

**The Worshipful Company of Engineers**  
(Incorporated by Royal Charter 2004)  
**The Swordsman Newsletter**  
**Issue 34, May 2015**



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### ET's Notes

I am again most grateful to everyone who contributed to the reports and photographs included in this issue of The Swordsman. My special thanks must again go to John Canning for his constant and willing support in providing so many of the pictures which together with Assistant Beadle Jon Murrell form the majority. My thanks also go to Court Assistant Raymond Joyce and Liveryman Dr Gina Barney for providing summaries of the formal speeches.

Issue 34 therefore contains shorter reports, with all but one of the formal speeches being summarised instead of printed verbatim, which have been replaced by more photographs. **Do you approve?**

As the new Company website goes live, there will be easier access to it. When the website is fully active this would enable individual articles to be published electronically and emailed to members soon after they have occurred either to complement, or to replace the biannual printed Swordsman Newsletter. A further alternative would be to publish the articles electronically and move to a printed Yearbook covering each Master's year starting at Installation. **Which would you prefer?**

Please let me know on [d.scahill@btinternet.com](mailto:d.scahill@btinternet.com) or by post through the Engineers' Office.

Your views will help inform a discussion with the F&GP Committee when it next meets in October 2015.

## ANNUAL LIVERY BANQUET MANSION HOUSE 15<sup>th</sup> October 2014

Our Annual Livery Banquet at the Mansion House was extra special this year as our principal guest was HRH the Princess Royal who was clothed in the Livery during the evening.

*ET is grateful to a number of Liverymen who contributed to this article: Liveryman Nick Hill who wrote the covering article; Assistant Emeritus Tony Best for his word picture of the introductions to the Princess Royal, and to Court Assistant Raymond Joyce and Liveryman Gina Barney who summarised the formal speeches.*



We joined the queue and began ascending the stairs to the salon where we were greeted by the Master Engineer, his Lady and fellow hosts and hostesses. A flute of champagne welcomed us and we were soon able to immerse ourselves in the sumptuous surroundings whilst chatting to old acquaintances.



Nick wrote:

“A wet and blustery but mild October evening greeted the expectant guests to the Mansion House for the annual banquet of the Worshipful Company of Engineers.

I was honoured to be clothed as a Liveryman in July so this was my first opportunity to attend the annual banquet and anticipation had been running high as my wife and I had made preparations for our evening in the City.

The taxi had made good time and we arrived slightly earlier than the seven o'clock invitation but any fears of solitude subsided as we passed through the steamy windows of the Walbrook Hall into the packed cloakroom area where many elegantly dressed guests were awaiting the reception.



A fanfare prompted the request to take our seats to dine in the spectacular Egyptian Hall. The

description of this room can be readily discovered on the internet and the amazing decoration is without



doubt outstanding. However, my personal feelings as a “first timer” were drawn to the perfection of the softer details, the flower arrangements, the

music of the brass ensemble, the table settings, the precision of the service and above all the absolute excellence of the food which coalesced to create such a magical occasion. The privilege accorded to the Worshipful Company of Engineers to use the Mansion House for the annual banquet is certainly one well worth preserving.

The annual banquet of 2014 will be remembered for the clothing of HRH the Princess Royal as a new liveryman. The speeches by the Master Engineer, the Representative Lord Mayor and the Princess Royal rightly acknowledged global events causing such concern at this time but lifted spirits with the determination to provide support through RedR and to encourage more young people of both sexes to follow careers in engineering to make the world a better place for us all."

Four representative groups with their partners were presented to The Princess Royal representing: the Trust, introduced by Trust Chairman John Robinson (*see picture below*); RedR, introduced by RedR Chief Executive Martin McCann (*see picture on next page*); women engineers, introduced by Middle Warden Isobel Pollock (*see picture below*); and finally other liverymen representing all who quietly serve the Company, introduced by Senior Warden Pat O'Reilly and comprising Christine O'Reilly; Raymond and Ruth Cousins; Neil and Pamela Latham; Colin Newsome and Clive and Janet Walker.



Tony Best wrote: "Naemi and I were delighted and honoured to be one of the couples chosen. Prior to the Dinner at precisely 7.33 pm the Princess was introduced by the Master. Her Royal Highness was elegantly dressed in a sparkling dark blue and silver dress and spoke a few words to each couple in turn whilst the official photographer captured the moment for posterity. As we were one of the first to be presented we were able to welcome her to the Livery. The Honorary Chaplain, the Reverend Peter Hartley confirmed that he was indeed an Engineer before becoming ordained. Working as an engineer with Trevor Crocker (*ET: Master Engineer 1991/92*) he carried on working as a Minister in the workplace. Her Royal Highness was very amused with Peter's comment that the Church of England liked that arrangement as they get their clergy for free! "I don't think you should have said that!" HRH replied with a twinkle."



*Lead & introducer: Trust Chairman John Robinson; Group members: Doreen Robinson; Tony and Naemi Best; Peter and Fiona Hartley; David Johnson and Marilyn Wedgwood; Gordon Masterton; Malcolm and Linda Vincent*



*Lead & introducer: Middle Warden Isobel Pollock; Group members: Robin Hulf; Jean Billingsley; Peter and Diana Blair-Fish; Audrey and John Canning; Penny Taylor and John Williams; Jean and Roger Venables*

## *The Swordsman*

After moving into the Egyptian Hall for dinner, the Master introduced the Clothing Ceremony of the Princess Royal saying: "Before we dine this evening it is my very great pleasure to clothe HRH the Princess Royal in the Livery of the Worshipful Company of Engineers. Through her appointment as a Royal Fellow of RAEng, the Princess Royal became eligible to be a Liveryman of the Engineers' Company. She is already heavily committed to the Livery Movement, having been or about to be Master of a number of Companies. We were, therefore, all delighted when she accepted our Court's invitation to join the Company, firstly as a Freeman and then as a Liveryman."



*The Master presenting a model Sterling Engine which reportedly ran for 45 minutes on the heat from a cup of coffee!*

After a meal of twice baked smoked haddock, slow cooked fillet of West Country beef and White chocolate macaroon, the Civic Toast was proposed by the Master. His speech and Sheriff Fiona Adler's speech as Representative Lord Mayor have been summarised by Raymond Joyce.

The Master's theme of 'the charitable role of the Livery' was underscored by the growth of the Engineers' Trust' and its support for RedR for over seven years. The Company's total contribution to RedR in 2014 was £7,000.

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*The RedR group being introduced to the Princess Royal by Chief Executive Martin McCann earlier in the evening.*

RedR had also benefitted from the support of BP as a patron since 2013, aided by the Master and his wife, Margaret, to raise money for RedR by climbing Kilimanjaro in 2014 (*ET: see Issue 33 of the Swordsman for a full report and photos.*)

The Master reflected on the outcome of the Scottish Referendum that coincided with the Company's Out of Town Meeting in his home city of Glasgow and the media's attention on the crises that have, or are emerging, in the Middle East and Africa. In particular the Master expressed concern that there is little media attention being paid to an engineering skills gap facing the UK which, in his opinion will affect the UK's ability to compete on the world stage and create wealth and employment. It was not the major engineering companies like BP and Rolls Royce that can still attract the best graduates but the lower tier suppliers who struggle to recruit good talent necessary for the design and manufacture of the components that are essential to the complex world in which we live.

The Master emphasised, for all the non-engineers at the banquet, that engineering touches every facet of society. With a limited pool of professional engineers the risks of delegation were greater as a result of lack of competence. Ruefully, the Master said that in his career it had not been the complex tasks that had caused the problems but rather it was 'the basics'.

Welcoming the prospect of a return to building nuclear power stations the Master raised a warning that significant cost overruns and delays, as currently suffered by France and Scandinavia in their nuclear power station building projects, will lead to a loss of public support. The problems associated with package equipment and welding were not as a result of a major technical problem which lead the Master to prescribe 'dogged diligence, a focus on excellence across the whole

spectrum and sufficient resource to properly tackle the job’.

The Master’s call to arms for all professional engineers was to promote and influence the engineering profession to ensure that there will be sufficient competent resource to tackle the job. He summarised, by stating that the Company was uniquely placed to encourage interest in and promote the profession, which it has been doing through visits to industry and academia, sponsorship and awards and that more can be done as the Engineers’ Trust’s resources grow.

Fiona Adler, the Non-Aldermanic Sheriff of the City of London apologised for the absence of Fiona Woolf, the Lord Mayor, for whom she was deputising. The Sheriff explained that the Lord Mayor was leading a business delegation to Vietnam and China. Earlier in the mayoral year the Lord Mayor had been to Kazakhstan, South Africa, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. Each of these countries has a need to develop their infrastructure which always puts the UK’s engineering expertise at the top of the agenda on such visits.



The Sheriff thanked the Company for its support for the Mansion House Scholars Scheme and its generous donation to the Lord Mayor’s appeal. In particular she highlighted the Lord Mayor’s and the Corporation’s support for specialist education which included science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM subjects). The Lord Mayor regularly meets graduates of the UK’s professional bodies and institutions but, while she is abroad she also meets Mansion House Scholars past and present who have been supported to study

in the UK who are then able to contribute to their own country’s economy and the global financial system.

The Sheriff drew attention to the fact that HRH the Princess Royal’s attendance at the Company’s banquet was the last event of a busy day. Her Royal Highness had already attended the Commonwealth Study Conference Leaders (sic) and the quincentenary celebration of Trinity House, all in the Square Mile, but the Sheriff ventured to suggest that the Banquet was the ‘icing on the cake’!

In comparing the history of Trinity House in ‘serving mariners’ with the Corporation’s own history there was a common theme of involvement in expeditions to discover new trade routes, protection of the shipping fleet and conservation of the River Thames. As an example, the Sheriff said that the Lord Mayors in the 1400s were responsible for supplying services and commodities to the Navy for the siege of Harfleur and Dick Whittington had loaned Henry V the funds for the Battle of Agincourt. The English victory was not a subject mentioned during the French Prime Minister’s visit to the City a week earlier!

The status of the Company as a modern livery was described by the Sheriff as a, ‘toolbox touting toddler’ compared with the ‘great old grandfather of Trinity House’ but she acknowledged that engineering had an equally impressive heritage going back to the start of civilisation.

In praising the Master and the Company for its role in promoting engineering, the Sheriff drew attention to the number of women on the Company’s Court and its support for WISE. The Sheriff read out a letter written by a young girl to Lego in which she wrote, ‘Make more Lego girl people and let them go on adventures! Lego girls only sit at home, go to the beach, and shop, while Lego boys go on adventures, work, save people, have jobs: even swim with sharks.’ The Sheriff was all for gender equality but not if it involved her going anywhere near sharks! Lego’s response was to create a new range of characters including three pioneering scientists who are Lego ladies. With more scientists in their toy boxes, the Sheriff

dreamed of more girls becoming engineers on tomorrow's major projects.

After presenting a candlestick to the Master representing the Lord Mayor's Ward of Candlewick and a long handled spoon to the Clerk, she left the audience with a final thought. Einstein had said, 'I have no special gift, I am only passionately curious'. Fiona Adler hoped that the young engineers of the future would be similarly passionate that more can be done as the Engineers' Trust's resources grow.



Gina Barney summarised The Princess Royal's response to the Civic Toast proposed by the Master.

Her Royal Highness rose to thank the Master and the Worshipful Company Members on behalf of the guests. On this occasion she gave warm personal thanks for her clothing as a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Engineers.

She said she was particularly delighted to receive a model of a Stirling Engine from the Master – something, she said, she had yearned for ever since being given a Meccano set, as a child! Her Royal Highness's interest in engineering had started when she was very young and she had many early memories based on ship-borne influences aboard the Britannia. Such influences concentrated her mind particularly on outboard motors. She wanted to know how they worked and to make them work, often remonstrating with them, when they didn't. (*ET: See p. 34 The Service of Thanksgiving for the life of the late Liveryman Rear Admiral Phillip Edwards CV LPO who was at one-time Engineer Officer on the Royal Yacht.*)

Recent opportunities had led her to visit many lighthouses in the country and she marvelled at the engineering achievements to build them on rocks. This led her to speak of three themes: women engineers, engineer training and overseas challenges.

Her Royal Highness emphasised the important role of the family in encouraging girls into engineering. She felt that parents did not understand the type of work that engineers did or the pleasure it gave to engineers at a personal level. She stressed the importance of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects and drew attention to WISE (Women into Science and Engineering) as important stimuli for encouraging women into engineering.

She highlighted the recent engineering achievements of the London Olympic Games. For once the engineering achievements were visible above ground. She regretted that the attempt to employ local workers had not been initially successful and this had resulted in the need to train people from scratch on site.



The training of engineers needs more discussion and emphasis, as engineering has an enormous impact on life.

As President of Save the Children Fund she appreciated that the relief teams of three sent out abroad comprised a "dogsbody" to support the doctor and nurse. The dogsbody's job was to act as chief "engineer" by facilitating and fixing everything from motor bikes to complex community facilities, such as, water treatment

plants. She commented that engineers had a big role to play in Africa in training local people.

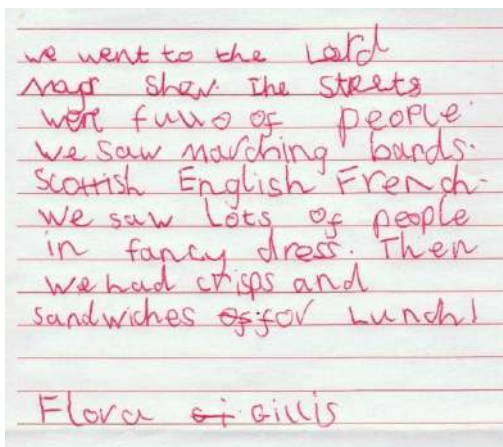
Members of the Worshipful Company are reaching many challenging places on earth to make a difference. But more people are needed to accept these challenges. RedR (Engineers for Disaster Relief), the charity supported by the Company, are now doing these things and building shelter and providing sanitation and water and other help to people in many stricken areas. Thank you, she said, for "engineering" this initiative. The Worshipful Company of Engineers had a wonderful opportunity, being based in the City to make an impact, and being founded in the City, it is able to create a significant impression across the whole country.

In her final remarks, Her Royal Highness stressed the force for good that engineers brought to society, and once again indicated her great pleasure in being admitted to be a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company that evening.

## THE LORD MAYOR'S SHOW 8<sup>th</sup> November 2014

*ET: This year's Lord Mayor's Show was as spectacular a pageant as ever. However, The Swordsman commissioned a special reporter to record the event, Flora Gillis, a granddaughter of Liverymen John Coldwell who reported on the 2010 Lord Mayor's Show. Flora is probably the youngest "Hack" so far and certainly the briefest!*

Her contribution is given below together with editorial notes from Grandad John:



“The bit that Flora did was her hand written note as photographed in the jpg. She was aged 5 at the time.

Flora had a bit of "planning" assistance from Dad, Mark Gillis but it is all her own words.



Mark was also responsible for the lamppost photo. Standing in front of the lamppost is Flora's Mum, Joanna Gillis who is holding her younger sister Emily. I produced the remainder of the article. No other attributions required.

I think it is an excellent idea to promote this as a family occasion.

Regards, John”







## FIREWORKS SUPPER (After the Lord Mayor's Show) The Wharf.

In the evening following The Lord Mayor's Show the Company had again booked supper on the first floor of the Wharf Restaurant at Gabriel's Wharf with an excellent view of the evening fireworks on the Thames. Despite several management changes in the restaurant since the original booking, Barry Gasper had negotiated for us to have a complete choice of their menu for our fixed price booking. Whereas the Lord Mayor's procession had benefitted from a rain free period in the morning, our supper encountered a very heavy shower - but only after we were safely seated at our inside table on the first floor. Indeed we were very grateful to be eating inside and not on the outside balcony where several diners suffered the effect of many gallons of water cascading on to their table from the overhead canopy.

We all enjoyed an excellent meal (the Tiger prawns were very popular) accompanied by a seemingly unlimited supply of wine. The walk back was in the dry after the large crowds had dispersed.

*DEN Davies*



**ANNUAL CAROL SERVICE  
AND DINNER  
St Peter ad Vincula and  
Clothworkers' Hall  
17<sup>th</sup> December 2014**

*ET We are lucky this year to have two reports on our Annual Carol Service. The first is a personal perspective from Rita Hanford, who is a founder member of the Almoner's Group. The second is a more descriptive account from Liveryman Windsor Davies.*



Rita writes: "Coming out from the Tower Hill tube station and looking across the road at the huge silhouette of the old Tower of London I felt excited at the prospect of the service particularly because for the first time two of my grandchildren were accompanying me as guests of Ted and Sally Willmott."



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As we all filed into the empty Tower the feeling of expectation grew, walking past the Traitors' Gate (the most exciting part for my nine year old grandson) then the gleaming White Tower and Ann Boleyn's place of execution behind which is the Chapel Royal.

Here for me is the Real Start of Christmas.

The atmosphere of this ancient place, which has been such a major part of our history, fills me with a sense of Peace and Hope for the future.

Everything is new for Juliette and Thomas. Thomas (sitting next to a large tomb) wants to know who is buried there. Apparently it is not a 'who' but a 'what'! The old stone font was hidden there for safe-keeping. Now it is in its rightful place at the back of the chapel, at the West End. Juliette sits quietly watching as the Master and Past Masters don their robes not understanding what they signify.



The singing is beautiful. I especially liked the (new to me) carol "Oh men from the field" (*ET: introduced in 2012 by our Hon. Chaplain*) sung by Malcolm Arthur, who is apparently the longest serving member of the St. Peter ad Vincula choir: 25 years I think?

This is the second year since John, my husband's, death that I have been invited to join the Company for this very special service and I am very grateful. As I said before, this Service is the proper beginning for Christmas, worshipping together in the celebration of Christ's birth in a place with many memories and with such a special atmosphere. Thank you for inviting me."

And Windsor takes us "In the Steps of Samuel Pepys" as he explains: "Our traditional Carol Service, held on 17th December 2014 in the historic Chapel Royal of St Peter ad Vincula H.M. Tower of London (by kind permission of the Resident Governor) was conducted by the

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Chaplain, The Revd. Canon Roger Hall MBE and the Hon Chaplain of the Engineer's Company the Revd. Peter Hartley. The magnificent Chapel Royal Choir with the Master of Music Colm Carey and the organist Christian Wilson provided the musical support to the Service.

The Members of the Company and their guests were welcomed to the Chapel Royal by Revd. Canon Roger Hall MBE and the bidding Prayer was delivered by the Hon Chaplain of the Engineers Company, The Rev'd Peter Hartley. Members of the Company were in fine voice as they sang the nine traditional Carols and the Wardens and Master read the lessons. The sixth lesson, the poem, "Teacher – let me see", taken from *Lost in Wonder* by Ester de Waal, was read by the Master's Lady Mrs Margaret Baxter, safely returned from Mt Kilimanjaro.





The Carol Service Dinner was held in the magnificent Clothworkers Hall in Mincing Lane. The Hall, the 8th Clothworkers Hall was reconstructed in



1958 all others having succumbed to disasters as wide apart as the Great Fire of London in 1666 and the Blitz of 1941. The wonderful feast dinner of guinea fowl and lemon tart completed the evening in style.



The Master wished all the Company and Guests well and seasonal greetings in his address, the Clerk Eur Ing Tony Willenbruch responded with a humorous reply and proposed the toast – The Worshipful Company of Engineers – may it flourish root and branch forever.



In the footsteps of Samuel Pepys? – he was Master Clothworker in 1677.

# COURT AND PARTNERS' DINNER

## Tallow Chandlers' Hall 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015

The annual Court and Partner's Dinner is not usually featured in The Swordsman but to provide an insight for those liverymen who might seek election to Court, the pictures below confirm that it is NOT "all work and no play!"



*A rare sight of the Court Meeting in progress held in the Court Room of Tallow Chandlers' Hall which the Master also attends as an Assistant at Court of the Tallow Chandlers' Company*



## **UNITED GUILDS' SERVICE AND LUNCH**

**St Paul's Cathedral  
and Painter Stainers' Hall  
20<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

Each year a number of our Livery attend the United Guilds' Service held in St Paul's Cathedral following which we join other Livery Companies for lunch in one of the nearby Livery Halls. The relaxed atmosphere of the lunch contrasts with the splendid formality of the civic worship in the magnificent cathedral. This year's event has been captured by Liveryman Professor Raymond P. Clark, OBE, who has been a regular attender as an Engineer but also as Past Master The Worshipful Company of Educators.



“The United Guilds Service in St Paul's Cathedral is always a magnificent event. In 1943 it was decided that such a service would help lift the spirits of the City following the blitz of the Second World War. This annual event remains one of the few occasions at which the Livery Companies and the Guilds of the City gather together as a whole. And so it was on March 20<sup>th</sup> when the Engineers Company sat proudly in their company row amidst the congregation of 2,200 at the 73<sup>rd</sup> service.



This year the address was given by the Right Reverend Nicholas Holtam, Bishop of Salisbury. In speaking about justice Bishop Holtram described how Quakers set the ratio between their highest and lowest paid workers at 4:1. Other organisations would work on 25:1 but the FTSE 100 companies now have an average of 232:1. Within such an environment he said that Livery Companies and Guilds were not just philanthropic but promoted fair dealings and justice. He spoke of people who would work hard in the City to accumulate enough money so that by the age of 40 they could retire and do something “good”. In this regard I am moved by the words in the bidding, at the start of the service, that when praying for the needs of our neighbours we should also be mindful of “those with outward success but inner emptiness”.



The luncheon following the service was this year at Painters Hall where we and seven other companies were the guests of The Worshipful Company of Painter Stainers and its Master Colin Goodman, who made us very welcome. The food and wine were splendid and the “shout” from the Engineers table as our name was announced was amongst the most robust of all the companies present.



# ELECTION COURT, SERVICE AND DINNER

## St Vedast alias Foster and Wax Chandlers' Hall 10<sup>th</sup> March 2015

When it comes to Britain we are good at many things, but engineering and ceremonies we excel at. Many of the heroes of engineering – Brunel, Stephenson, Watt etc are British and we led the industrial revolution. Even today, Formula 1 teams are based in Britain continuing the trend.

With regards to ceremonies, our history shows these to be items of splendour and continue to entice vast interest from around the world.

My evening of 10 March brought these together, a ceremony with the Worshipful Company of Engineers.

The evening started with my partner, Linda, joining other partners and members for a visit to the Goldsmiths Hall which she thoroughly enjoyed.

I went onto the Wax Chandlers where I was welcomed by many members and met my fellow new member, Terry Morgan, the Chairman of Crossrail.



We went to the council chamber after the formal meeting for the clothing ceremony for our formal enrolment. This was followed by the procession to St Vedast-alias-Foster viewed by many city passing workers with awe.



The dinner continued with much tradition ending with the toasts and the Loving Cup and protection of backs.

An excellent evening and one that I will remember for a long time and a big thanks from Tony and me for the welcome.



Nick Mead

### The Master's Speech

“Wardens, Past Masters, Liverymen. This will be my last after dinner speech as the Master Engineer.

In every speech I have made during the year I have referred to my theme for the year – ‘the charitable role of the Livery’ – and my last speech will be no different, in fact our charitable role will be the last topic, in my last speech.

So before then, we are all most sorry to know that the Clerk Tony Willenbruch isn't at all well with a stomach virus. He is greatly missed today and if the Court is minded I will send him our very best wishes and some fruit and flowers or the like to speed him in his recovery.

In Tony's absence a huge thanks to our Assistant Clerk and Beadle, Steve for picking up so much today. He has done a sterling job, along with the Master's Steward taking the minutes and steering the proceedings and the Scrutineers for announcing the Junior Warden's ballot result. As we proceeded through the various elections I started to enjoy myself and can see a new opportunity as a budding Clerk when I eventually leave BP this year.

Eight weeks ago today we held the January Court and Partners Dinner and I had expected a quiet run from there through to Pat's Installation. Quite the contrary, we seem to have been breaking new ground on a wide range of fronts and then have had to use it live without testing. Challenging – but a very quick way to get new procedures in place for use by many generations of Engineers to come.

We now have an election process for Junior Warden elections and a proxy process to ensure we never again need to worry about an Election Court being inquorate.



On that note I would like to congratulate all those who were elected, endorsed or nominated at the Court meeting this afternoon. Particularly the Master designate AVM Pat O'Reilly. Pat, I hope you and Christine have a most rewarding and happy year.



Also congratulations to our newest Liverymen, Nicholas and Terry. I have so enjoyed chatting with you this evening and in a few moments you will have a few moments to introduce yourselves.

I know that the Livery was most sorry to hear of Steve's decision to retire – but after 28 years of us I think he thoroughly deserves it. What we are finding is just how much Steve actually does – in the background with no fuss, but achieving a lot. The analysis of our office processes and procedures is helping to identify the multiplicity of tasks he covers. The Honorary Treasurer on Finance and David Johnson on the IT and office systems will really help us to specify the different tasks and then recruit the right skills.

We will say a proper farewell to Steve at the Installation Dinner next month when I will have become a very Past Master. However while I am still in the master's chair and gown I do want to say a huge thanks to Steve for the massive amount of work, support, help he has given to all of our Livery and the wider City Livery movement. More importantly from me a very personal thank you for all that you do for me, particularly in my Master's year. Tonight is a case in point – Margaret and I so enjoyed the 'stirrup cup' at Tallow Chandlers after the dinner I thought let's have one again tonight. With all that's been happening including a lot of pressure on Steve to write up our office procedures and much more, I said forget the 'stirrup cup'. But no, Steve has gone ahead and organised it with Stanley, the Wax Chandler Beadle helping out.

Steve thank you so much for all that you have done to help Margaret and me."



In referring to the “last topic in his last speech” – the charitable role of the Livery - the Master introduced a signet ring which he had commissioned during his year, which Liverymen can have copied for a donation to the Trust Fund. details are shown in the article on Page 39.

### **Partners’ Visit to Goldsmiths Hall**

*ET will be eternally grateful to Ruth Cousins who, at the last minute, stepped into the breach to record the visit!*



This was to be my second visit to Goldsmiths’ Hall that day. I had already taken some of my silver work into the office ready for assaying. I have had a hallmark for many years which does make my work personal but only proves the quality of the silver not the workmanship and style!

Our Master’s Lady, Margaret had used her personal connections to arrange a visit to the partners to be shown the secrets of the Goldsmiths Hall. As the immediate neighbour to the Wax Chandlers’ this was a convenient and very interesting visit. The high quality bees’ wax which is the staple of the Wax Chandlers’ trade is the necessary substance for the work of lost wax casting. It is no accident that the hall is next to the trade entrance of the Goldsmiths’ in Gutter Lane. This is where work is brought to be assayed prior to receiving the hall mark. The Clerk to the company Rear Admiral Dick Melly arranged for us to enjoy refreshments when we arrived and then treated our group of 14

partners to a detailed talk about the work of the company. The current Hall is the 5<sup>th</sup> on the site (the first 2 were of timber). Regrettably the inner courtyard garden has now been built into the hall. The current garden is a public space opposite and not suitable for private receptions on summer days. He claimed that the Company was the biggest, busiest and best of all the city companies. Like many of the others, education forms a part of their charitable work but much of the education is directly trade related and apprenticeships have always been part of their work. Although there are over 4,000 members the liverymen number around 250 and manage their affairs in the traditional way. Much of the wealth comes from legacies of land from former times when the company took care of widows and families as land was likely to be seized by the king! However that land has now mostly been sold.

We were shown over the Livery Hall visiting not only the lovely hall which formed the celebration of the Master’s summer banquet but also the exhibition Room, the two ante rooms, the drawing room, the court room and the amazing staircase hall. No expense was spared when the 3<sup>rd</sup> stone hall was rebuilt in 1835 and was opened with a splendid dinner with guests including Sir Robert Peel and the Duke of Wellington. Damage in WW1 meant that the room now set up for Exhibitions had to be rebuilt. However this is where many treasures are displayed. These include the Bowes drinking cup used by Elizabeth 1<sup>st</sup> at her coronation dinner in 1558. It appears in a picture by Cuneo of the coronation dinner of Elizabeth 2<sup>nd</sup> and is the oldest piece in the company’s collection. Suffice to say that there were treasures at every turn and one wondered how to process all the information and remember all the treasures.

Then we went into the secret lift and up to the workshop. Above the grand reception area is a modern factory. It is hard to believe that in the roof space above Gresham Street there is a furnace smelting precious metal to make ingots. The laboratory is able to discover the metal contents of any metal mixture which comes to the Hall. There is also a fascinating department for analysing antique pieces and detecting forgeries. We were shown the touchstone which helps in the analysis of the gold quality and discovered that as



## *The Swordsman*

this happens on a bench - it is a benchmark! We returned down a secret staircase and out into the evening to join the Court members on their way to St Vedast Church.



### *Ladies in Waiting?*

After the service we peeled off into the local restaurant Rucoletta to enjoy an excellent Italian supper before re-joining the diners at the Wax Chandlers' Hall for a Stirrup Cup and await the carriages!

### *Ruth Cousins*



## **COMMON HALL and INSTALLATION COURT DINNER, STATIONERS' HALL 28<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

*Clive Hickman was one of five new liverymen who were clothed in the Court Meeting which preceded the AGM. He writes of his experience on the day:*

“It was not without a level of trepidation that I approached the clothing ceremony: what to expect and how I would react. The briefing note

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was useful and lots of people gave me advice but, approaching the day, I felt none the wiser (although maybe I was better informed).

Judith and Katie, my wife and daughter, accompanied me and tried to calm my nerves. However, Katie's quips about reading out loud and not getting tongue tied really didn't help.

As we waited to go into the ceremony there was a rumour that the Clerk would read the declaration and the new Liverymen would only need to respond "I do Master" but I wasn't going to be led into that false sense of security.

The Beadle approached us and said it was time to go into the Courtroom. We followed in line behind the Beadle and my expectation was that the Master, Clerk and Wardens would be at the front and that the Assistant Wardens and Past Masters would be seated in the Courtroom. But no, they were sitting behind the Master significantly increasing my apprehension.

The Clothing Ceremony began and there was a sense of relief when it was confirmed that the Clerk would indeed read the declaration; a concession made only at the Annual Installation as an expedient because the new Master, Junior Warden and new Court Assistant would all need to make their individual declarations.

The ceremony itself is something of a blur. It was all over so quickly. I remember signing the declaration, being awarded my livery certificate, badge and a copy of the history of the Company and shaking hands with the Master. Then it was a quick photo shoot before the AGM and Installation of the new Master commenced.

The AGM and Installation was a very formal event, reminiscent of how I imagine the Livery Companies would have performed their rituals centuries ago. This is something I think the Engineers Company must maintain and not bow to progress. I thoroughly enjoyed the sense of occasion and the environment and it was a pleasure to see my fellow Fellows of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, Isobel Pollock and Mark Hunt, clothed as Senior Warden and Assistant at Court respectively.

The whole event was over far too quickly but I did enjoy the champagne that followed the AGM and the dinner afterwards. The formality of the toasts (which must be perpetuated) and the Loving Cup Ceremony, something that I had not experienced before, were really enjoyable.



I would like to congratulate my brother Liverymen who were clothed with me: Daniel Walker, Colin Goodwin, William Wright and Graham Bessant. Incidentally, I first met Graham when we were jointly admitted as freemen of the Company.

I feel privileged to have been clothed by the Master, John Baxter. His relaxed style certainly reduced any tensions the new Liverymen were experiencing.

I hope everyone else had an evening that was as enjoyable as mine. Another fabulous memory to add to the collection.”

*Clive Hickman*

*ET is again grateful to Court Assistant Raymond Joyce who summarised the speeches at Common Hall and the Dinner.*

## **COMMON HALL**

### **The Outgoing Master, John Baxter’s Report on His Year**

The Master recalled that his focus for the year would be “the charitable role of the Livery”. He stressed his view that the principal role in modern times of a Livery Company is charity. As a body of professional engineers he said that the Company can highlight engineering issues but the

professional bodies can do that, thus the Company’s influence through the Engineers Trust is a measure of the Company’s success. He had spoken about charitable role and the Engineers Trust at every opportunity including the Awards Dinner in Goldsmiths’ Hall, when, he reminded the Company, he posed the question, “When could the Engineers Trust emulate the Goldsmiths’ donation of £17m to establish the Clerkenwell Goldsmiths’ Apprentice school?”

On the basis of the Company’s patronage of RedR, the Master’s role as a RedR Honorary Vice President and leading the BP’s patronage of RedR in his ‘day job’ his and Margaret’s ascent of Kilimanjaro was entirely understandable but he warned that future Masters (and their Consorts) may wish to consider carefully whether to take on such an extreme physical challenge in their year!

The Master thanked the Clerk for the extra effort that was involved, more than might be perceived, in clothing The Princess Royal as an Engineer. The Master received HRH at the Mansion House and completed her clothing before the dinner, which he said was a great honour..

The Master acknowledged that events through the year were very well covered in the Swordsman and he thanked the individual Liverymen who took so much time and effort to give Margaret and him such wonderful experiences and to support him both personally and as Master. The Master said Raymond Cousins had been an outstanding editor for 10 years of the Swordsman but David Scahill had now taken over as editor and will now review how it will be published and circulated for the future.

The Master referred to ‘Strategy 25Plus’, drafted by Chris Price, and how it has prompted many important themes and actions. The Master recalled how at the last AGM, as chair of F&GP, he had expressed some concerns about the Company’s long term financial health and the need to undertake a review. The review had turned into a wider strategy review. Building on ‘25Plus’ and with a title of ‘The first Hundred Years of the Engineers’ Company’, the Master said it was a tool for active debate, constructive criticism and action. The Court debated the new strategy at the January 2015 meeting and a digest including

recommendations would be in the next Swordsman. The key steps were an increase in Quarterage above inflation from January 2015, the appointment of Past Master John Banyard as Honorary Treasurer to provide greater continuity of overview of the finances, and a revamp of the Almoner role and organisation. The Master was pleased to welcome Assistant Barry Gasper as the new Almoner and thanked Past Master Richard Rooley, the first Almoner.

The Master said that the planned review of Finance under the new Honorary Treasurer, John Banyard and IT software and systems under Junior Warden elect David Johnson was timely in view of Steve Grundy's decision to retire after 28 years of distinguished service as Assistant Clerk and Beadle. He said that the review will lead to a change in management of the back office functions.

There had been a contested election for Junior Warden which presented a challenge to the Clerk in turning the general regulations on elections into a robust, defensible and pragmatic election process. The Master thanked the Clerk for an admirable job in producing an election procedure that stood the test.

Speaking for his wife, Margaret, and himself he added a more general thanks to the many people who had helped to make the year both successful and enjoyable before offering their very best wishes and support to the incoming Master and to Christine.

### **Acceptance Speech by the New Master Air Vice-Marshal Patrick O'Reilly**

The new Master thanked the Company for welcoming him and picked out Past Masters Ted Willmott, David Bawtree and Bob Hawley, and to Past Master Graham Skinner for special thanks for "dropping the Company shilling" into his glass at a Defence Equipment Symposium they all attended in 2003.

The Master confided that he had struggled to discern a theme to the programme for the coming year. However, after previewing the visits to Brize Norton, the RAF's largest station, which will include briefings on Aeromed operations as they

apply to both combat zones and the movement of Ebola patients: the visit to the Centre for Blast Injury Studies at Imperial College which will reveal the interaction of medical and engineering; the Ladies' Lunch at the Royal College of Surgeons to include a visit to the Hunterian Anatomical Museum and finally the a visit to the Pump Room in Bath with its health giving Spa Water, the Master had identified the theme of medical/military engineering!

After a busy year with the Immediate Past Master Baxter's Strategy 2014, building on Past Masters Price's Strategy 25 Plus, the need to accelerate changes in the structure and practices of the Office and the emerging need to review the Company's electoral and nominations process, the Master saw his role as one of consolidation, development and delivery. The Master expressed his gratitude to John Baxter, not only for the changes he had initiated, but for structures put in place for delivery and his personal commitment to continue to play a part in them. David Johnson and Peter Blair-Fish, together with the Clerk and Past Master John Banyard were also 'mentioned in despatches' for their contributions to delivering the changes.

As his first formal act as Master Engineer, he thanked John Baxter for installing him in accordance with the Company's wishes and for the enormous personal contribution that he and Margaret had made to the life and well-being of the Company. The Master observed that throughout his year as Master his 'day job' had not been without challenge during his busy year.



In presenting John Baxter with a Past Master's Badge the Master expressed the hope it would

mark for both John and Margaret the end of a very successful year.

## Installation Dinner



The first task of the Master was to present IPM John Baxter with his Past Master's Goblet. In recent year's these have been re-inscribed goblets formerly used by a deceased Past Master. John was both delighted and

deeply touched to be presented with the Goblet which had previously been used by Past Master Rear Admiral John Grove. In earlier years, as Captain Grove he had a certain Lieutenant Baxter in his command.

## The Master's After Dinner Speech

The new Master treated those present to a brief history of the Stationers' Hall. A hall had stood on the site since 1606 when Abergavenny House was first rented and then purchased by the Stationer's Company for £3,500 – a very early example of the recently recycled "Right to Buy" policy. However, by 1664 the Company had found it impossible to keep the building in good order and it had become unusable. Fortunately, they had kept up the insurance policy and the Great Fire of London two years later cleared the way for the present hall to be built and opened for "Lord Mayor's Day" in 1673.

The Master mentioned the many anniversaries in 2015: Magna Carta, Agincourt, Waterloo, VE and VJ Days and of more immediate relevance the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the Battle of Britain and of the Blitz. He regretted that the Royal Air Forces' defence of London did not quite extend to Stationers' Hall, and in 1940 the Court Room and Livery Hall were partially destroyed by enemy action, but were reinstated to their current glory by 1957.

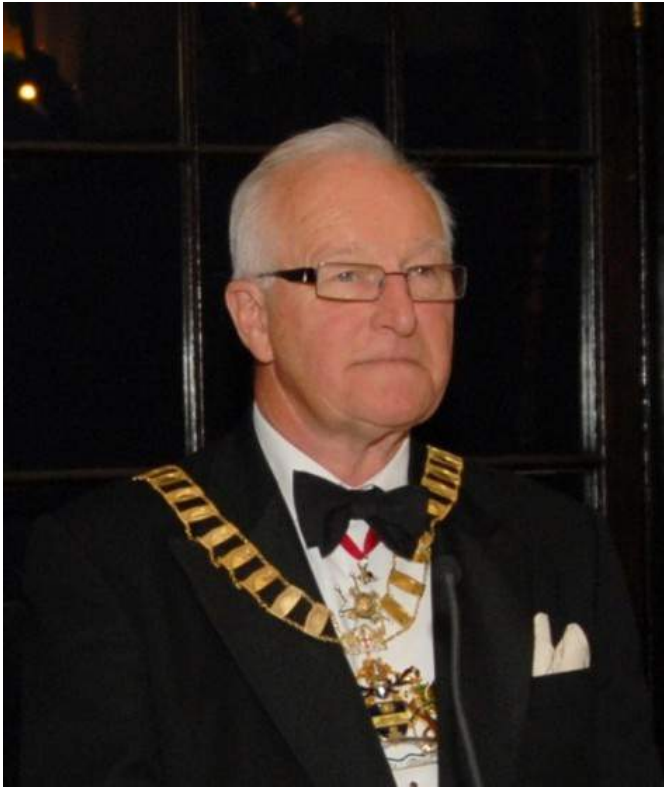
The Master duly thanked Ian Locks, the Master of the Stationers and Newspaper Makers for the use of the Hall, as well as Cooke & Butler for the excellent meal and The Live Brass Quintet for entertaining so well. The next 'thank you' on behalf of the Company was to Past Master John Baxter and Margaret for an outstanding year of fun and challenge. In particular The OOT to Glasgow was memorable, coinciding as it did with the Scottish Independence Referendum.

The Master made references to John and Margaret climbing Mount Kilimanjaro and raising funds which were passed through The Engineers Fund to RedR, and his initiative in launching Strategy 2014, building on Past Master Price's Strategy 25 Plus and in doing so made himself two promises: not to climb a mountain and not to launch further strategic review!

More seriously, the Master acknowledged that much had been achieved but there was a great deal of "work in progress" and he saw his year as one of consolidation, development and delivery.

As he had told the Court in the afternoon, in trying to decide the theme for his year, he had felt a little like the actor/manager in the film "Shakespeare in Love" whose creditors pursued him wanting to know the theme of the play the bard was writing. He always replied "it's a mystery but all will be revealed in the end". So it was – by applying a process of reverse engineering to the visits a medical/military engineering theme had emerged including a briefing on Aeromed operations as they apply to both combat zones and the movement of Ebola patients, the interaction of medical and engineering disciplines in blast injury studies a briefing by the RAF Medical Emergency Response Team a visit to the Hunterian Anatomical Museum, strong stomachs

recommended, and, stretching a point, the Out of Town Meeting in Bath and Bristol including a heath giving glass of Spa Water!



The Master congratulated the Wardens on their installation into their new offices and welcomed Professor David Johnson as the new Junior Warden. He congratulated Commodore Barry Brookes on his re-election as a Court Assistant and to Group Captain Mark Hunt as a new Assistant. In recognising that the gallant officers represented a military bias he said it could be worse than the diners might think – Barry was almost certainly the Company’s most effective “recruiting sergeant”. He also welcomed five new Liveryman and thanked Tony, the Company’s Clerk and John the assistant Beadle for all they do in the service of the Company, together with Chaplain Peter Hartley and Barry Gasper who had recently taken on the role of Honorary Almoner. The Master had saved his final ‘welcomes’ and ‘thanks’ and those of the entire Company for Stephen Grundy, the Company’s Assistant Clerk and Beadle whose retirement was imminent. Stephen had served the Company splendidly for over 28 years, supporting 29 Masters and 4 Clerks - plus another ‘fortnight in the locker’ for the Master.

Not only a mainstay of the Engineer's Company, the Master said he was also highly regarded in the City both in his current role as Chairman of the Beadles' Association and in his capacity as Beadle to the Turners' Company. He will be greatly missed but as an Honorary Freeman the Company will be pleased to see him back from time to time at Engineers' dinners.

The Master presented Steve with a gift - a watch of his choosing, funded by donations from a large number of members, many of whom, including numerous Past Masters, wrote generous testimonials to his unstinting support to them and the Company. The considerable residue in the “Grundy Gift Fund” is available to Steve to spend as he chooses.

The Master stepped aside and at his invitation Steve expressed his thanks to the Company for his gift and thanked all the Past Masters whom he had enjoyed working with – some more than others!

The Master welcomed the Alderman of Cheap, Lord Mountevans, Professor Crouch, City University Dean of Engineering, the Masters and Clerks of the Plumbers, Paviers, Tin Plate Workers, Coachmakers, Mariners, Scientific Instrument Makers, Chartered Architects, Constructors and Firefighters together with the Prime Warden of the Blacksmiths, representatives of the Electrical and Chemical Institutions and, for the first time, the Women's Engineering Society. The Master extended a special welcome to two representatives of RedR UK which, with other members of the RedR family, was already on the ground in Nepal carrying out humanitarian work for which it has launched an Emergency Appeal. The Master had invited RedR UK to position buckets and Gift Aid envelopes at the exit of the Hall and asked all present to give generously in support of relieving the plight of the Nepalese people.

Finally, as his personal guests, the Master was proud to welcome his sons David and William and their wives, Donna and Beverly.

The Principal Guest, introduced by the Master, was Sir Norman Lloyd-Edwards. Sir Norman, the Founder Master of the Worshipful Livery Company of Wales, was Lord-Lieutenant of South

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Glamorgan when the Master commanded Royal Air Force St Athan in the early 90s. He recalled the wonderfully warm welcome given to him and Christine by the many friends they made in the Principality. Sir Norman and his Welsh brethren were happy to conspire in the gentle deceit that anyone whose name was Patrick John Thomas Peter O'Reilly could not possibly be an Englishman - and should therefore be embraced as a fellow Celt!

The Master explained that the formation of the Welsh Livery Guild had been based on an initiative of Sir Norman's when he was Lord Mayor of Cardiff. He also referred to Sir Norman's 18 years as Her Majesty's Representative, his day job as a solicitor and public notary, and a distinguished career in the Royal Navy starting with National Service in 1958 and finishing with high rank in the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve.

The Master said it had been a privilege to represent the Company at the Banquet in Cardiff in 2014 celebrating the award of the Royal Charter to the Worshipful Company of Wales, after a very respectable 20 years of existence. The Master was delighted to return the hospitality and welcomed Sir Norman as the Company's Principal Guest.

## **The Response on behalf of the Guests by Sir Norman Lloyd Evans**



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Sir Norman recounted that the Worshipful Livery Company of Wales was formed 23 years ago by Liverymen of London Companies who lived in Wales. The Welsh Company has some 240 members from all parts of Wales and its charitable fund enables it to sponsor and grant aid amounting to about £44,500 each year to young people in a variety of chosen careers, including apprentices in engineering.

Sir Norman recalled he had first met the Master when the Master was Air Officer Wales and Station Commander of RAF St Athan, then the largest station in the air force, consisting of 5,000 personnel mostly engineers, conducting deep maintenance on Tornado, Jaguar, Harrier, Hawk and VC10 aircraft and their engines. Although now much reduced and renamed MOD St Athan, it has resulted in Wales having a cluster within 20 mile radius of Cardiff Airport of companies involved in maintenance, repair and overhaul of aircraft such as British Airways Jumbo jet unit, GE Aviation and Babcock Defence Systems. The 'cluster' had prompted the local colleges to run more engineering courses for apprentices and in North Wales the Airbus Wing unit in Broughton had over 300 apprentices. For the future Sir Norman pointed to the large Ford plant in Bridgend which will make the new engines, and the Tidal Barrage at Swansea.

Despite the successes in creating employment Wales has created another problem in fulfilling the need for 2,500 engineers. The Engineering Education Scheme Wales is meeting the challenge. Sir Norman said that the School of Engineering in Cardiff University was judged top in the UK for civil and general engineering research and is internationally leading research in geo-environment, hydro environment, medical diagnostics and microwave and energy engineering. The demand for engineers is such that there are plans for a new university to train engineers in the Welsh Marches. Sir Norman felt sure that the Company would want to encourage such plans.

Wales' engineering heritage was not forgotten by Sir Norman who referred to Richard Trevithick who built the first steam locomotive which hauled a train in Merthyr Tydfil along tram tracks, God's Wonderful Railway, courtesy of Isambard Brunel,

to Wales by the Severn Tunnel; Telford's achievements in building the A5 across Wales to Holyhead by constructing the Menai Bridge and later a new canal over the river Dee involving an aqueduct 1,000 feet long, 126 feet high, made of cast iron on stone pillars.

So, after an overview of the Principality's engineering prowess, past present and future it was the turn of the usual toast to the Company, 'may it flourish root and branch'.

### LADIES' BROOCH LUNCHEON THE CLUB AT GUILDHALL 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015

*Past Master's Lady Gill Scahill with a few thoughts on, and record of, the event:*

"As Junior Warden's Lady I attended my first Brooch Lunch in 2009, feeling slightly in awe of all the other ladies, but I soon came to realise how supportive this group is to the Master's Lady and to each other.



They are always there to give helpful advice – which events should I attend (all!) or should I wear a hat to St Paul's?



This year followed a similar pattern to previous years but there were some changes, most notably the inclusion of our first gentleman. We

were also delighted that Founder Master's Lady, Lady Belinda Gadsden, was able to attend, which lead to many reminiscences



and recounting of the history of this event. I am grateful to Past Master's Lady, Cynthia

Hammersley for supplying some of the background from her diaries.



*Lady Belinda chatting with Cynthia Hammersley and Ruth Cousins*



The Master's Lady's Brooch was presented by Past Master Peter Hammersley; Cynthia wore it for the first time at a dinner in January in 1989. In 1993 Joan Clerehugh presented this brooch to her successor at a lunch for Past Masters' and Officers' Ladies

held in the Directors' dining room in a cottage adjacent to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew on 27 April 1994. (Previously the brooch was slipped across the table at the Installation Dinner!) And so a tradition was begun.

Immediate Past Master's Lady, Margaret Baxter, started proceedings by welcoming everyone including Robin Hulf, the Senior Warden's Consort and Marilyn Wedgwood, the Junior Warden's Lady.



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Margaret thanked the clerk and the chaplain for their help during her year. All the ladies joined her to thank the Assistant Clerk and Beadle, Stephen Grundy, who not only supported 29 Masters in his time but of course 29 Masters' Ladies, wishing him good luck for his retirement.

Margaret then presented the Master's Lady's brooch to Master's Lady, Christine O'Reilly with her very best wishes for a wonderful year.

After lunch Christine thanked the two Margarets (Baxter and Skinner). She recollected her memories of Pat's plans to become a member of the Worshipful Company of Engineers, feeling that it would keep him busy in retirement but not realising that they would both become involved, making many friends and having many experiences (including being thrown out of an upmarket shop in Basel with Sylvia Price – but that's another story.) She felt very honoured and said that they intend to do their best to represent the company and was very grateful for the support of all the wives and partners.

Christine had received a message from Joan Clerehugh; she is recuperating from Open Heart surgery and although recovering well was unable to make the journey.

She then gave Margaret her replica brooch; this brooch had been returned to the Company by Past Master Lawrence Turner after the death of his wife Jean and Margaret expressed how pleased and honoured she was to receive it.

Christine concluded by saying "The brooch which Margaret has passed to me today will be an honour to wear and a huge worry not to lose. I look forward to being the first Master's Lady to give it to a Master's Gentleman when we are all together next year and I pass it on to Robin."



*(photos courtesy of Marilyn Wedgwood and Judy Banyard)*

**NEW MEMBERS  
January Court Meeting**

*Welcome to two New Liverymen Clothed at the Court Meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2015*

**Major General Keith Cima CB CEng  
FIRoyalEng FIMechE**

Keith started his engineering career with sponsorship to Oxford University in 1970 from Babcock & Wilcox Ltd in the days when power station and marine boilers was their main product.



Following graduation and completion of his post-graduate training with



B&W Keith joined the Royal Engineers on a 3 year Short Service Commission – leaving the Army 32 years later in the rank of Major General. En route he commanded at troop, squadron and regimental level, and also whilst a Brigadier he commanded the Engineer Support organisation responsible for provision of consultant engineering expertise (then known as the Military Works Forces – now called 170 (Infrastructure) Gp RE) in all the major disciplines to military operations and operating bases worldwide for all 3 Services. The Engr Sp organisation also provided Engineer materiel and stores worldwide. During his 32 year career he also held posts in logistics, procurement, operational staff at brigade, division and MOD levels, change management, academia and senior management at board level. On leaving the Army he ran a palace for Historic Royal Palaces for 4 years. He has now changed horses completely to a maritime career as a full time coxswain of a lifeboat for the RNLI on the Thames at their busiest station. On his rest days he is a Colonel Commandant of the Royal Engineers, Chairman of a shale gas company and an international oil company, and most importantly is building a 7 ¼” gauge railway at his home in Brittany.

**Eur Ing John Murray Roberts BSc(Eng)  
DMS CEng FICE FPWI MIRSE  
AMIRO**



John was born in the shadow of what had been the last Brunel timber fan railway viaduct converted to one of the first concrete structures, so with steam trains passing his window every few minutes it

was inevitable that he should join British Rail and specialise in bridge design and construction. Ironically, this being the era of motorway mania, much of his early work comprised highway bridges over or under the railway including the M11, M3 and M25. This led to posts as project

engineer on the new railway to Stansted Airport, project manager for the introduction of sprinter trains in East Anglia, senior project manager for Channel Tunnel freight services liaising with French and Swiss railways, and finally senior works manager for Crossrail - in the days when it was going to serve Aylesbury. An interesting diversion was Investment Manager for the British Railways Board, negotiating with the Department of Transport for the annual budget, allocating funds to projects and monitoring the business sector sponsors' spend versus progress.

After privatisation, John joined Her Majesty's Railway Inspectorate, helping to set up the inspection, standards and safety case regime for the fledgling Railtrack, moving to the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising and Strategic Rail Authority working on the development of the contract framework, specialising in the demise of Connex and its refranchising to Govia with the associated replacement of slam-door rolling stock. His last post was with the Office of Rail Regulation where his first job was to dismantle the Railtrack he had helped create and replace it by Network Rail, together with the Rail Safety & Standards Board and the Rail Accident Investigation Branch. He went on to oversee the setting up of Wessex Trains and Wales Rail and the transfer of several franchises to devolved authorities, with the addition of some 'open-access' (non-franchised) operators. His final role was the strategic planning of the rail industry for the next thirty years and the scrutiny of Network Rail's tactical planning for the next five years.

John recently left full time employment in order to spend more time restoring vintage vehicles. He is married to Thu and they divide their time between London, Cornwall and Vietnam.

During his career in the rail industry, John worked at various times with David Johnson, Tony Roche and Andrew McNaughton and is indebted to them for sponsoring his membership of the Company.

### March Court Meeting

Welcome to two new Liverymen Clothed at the Court Meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2015

#### Nicholas Mead CEng, BSC (Hons), FCIBSE, FIMechE, MEI



Born in 1960 I grew up with toys like Hornby Railways, Lego and Meccano giving me my passion for building things. Engineering has stayed with me ever since. I started my career in Building

Services in 1978 as an apprentice and after completing my HND and a degree I have had the good fortune to work on many fascinating buildings in the UK and Europe including the Olympic Stadium at Stratford.

Although the Physics of building services hasn't changed, I enjoy the challenges of new demands on buildings and their energy usage and the technologies that meet those demands.

I am president elect of CIBSE becoming president in May and enjoy the involvement in my sector of engineering. My private life revolves around the family, the 5 pets (2 dogs and 3 cats) and my four cars, oh and the odd glass of wine now and then!

#### Terry Morgan CBE FREng FIET FICE CCIM



Terry Morgan's engineering career began with an apprenticeship. It has taken him on a journey from vehicle manufacture (Lucas Girling, Leyland and Rover Group) through defence and

aerospace (British Aerospace/BAE Systems) and into transport and infrastructure. Terry has worked both in the UK and abroad, mainly on short-term assignments. From 2002-2009 he was the CEO of Tube Lines, a PPP company contracted to maintain and upgrade the infrastructure of the Jubilee, Northern and Piccadilly lines.

Wanting to give something back to the engineering profession, Terry moved into his current role as non-executive Chairman of Crossrail in 2009. Terry is a passionate advocate for vocational skills and apprenticeships within engineering, and has been instrumental in helping Crossrail exceed its target of 400 apprentices by 2018 (currently standing at 440). He is also the Chairman of the Manufacturing Technology Centre and the High Speed Rail College, building skills centres of excellence for these programmes.

Terry holds an MSc in Engineering Production and Management, and is a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, the Institute of Electrical Engineers and the Institute of Civil Engineers. He was awarded a CBE in 2009 for services to public transport and the honorary degree of Doctor of Engineering by Birmingham University in 2013.

### April Court Meeting

Welcome to five new Liverymen Clothed at the Court Meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015

#### Dr Daniel Anthony Guy Walker BEng MEng DPhil CEng FIMechE

Dan joined BP in 2006 as a hydrodynamics specialist and since then has held a number of roles across the Exploration and Production business supporting their deepwater portfolio. Of particular note,



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Dan was one of the delivery and installation managers for the Thunder Horse project in the Gulf of Mexico and PSVM project in Angola, two of the deepest water and most challenging offshore projects progressed by the industry in recent years. More recently Dan led a subsea operations risk review for BP and subsequently led a team focusing on assessing and managing emerging risks across drilling and wells. Today Dan is the Subsea and Floating Systems Manager in BP's Upstream Engineering organisation based in London, where he leads Subsea, Floating Systems, Risers, Metocean and Flow Assurance Engineering teams to support BP's global business.

Prior to BP Dan held a post-doctoral position in Mechanical Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and was a lecturer in fluid dynamics and mathematics for 1 year at the University of Oxford. During Dan's research on extreme ocean wave modelling he worked closely with Woodside Petroleum in Perth Australia supporting operations on the North West Shelf, and Shell on the Sakhalin II project in Russia.

Dan graduated from the University of Oxford with an MEng degree in Engineering Science and a DPhil in Fluid Mechanics. Dan is a chartered engineer and a Fellow of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers.

Dan and his wife, Sarah, have recently returned to the UK from Houston Texas, where they now live in Surrey.

### **Eur Ing Colin John Goodwin CEng FCIBSE**



Colin is both a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE) and Chartered Engineer. He is currently Technical Director at Mitie Technical Facilities Management Limited. Mitie is a FTSE 250 company,

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outsourcing business. The Technical FM team deliver mechanical & electrical building services and other specialist engineering services and projects to a wide variety of corporate and public clients including; Large Offices (Banks and Commercial Businesses), Data Centres, Transport Hubs, Hospitals, Production, Media and Manufacturing premises.

Colin started his engineering career as an Officer Cadet with P&O, and spent 9 years in the Merchant Navy prior to working ashore. In his career he has successfully held board and senior manager positions in FM, energy services, and property & construction management. Benefiting from wide experience in supplier, client and contractor businesses, this experience was acquired within businesses undergoing major change or turnaround programmes. He is active in apprentice development and technical training schemes and only recently stood down as a voluntary director of the National Skills Academy.

He lives with wife Belinda and 19 year old twins near Sevenoaks in Kent, and their spare time is often spent enjoying travel and the countryside with their 2 dogs. He is a keen sportsman and continues to compete in local triathlons and endurance cycling events, although it's a while since his performance has troubled the time keepers.

### **Dr Clive Hickman BSc MBA PhD FIMechE CEng**

Prior to joining MTC in January 2011 Clive had over 35 years engineering experience in several roles within the automotive industry, culminating in the position of Head of Engineering for Tata Motors in India. He has a first class honours degree and PhD in Mechanical Engineering and an MBA. He is a Chartered Mechanical Engineer. He was a senior engineer with Rover Group before becoming



Engineering and Group Operations Director at the Motor Industry Research Association working on product development and later joining Ricardo Consulting Engineers, where he held a seat on the board of Ricardo Plc and was managing director of Ricardo UK Ltd.

**Eur Ing Graham Bessant  
CEng FICE AMIStructE CMILT**



Graham is a chartered Civil Engineer who has specialised in structural design, structural assessment and structural appraisal.

He began his career with Messrs Rendel Palmer and Tritton as an indentured engineering learner and worked on dock & harbour and power station design before moving to London Underground where he recently retired after 42 years' service as Profession Head – Bridges & Structures.

Graham developed a considerable enthusiasm for railway civil engineering and was a former Chairman of the Railway Civil Engineers association, and has had 6 railway related papers published in ICE proceedings and 1 in the Journal of Institution of Structural Engineers.

He continues his interest in railway structures by being honorary bridges & structures engineer to 3 heritage railways and continues as a private member of a BSI Eurocode committee. His other interests are walking and an active involvement with his local branch of the National Trust.

**William Wright  
MA (Cantab) C.Eng. FIET**

After taking early retirement from the John Lewis Partnership in 2009, Bill Wright is now an independent consultant on energy and sustainability matters. He is Head of Energy

Solutions at the Electrical Contractors' Association promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency to ECA members. He has lectured on energy matters at London South Bank University at degree and Master's level.



He is past Chairman of the Electrical Safety Council and has been a trustee of the ESC for over 8 years. He is currently a non executive director of Ascertiva Group, the wholly owned subsidiary of the ESC. He is also on the Institution of Electrical Engineers committee which produces the IEE Wiring Regulations.

He has a wide interest in lighting and was Master of the Worshipful Company of Lightmongers, a City of London Livery Company for those involved in the lighting industry and electrical installations for the years 2013/4.

He was previously the Corporate Energy and Environment Manager and Chief Electrical Engineer of the John Lewis Partnership, covering both Waitrose supermarkets and John Lewis Department stores. He was responsible for the procurement and efficient use of all utilities, with a budget of over £40M. He was directly involved in the planning, building and engineering design to ensure new buildings and refurbishments incorporated sustainability in their construction.

His early career was spent with the MoD at various research establishments including the National Gas Turbine Establishment where he was Head of Test Services Section.

He has an MA in engineering from Trinity Hall, Cambridge.

He is a Chartered Engineer and Fellow of the IET.

## Common Hall April 2015

## New Chair for CIBSE Careers Panel Eur Ing Dave Cooper



Congratulations to Dave Cooper who has been appointed to Chair the CIBSE Careers Panel. Carilyn Clements, director of membership said of Dave “His passion and enthusiasm for careers in the sector is evident....” And so say all of us!

## New Company Almoner Eur Ing Barry Gasper

Court Assistant Barry Gasper has taken over the responsibilities of Company Almoner from Past Master Richard Rooley. His article below is the first of an occasional series of reports to the Livery.



*At Common Hall Professor Isobel Pollock and Eur Ing Richard Groome moved up to Senior and Middle Wardens respectively and Professor David Johnson was Installed as Junior Warden.*

I was asked to take on the role of Almoner by the Master in November and supported by Gillian I have gladly accepted.



The role of the Almoner may not be generally understood, therefore, I thought I would introduce the role and its aims and objectives in this brief article, which I hope will be the first of series for the Swordsman. The Almoner, supported by the Chaplain, provides solace and comfort to the partners of deceased Liverymen or where Liverymen in some kind of distress are brought to their attention. However there is no strategy for a longer term engagement with partners of deceased Liverymen or for providing a good connection with the current Livery, to identify those in some kind of distress.

*Assistant Barry Brookes was re-elected to the Court for a second seven year term and Group Captain Mark Hunt was elected to Court for his first seven year term.*



## Congratulations! Honours



It's that man again!

Congratulations to Group Captain Mark Hunt who received an OBE in the New Year's Honours List for Services to Engineering.

The Almoner and Chaplain need to work closely together and be proactive in this important aspect of the Livery. Peter and I both agree that a guiding principle is to do simple things well and in a timely manner. To further this aim we have formed a group of interested Liverymen and Partners of Liverymen, held two meetings and are considering a strategy to address the initial and wider issues. Already steps to address the

company objectives have been taken to improve the link between the company and persons in need and offering support.

An embryo informal national network of enthusiastic representatives, geographically spread throughout the UK has been initiated. Members of the network will assist in identifying need, keep in touch with members and partners, offer friendship, facilitate communication and manage identified assistance. There are already a number of dedicated members who have come forward, but more members are needed mainly in the south-west, south-east and the north. Therefore, the priority is to enhance the network to provide UK coverage and we ask any interested Liverymen, spouses and partners to come forward to assist in this important role. If you would like to take part in the extremely worthwhile activity please either contact the Clerk, a member of the committee, Peter Hartley or myself and we will be pleased to discuss it with you.

We all understand that it could be difficult for someone to attend livery functions on their own, therefore, a local representative could personally invite the person (at their own cost) to a livery dinner and accompany them as a friendly face. Comprehensively addressing the formation and operation of an appropriate network will take some time and identifying those in need is extremely sensitive and is best achieved on a friendship basis; clearly we do not want to intrude or cause upset.

The second issue identified is the need within the Livery for lower cost events to be organised, which would be attractive in providing a forum to reawaken old friendships, possibly over lunch. To this end, the first of a series of events has been organised for widows of Liverymen. It will be at the RAF Club for lunch on the 19 May 2015 and offer an opportunity to socialise. The Master is hosting the lunch and it is hoped that it will become an annual event. It is also hoped to organise a second lunch later in the year at the Wharf Restaurant on the South Bank and consideration is being given to combining this lunch with a visit to one of the many London attractions.

The office is key to the success of meeting the Almoner's objectives and its primary role is to

maintain comprehensive records and provide a conduit for information flow to ensure good communications and early identification of those in need. Already Peter Bullen & Steve have constructed a database to allow management of the Almoner's activities. However, with Steve's retirement a great deal of information will be unavailable on a day to day basis and this needs to be addressed through the database.

Peter Bullen and Linda Vincent have been in touch with other Livery Companies, to establish how they see the Almoner's role and they have had an encouraging response. However, what has emerged is the need for a coherent and comprehensive strategy and we will liaise with other Livery Companies in the pursuit of this goal. Having addressed some of the short term requirements, identified by the newly formed committee, we are now considering the longer term issues and will inform you of progress in a further article for the Swordsman, so if you feel that you would like to be part of a caring network, please get in touch with either Peter or myself.

Peter Hartley – Tel: 01342 811238, e-mail: [petermhartley@btinternet.com](mailto:petermhartley@btinternet.com)

Barry Gasper – Tel: 01473652396, e-mail: [barry\\_gasper@btinternet.com](mailto:barry_gasper@btinternet.com)

## **VALEDICTORY**

### **Mr Stephen Grundy Beadle and Assistant Clerk 1987 - 2015**

At the Election Court Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March



2015 it was announced that after 28 years service to the Company, our Assistant Clerk and Beadle, Steve Grundy, would be retiring.

Steve agreed to put a few anecdotes together of his time in office. But

first, Graham Skinner a previous Clerk and Past

Master, who worked closely with Steve for many years has written about Steve's time with the Company.

“Stephen Grundy first acted as our Beadle at a Court/Royal Engineers Dinner in Armourers' Hall on 8<sup>th</sup> January 1987. Up to this stage the early Company activities from 1983 had used other Company's Beadles or Toastmasters and for a time, Sir William Barlow's former steward at the Post Office also assisted. However, for this particular dinner it was proving difficult to find



someone to officiate and The Clerk at the time, Commander Bryan Gibson who was associated with the Institute of Materials as well, recruited Stephen, who was Head of the Print Room staff there. However, Stephen had never done anything like this before. Bryan remembers saying, "We will dress you in a fancy gown and I will give you a series of cards. Whenever I give a sign you will gavel and read the words on the next card." Stephen passed the test splendidly and Sir William Barlow, The Master at the time, was impressed despite Stephen's relatively long hair. Stephen was formally elected Beadle at the Election Court on 25<sup>th</sup> February 1987 and has served continuously since then. In due course Stephen was given the chance to understudy experienced Beadles and Toastmasters and he readily adapted to the role growing in confidence and stature across all the Company's varied functions.

The Beadle is on the front line of all ceremonial activities, he is the go-between The Clerk and The Master during the major functions. There are crises to impart discretely and our history recalls Stephen relaying to The Master that his principle speaker, the Dean of St Albans Abbey, "... has had a nose bleed and doesn't think he can speak." He is also a major player in the management of time-keeping of events which became the standard operating procedure after an Installation and Awards Dinner when the principal guest went absent to take a phone call before the Loving Cups and caused an unrecoverable knock-on delay in all the following ceremony. It was my experience as The Clerk that Stephen's judgement of the

timetable progression was one to trust wholeheartedly especially because he was probably the only one in possession of all the facts both in the dining room as well as outside it!

As a consequence of his role as Beadle, Stephen has been very much associated with the Company silver - not only safeguarding it for us but also ensuring that it was in first class condition for display and use. Bryan Gibson recalls that he and Stephen hosted an 'At Home' at 1 Carlton House Terrace in 1995 where Stephen did a superb job producing the labels and then went on to explain the history of the Company's artefacts on show. With such an introduction it was no wonder that Stephen has continued to be the font of all knowledge on the silver and all the archival material too and his experience will be sorely missed in support of the Muniment's Committee.

In June 2002 Stephen became a full time member of staff and was appointed

Assistant Clerk and Beadle at the Election Court in March 2007. This came about to



more accurately reflect his role which had expanded rapidly since June 2002 with the Company's office move into Wax Chandlers' Hall in Gresham Street. Here Stephen took up a full time appointment with more and more of the day-to-day running of the Livery administration being delegated from The Clerk into his very capable hands. Overall, Stephen became the trusted anchor man in the Engineers' Office to field all the varied questions that hit the desk and to allow The Clerk's appointment to move to 2-3 days per week. Overall, this was a major beneficial change in the way that the Company has evolved and much of the success of this arrangement has been due to the willingness, co-operation and empathy that Stephen has shown to all our members as well as his unstinting support of the progression of Court Members, Wardens and Masters that he has seen (and trained) throughout his time.

When Commander Bryan Gibson was The Master in 2006-7, he took the opportunity to bring to The

Court the recommendation that Stephen's 20 years of service was recognised. As Stephen was already a Freeman of the City of London it seemed appropriate to propose that he be appointed an Honorary Freeman of The Company to recognise his contribution to our profession through service to the Engineers' Company. The Court agreed and The Master presented Stephen with a certificate of Honorary Freedom at the Election Court Dinner on March 2007 - this was only the second such honour awarded from the Company.



As well as the Engineers, Stephen has been involved with other Companies in his time, especially as Beadle to the Turners, and is well respected in The City for his overall experience and capability. Today he is

Chairman of the Beadles Guild. Off duty, he has hidden talents which include being a former professional football player (Leyton Orient and at Estoril, a Portuguese Club), serious long distance running and cycling; he is also an accomplished artist and Margaret and I have a number of his works, pictures and a wood carving, adorning our house walls. The list is indeed longer but I know that Stephen is a modest man as far as his accomplishments are concerned.

Stephen has served alongside 3 clerks in his time, all of them ex-servicemen of various hues, and concludes his tour of duty with more than an honourable discharge from us all for his patience as we asked the dumb questions and quietly put us right when things were going downhill. The Company owes a great deal to the work that Stephen has put in behind the scenes as well as front-of-house. Without any doubt, Stephen has served The Engineers exceptionally over his continuous 28 years in post and he is to be thanked wholeheartedly for his service to us all.



*Graham Skinner  
Clerk 2003-2009, Master 2013-14*

... and now in his own words...

*From the Beadle*



**History:** It all started for me when Clerk Bryan Gibson “invited” me to officiate at a dinner in 1987. The splendour of Armourers’ Hall and a room full of Generals, Majors and Colonels with red tops, big boots and spurs fazed me a bit. Professor Rowe built a lectern for the event and for Sir Bill Barlow to see over the top of it I had to stand him on a beer crate and hold him in place. The lectern was banished to the vaults forever but for some reason they kept me on.

Clothing of Liverymen was done in bulk back then and we had 32 to clothe on one occasion with just two gowns, my marathon training was pushed to the limits and also my perseverance. I also remember being helped load a taxi from base in SW1 and arriving at Plaisterers’ Hall without the seating plans and place cards that could have been very interesting but they arrived with a work colleague moments after I had actually noticed them missing. On the very same night I met a Liveryman in the lobby of said venue and after a bit of friendly toing & froing established that he thought he had booked himself plus guests. I knew he hadn’t but I needed to find an extra 8 places at dinner. In the end they joined me in the out mess and we had the doors open onto the main hall. I am sure we looked like a quarantine area but it worked and one of the out mess “guests” became a Liveryman so a relative success.



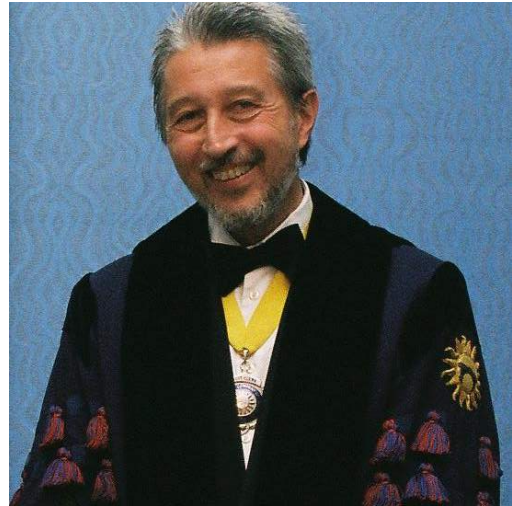


Beadleing is a means of solving problems and what goes on behind the scenes no one realises and it is so unpredictable and fun. I have had a Bishop with a bleeding nose just before he was to make a speech, a Middle Warden that poured

the contents of a loving cup down his white-tie dress suit at Mansion House, a Malaysian King whose driver couldn't find the venue, just little things to see if I was still paying full attention. At one hall they used to record all the speeches and after dinner the incumbent hall manager had to be physically restrained from "attacking" the Master; apparently "most expansive hall" was misinterpreted as "most expensive hall." I persuaded him to play it back and listen again with the hope that I was right. I never got his apology though.

**Now:** I have enjoyed working with you all, never a cross word, well hardly ever and I feel that the time has come for a new venture for me. I am sure that I will easily be replaced so no feelings of guilt from my side. The realisation that some of the new working methods being adopted I wouldn't be able to cope with - so time to move on. I am also a firm believer in if it's not broken don't try and fix it, but understand that as Engineers you must move forward and fix it for the better. I have no problem with that.

**Future:** I have been asked to coach various football teams which so far I have declined but I will use my Pro Soccer Licence and my MSc in sports science before it is too late, so that's my long term goal. Short term I am renovating a place near Montpellier to hopefully sell on, 4-8 months of sunshine and fresh air and a little work thrown in, not a great hardship and my granddaughter wants us to open an art shop together but as she is only 5 maybe a very long term goal.



I wish you all well as the Company grows and adapts to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and I will come back to see you all at a later date and enjoy a dinner or two without worrying about what is about to happen next.

May you all flourish root and branch forever.  
Steve

*Steve the Beadle*

## AWARDS

### The F1 Schools Challenge

The Worshipful Company of Engineers through the Engineers Trust co-sponsor the F1 Schools challenge where 16 year-old pupils use software to design, build, test and race a miniature F1 car, made from balsa wood and powered by a compressed CO2 cylinder. It is not all about making a car however; the team have to produce a 20 page A3 portfolio, deliver a 10 minute presentation, and construct a pit display to showcase their work.

In November 2014, the UK winners, students of North Leamington School, calling themselves 'Whittle Wonders' (after Sir Frank Whittle, a former pupil of the school), attended the World Finals of F1 in Schools in Abu Dhabi.



The Whittle Wonders, left to right: Harry Birch, Tom Govern, Tom Bradford and Ryan McLaren.

After three days of competition they came 13<sup>th</sup> out of 38 national teams, or if you count the total number of schools entering, they were 13<sup>th</sup> out of 20,000 entrants!

### The Arkwright Scholarship Awards



Master John Baxter presented Youssef Bennaceur with his certificate to at the 2014 Awards Ceremony in London on 31 October 2014.

### OBITUARIES

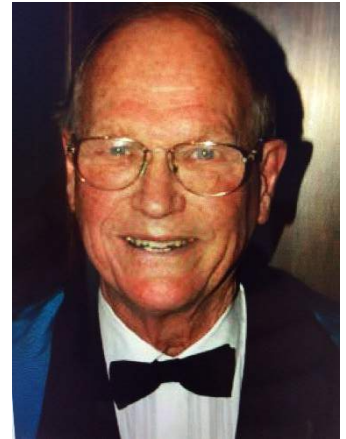
We have received notification of the deaths of the following liverymen since the last issue of The Swordsman. They will be sadly missed.

#### Robert Freer FICE FIStructE FEI MIET 1932-2014

Robert Freer was a civil engineer who worked mainly on energy and maritime projects, and

especially at the interface between research and practice.

When clothed in the Livery (No.647) in January 2009, Robert wrote: “An initial interest in hydraulics at Imperial College, encouraged by the late Prof Peter Wolf, led to my first job on a



Scottish hydro-electric scheme, and subsequently on other power stations including nuclear, gas, diesel, coal, energy from waste and renewables. From this I developed a continuing interest in our national electricity system and the need to maintain a secure and reliable supply. I have also worked on the development of innovative marine and structural projects including the Dubai dry docks and the European satellite launch structure in French Guiana. I have written about 40 papers and technical articles, including a paper on the Three Gorges Project in China for which I was awarded the George Stephenson Gold Medal by the Institution of Civil Engineers, and I organised and led two technical missions to Europe and Japan under the DTI OSTEMS scheme. I believe we need to do more to explain to the public and politicians the essential role of engineers in maintaining and developing our national infrastructure, preferably through some organisation which can speak on behalf of all disciplines in our sadly fragmented profession. I am a Member of Council of the Institution of Civil Engineers, a former Chairman of the London Region and a Member of Council of the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee.”

Robert died from a sudden heart attack on 11 August 2014. He leaves behind a son, Jeremy.

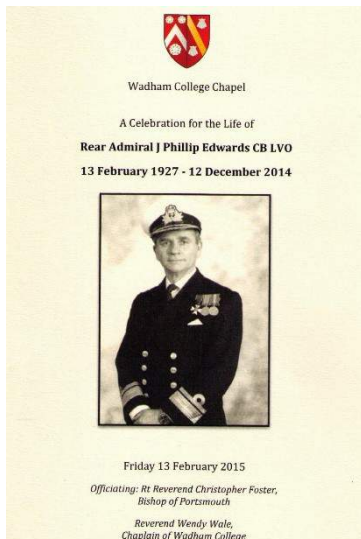
#### Rear Admiral J Phillip Edwards CB LVO 1927-2014

Past Master Peter Hammersly and Cynthia were long standing friends of Phillip and Gwen who are shown below having celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 2011. Peter has written of his friend:



“Rear Admiral Phillip Edwards died in December 2014. He had been a Liveryman and regular supporter of the Company since 1984. The Master represented the Company at his funeral and I did so at his Memorial Service with Past Masters David Bawtree, James Smith and David Scahill.

Born and bred in an all-Welsh environment, Phillip joined the Training Ship HMS Conway as a 15-year old RNR Cadet. In 1944 he won an RN cadetship and joined the Royal Naval College at Eaton Hall, Chester, the temporary home of the College from Dartmouth. He did



his engineering training at the Naval Engineering College in Plymouth and I first met him there. He was more than a year ahead of me but, even then, he struck me as a man who would be both successful and a good friend. Others must have thought similarly because he was awarded the King's Sword in 1947.

In 1948 he joined the aircraft carrier HMS Vengeance moving, in 1949, to the cruiser HMS Mauritius, flagship of the East Indies fleet. It was an exciting time, with post partition problems in the Indian subcontinent, bubbling unrest in the Persian Gulf and the Communist insurgency in Malaya. Whilst his ship was in Singapore for a maintenance period he met an old Conway friend

who was commanding a Royal Malaysian Navy gunboat and looking for a temporary First Lieutenant for an anti-insurgent patrol up the Johore river. His Captain reluctantly agreed to his request for 2 weeks local leave and Phillip went. He returned safely after an action packed patrol, chasing and capturing gun running junks, in time to carry out Mauritius's basin trials.

During the next 2 decades, Phillip served in various ships and training establishments including the Daring Class Destroyers Diamond and Defender. David Bawtree has written:- “He was the Commander in charge of the Marine Engineering Department and I was in my first seagoing appointment looking after the weapons but I remember being welcomed with charm and courtesy and consider him to have been one of the best operational engineers the Navy ever had. I was delighted to renew our friendship when I joined the Company where Phillip was already a long standing Liveryman.”

Phillip went on to serve as the Engineer Officer of the Royal Yacht Britannia which was an exciting, but demanding, job in which he was very successful and for which Her Majesty appointed him a Lieutenant in her Royal Victorian Order. He also served with The Royal Canadian Navy in Nova Scotia, where he was accompanied by his young family, for a happy 2 years.

As a Captain he was an Engineer Assistant Director in the Ministry of Defence and Captained the Operational Sea Training Base at Portland before being promoted to Rear Admiral in 1980 and appointed as the Director General of Fleet Support and Services in the MOD in London. I was then the Chief Engineering Staff Officer to the Fleet Commander in Northwood and the Falklands War came along towards the end of Phillip's and my time in the Navy. During that war, he and I were in almost daily telephone contact because the Fleet needed a huge increase in support and extra equipment including whole ships taken over from the merchant fleet and converted for war. We were fortunate to have had Phillip where he was. The response which he organized had a significant effect on the outcome of the War. That was a great tribute to him, together with his appointment as a Companion of

the Bath, at the end of an outstanding Naval Career.

Phillip went on to further honours in a successful second career as a Fellow and Domestic Bursar of Wadham College, Oxford from 1983 and then, from 1994, he became an Emeritus Fellow and was the Development Director for a further 5 years. He was also, among other appointments, the President of the Oxford Royal Naval Association, the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Association and the Midland Naval Officers' Association but he was, above all, a devoted family man. He and Gwen, who were both Welsh-speaking, maintained their Welsh links and Phillip was a Member of the Health Policy Board for Wales for 5 years. He will be greatly missed."

**Beryl Catherine  
Baroness Platt of Writtle  
CBE FReNG HonFRaE S HonFIMEChE**

Beryl was clothed in the Livery (No. 311) in July 1988 and was made an Assistant at Court in April 1996.) She died on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2015. Assistant Emeritus Denis Filer has written the following account of a friend and colleague.

"Beryl Platt was born in Leigh-on-Sea in April 1923 and remained an 'Essex Girl' all her life. Although her father was born in Stoke on Trent her mother was also an Essex Girl.

Beryl was very much a bookworm as a young girl and on one occasion when she stayed with her grandmother she paid 6d to join the local library for a week and drew out a book every day.

Beryl was very bright and went to Cambridge (Girton) in 1941 with her bicycle, hockey stick and tennis racquet. On arriving in Cambridge she discovered that she was one of five girls amongst 250 men reading 'Mechanical Sciences'



*Beryl with Frank 'Spud' Murphy, DFC, a leading test pilot with Hawker Aircraft, which built the Hurricane she so admired.*

In her second year of a 'crammed' two year wartime course she studied Aeronautics. Beryl also remembered in those early 'war years' the inspiring voice of Winston Churchill on the radio.

In 1943 she achieved a good second in Mechanical Sciences (Engineering) but incredibly in those days women did not get the 'title of degree' until 1948. Cambridge made up for this much later when she was Chairman of the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) by giving her an honorary LL D. On the completion of her course she was interviewed by the Chairman of the Appointments Board (C P Snow) and was advised to join Hawkers – a move that she never regretted.

She was well accepted by men on the shop floor once they realised how much she knew about aircraft, what a hard worker and quick learner she was and indeed learnt much from them. After a short time Beryl had progressed to being a trusted employee and was allowed to sit in the cockpit of a Typhoon and 'run up' the engine.

In 1946 she took a job with British European Airways (BEA). She had met Stewart and they married in 1949. Stewart was a very keen sailor and Beryl fell in with his love of boats, sailing on the Zuider Zee on a pre marriage holiday.



Her first child, Roland, was born in 1951 and was soon joining them on sailing trips on Stewart's boat. Roland was followed by Vicki in 1953.

Beryl and Stewart bought a house in Writtle and moved there in 1953 and of course Beryl lived there for more than 60 years. Writtle became the centre of much of her life and she was a regular attendee at the local church. Beryl was very polite but could be outspoken and the vicar of Writtle church tells the story of starting his sermon one Sunday and a deep voice from the centre of the

congregation said 'we can't hear you'. The vicar raised his voice and Beryl was satisfied.

Beryl was always interested in Education and also in Planning and Highways and was elected a County Councillor in 1965. This enabled her to follow her interest in education with spells as Vice-Chairman and Chairman of the county education committee. At one stage she was a member of the governing body of all ten of the Further Education Colleges in the county.

In 1981 Beryl was campaigning for re-election to the County Council when a letter arrived from Margaret Thatcher proposing her appointment as a life member of the House of Lords and hence the title 'Baroness Platt of Writtle'. Her maiden speech was very much centred on Further Education and was well received in the House of Lords.

Beryl did not use her title very often but told the story of attending a wedding ceremony of a good friend. She thought her friend would like her to be announced as Baroness and when asked by the usher for her name she said –"Baroness Platt of Writtle." The usher looked at her and then said "and what is your real name?"

Beryl was first and foremost an engineer and was well known for carrying a screwdriver in her handbag. For very many years she was the only woman engineer in the House of Lords

In 1981 she was invited to become a member of the newly formed Engineering Council and once again was the only woman member. From 1983-88 she was Chairman of the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) and had to spend many days each week working in Manchester, the headquarters of the EOC. During this period she used her membership of the House of Lords to put forward the views of the commission on legislation that was relevant to the work of the EOC. One case that came to Beryl as Chairman of the EOC was the case of a man whose wife had been given a senior rail card at the age of 62 whereas the husband was not allowed one until he was 65. The EOC supported him and the case was won. Beryl said at the time that the EOC really was for both men and women.

Following the formation of the Engineering Council as a further follow up of the Finniston Report it was agreed that more women should be encouraged to become engineers. Accordingly the WISE campaign (Women into Science and Engineering) was started with strong backing from Beryl and finance from the Engineering Council and the EOC of which of course she was Chairman. Beryl supported WISE for the rest of her life.

In 2002 her husband Stewart became ill with Lymphoma and after much treatment with Chemotherapy finally passed away in April 2003. In true fashion Beryl managed to pick up the threads of her life and in her own words 'became useful again'

In 2007 Beryl came to the end of another spell of duty as a member of the House of Lords Committee for Science and Technology which had occupied a great deal of her time in the House of lords. Age was having its effect on her and caused a slowing down of her activities.

In 2014 Beryl became rather frail and was shattered by the death of her son Roland in December. She entered a nursing home but unfortunately died peacefully on 2 February 2015.

Beryl had an outstandingly successful life and will be remembered as a kind and considerate person who worked unceasingly to encourage women into Science, Technology and Engineering.

At her funeral in Writtle Church on 11 February 2015, attended by The Master, the local church was packed. There was a very large attendance also at the Memorial service in Chelmsford Cathedral on 7 March 2015 when the Company was represented by Senior Warden Patrick O'Reilly with Denis and Pam Filer, DEN and Jenna Davies, Peter and Diana Blair-Fish, David and Gill Scahill and Malcolm and Lucilla Shirley also attending.

She will be very greatly missed.

*Denis Filer*

## **Professor Roger Voles FEng FIET FInstP FIMA**

We have recently been informed of the death of Roger Voles who passed away peacefully during the night of 5/6 May 2015.

Roger was clothed in the Livery (No. 67) in June 1984. An Obituary will be included in the next issue of *The Swordsman*.

### **VISIT TO MAIL RAIL 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2014**

On 3rd December 2014, the Senior and Junior Wardens attended a soft launch for a new tourist attraction in London, which when finished will offer a short trip on the Post Office Railway under Mount Pleasant sorting office.



The Post Office Railway, also known as Mail Rail, is a 2 ft (610mm) narrow gauge driverless underground railway in London that was built by the Post Office to move mail between sorting offices, and to connect with the Travelling Post Offices operating from the rail termini. It operated from 1927 until 2003.



The line ran from Paddington in the west to Whitechapel in the east, a distance of 6.5 miles (10.5 km). It had eight stations, the largest of which was underneath Mount Pleasant, but by 2003 only three stations remained in use because the sorting offices above the other stations had been relocated. An express service could move mail from the East End to Paddington in 14 minutes. Sadly, visitors to the new attraction will only go on a short experience ride, and travel at a very sedate speed.

*Richard Groome*

## **Ideas Please!**

It was decided at a recent Programme Committee meeting to invite the Livery to suggest possible events. Recently a very successful Livery Walk was organised by “Red Leader” Audrey Canning and her Wingman John. A report will be included in the next issue of *The Swordsman*.

The Committee maintains a hopper of ideas which are used by the Master and future Masters to assist in building up their year's activity. They have asked if any Liveryman would like to put forward ideas for such events, which might be to showcase new engineering developments, notable historical projects, etc., indeed anything that members will find interesting. The other benefit of this activity is that it increases the profile of the Company and in some cases gives kudos to the places visited.

The Committee are particularly interested in programme slots that can be organised locally by Liverymen, rather than larger formal events. If you would like to put any ideas forward, please send them initially to Richard Groome ([richard.groome@talk21.com](mailto:richard.groome@talk21.com))

## **Weddings and Anniversaries**



Court Assistant Dave Cooper married his childhood sweetheart, Lyn, on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2014. The service was held at Eastbourne Town Hall and followed by a reception at the Sundial restaurant in Herstmonceux. At the time of planning their wedding at the start of 2014 they were unaware that only a few weeks away they would hear the sad news that Lyn's cancer had returned. Dave said that 2014 was a roller coaster

of emotions which has continued into 2015. "We have been overwhelmed by the circle of friends we have and the immense outpouring of love and assistance we have received. We would like to use this entry in the Swordsman to say a very big thank you to the many friends we have in the Engineers Company for all of the phone calls, flowers, e mails and cards that have been received, we are truly grateful for them all. We hope that we will be able to return to attending livery functions in the not too distant future."



Past Master Andrew Jackson and Christine celebrated their **Golden Wedding Anniversary** on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2014. Andrew said of the photo: "It was taken at our church in Menorca – sorry about the guy in the background! We had a little do there some weeks after our actual anniversary, when went to Rome for the actual day. Didn't see the Pope, but couldn't have seen him even if he was there as the crowds were huge!"



And many congratulations to the Master and his Lady who celebrated their **Ruby Wedding Anniversary** in November 2014.



## MASTER'S SIGNET RING

In his Master's year John Baxter commissioned a Liveryman of the Goldsmiths', Ian Norrington, to design and make a signet ring. The ring is a simple 18 carat gold ring, with the sun and Ironbridge engraving. Liverymen can access the wax mould from IPM John Baxter for a minimum fee of £50 to the Engineers' Trust. The mould can be used for signet rings or cufflinks.



## Engineers' Company Jewellery

IPM John Baxter has written a useful account of the Badges of Office owned by the Company and used by the Master and his Lady.

### Master's Badges



Most Liverymen see the Master's Badge (sometimes called the 'Brooch') at the main Livery events, worn with the chain of office and the gown. It is a complex piece of jeweller's engineering and since it was made

during the early years of the Company it has suffered a certain amount of wear and tear, not least when unclipped from the chain and stored in the back pocket of the Master's trousers! (*ET: NOT me!*) It had become so fragile that the leaves on either side of the helmet were easily displaced and much of the enamelling was cracked. A major refurbishment has now been carried and it is only now we see the vibrant colours of the enamel and the beautiful gold detailing. A gold reinforcing ring has been attached at the back to secure all the various parts. To protect this unique and valuable piece of jewellery a protocol has been agreed that the Badge will only be used with the Chain of

### **The Swordsman**

Office and when the Master is dressed 'formally' in the gown, except for events where it could be easily damaged, such as the Lord Mayor's Show.

In his year of office, Master Lawrence Turner (1995/96) kindly donated a Master's Travelling Badge, to ensure the Master always has a Badge to wear at any event.



### **Master's Lady's Brooch**



During her year the Master's Lady has the use of a Brooch which is a smaller version of the Travelling Badge, but with a number of jewels added. After each Installation Dinner the Master, Past Masters and Wardens Consorts hold the Brooch Lunch where the Master's Lady's Brooch is passed on. (ET: see p.23 for full report.)

### **Past Master's Lady's Brooch**

The Immediate Past Master can procure a smaller version of the Brooch for his Lady to wear at Company events. This year, Past Master Lawrence Turner returned his late wife's Brooch to the Company and so rather than procuring a new Brooch, the IPM has donated the equivalent cost to the Engineers' Trust for Margaret to have the use of Jean's Brooch for her lifetime. At the lunch many ladies, including Lady Gadsden, remembered Jean Turner with great fondness and were delighted that her Brooch would now be

used by Margaret. It will be returned to the Company in the fullness of time. A great example of 'recycling'!

## **WELCOME! Clerk's Secretary and Event Coordinator**



Katy Moroney has joined the Company as the Clerk's Secretary and Event Co-ordinator. She will be based in the office on a part time basis, working Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

She has over 8 years of experience in Business Management, with the majority of her career working for the Investment Banking sector, although she has also covered other industries such as Education, Property and the Oil and Gas sector.

On a more personal note, within the last two years she has become a Wife and a Mum.

She is very much looking forward to working at The Worshipful Company of Engineers and helping to implement changes that will assist the Company in moving forward.

## **Stop Press!**

The collection for RedR started at the end of the Installation Dinner has so far totalled £2242.00 for relief work following the earthquake in Nepal. Thanks to all who contributed!