



The Worshipful Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders

ISSUE 18 WINTER 2009

LIVERY NEWSLETTER AND GAZETTE

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John Alfred George Alexander

Born 27th December 1951.
Joined the Livery 1991. Assistant
on the Court 1996. Junior
Warden 2005.

*You are one of our younger
Masters in recent times and
yet you have no trade or
family connections with the
Livery, how did you come to
join us?*

I collected Meerschaum pipes
and happened to meet Michael
Burke, then secretary of the
Fellowship of Clerks, who told
me about the Livery. Even
though I had been brought up in
Canada we came from an old
established family so Livery was
not a mystery to me. My parents

had German and Swiss roots
where the guilds were and still
are very much part of life.

*You are a distinguished
insolvency practitioner; indeed
you hold "license to liquidate"
number 005. The Lord Mayor
in 1996, Sir Roger Cork, was a
leading light in your
profession. Do you have any
ambitions in that direction?*

I hadn't given it a thought, but I
must ask my wife Jackie.

*I understand she works as an
HR director in the City, so
what with your business
booming in these troubled
times, and hers not exactly
coasting you are going to have
your work cut out.*

We shall enjoy it and my friends
and family are being most
supportive.

*You are the first Master to
introduce us to the blog, which
you have linked to the
company website.*

Yes. I write a little report on
every major function I attend.
The Livery have given me the
great honour of representing
them as Master so I feel they
should know what is going on.

*Very good, and what with the
action photos that you take it
is a Master's Eye View,
possibly a first, and with
which the editor cannot hope to
compete!*





Installation of the new Master, John Alexander at Painters Hall on 11th June 2009



With the new Master only days out of hospital after a painful operation on his back the Installation dinner turned out to be a triumph of humour and family support.

Both his wife and two daughters were present, and in view of the absence of a company



Chaplain he had asked his local Rabbi Rodney Mariner to be his personal Chaplain for the year.

At the Court meeting beforehand the new Wardens included Gareth Davies as Fourth Warden whilst Julian Keevil, Fiona Adler and Michael Prideaux moved up in seniority.

At the dinner afterwards the Master promised us as much music and humour as possible to dispel the gloom. This was immediately apparent from the speech by his principal guest Rob Nothman, BBC radio sports reporter whose wit set a high standard. (exchange overheard between two boxers: "I've got a detached retina" "Yes, I've got one now, but I used to live in a council flat").

Music after dinner was provided by a splendid soprano Eva Ganizate, accompanied on the piano by her colleague from the Guildhall School of Music, Marie Elise Boyer.

The Master's BLOG

As one of his innovations the Master has introduced us to the blogosphere, which can now be accessed directly from the Livery website at www.tobaccolivery.org

There you can see photos and impressions of everything he has done during his year in reverse chronological order.

Some members may not be able to access this wonder, indeed there are a significant few who do not currently have, or even want a computer. It remains to be seen whether future Masters will be so adept at modern technology but the newsletter will try to keep you up to date. Over time it will have to include more articles, and contributions from members.

Please send the editor anything you would like to include.



New members

Already well known to the Livery the wife of Past Master Roger Merton, **Jennifer Merton** was gowned with the Livery in her own right under new rules to encourage spouses with connections to the trade.

This makes a clean sweep for the Merton family with husband, wife and both children, plus son in law Roger Brookes (who currently chairs the membership committee) all Liverymen.

Julian Harrison Keevil, not to be confused with his Senior Warden father, was also gowned with the Livery, and at the same June Court **Colin Mackenzie** was admitted to the Freedom. A multi talented young man he includes the St Moritz Tobogganing Club among his memberships.

Lost brethren

Paul Davis died suddenly of a brain tumour on 22nd February 2009. Only recently retired from Cadogan as sales director he would have been 65 in April. He joined the Livery in 2001 and leaves his wife Heather, four children and four grandchildren. We offer our deepest sympathy to the family for his premature death.

Roy Wagstaff MBE died on 9th July aged 88. Admitted to the Livery in 1986 he was a frequent and keen supporter, and a well liked member of the trade. A great grandfather, Chairman of Bunces a chain of CTNs that he had himself built from scratch, he was also President of 114 Squadron Air Training Corps which he formed and for which he was awarded the MBE.

Nicholas McKisack died in August shortly after his 78th birthday. He was previously finance director at Intabex and Henderson Miller and joined the Livery in 1985.

Our finances

The accounts for the year ended 25th March 2009 were restored to surplus after the depredations last year caused by HMR&C's harsh ruling on self employment for the Company's officers.

It is interesting to note in the light of subsequent events in the mother of Parliaments that we were subjected to six years' retrospective payments, plus a fine and interest.

As expected in the circumstances the value of our investments were down to £668k from their peak of £1million in 2007.

The **Benevolent Fund** accounts by contrast showed a modest increase in income over the previous year despite difficult market conditions, and thanks in no small part to the generous contributions from members of the Livery. Charitable giving was held back until suitable candidates can be found to plug the gap caused by the drop in the number of Sevenoaks bursaries.

Trustees are particularly anxious to support charities where we can make a difference – three small new ones are a youth club in Bermondsey, Country Holidays for City Children, and a speech language and hearing centre for infants with severe language problems. We are also happy to support any charity where a member of the Livery has a personal involvement. The Chairman of the Benevolent Fund, Past Master Derek Harris welcomes such suggestions.

Our Chaplain

The Master Wardens and GPC report that Brian Lee, Honorary Freeman, is recuperating on the South coast and it is hoped he will appear at future functions.

However the search for a successor continues. In the meantime the Master has appointed Rabbi Rodney Mariner as his personal Chaplain for his year of office, and we have already enjoyed his blessings at our functions.





New Membership Committee

As the new Chairman, Assistant Roger Brookes has selected four colleagues from the Company to form his committee. Together they possess significant business knowledge and skills from both inside and outside the tobacco industry. The members of the Membership Committee are shown below.



Back row Assistant Roger Brookes, Head of Structured Credit Trading, **CF Partners**, financial services and Assistant Charles Miller, Managing Director, **Charles Miller Ltd**, auctioneers.

Front row Liveryman Jemma Freeman, Chief Executive Officer, **Hunters & Frankau**, Freeman Michelle McKeown, Vice President, Corporate Affairs & Communications (UK & Ireland), **Gallaher** and Assistant Jacqueline Burrows, Head of Group Public & Political Affairs, **Imperial Tobacco**.

Reporting to the General Purposes Committee, the aims of the Membership Committee are (i) to form and execute initiatives that enhance the experience of the members of our Livery Company and their guests in its many activities and events, and (ii) to consider and recommend the long term strategies that will help to

maintain a strong and engaged membership of the Livery Company in the future.

The Committee had its first meeting in October from which emerged many exciting ideas. These include arranging informal social evenings as well as more high profile events focused on our connections, such as those with Sevenoaks Scholars. There are also plans to extend the existing Benefits Scheme. You can expect to see communications on these things and more over the coming months.

Following the success of the Master's blog, it is planned to make greater use of the Livery Company's website to communicate more effectively with members. Events and ideas generated by the Membership Committee will be posted in the Members Only area and members will be encouraged to provide their feedback.

You will be hearing from them very soon!

Perhaps the younger Liverymen would enjoy rowing a Livery Barge such as the one below which the editor and his wife were invited to row at their Richmond regatta by the Barber Surgeons.

The Master of course would relax in comfort beneath the canopy.





Arundel Castle Cricket Foundation

Photos on this page were taken by Past Master Simon Orlik, Treasurer and Clerk to the Benevolent Fund, at one of the Special Needs programme days, run by John Barclay and his team on 24th June 2009. As you can see the setting is perfect on a summer's day with the South Downs and Arundel castle as a spectacular backdrop.



There were children from five schools from London and outer London (Chessington & Romford) – all very keen and on best behaviour. There are no winners or losers these days, and everyone has a go at batting and bowling.

They use a rubber ball and the better ones hit it a long way. However they all seem to enjoy the experience and all receive a certificate at the end.



Next year the Livery is sponsoring an Under 15 Pipemakers Trophy for young talented cricketers. Presumably there will be some competitive spirit on display. Final day will be on **Wednesday 4th August 2010** with a 50 over game plus lunch and presentation. Put this one in your diary as the Livery are invited to attend.

We congratulate John Barclay on his appointment as the president of MCC and are proud to be associated with his charity.





Livery Dinner at Painters' Hall 27th January 2009

The Master had assembled a glittering array of guests for his final dinner headed by his old colleague from Jardine Matheson days, Lord Patten of Barnes as principal speaker. The latter regaled us with some excellent tobacco and political jokes to lighten our economic darkness, noting along the way that the Master had evidently progressed from opium to tobacco.

Our "own" Lord Wakeham, His Excellency the Ambassador to the Philippines, the Masters of five Livery Companies, the Head of Sevenoaks, Katy Ricks and our senior scholar William Ellis, and the president elect of the MCC John Barclay made up the assembled company. Assistant Charles Miller did the honours in proposing the toast of the guests. 158 sat down to dinner which was rated as one of the most successful in recent times.

Five students from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama finished the evening off in tuneful and harmonious style.



Lord Patten, the Immediate Past Master Nigel Rich, and HE Edgardo Espiritu Ambassador to the Philippines.

Master's Reception 13th May 2009

Underneath the arches.....

One of the Master's contemporaries at New College Oxford was Dan Topolski, who went on to become famous as the coach of the Oxford University crew. Dan's father was Feliks Topolski, whom the older generation will remember as one of the artists commissioned for the Festival of Britain in 1951.

It was adjacent to that site underneath the arches of Hungerford railway bridge that Feliks painted a huge mural depicting events of the twentieth century until his death in 1989. This was the venue for the Master's Reception. Tours were given by Dan and his sister to an interested group of Liverymen and their guests.

The editor's camera couldn't cope with the shadows, or it could have been the excellent champagne, but an impression of the venue is shown below. This was entitled the United Nations Wheel.



The exhibition, called the Topolski Century, is on permanent display at 150 Hungerford Arches near Waterloo station.



Shoot and social evening with the London Regiment 26th May 2009

To our surprise and delight we regained the Sirrah trophy, assisted by some good shooting by Assistant John Gossage. Captain Martin Gordon, the OC of HQ Co and his team were most hospitable despite all the pressures on them for their impending deployment to Afghanistan.



Livery Golf Day at Tandridge 1st July 2009

The day was hot and the course was brown as our photo shows, so no surprise that the winner of the Charles Rich trophy for the second year running was Freeman Tony Brown with a Stapleford score of 40 points, and his son Christopher was the best guest with 37 points.

Liveryman David Walter also scored 37 points and won the prize for being Nearest the Pin. Immediate Past Master Nigel Rich with 33 points won the prize for the longest drive.

14 golfers of varying stamina and skill completed the course after which they sat down to the famously excellent Tandridge lunch at well after 2pm.

Prizes, which had been kindly donated by Imperial Tobacco, were presented by the newly installed Master, John Alexander.





Annual Banquet at the Mansion House 22nd October 2009

This well attended annual function never fails to impress our guests who this year included a record number of British American Tobacco and Imperial personnel, many of whom will be admitted to the Freedom in the January Court.

It is now rare for our Livery to get the Lord Mayor to accept our invitation due to their enormously crowded diaries. The last time was Sir David Finch (2003/4) at our memorable 50th anniversary celebration.

But this year we had a very special Lord Mayor Locum Tenens, Sir John Stuttard (2006/07) who had worked with the Mistress in PriceWaterhouseCoopers.



The Master and Mistress receiving Sir John and Lady Stuttard.

In his speech he revealed that his wife Lesley was descended from one of the great tobacco barons of 18th century Glasgow, one Samuel McCall. In those days nearly a third of all tobacco consumed in Europe was imported through Glasgow.

Samuel's son John McCall bought plantations in Virginia and Maryland which were subsequently confiscated by the 1776 revolutionaries. If only our Livery could petition the US president for restitution of her ancestor's lands Sir John and his wife would campaign vigorously to allow smoking to be permitted again in certain public places.

The recently elected Sheriff Peter Cook. Past Master of the Plaisterers and victor in the first contested election for Sheriffs in many years was also there.

Air Vice Marshal David Hobart, Chief Executive of the Bar Council, Gentleman Usher to HM the Queen and formerly at the MOD spoke for the guests. He had been instrumental in introducing the Master to the Queen at the Garden Party and admitted happily to 25 years of smoking a pipe...cut golden bar flake.

Also present with their wives were the Cuban Ambassador, the CO of the London Regiment, the Master of the Merchant Venturers in Bristol, the Master Cutler from Sheffield and the Master Glazier.



Past Master Michael Walter with the Master of the Merchant Venturers from Bristol, Trevor Smallwood, and the Master Cutler from Sheffield, James Newman.



For the first time in many years the London Regiment was unable to mount a Carpet Guard due to Government cuts, but we did have a lone piper to bring the procession into the Egyptian Hall and remind us of the connection. All down to the pressures of preparing for their mission in Afghanistan.

In his speech the Master handed over a cheque to the Lord Mayor's appeal, which this year benefits the Lords Taverners and St John's Ambulance.



He also hoped that come a change in government that we might not be forced to take snuff.



Mansion House photos courtesy Gerald Sharp Photography

The Lord Mayor's Show 14th November

Another soaking for Senior Warden Julian Kevill and Renter Warden Fiona Adler as they escorted the Master in his Modern Companies bus.



Ready, steady.....



Go!



The foot soldiers as seen by the Master





National Pipe Archive – Fundraising Appeal

The National Pipe Archive, based at the University of Liverpool, has launched a fundraising appeal to help with a major new acquisition to its collections. This comprises 51 small plastic crates containing an estimated 11,000 archaeological specimens of pipes and related material that were collected from Amsterdam in advance of development works about 40 years ago. This unique collection was in danger of being broken up and sold until the Archive managed to secure a loan for its purchase, and it was delivered to Liverpool at the end of July.



Some of the crates being unpacked.

The Archive was anxious to obtain this collection for a number of reasons. The early Dutch pipemaking industry may well have been established by English pipemakers, many of whom are documented as working in the Netherlands during the early seventeenth century. English and Dutch pipemakers went on to dominate the international trade in pipes throughout the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and so a good understanding of these two industries is essential for anyone researching the subject.

The new collection is by far the most comprehensive available for study anywhere in the United Kingdom and includes Dutch products dating from the late sixteenth century onwards. It is a representative collection including many thousands of maker's marks as well as rare examples of complete pipes.



17th C examples of short and medium pipes.

It includes a wide range of the ornately decorated pipes for which the Dutch were famous.



A splendid example of late 18th C pipe depicting a violin player.



This material not only reflects the evolution of Dutch styles but also sheds light on the social and trading connections of the Netherlands, since it includes items such as an eighteenth-century Armorial pipe produced in London as well as more exotic Ottoman pipes from the Mediterranean and porcelain pipes from Germany.

The collection also includes a group of about 30 pipe clay figurine fragments, which would have been made as sidelines by the pipemakers and which were exported to this country.



Late 17th C pipe clay figures.

Now that this important collection has been secured it will provide an essential reference point for researchers as well as offering the potential for a whole range of new studies, such as a comparison of the origins and development of the pipemaking industries in London and the Netherlands.

But before it can be used the collection will need to be sorted, bagged, re-boxed and catalogued – a time consuming task that could take several years to complete but one that will also provide useful training placements for students.

In order to acquire this collection the Pipe Archive has had to take out a loan of some £3,700 to cover the purchase and delivery costs

in addition to which it will cost over £300 for archiving materials such as new bags, museum quality storage boxes, etc. An initial sum of £6,000 has been allocated towards curatorial time for the first stage of sorting and cataloguing this material and so the Archive is now aiming to raise a total of £10,000 to take this project forward.

The Archive would be most pleased to hear from anyone wishing to donate to the fundraising appeal, or who has any suggestions as other contacts or avenues that could be explored for financial support.

The National Pipe Archive is a Registered Charity (No 1043065) and anyone wishing to make a donation or obtain further details regarding this project should, in the first instance, contact The National Pipe Archive, c/o Dr J J Woodcock, 42 North Sudley Road, Aigburth, Liverpool L17 0BG (email: iolanthe93@o2.co.uk).

Tobacco Trade Benevolent Association

News from the Annual General Meeting on 9th November is that all is now clear for a merger of our Livery Benevolent Fund with the TTBA. The TTBA Fund and donations will be ring fenced, but the Livery has a specific remit to help the TTBA where necessary, although that has not been exercised for many years.

For those not familiar with its work they apply grants to individuals who have formerly worked in the tobacco trade for a considerable period and have fallen on hard times.

The merger is expected to take place in April 2010. A detailed announcement will be made then.



Diary of Forthcoming Events

Thursday 10th December 2009

Carol Service (6.30pm) at St Botolph's Aldgate taken by the new rector Rev'd Laura Burgess, in conjunction with the Worshipful Co of Bowyers and Sevenoaks choir. Supper afterwards.

Thursday 28th January 2010

January Court(5pm) and Livery Dinner(7.30pm) in Painters' Hall. Black tie. President of MCC John Barclay as principal speaker.

Thursday 25th February 2010

Tacitus lecture 6pm. Speaker Donald Brydon, Chairman of Royal Mail, London Metal Exchange and Smiths Group. Apply to Clerk for ticket. Liverymen only.

Friday 19th March 2010

United Guilds Service 10.30am. Preacher Rt Rev'd Graham James, Bishop of Norwich Apply to Clerk for ticket. Liverymen only. Followed by informal lunch.

Monday 22nd March 2010

Election Court (11am) and luncheon (12.30pm) at Merchant Taylors' Hall. Smoking allowed in courtyard reception. Court only.

Wednesday 5th May 2010

Gold medal competition at the Barbican GSM&D 7pm. Apply to Clerk for ticket.

Wednesday 12th May 2010

Master's Reception(6pm) at Churchill Museum and War Rooms Whitehall. Guided tour plus editor of Times as guest speaker.

Thursday 10th June 2010

Installation Court (5pm) and Dinner (7.30pm) in Painters' Hall. Black tie.

Thursday 24th June 2010

Election of Sheriffs at Guildhall 11.30am. Apply to Clerk for ticket. Liverymen only.

Wednesday 30th June 2010

Livery golf day at Tandridge.

Wednesday 4th August 2010

Pipemakers Trophy cricket at Arundel Castle Cricket Foundation. Play starts am. Lunch included.

Tuesday 28th September 2010

Autumn Court 5pm at Guildhall followed by dinner. (Court only).

Wednesday 29th September 2010

Election of Lord Mayor at Guildhall 11.30am. Apply to Clerk for ticket. Liverymen only.

Contacts

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Available from the Clerk

Cufflinks: £15 Shield: £25 Livery tie: £20