendar which I have attended on your behalf are listed below:

Year 2000

6th July	Fanmakers Dinner at Skinners Hall.
10th July	Sheriff and Records Fund A.G.M. at the Old Bailey.
6th September	Open Day at the Black Country Museum.
28th September	Modern Companies Dinner at Salters Hall.
29th September	Common Hall Elections at Guildhall.
12th October	Nicholas Freeman Memorial Service at St. Georges Hanover Square.
13th October	Interviewing our scholars at Sevenoaks School.

13th October	Society of Merchant Venturers Dinner at Bristol.
16th October	Played and won the first Livery and City Charity Bridge event.
23rd October	Guildhall School of Music and Drama Dinner at Goldsmiths Hall.
25th October	Cruse Charity reception at St. James' Palace (where I had the great honour of being introduced to Her Majesty the Queen.)
26th October	City and Guilds Dinner at Guildhall, attended by HRH Prince Philip.
10th November	Age Concern Buffet at the Globe Theatre.
22nd November	Attended the Lord Mayors address to Masters at Mansion House.
14th December	The Chairman of the Board of Governors of Guildhall School of Music and Drama – Dinner at Ironmongers Hall.

Year 2001

22nd January	The Pipesmoker of the Year Lunch at the Savoy.
8th February	Tacitus Lecture at Guildhall.
20th February	London Youth Lunch with HRH Prince Philip at Painter Stainers Hall.
5th March	Drapers Lunch at Drapers Hall.
12th March	Inter-Livery Bridge Tournament.
29th March	The Lord Mayors Mansion House Dinner.
30th March	United Guilds Service - Lunch at Glaziers Hall.

It is a particular pleasure for me to be the current holder of two Bridge Trophies, the Inter-livery Cup and the new Livery and City Bridge Cup. I do hope we can repeat this feat next year!



The Court and Committees

The Company is governed by the Court in accordance with the Ordinances which were adopted in 1970. Its quarterly meetings are chaired by the Master. Past Masters are honorary members and there are twenty Assistants appointed from the Livery. Regular reports are received on the Master's activities, the Benevolent Fund, the social calendar and finances. It plays a major role in admitting Freemen, gowning Liverymen, and of course the Installation of the new Master, Wardens and Court Assistants. Detailed planning and new initiatives are delegated to the much smaller General Purposes Committee, also chaired by the Master and meeting quarterly. A Forward Planning sub-committee has been giving some thought to longer term issues such as recruitment and communications. The Benevolent Fund is managed by the Trustees who also meet quarterly in conjunction with the Renter Warden and financial advisers, their role being to manage the Company and the Benevolent Fund investments. All work is voluntary except for the administrative support and continuity provided by the Clerk and Assistant Clerk & Treasurer.

Livery Gazette

At the Court meeting on the 16th January a record number of Freeman were admitted to the Company. Even more unusually one who was already a Freeman of London was admitted to the Freedom of the Company and

Diary dates

- **Wednesday 16th May**
Masters reception at London IMAX cinema with Omar Sharif on film (the Master has invited him in person as well!)
- **Tuesday 5th June**
Installation Court and Lunch at Glaziers Hall
- **Thursday 19th July**
Livery Golf Day at Tandridge

We would remind all members of the Company of our premier function of the year namely the **Ladies Banquet** which this year will be held on **23rd October 2001** at **The Mansion House**. We shall be honoured by the presence of **The Rt Hon Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, the Sheriffs and their Ladies**.

All Liverymen and Freeman are urged to attend this memorable occasion. Why not bring a party? The Clerk will be circulating further details in due course. Telephone 01323 844267.

gowned with the Livery at the same meeting! There was also an admission by patrimony. All in all a very busy session!

Mr. Arthur Hugh Richards was gowned with the Livery of the Company and welcomed by the Master. Mr. Richards is the son of Immediate Past Master Michael Richards.

Mr. Thomas Stephen Keevil was admitted by "fast track" procedure. Mr. Keevil is already a Freeman of the City of London and of the Worshipful Company of Solicitors.

Mr. Andrew John Rich was admitted to the Freedom by Patrimony. He was brought into the Court Room by his father Assistant Nigel Rich, and his co-sponsor Past Master Roger Merton. After the Master was satisfied that he was so entitled, Mr. Rich was admitted to the Freedom, welcomed by the Master and introduced to the Court



Assistant Nigel Rich with his son Andrew.

Mr. Brian Blacoe, Mr. Paul Davis, Mr. Roland Jeffery, Mr. Andrew Williams and Mr. David Lewis were admitted to the Freedom by redemption. They were welcomed by the Master and introduced to the Court.

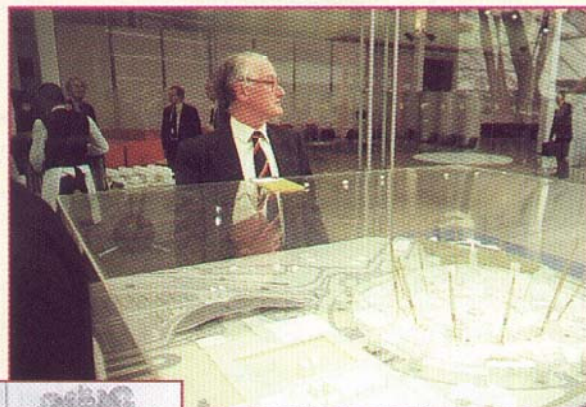
At the Election Court meeting on 5th April there were a further two admissions to the Freedom. **Mr. Graham Blashill and Mr. Peter Youngs** were both admitted by redemption and having been welcomed by the Master they were introduced to the Court.



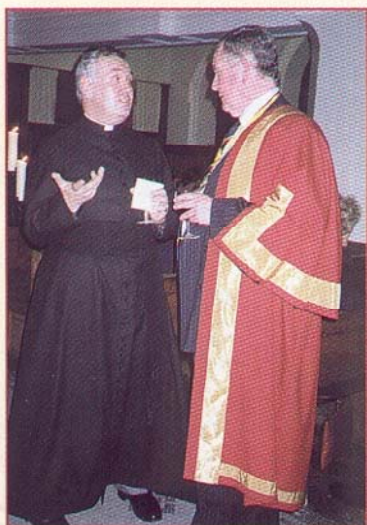
Then and Now – Past and Present Livery Events



Supper in the Pews! After the carol service, December 2000.



*"Our own Hall? You must be joking!!"
The Clerk at Greenwich Dome 2000.*



*The Chaplain with David Glyn-Jones
(probably talking about rugby!)*



*Dinner at Tallow
Chandlers Hall,
January 1957.*



*Lord Harris of Highcross at the
Master's Reception May 2000.*



*The editor enjoying a contemplative cigar!
Masters' Reception at The House of Lords, May 2000.*



*Major Mik Wall fiddling the scores (in our favour!)
Shoot v. HQ Company, March 2001.*