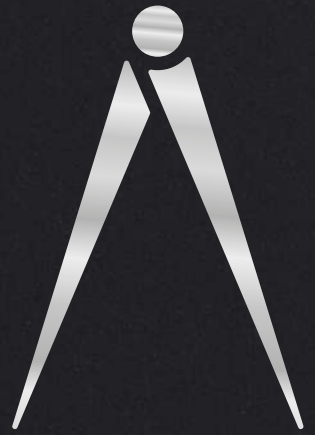
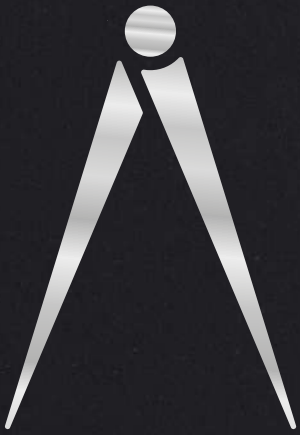


# The Carpenters' Company Chronicle 2023



# Contents

<b>FOREWORD BY THE MASTER</b>	<b>• 2</b>	<b>COMPANY HISTORY</b>	<b>• 35</b>
<b>BUILDING CRAFTS COLLEGE</b>	<b>• 5</b>	The Carpenters' Company & Coronations	
<b>CRAFT</b>	<b>• 8</b>	<b>AFFILIATIONS</b>	<b>• 38</b>
Wood Awards 2022		HMS DARING	
The Creative Dimension Trust		4th Battalion The Ranger Regiment	
Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings		Range Day	
2023 Craft Lecture		Chosen Man	
Company Award for Excellence		IV(R) Squadron RAF	
Cultural Currents in the Age of Gibbons		Champion Pilot	
Carpenters' Craft Competition			
The Fenland Black Oak table		<b>PASTIMES</b>	<b>• 44</b>
Royal School of Military Engineering		Shooting	
Refurbishment of Carpenters' Hall, Philadelphia		Inter-Livery Ski-ing	
<b>CHARITIES AND GRANTS</b>	<b>• 25</b>	Golf	
The Carpenters' Company Charitable Trust		Sailing	
Norton Folgate Trust		Tennis	
Rustington Convalescent Home			
Docklands Settlements		<b>COMPANY BUSINESS</b>	<b>• 52</b>
Educational Bursaries		Throgmorton Avenue and Great Winchester Street	
Mary Hare Vocational Centre		Anglo-Netherlands Society	
The King's Coronation Anointing Screen		Company Visit to Madrid	
Carpenters Primary School		Admissions	
The Whiteley Home Trust		Profiles	
		Obituaries	
		Company Appointments	
		Gifts	
		Calendar	

# Foreword by the Master

A year ago it seemed life in the City had more or less returned to normal, yet the last 12 months has been a year of continuing challenges. Nationally, we have been through political turmoil, with three Prime Ministers in as many months against a background of continuing economic pressure, rising prices, public workers' strikes and unresolved tensions in the health service. The impact of Covid on working practices lingers on.

Perhaps the biggest change has been the death of our longest serving and much revered monarch, Queen Elizabeth the Second, and the accession of King Charles the Third. Though long anticipated, the end of the Elizabethan era was sudden and unexpected and took some getting used to, not least when proposing the Loyal Toast! Her Majesty's funeral was a heartfelt expression of high regard for her long and dutiful service. The Coronation was another classic national performance in which the Company was pleased to contribute to the oak framework for the Anointing Screen, overseen by Liveryman Nick Gutfreund (see page 32). Carpenters' Hall has been getting back in its stride. We have hosted meetings, lunches and dinners, though with attendance numbers not quite back to pre-Covid levels. The Beadle and his staff have done very well to restore the high

standards we are used to. Our three annual Company dinners went well, with much speculation about the suit one guest would appear in – true to form, Sir Grayson Perry arrived as Claire in gown and accessories designed for the occasion. My offering for the Livery and Freemen's Reception was a musical evening in the company of Graffiti Classics, a string quartet whose ability to play their instruments while performing acrobatics was amusing and breathless. Ann and I represented the Company at Livery visits to the Merchant Venturers' of York and the Cutlers' of Hallamshire, as well as attending the annual London Livery Weekend in Glasgow. More excitingly, we were able to arrange for the Company visit to take place in Madrid where fine weather, cultural sights and savouring tapas proved a recipe for an enjoyable weekend. The Company's charitable

work continued unabated, ranging from the Carpenters' Primary School Christmas Party – complete with birds of prey swooping low over amazed youngsters in the Hall – to the bursaries we give to a sizeable number of deserving students, including two Christ's Hospital pupils Ann and I were privileged to meet at the school's speech day. This is not to forget the excellent and widely appreciated work carried out by the Docklands Settlements in Stratford which we wholeheartedly continue to support. The craft of carpentry is our raison d'être, and involvement with the Livery construction and skills groups carried on, culminating in two highly successful events in the Hall – the Wood Awards ceremony and the Annual Craft lecture entitled 'Building a Sustainable World' given by Tony Hackney, a powerful advocate for the use of wood in the modern world.



The Master Brigadier John Meardon



The Master (centre right) at the November Livery Dinner, where he welcomed the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs.

Pictured left to right are Alderman Alastair King, Lord Mayor Nicholas Lyons and Alderman Andrew Marsden

Relationships with our affiliations are in good order. HMS Daring is still undergoing a major refit and we will warm up contacts when she recommissions. 4 RANGER are extremely busy with deployments, but found time to host us for an enjoyable day on the ranges. In late June, in glorious weather, Ann and I visited IV Squadron at RAF Valley where we were shown how RAF and Navy fighter pilots are trained in aerial combat before joining front line squadrons. I managed to get my hands on the controls of a helicopter again – but only sitting in the hangar. The Building Crafts College has had an 'interesting' year, with the interregnum of the appointment of the College's Principal and struggle to return to pre-Covid student numbers.

It has been rewarding to see the continued dedication of the staff and the improvement of underlying management systems the College has begun to implement. This is reflected in the recent Ofsted inspection report's grading of the College as Good, greatly to the credit of the hard working staff. We warmly welcome the arrival of our new Principal Selena Bolingbroke. Finally, I must reflect on the planning to redevelop the Hall and part of Throgmorton Avenue. After much preliminary work and consultation, a development plan has emerged that will consolidate our estate and make the Hall fit for another century. The aim is to preserve the best of the post-war structure while giving us facilities appropriate to modern expectations. I have

been impressed by the care taken by the redevelopment sub-committee to balance aesthetics with practicality and budget. As plans unfold in the coming year, I am confident we will be impressed with the outcome. It has been a great privilege to serve the Company as Master, and Ann and I have very much enjoyed our year. It has been quite an experience to see so much of the Livery movement with all its quirks and traditions. I can report that we Carpenters are well regarded among our peers, and can be proud of all we stand for – both ancient and modern.

# Building Crafts College

JOE MERCER, ACTING PRINCIPAL REPORTS:

In September 2023 we look forward to offering new programmes, including diplomas in bricklaying and site carpentry. We will also offer a new apprenticeship for Museums and Galleries technicians, utilising the increased space created by last summer's clear-out for teaching.

Our evening and weekend classes continue to attract strong interest. We aim to develop more courses accessible to the public, such as fire door fitting. We have also run courses to help local people enter the world of work. Our partnerships with Wates Construction and Newham Borough Council allow us to give class members a taste of a career in construction.

The College is in strong demand as a venue for construction-related groups to meet and hold seminars. We recently hosted the Pantera Construction Group's apprenticeship familiarisation day. We have improved our contacts with local schools and groups and developed information packs to help reach out to careers teachers and employers who are considering taking on apprentices. We have been



Students and staff at the College Graduation and Prize-giving ceremony at Carpenters' Hall in November

pleased to host foreign guests, including students from a carpentry college in Lyons and twenty-one site carpentry apprentices from a college in Denmark. Dr Neil Watson, our apprentice liaison officer, has the task of developing interest from as many new employers as possible, and has begun a programme of workplace inspections and reviews of all current apprentice employers. An exciting current project is working with Transport for London to provide public benches for the long-awaited Gibbins Road entrance to Stratford Station. Scheduled to open in November 2023, this will afford more convenient access to both the Kennard Road and Gibbins Road sites and with new signage place us firmly in the public eye. The completion of the Elizabeth Line and the many other connections now offered at Stratford reaffirm the College's excellent geographic location and give us a real advantage in attracting talented students from all over London whilst also serving our local populace.



Left-right **Guy Deasy**, **Past Master Rachel Bower**, **tutor Robin Clifton**, **Liverymen Paul Bennett** and **Richard Galbraith** pictured during a Company Visit to the College in October

A further highlight is the end of year show in June which features extraordinary work produced by our students. The College has a positive staff body, with very little sickness absence, and high morale. Students feel safe and engaged with their work, and after making renewed efforts in social media and outreach we are now projecting a very positive image – vital in attracting interest from potential learners and employers. I am happy to report that there have been no major safeguarding concerns and that the safety regime complies with industry standards, resulting in no serious accidents. The College has recently undergone a thorough inspection from Ofsted which was a searching but positive experience and has achieved an overall 'Good' rating. We now look forward to entering a new era with the arrival in late June of the new Principal, Selena Bolingbroke, who brings a wealth of knowledge of educational institutions.



At the City & Guilds Livery Company Prize-giving at Mansion House in March, Fine Furniture Design student **Jonny Axford** (centre) was presented with the Carpenters' Company Prize, pictured with **Acting Principal Joe Mercer** (left) and **the Master John Meardon** (right)



#### New College Principal - Selena Bolingbroke

Selena has worked in higher and further education and in central and local government leadership roles that have combined her interests in partnership, education and enterprise. For the last 10 years she has had a portfolio-career, combining a variety of

consultancy briefs with senior executive positions in the university sector. With an academic background in education policy and organisational development, her focus has been to work with organisations to support their growth and innovation whilst creating a sustainable working culture.

Her previous appointments include Lead for External Engagement & Strategic Development, Goldsmiths, University of London; Pro Vice-Chancellor Strategic Planning & External Development, University of East London; Director of the Local Strategic Partnership for Thurrock; and Education and Skills Lead for the Thames Gateway Strategic Executive in the former Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. Selena has held a number of non-executive positions, including Chair of Lewisham and Barking & Dagenham FE Colleges, as well as governor of a number of schools in East London, including BCC neighbours School21 in Stratford and Mulberry UTC in Bow. After being 'raised by wolves' in the West Midlands, Selena relocated to East London in the early 1990s and witnessed first hand the transformation of Stratford in the last 30 years. More recently she has settled in Gravesend in North Kent with her two children. In her spare time she fulfils her passion for craft by creating stained glass art inspired by the estuary marshes and cycling in the post-industrial wilderness of the Thames peninsula.



**Jemima** (right) was presented with the Sir Banister Fletcher Trophy for Student of the Year by Guest Speaker **Emma Simpson** MBE, Founding Director of Simpson Brickwork Conservation

#### Student of the Year – Jemima Finch Darling

Jemima Finch Darling, aged 23, was awarded two prizes at the Building Crafts College Graduation and Prize-giving ceremony in November for the academic year 2021/22. She won Best City & Guilds Heritage Stonemason and Student of the Year. Without knowing it, Jemima has always had a natural affinity with architecture and buildings, spending a particularly joyous time in Rome dragging her family around the ruins of the Colosseum and the city's ancient buildings. It wasn't until her brother Noah told her about the stonemasonry workshop at the Building Crafts College where he was studying joinery, that Jemima even knew that there was a such a craft. She applied to the College in

2019 and started a part time course, unsure if it was really going to be for her. But her confidence grew year on year and the more she worked with stone the more she loved it. Jemima graduated in July 2022 having completed her final course in Heritage stonemasonry. This allowed her to explore the more creative skills that she had learned – particularly controlled carving, lettering and designing and making her own sculpture of a woman's torso. Jemima is keen to encourage women into Craft and Construction – 'there really is a place for us' – and has recently started a new job at Paye Stonework & Restoration, who have been very welcoming.

# Craft

## Wood Awards 2022

LIVERYMAN JIM GREAVES, LEAD JUDGE OF THE WOOD AWARDS PANEL, WRITES:

The Wood Awards Ceremony 2022 was held in Carpenters' Hall on the evening of 23rd November. The event represented the culmination of the 2022 assessment of the building entries which started with the shortlisting meeting held in August at the offices of the Timber Developments UK. Here the judges reviewed 140 submitted projects and shortlisted 20 to be considered for the six building categories.

Projects were chosen from as far afield as Edinburgh, Suffolk and Devon and each was visited by a judging panel over the following two and a half months. We reassembled at TD UK to carry out the final judging on the 1st November and decided upon the six category winners and five highly commended projects.

Today our profession is increasingly looking at use and reuse of materials where

possible. For this reason, we were impressed by UK Hardwoods' construction of their own storage facility with its large clear-span portal frames made from timber recovered from diseased larch trees. We were also fascinated by Tonkin Lui's conversion of an old Suffolk water tower into a new home for Denis Pederson and his partner. The living space, located within the actual water tank, looked like a scene from Mad Max.

On a completely different scale, the judges were charmed by the small Douglas Fir House extension created by Christian Brailey and his landscape architect wife. Other highlights included: the exceptional craftsmanship contained within the Inner Portico of



**ABBA Arena**  
Commercial &  
Leisure winner



**Homerton College Dining Hall** Gold Award Winner

St Paul's cathedral, designed by Caroe Architecture and constructed by Neil Burke; the perfectly crafted house for a dancer by Knox Bhavan in Cookham, Berkshire; a tour de force of work with Douglas Fir by Russell Jones for his mews house in Highgate, and the light and airy Studio House designed by Sanei Hopkins.

Finally, the Gold Award winning Homerton College dining hall, designed by Feilden Fowles, shone out from the longlist of entries. The iconic external form draws inspiration from Berlage's Holland House in London. Internally the building did not disappoint, with its carefully designed scissor truss roof skilfully allowing light to bathe the space from the clerestories. The architects have created a new dining hall which is very much of its time.



**St Paul's Equal Access  
Inner Portico**  
Interiors winner



**Fenland Black Oak table**  
Bespoke winner

**Mews House**  
Private winner



**Lucy Bedry, Wood Awards  
Project Manager, reports:**

Six buildings, one interior and three furniture products were named winners of this year's awards. Sweeping the Gold Award as well as the Education and Structural awards, Feilden Fowles' Homerton College Dining Hall is a celebration of the structural capability and natural beauty of timber. Forging a modern response to traditional forms of construction, long span butterfly trusses - consisting

of large beams and columns of engineered sweet chestnut - form the iconic valley-shaped roof of the dining hall. This feat of timber engineering enables a wide, open space with no interrupting supports. Clad with faience tiles on its exterior and lined with alternating tones of stained ash, the hall is bright and efficient by day, transforming into a dramatic ceremonial space at night. Winning the Commercial

& Leisure award, Stufish's 3000 capacity ABBA Arena was recognised for its environmentally conscious entertainment sector design. Using cross-laminated timber and glued laminated timber to create a visually dramatic concert venue, the whole structure was designed to be demountable for reassembly elsewhere.

To mark the accomplishments of projects using timber to salvage, reinvigorate and transform existing structures, a new category of Restoration and Reuse was introduced this year. Winning this award was Tonkin Liu's Water Tower, which saw the renovation of an old, beloved water tower into a delightfully inventive home. Using responsibly sourced timber and existing steel, inhabitable rooms and a striking cantilevered staircase were added to the structure.



**Douglas Fir House**  
Small Project  
winner



**The Water Tower**  
Restoration and  
Reuse winner

Winning the Interior award, St Paul's Equal Access Inner Portico by Caroe Architecture and Connolly Wellingham Architects used highly crafted UK-grown Oak to connect tradition with progressive values. Creating a welcoming, step-free and multifaith entrance to the Cathedral, the portico also serves as a memorial to those who lost their lives in the Covid-19 pandemic. Dedication to the inherent characteristics and possibilities of specific tree species lay at the heart of a number of this year's projects, including the domestic ode to Douglas Fir House by Christian Brailey architects. This year's Small Project winner reconfigured and extended a studio flat at the back of a converted Edwardian house. From the outset, the extension

was viewed as a single piece of cabinetry crafted from a single material – Canadian Douglas fir. The level of consideration, from the superstructure to the detailing, allowed the design to transform the space and reflect a generative relationship between designer, maker and material. With the Fenland Black Oak table, this relationship extended to an individual 5000-year-old tree – discovered remarkably well preserved underground in East Anglian bogland. Winning the Bespoke furniture category, this collective project brought together a design team of craftspeople, students and volunteers whose efforts to preserve the ancient Black Oak tree in the form of a majestic table connected the local community with the forest land of the past.

**Furniture for 2**  
Bessborough Street  
Production winner



Engaging with a material from the far end of the wood spectrum, the winner of the Student Designer award ingeniously reinvented veneer as a structural material. With precise engineering, Henry Johnson's Veneer Stool used 1.4mm flat cut sycamore veneer leaf, creating a lightweight, structurally sound object. The judges selected the Mews House as the winner of the private category, where access limitations influenced material selection and construction

methods. Turning restraints into potential, these challenges were seen by architect Russell Jones as an opportunity to create a unique home. Whilst its interior layout and construction are a direct response to living requirements and location, its character is derived from the comprehensive use of timber as both primary building material and finish.

Winning the Production award, the collection Furniture for 2 Bessborough Street was designed by Mentsen as part of a refurbishment of a Grade-II listed office building. Nodding to the character of the existing building, the designers used the warmth and tactility of oak, fabric and marble to create a comfortable, human-centred space.

Further information about the Wood Awards can be found at [woodawards.com](http://woodawards.com).



**Veneer Stool**  
Student Designer  
award



## The Creative Dimension Trust (TCDT)

LIVERYMAN PENNY BENDALL, FOUNDER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, REPORTS:

The Creative Dimension Trust (TCDT) has continued to grow and thrive. Demand for places at workshops is now growing faster than ever. TCDT received over 600 applications this year, up 20% from last year. We have responded accordingly by continuing to expand our offering and forging new partnerships.

**New workshops for 2023 include:**

Hat Making with Lock & Co Hatters (believed to be the oldest hat shop in the world)

Leatherworking - Cockpit Deptford

A 5 week Employment Programme with Fortnum & Mason

Whatnot puppet making at White Elephant

Ornamental Drawing - online

Plaster Carving - Bow Studios

Wood Carving - Artists Studio, Brixton

Miniature Painting in Watercolour - Leathersellers' Hall

3D Beading at Hand & Lock

Introduction to Architecture - Allies & Morrison Architects

Architectural Drawing - Allford Hall Monaghan Morris Architects

Perfumery - Floris, Jermyn St

Bookbinding - Shepherds, London

Creative Couture Beading - Hand & Lock



*In Schools Programme at Maria Fidelis School, Camden*



*Bookbinding Workshop with Shepherds Bookbinders*

### Feedback

During the last year 65% of students gave TCDT workshops a 10-star rating. 85% of students gave our workshops a 9-star rating or higher:

'Fantastic experience, I made friends I'm still in contact with and gained new skills I didn't think I would come across again. The workshop was amazing and I hope to complete more like this in the future' - Student, Contemporary Couture Embroidery.

'I gained a lot of new skills which will help me very much with my product design course and my portfolio. I also loved hearing the experience of various architects and I am surer than ever of becoming an architect.' - Student, Architectural Drawing.

### TCDT in Schools

Pilots were held during the autumn and spring term in which tutors taught directly in a school — Maria Fidelis in central London. Feedback from the students and teachers confirmed the courses were a resounding success.

'By gilding to a fine level, students can consider different careers and unusual applications in art and craft. It's a fantastic project and the high level of enjoyment show how much students gain from their time with the teachers from TCDT.' - Art Teacher, Maria Fidelis School.

This project will continue at Maria Fidelis during the next academic year and commence at another school in Autumn 2023.

### TCDT Work Experience Programme

This was rebooted in January 2023 after being halted by Covid. Partners offering work experience opportunities this year include Allies & Morrison, AHMM, Lock & Co Hatters, Zone Creations Ltd, Bill Amberg Studios, Ravn School of Arts & Crafts, Julia Nagle Conservation Studios and HKS Architects.

The Creative Dimension Trust is extremely grateful to The Carpenters' Company, one of our founding funders, for its continued and generous support.

## Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) Open Day

LIVERYMAN JOHN TAYLOR REPORTS:



SPAB Fellows  
working on the Old  
House project

SPAB Sponsors Open Day was held at Boxley Abbey, near Maidstone, on 11th July. SPAB organises practical training courses in traditional building crafts in different parts of the country, and the day coincided with a ten-day 'training camp' in the grounds of the Abbey. Some 100 SPAB William Morris Craft Fellows, Scholars and volunteers were undertaking practical repairs encompassing structural timbers, carpentry, stone masonry, gauged brickwork, pantile roofing and the use of lime mortars, all overseen by experts in their respective fields. It was a hive of activity. The standard of work,

and the obvious commitment of those taking part, was hugely impressive.

The morning was spent examining projects in the grounds of the Abbey. In the afternoon, visitors moved to the nearby SPAB Old House Project, where work was well advanced on the restoration and repair of a derelict ancient building, a former Augustine Chapel that had been extended and converted to a private dwelling in the early 19th century, but left abandoned for the past 30 years. The project had been specifically designed to demonstrate the sensitive

upgrading of old buildings to meet modern standards of energy efficiency and to incorporate natural materials. Every stage of the project has been meticulously recorded for education and training purposes. It was a great privilege to be guided by experts and see the many and varied stages of work at first hand.

## 2023 Craft Lecture 'Building a Sustainable World: see timber in a new light'

LIVERYMAN DUNCAN HILL WRITES:

As carpenters, our raw material is timber. In the 2023 craft lecture, Tony Hackney explained the increasing role that timber could and should play in our battle against climate change. His title, 'Building a Sustainable World: see timber in a new light', took us to the crux of his lecture. Climate change is a global issue, green washing is widespread, while politicians vie with each other to set ever higher tree planting targets. But change has to be implemented by real people and real organizations who set out their stalls to make a difference.

Trees store carbon, so more trees will store more carbon. What Tony wanted to emphasise was that timber products and timber based construction projects lock up carbon a long way into the future. The trees felled to produce this timber can be replanted, felled and made into more timber products, with more carbon being locked up. In the UK, the scope for growing this virtuous circle is huge, but as we are currently so reliant on imported timber, not only must we plant more trees, we must also increase processing capacity and improve the

reputation of timber products, especially those made from homegrown timber. Only thus will the UK timber industry make its full contribution to fighting climate change.

Tony began his talk by describing his beginnings as a coal miner in The Potteries and his journey to becoming CEO of the BSW Group, the largest sawmilling and timber distribution company in the UK where climate change has brought threats to the tree species currently grown here. BSW's tree nursery division has its



Norwegian spruce  
Peter Prokosch  
[www.grida.no/  
resources/3047](http://www.grida.no/resources/3047)



Hew saw line

own laboratory developing the genetically strongest and most suitable plants for our changing times. They also have their own forest management business, carbon trading platform and tree harvesting company.

Though the construction industry is one of the largest users of timber, England lags far behind much of the developed world in building timber framed houses. In England only 23% of houses built are timber framed; in Scotland it is 75%, while in North America it is as high as 90%. Sadly, timber framed construction gained a poor reputation in England in the 1980s — a reputation no longer justified. There is considerable scope for increasing the use of timber in housebuilding, thereby increasing the rate at which we lock up carbon.

Tony outlined the many other end uses for homegrown timber apart from the world of construction, and his vertically integrated Group is now the market leader in timber pallet and garden

shed manufacture. It has also established a pallet recycling business and introduced new ranges of timber building components. This includes heat enhanced timber, glulam (glued laminated timber) and cross laminated timber sections. Sawmill residue is used both to power drying kilns and in the manufacture of composite products.

Tony ended his talk with slides featuring cutting edge timber construction projects to highlight what he believes to be the whole industry's necessary direction of travel: the more timber we can specify in building projects, the more carbon we can lock away. Everyone has a part to play, from landowners who should be planting more trees to the architects and designers who must specify timber more often.



Dalston Lane  
London - one of  
the UK's largest  
timber construction  
projects. Daniel  
Shearing courtesy  
Waugh Thistleton  
Architects



## Company Award for Excellence 2022 - Sean Sutcliffe

LIVERYMAN SEAN SUTCLIFFE HAS BEEN AWARDED THIS YEAR'S COMPANY CRAFT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE.

Sean is the co-founder and managing director of Benchmark Furniture, based in Kintbury, near Newbury, now one of the UK's leading furniture makers. Established in 1984, Benchmark has workshops in Berkshire and Dorset and works alongside leading architects and designers on projects for fitting and furnishing offices, hotels, bars, restaurants and public buildings. High-profile commissions include 30 St Mary Axe (the Gherkin), the Eden Project, Burberry stores, Westminster Abbey, Oxbridge colleges and museums and public buildings around the world. Among more local ones are the Vodafone World Headquarters at Newbury and the Kindersley Biodiversity Centre at Lambourn. After leaving school, Sean spent three years running his own carpentry business, fitting kitchens and making cupboards in London, before training at Liveryman John Makepeace's renowned School for Craftsmen in Wood at Parnham in Dorset. Parnham gave him

the skills for his future career and introduced him to his business partner and life-long friend, Sir Terence Conran. Their shared interest in furniture making, wood, design and sustainability led him to Conran's farm at Kintbury in Berkshire, where the original Habitat HQ was turned into a workshop with an investment of £6,000. Benchmark was established soon after, with Conran's London restaurant Bibendum, an early project. Other commissions for restaurants and hotels followed, building the company's reputation. A fact-finding trip to Denmark by Sean in the 1980s was hugely influential. The Danish model of locating factories in rural areas inspired Benchmark's current practice of employing a skilled localised rural workforce and encouraging apprentices from local schools. Starting with two people, Benchmark grew into a highly skilled team of 70, with many staying long term after joining as apprentices. The value placed on skilled manual

labour and artisanship is an integral part of the Company ethos and Benchmark continues to run an award-winning apprenticeship scheme. Sustainability and craftsmanship continue to play a part in every decision made, from sourcing timber and raising awareness about deforestation to championing the health and wellbeing benefits of using solid timber furniture and natural sustainable non-toxic materials. Benchmark pioneered and invested in Life Cycle Assessments and Environmental Product Declarations. It has twice won the Queen's Award for Enterprise in Sustainable Development.

Sean Sutcliffe  
receives the Craft  
Award from the  
Master John  
Meardon



## Cultural Currents in the Age of Gibbons

JUNIOR WARDEN STEVE CORBETT WRITES:

On 22nd November 2022 the Carpenters' Company was pleased to host the Grinling Gibbons Society for an evening of discussion and presentation, with a wine reception, to mark the grand finale of GG300 — the national festival celebrating (albeit a year late because of Covid) the tercentenary of the death of England's greatest woodcarver. Several liverymen, together with a hundred or more society members, enjoyed a fascinating evening exploring the Dutch artistic and cultural currents flowing from the Netherlands to Baroque England. Gibbons, born in Rotterdam to an English father, emigrated to England in 1672 and went on to settle here and enjoy an illustrious career. The move was possibly connected to the outbreak of the Franco-Dutch war in the same year. Sometimes termed the

Michelangelo of woodcarving, Gibbons is without doubt the benchmark for carvers through the ages. He also worked in stone and enjoyed the title of the King's Carver.

The Dutch Ambassador, honorary liveryman Karel van Oosterom, kindly spared time to join us for the introduction. He explained how links between the Netherlands and the Carpenters' Company can be traced back to 1459 and we are indeed grateful that our association continues to thrive today. The first speaker was Frits Scholten, head of Sculpture at the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam. The Netherlands was the melting pot of European art at this time (think Rembrandt, Vermeer) which included the carving tradition. Many well-known artists and sculptors started with naturalistic fruit and flowers,



Left to right:  
Speakers **Frits Scholten**, **Justine Rinnooy Kan** and **Sander Karst** with the Dutch Ambassador and panel chair **Nynke van der Ven**



Detail from Carved Room, Petworth House Paul Dunleavy, Elstead, UK

but Gibbons soon accelerated beyond this to become the virtuoso carver recognised by all. Just one of many examples of his work is the breathtaking cravat, with carving of such finery it could be mistaken for real lace when worn by its owner Horace Walpole, writer and whig politician son of Sir Robert Walpole.

The next speaker was Sander Karst, an art historian at the University of Amsterdam. He explained how, in England at this time, artwork and artists were not much admired or respected until the founding of the Royal Society in 1663. Encouraged by the change of cultural tone, the migration of Dutch artists began. Many grouped together in London's West End and numbers rose from 15 to 180, arguably prompting the development of the English School of painting in the years that followed. Finally we heard from Justine Rinnooy Kan, Curatorial Fellow at the National Gallery. She emphasised the sophisticated skills employed in Gibbons' techniques, including using deep undercutting

to create contrast in relief, comparable to the trompe-l'oeil style used in painting. She drew our attention to the Carved Room at Petworth House, West Sussex which houses a large collection of his work.

Arguably one of Gibbons' greatest masterpieces is the panel carved for Cosimo III de' Medici, Grand Duke of Tuscany. If liverymen sense something familiar about this style, they are not wrong. The carving of the Emperor Caesar Augustus panel in our own Reception Room is probably the closest it gets to Grinling Gibbons for a modern day carver. I have a particular fondness for this carving because it is by Shane Raven (b 1959) and bears the word 'Corvus', Latin for raven and a play on his name. As it happens, my ancestor was Roger de Corbeau (French for raven) who came over here with William the Conqueror in 1066 and was rewarded for his efforts with large parts of Shropshire. So I look on the carving with great fondness.



Gibbons's cravat  
© Victoria and Albert Museum, London



Detail from the Augustus panel

## Carpenters' Craft Competition

### LIVERYMAN AND COMPETITION CHAIRMAN JOHN TAYLOR WRITES:

The prizes for the National Winners of the 2022 Carpenters' Craft Competition were presented by the Master prior to the November Court Luncheon at Carpenters' Hall.

The winner in the Under-20 age group, Ewan Rookes of York College, received a cheque for £500, and a National Winners Certificate bearing the Carpenters' Company Seal, signed by the Master, the President of the Institute of Carpenters and the Competition Chairman. He also received the Joinery Managers' Association Cup.

Laura Michell of Exeter College, the winner in the Over-20 age group, received a similar National Winners Certificate, a £500 cheque and the Institute of Carpenters' Shield.

Both winners, accompanied by their college tutors and personal guests, then attended the Court Lunch, to which the Carpenters' Company also kindly invited the members of the Competition Committee.

The Chairman thanked the Company for sponsoring the competition, which had attracted entries from over 40 students at colleges across the length and breadth of the United Kingdom, the Competition Manager, Freeman Chris Higley, and all those behind the scenes who had done so much to make the competition a success. He paid particular tribute to the tutors for passing on their skills and encouraging their students to produce work of such a high standard.



*The Master John Meardon with Evan Rookes*



*Laura Michell receives her award*

## The Fenland Black Oak table

### JUNIOR WARDEN STEVE CORBETT WRITES:

On 1st March 2023 the Black Oak Table had a final day of viewing at Ely Cathedral before being dismantled and transported to Rochester Cathedral where it now resides. The Carpenters' Company and Building Craft College have supported the project for the last ten years and are delighted to see such a successful outcome.



## Royal School of Military Engineering Premier Carpenter

### MAJOR PAUL HURST REPORTS:

Sapper Andrew Elam completed the Carpentry and Joinery 2-1 course in February 2022, producing an outstanding standard of individual work. In November 2022 he represented the Corps at the WorldSkills (SkillBuild) National Championships, competing against 80 other highly skilled

carpentry trainees over 3 days. Impressively, Sapper Elam was placed first in this event - an excellent achievement given the extremely high level of competition. He constructed a complex timber roof structure over the three days with precision, accuracy and pace.



*Sapper Andrew Elam received his award from the Master at Carpenters' Hall in February, accompanied by Major Paul Hurst*

## Refurbishment of Carpenters' Hall, Philadelphia Fire at the Hall

On Christmas Eve someone broke into the basement of Carpenters' Hall and intentionally started a fire with a clear goal of destroying this priceless historic landmark. That they didn't succeed is a testament to the dedication of our friends at Independence National Historical Park, whose rangers first smelled the smoke, and our sprinkler system, which prevented the fire from spreading. The timing, just weeks away from when we were planning to reopen after our \$3 million preservation project, is especially disheartening and frustrating.

### Secretary John DeFazio reports as at 5th March 2023:

The process of restoring The Hall after the fire is making progress on every front. The Phoenix Committee has been meeting regularly to hear reports from our insurance adjuster, our contractor and various vendors and suppliers that are a part of the recovery. Four insurance sources are fully engaged in the processing of our claims. The first three cover Builder's Risk, Property Insurance and Archival Insurance. The last, and of historical note, is with the Philadelphia Contributionship, the company Benjamin Franklin founded in 1752. Our policy with them is dated 1851 and

superseded an earlier policy dated 1773, when the building was being finished. According to them, it's the second oldest policy they have, after Pennsylvania Hospital. Our adjuster has been working with these companies and reimbursement advances have started to flow. This has allowed the committee to approve several expenditures required to keep the restoration efforts moving forward. To date, new HVAC equipment has been ordered as well as replacements for the Fire Alarm and Security systems, both of which were damaged significantly in the fire. Some electrical panels and other equipment damaged have also been ordered.

On the physical side of things, Belfor Property Restoration has begun the cleaning of the upper floors of the Hall. Although the fire was confined to the basement, soot and smoke did migrate into the building. Also, the tiles on the first floor that were damaged have been repaired. The House and Historic Structures committee has been engaged in and consulting on these processes, as has Mills and Schnoering, the architects who led the original restoration project. In the coming weeks, members of the Library Committee are scheduled to visit Belfor's Exton, PA facility to review the condition of the archival material that was brought there to be salvaged. We are all anxious to hear their report.



Cleaning the upper floors of the Hall

# Charities & Grants

## The Carpenters' Company Charitable Trust

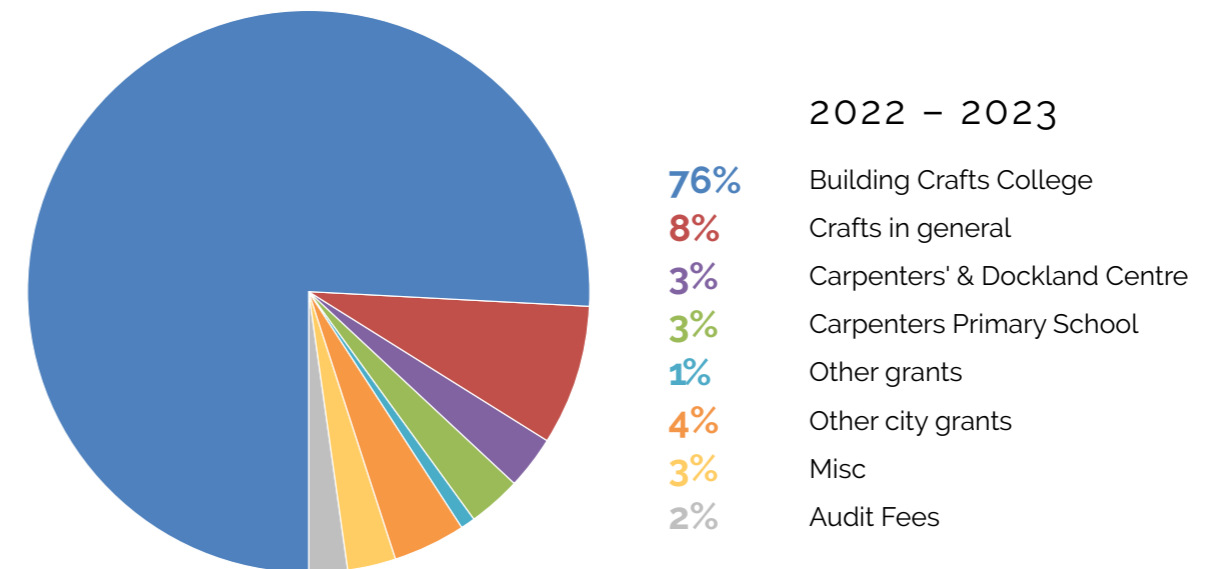
CRAFT & CHARITIES ADMINISTRATOR VIVIENNE POCOCK WRITES:

The Carpenters' Company continued to fund The Building Crafts College (BCC) as the principal beneficiary of the Carpenter's Company Charitable Trust (CCCT) (see chart below): funds are allocated to help offset the College's running costs. Other charities supported included the Lord Mayor's Appeal, the Sheriffs' and Recorder's Fund, St Paul's Cathedral, and The Soldiers' Charity through The Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch. The Lunch took place this year in March 2023 and was supported by 31 of our liverymen. The Committee handed over the amazing sum

of £435,000, a new record, which went towards funding veterans awaiting the Pain Management Programme at King Edward VII's Hospital, and those engaged in the Lifeworks programme which helps them prepare for civilian employment. As well as funding the BCC, CCCT again funded the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings' William Morris Craft Fellowship Scheme for craftspeople from different trades engaged in historic building repair and conservation. The Fellows started in March and were visited by Liveryman John

Taylor, a former Director of the College, at Boxley Abbey and the Old House Project in Kent.

The Creative Dimension Trust, now in its eighth year, is a success story which the Company has been proud to support since its inception. Please see the report on page 14. The Trust piloted a mini foundation programme in autumn 2022 in which tutors taught in a school setting via online adult workshops - in Stone Carving and Wood Turning as well as Hat making, Architectural drawing and Marionette Puppet Making.



2022 - 2023

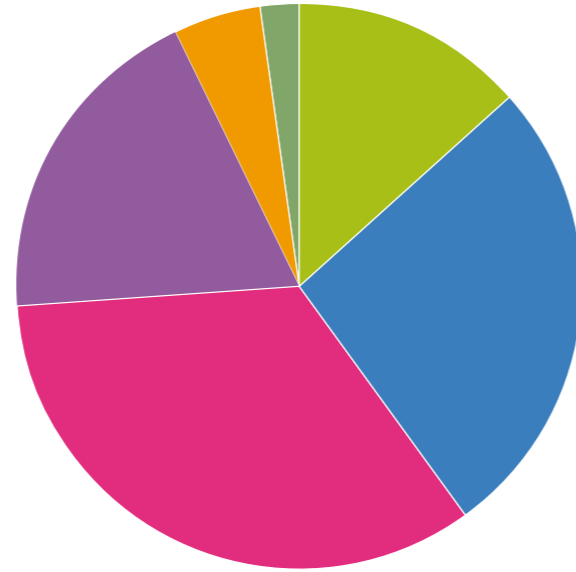
## Norton Folgate Trust

The Norton Folgate Trust (NFT) provides support for the needs of individuals, many of whom are engaged in education or craft training (see chart below). Our biggest commitment is to our Building Crafts College students to whom grants are awarded from sources including Liverymen, the Pysden and Stuckey bequests, and the Portal Trust.

A substantial proportion of available funds is allocated to our scholars at City of London schools, many of whom have gone on to study at colleges and universities. Students at the universities of Oxford, Cambridge, City and the Royal College of Music continue to benefit from the NFT. We have an excellent relationship with these schools and universities. In the course of the year, I have enjoyed visiting schools where we give bursaries and prizes to students.

These included prizegiving at City of London Freemen's School in Ashted, where I heard excellent leavers' speeches, and a celebration of the 500th Anniversary of Bridewell Royal Hospital Foundation given by staff and pupils of King Edward's, City of London School held at Middle Temple, where the standard of acting and dancing was remarkably high.

The Founder, Nicholas Ridley, Bishop of London, knew that education can transform lives and he persuaded the boy King, King Edward VI, to hand over Bridewell Palace to house, care and educate the under-privileged and destitute. Financial support came from the services industry; the corporation's structure included the Lord Mayor, the Court of Aldermen, the Court of Common Council and the Freemen and Livery companies of the City. The investment in Bridewell enabled its boys and girls to receive a basic classroom education.



2022 - 2023

- 13.6% Norton Folgate Beneficiaries
- 26.4% Building Crafts College
- 34% Secondary Education
- 19% Enduring/Tertiary
- 5% Temporary/Tertiary
- 2% Fees



500th Anniversary celebrations for Bridewell Hospital

## Rustington Convalescent Home

PAST MASTER MICHAEL NEAL, CHAIRMAN OF THE HOME COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Following its second reopening in June 2021, Rustington has continued to shake off the effects of Covid by offering improved facilities (including increased wheelchair access) and making available more beds in a drive to increase service user numbers. In order to protect service users after the easing of government restrictions, occupancy was initially limited to a maximum of 50% capacity, but in April 2022 the remainder of the beds were opened, leading to a steady increase in bookings. In June 2023 the percentage of occupied rooms rose to 58%, and a target of 60% or higher has been set for 2024.

Further improvement and repair works have been carried out over the past year, including stopping sea water ingress to the brickwork of the sea view rooms especially, and repairing the clock tower and the clock and bell - both being part of the spirit of the building much as they may be of a church. In July the Home hosted a Court lunch at Rustington — the first since 2017 — to mark these and

other improvements as well as the Home's return to being fully open after Covid. Julia Haynes, Home manager, and her staff were delighted to welcome as guests those involved in the Home's success. She and the staff have weathered the storms of Covid with good humour and resilience and we could not have managed without them. We were delighted when Elaine Hammond, the Communities Champion for West Sussex, wrote an approving article in the Littlehampton Gazette describing the improvements made to the Home which attracted much appreciative attention from the local community.

The Home's motto is 'Peace and Rest', reflecting a truly magical place that can help you recover after an operation, as well as being ideal for respite care. Find out more at [www.rustingtonconvalescenthome.co.uk](http://www.rustingtonconvalescenthome.co.uk).

May I ask members of the Company to play your part in publicising the many benefits of the Home and bringing to your friends' attention that the care is second to none and its position on the sea and in a glorious Sussex garden the best cure for rapid recovery and wellbeing.



Guests enjoyed a Court Lunch in the grounds in July



The Lunch was the first since the Pandemic

## Docklands Settlements

FREEMAN BEN NORTH, OPERATIONS MANAGER,  
CARPENTERS' AND DOCKLAND COMMUNITY CENTRE  
WRITES:

Until recently the Carpenters' and Dockland Centre Food Bank was situated in a Newham Council-owned building some 200m from our Community Centre elsewhere on the Carpenters' Estate. Thanks to the generosity of Mace Group Ltd, who are constructing various buildings in the Olympic Park, we now have a large portacabin in the car park to use instead. This has simplified the logistics of unloading and redistributing the tonnes of food. More importantly, it has enabled us to engage more easily with those who rely on it, giving us more opportunities to build relationships, gain trust and help them with other areas of their lives. We also run a 'Warm Haven' – a place where people can get warm food, drinks, charge their phones and have a hot shower. This has become very popular and we are now working to help people with more complex problems than food poverty.

A recent example is a young man who was sleeping rough, feeling depressed and hopeless. One of our staff at the Warm Haven reported his whereabouts to Street Link, which sends workers out at night to locate and support such people. He was referred to Newham Council who found him temporary

accommodation – an important first step, allowing him to focus on finding employment or training instead of worrying about being cold and hungry. The Home Office has recently taken over two large hotels close by and the temporary residents, mainly asylum seekers and refugees, have started to come to our centre, not only for food and clothing but to socialise outside the confines of their rooms. This benefits their mental health and helps them learn more about UK culture and develop their English language skills. The many other activities at our Community Centre which include line dancing, ballroom dancing and tea-room dancing continue to be extremely busy. Our adult disability football session, possibly the longest running in London, provides a weekly opportunity for adults with disabilities to take part in sporting activities away from their day care centre, increasing their confidence and independence. We host a wide variety of sports and social clubs, including the Stratford Judo Club, B-Boy Breakdancing, Ed-Basketball, Sparrows Badminton Club and Bounce Trampolining. The Playcare provision remains the heart of our community centre. Though attendance dipped at the end of lockdown,

it is now steadily increasing, enabling parents to remain in work whilst their children are given a safe, fun environment to 'learn through play.' In the summer holidays we will take the children on trips every day – to Southend, the trampoline park, Epping Forest, Canvey Island and the Fun Fair. As always, the support of the Worshipful Company of Carpenters is greatly appreciated. It helps ensure we can focus on supporting the most vulnerable, lonely and disadvantaged people in the area. A big thank you from everyone at The Carpenters' and Dockland Centre.



*The new food bank,  
kindly donated  
and wired up by  
Mace Group*

## Educational Bursaries

BETSY HILTUNEN



As I approach the end of the academic year, I look back on my journey so far with Christ's Hospital fondly, whilst anticipating the years ahead and memories yet to be made. In year 10 I am beginning to prepare myself for next year's exams, ever drawing nearer. Yet somehow, here, in the beautiful west Sussex countryside, I always manage to find calm amidst my work, in the knowledge that with the right frame of mind I can undertake any challenges presented. Christ's Hospital has not only supported my wellbeing but has also offered me opportunities outside the core curriculum. Some examples from this year include the recent poetry translation competition which gave me the chance to work in Finnish, a language close to my

heart. And now, with my entry highly commended at school, I have the opportunity to enter it in a national competition: The Stephen Spender prize, to be judged later this year. This has sparked an interest in poetry for me and I have now gone on to enter the Foyles young poet competition as well. In this year's hockey season, I have also been given the great pleasure of playing with the Horsham Hockey club, allowing me to continue practising within my spare time. All this said, I would like to end on a note of appreciation of the Carpenters' Company, who as well as supplying me with a delicious annual lunch and a delicate badge to display on my uniform, have really given me a sense of support. For this I offer my most sincere gratitude.

DYLAN TUCKEY

During my 3 years at City studying for a BSc Computer Science, I have had the pleasure of pursuing both my academic and non-academic interests. I have had the honour, during my third year, of being the vice-captain of the university hockey team. This has been an enjoyable experience as we always have members who are completely new to the sport, and seeing them develop in skill and confidence is a great pleasure. This year I have also served as the president of the cyber security society, a position in which I have the great honour of leading people in gaining an understanding

of the complex world of cyber security. Alongside this I have been able to achieve good grades in all of my modules so far, having picked an intriguing topic for my dissertation – the development of a terminal-based network monitor capable of detecting and providing statistics on network traffic. I plan on further enhancing it as a piece of software, as well as releasing the source code into the public domain so that as many people can benefit from it as possible. Thank you for your incredible kindness and support.





## HAYDEN JAMES



It has been a great privilege to have my studies sponsored by the Carpenters' Company during my first year on the Royal College of Art's MA Architecture programme. The Company's support has helped me unlock my potential and experiment with larger scale model making and drawings.

The focus of my investigation this year has been the separation of man from the natural world. In the face of the global climate crisis, I wanted to explore the ideas which have separated us from ecological bodies and allowed the exploitation of other life forms on earth.

I explored this through the lens of the maritime pine plantations which stretch along much of Portugal's coast, one of which I was fortunate enough to visit. There, you find a species which has dependence on fire built into its life cycle, nourishing its soils and germinating its seeds in the flames of its destruction. However, this remains in conflict with the required productivity of human cultivation, and the resultant densely planted monoculture creates deadly conditions for vast, high intensity and

uncontrollable fires.

My proposal looked at the re-wilding of the plantation and asked how we can exist on its local resources, attempting to avoid extraction of nutrients from the fire ecology. The concept was that by relying on the natural regenerative properties of the forest, a balance could be found in the density of the pines, enabling a selective and careful felling of timber for use within the construction of local homes. The result was a vision of modernity which embraced the vernacular to restore the natural balances of our world. I would like to thank my tutors Margarida Waco, Imani Jacqueline Brown, and Meriem Chabani whose guidance helped balance scientific research and critical fabulation in a way which will shape my future work on this subject.

## JASPER CRESDEE-HYDE

After four frankly momentous years at St John's College, funded by the incredible generosity of the Carpenters' Company, how can I sum up Cambridge?

I do not tick many conventional Cambridge boxes. I was born to parents on a council estate, living on benefits. Within a few years my father's illness had taken hold, and he passed away. My grandparents stepped in as a second set of parents, but they too lived on the breadline. I got by on free school meals, books, and box TV. Growing up poor cultivated a kind of self-starting initiative: I had to break out, one way or another.

Cambridge came out of years of relentless activity, all geared towards making something of my life. My chosen path was, and is, entertainment. I've been writing stories and scripts for as long as I can remember, and I began shooting short films when I was 15, in gradual pursuit of becoming a writer/director.

The relentlessness continued at Cambridge. I took part in over fifty student theatre/radio shows, of which I wrote and directed nearly ten and took two to the Edinburgh Fringe. I served as President of two societies, one university-wide – the Cambridge University



Film Association – and one John's-specific – The Lady Margaret Players, the theatre society. I worked as Co-Head of Education & Outreach at Watersprite Film Festival, the UK's biggest student film festival. I served as New Writing Officer for The Marlowe Society, one of Cambridge's oldest theatrical societies. Finally, I've co-written/directed an

upcoming musical, premiering at the Camden People's Theatre in late July. All this alongside a BA in Politics and an MPhil in American History! Despite the highest highs and the lowest lows, I had fun. I learned an incalculable amount about life. None of it would have been possible without the altruism of the Carpenters' Company whose financial

support enabled me to devote more time to my studies and extracurricular exploits, helping me build my career. The Company's funding of my MPhil allowed me to research a niche area (apocalypse blockbusters). I've often felt like Charlie Bucket: out of nothing, I won a golden ticket – an all-expenses paid trip to the best university in the world. And for that, I'm forever thankful.



## MARY HARE VOCATIONAL CENTRE

**Lee Smith, a teacher at the centre writes:**

Mary Hare School is the largest school for deaf children and young people between the ages of 4 and 19 in the UK. It is located in Newbury, Berkshire. The Carpenters' Company has donated to the School a new table panel saw and extraction system, which will enable our level 2 learners to complete their mandatory assessments and provide a professional piece of machinery for learners to practise with and hone their skills. We can also use the saw to process our own timber, thereby keeping our cost of materials down, so that we can reuse and upcycle. This is

the second year we have been delivering carpentry provision at Mary Hare. Of last year's cohort, two students have secured employment in the construction industry and now have carpentry apprenticeships. This year we have one student going on to a level 3 carpentry apprenticeship. Another will go into employment as a maintenance apprentice, and two more are progressing to a level 3 course in site carpentry at their local college. We would like to thank the Worshipful Company of Carpenters for their generous donation of the panel saw, and for their support of the next generation of carpenters.



Mary Hare carpentry students

## The King's Coronation Anointing Screen

LIVERYMAN NICK GUTFREUND WRITES:

I had just delivered the Patrol table that 4 RANGER had commissioned me to design and make for them and, for the first time in many years, was looking forward to a relatively work free Christmas period ... I should have known better! Up popped an email entitled 'Interesting Project'. The rest, as they say, is now most definitely part of our history.

During the Coronation ceremony at Westminster Abbey the King was anointed with holy oils that had been specially prepared in Jerusalem. The anointing is the most sacred part of the ceremony and the King, wishing to have true privacy during this time, expressed his wish to have screens surrounding the Coronation Chair, instead of an open-sided canopy which had been used in previous coronations.

The Livery companies, driven by the Textile Livery Group and the City of London Corporation, stepped in and decided that not only would it be a perfect gift from them to the King; it would also be a very fitting way to demonstrate the trade and craft skills they all represent and support. There were to be three separate embroidered screens, each supported on a wooden frame. These would be carried onto the Cosmati Pavement to create a single U-shape screen around the King during the anointing. The design of the embroidered panels, taking its inspiration



**Nick** with the Anointing Screen

from the stained-glass window in the Chapel Royal at St James' Palace, was created by the iconographer Aidan Hart. The oak wooden framework, which I was asked to design and create, was topped with Golden Eagle finials in reference to the eagle on the ampulla containing the anointing oil.

At the core of the overall design concept is the idea that the tree of life symbolises the bringing together of all the diverse countries that make up the Commonwealth, and the role

the King plays in supporting, encouraging and developing this union and collaboration. As has become very clear over the years, craft skills, collaboration and sustainability are ideas very close to the King's heart. The design team, consisting of myself, Aidan Hart and David Collinge (of the Weavers') wanted to embrace these thoughts and make them central to the making of the screens. Our aim was to combine traditional and contemporary craft skills, to use sustainable materials wherever

possible, and to enable as many people as we could to play a part in the creation of these unique anointing screens. We used both traditional hand embroidery (expertly created by the Royal School of Needlework and over 150 individuals) and digital embroidery (machined by Pete Tarrant of Digitek). The wooden frames were crafted using both traditional hand tools and modern machinery, the limed finish being protected by a contemporary wax recipe from Chestnut Products. The eagle finials were hand sculpted by Tim Royall (very fittingly

named!) and cast in silicon bronze, before being hand gilded by Sue Lee.

Here are just a few examples of the materials used; I sourced the oak used for the turned screen poles from a Windsor Park windblown tree planted by the Duke of Northumberland in 1765; the main cloth used was woven in the UK by AW Hainsworth from Australian and New Zealand wool, and the wool and linen fabrics used for the applied elements were woven in the UK by John Spencer Textiles.

As the Project Lead, I had 4½ months from receiving final approval from the King to deliver the finished screens. Although a rather daunting prospect, I felt very privileged and honoured to be entrusted with this. The results were seen on the day by 20 million people in the UK and over 400 million people worldwide. The Anointing Screens are now part of the Royal Collection and were shown at Buckingham Palace during the summer opening, as part of the Coronation display.

## Carpenters Primary School



**The Master John Meardon** pictured with some of the children who enjoyed their annual Christmas party in the Hall in December

## The Whiteley Homes Trust

In 2017, Wyatt's Almshouses in Meadrow, Godalming were sold and the funds were transferred to The Whiteley Homes Trust at Whiteley Village, near Walton-on-Thames, a community of older people living independently. The Trust has now renovated a property in Whiteley Village to create three flats which will be named Carpenters' House. The former Administration building at Whiteley Village will be renovated to produce five flats, to be called Richard

Wyatt's House to mark the legacy left by Richard Wyatt in his Will of 1619 for the building of almshouses 'for ten poor men of the parishes of Godalming'. The Trust is now offering this new accommodation to current older residents in need of housing from Godalming and the surrounding parishes of Farncombe, Hambledon, Compton, Puttenham and Dunsfold initially.



Carpenters' House

# Company History

## The Carpenters' Company & Coronations

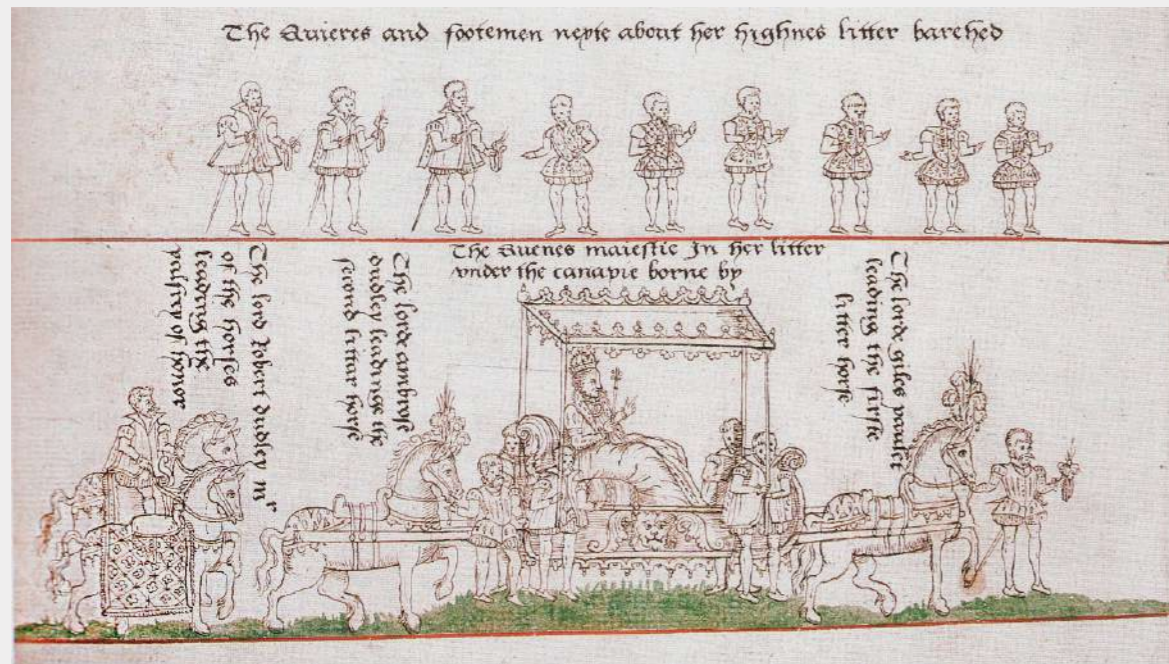
THE ARCHIVIST JULIE TANCELL WRITES:

**T**he Carpenters' Company has witnessed many coronations throughout its long history, and the Company's earliest records reveal the celebrations and pageantry of earlier occasions. Until James II's coronation in 1685, the City and livery companies organised and paid for amazing displays of pageantry. The processions began at the Tower of London where the monarch stayed before travelling in great style through the City and onto Westminster Abbey. The retinue itself was a splendid sight, with the monarch dressed in elaborate clothes (Elizabeth I wore a gold and silver robe, reused from her sister Mary's coronation) and courtiers richly dressed on horseback. The City met the procession with elaborate pageants and spectacular temporary arches and standings for spectators.

The first coronation to appear in the Company's records is that of Edward IV in 1461. Before the celebrations began, the Lord Mayor and members of the livery companies went to meet or 'ride against' the King on his entry to London. The accounts record 4 shillings was 'paid to Edward Stone for ridying ayenst the Kynge, and also Thomas Vergil, Watkyn Orcherd, John Kyng and John Hankyn'. Henry VII's spectacular celebrations after the defeat of Richard III in 1485 included bonfires and fountains of wine, and the Company hired a barge for the occasion.

A barge was also hired for the separate coronation of his Queen, Elizabeth of York. Celebrations for the coronation of Henry VIII on 24th June 1509 were more elaborate still. The Carpenters' paid 12 shillings for '14 yards of rayle for the craft to stand in at the crownacyon of ... Kyng Harry the Vijth'. Company members in livery hoods and gowns gathered behind the decorated railings to view the procession, with the number of yards allocated according to the size and standing of each company as they lined the streets from Cheapside to Fenchurch.

The Company again attended for Edward VI, paying 6 shillings and 8 pence for a standing at his coronation in 1547, and for Elizabeth I in 1559 when sixteen pence was 'Paid for caryeng of our standyng into cornell [Cornhill] in & owt'. The Carpenters' would have been in close proximity to the Cornhill pageant, where the Queen was depicted on a throne supported by seven actors playing virtues (including pure religion) trampling on eight actors playing vices; an indication of the City's hopes for the new Queen.



Elizabeth I's procession.  
College of Arms  
MS M.6, fol.41v.  
Courtesy the  
Kings, Herald and  
Pursuivants of Arms

Celebrations for the coronations of both James I and his son Charles I were curtailed by outbreaks of plague, although in James I's case, the lavish pageantry took place the following year. James made his public entry into London on 7th May 1603 and was met at Stamford Hill by the Lord Mayor, Knights and Aldermen of London in scarlet robes, accompanied by 500 citizens in velvet coats and gold chains. Some of those citizens were Carpenters' - the Company's Order book records those 'appointed to ryde in velvett Coates with Chaines of gold.. John Hedland warden, John Aunsell, John Petley, Richard Blinckthorne'. As well as these named riders, footmen attended, supplied with white staffs at the Company's expense (20 pence) and the Company 'Paid for drinks and pippens [apples] for the Ryders and footemen'.

James I's coronation took place at Westminster Abbey on 25th July 1603, but with the plague at its height, the pageantry was deferred until the next year. Costs of the procession's triumphal arches (excepting two erected by the Dutch and the Italian communities) were met by the livery companies, and 80 joiners and 60 carpenters superintended by two master carpenters were set to work. On 15th March 1604 James I processed from the Tower of London, with elaborate pageants and allegories staged, including works by Ben Jonson and Thomas Dekker. Charles I's coronation celebrations were subdued in comparison, and not encouraged by another outbreak of plague in 1625.

Charles II's coronation in 1661 was a very different matter, as were the celebrations leading up to it. Writing from exile in the Netherlands of his

particular affection for the City, the Lord Mayor responded with a gift from the City of £12,000. On 5th May the Carpenters' Court agreed their contribution of £60 'be freely given and advanced' and that the 'Banners & Armes of the Commonwealth be forthwith taken downe and that the King's armes and other banners be provided and set up'.

On 5th July 1660 a grand banquet at Guildhall was held for the King by the City assisted by a loan of £3000 from the livery companies (including £15 from the Carpenters), for entertainment of the 'most costly and sumptuous description', to which the Master and Wardens were invited. The coronation procession through the City on 22nd April 1661 passed four triumphal arches, with the Court and Livery at their standings and celebrating with dinner at Carpenters' Hall

and the Mermaid Tavern in Cornhill. Charles II's coronation was the last to include a procession through the City after James II introduced a short procession on foot from Westminster Hall to the abbey.

The 20th century saw a renewed interest in marking coronations, although Edward VII's planned procession in 1903 was cancelled at the last minute due to his ill-health, and the Company, like many others, was unable to recover costs for 400 seats in a stand in Southwark. For George VI two receptions were held at Carpenters' Hall; an afternoon reception on the 6th May for more than two hundred overseas visitors, and an evening reception on 26th May with dancing and

entertainment for guests from the City and overseas, including the Solicitor-General for Australia. The Clerk to the Company Henry Osborne noted in his annual report 'the tea, followed by a conjuring entertainment, given on the 14th June, in the Conference Hall, West Ham Lane, to six hundred children resident on the Company's [Stratford] estate.' Trees were also planted on the estate to mark the Coronation.

A different style of entertainment was held for Queen Elizabeth's coronation in 1953. A Dinner and Dance at Drapers' Hall was organised for liverymen, as Carpenters' Hall was yet to be rebuilt after it was burnt out in 1941. The

cabaret acts included 'Silent Magic with production of live doves'. At a party for the Derby & Joan Club at Carpenters' Institute in Stratford the Company provided for the loan of television sets, joining the 27 million people across Britain who watched the coronation live on the BBC, the first to be televised in full.

The coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla in May was marked by the Company with a joint gift of the ceremonial anointing screen, more about which can be found on page 32.



James I in his coronation procession (painting by Jean Clark)

# Affiliations

## HMS DARING

SENIOR NAVAL OFFICER, LIEUTENANT COMMANDER CHRISTOPHER 'ARTY' SHAW RN REPORTS:

HMS DARING is actively pursuing a restoration to full operational capability and a subsequent return to sea. She returned to home port in January this year having spent 15 months in Cammell Laird Shipyard, Birkenhead, successfully completing her Power Improvement Programme. Now back in HM Naval Base Portsmouth, she is undertaking the second phase of the maintenance required to continue her capability

upgrades in 15 Dock. In my brief time as Senior Naval Officer, I have had the privilege of hosting Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Edinburgh, the ship's sponsor, who last visited the ship in June 2021. Her recent visit was a perfect opportunity to familiarise herself with the ship and understand the mammoth task being undertaken at Birkenhead. She met members of the Upkeep Project Team from BAE Systems as well as the Royal Naval Engineers who

are progressing the Upkeep. It was clear that she thoroughly enjoyed her time on board and meeting those involved in the regeneration process. Work on HMS DARING has gained pace recently with members of the ship's company due to rejoin in the coming months. This will restart DARING's heartbeat as a formidable Air Defender to the United Kingdom's Carrier Strike Group capability.



HMS DARING

## 4th Battalion The Ranger Regiment

CAPTAIN T LAGANA (TEAM COMMANDER R COMPANY) REPORTS:

The Ranger Regiment, and 4th Battalion in particular, have continued to drive innovation at all levels over the past 12 months, with new communications systems, equipment and weapons being procured specifically to meet their needs. We continue to raise the standard we set ourselves in all areas, from physical preparedness to individual marksmanship and tradecraft. Our exercises are constantly increasing in scope and complexity, allowing us to become experts in the Levant and Central and South-East Asia, our area of responsibility.

Much has changed in the global security picture over the past year. With the COVID-19 Pandemic receding, old threats reared their head in Eastern Europe, forcing us to re-evaluate how we might fight – what is old is new again. While war rages on European soil, violent extremist organisations in the Levant and Central Asia continue to pose a

threat to UK citizens, and the 4th Battalion remains committed to ensuring the nation's safety.

Our footprint in the Middle East has grown exponentially this year, with permanent deployments to multiple countries alongside local Special Forces allies. We continue to work hand-in-glove with US Army Special Forces who have been fulsome in their praise for our work. This year we have quadrupled the number of personnel actively deployed in 2022.

On the home front our Rangers have been tasked with supporting our Ukrainian allies by assisting their training throughout the UK. The UK remains the lead European nation in training and supporting Ukraine, and the 4th Battalion has punched above its weight in assisting with its delivery. To date, the UK has trained well over 10,000 members of the Ukrainian Army

in their continuing fight to liberate their homeland.

Companies from the 4th Battalion have received plaudits from across the Army Special Operations Brigade and the wider army for their performance this year, both in the United States alongside US Army Special Forces and in the UK where we partnered the Desert Regiment of the Royal Army of Oman.

It has been a remarkable year. Throughout, we have been blessed with exceptional support on home soil from friends and families, the wider Defence community and the Carpenters' Company in particular. The Officers' Mess celebrated our foundation's first anniversary with the unveiling of a patrol table designed and crafted by Liveryman Nick Gutfreund. The table – made of cedar of Lebanon bounded with English oak to symbolise our commitment to the Levant – now holds pride of place in our Officers' Mess.



Liveryman Nick Thornton and Beadle Darren Neal (5th and 6th from the left) unveiled the renovated Memorial Wall in November accompanied by their wives

## Range Day

### LIVERYMAN EDWARD NEWMAN REPORTS:

Following a generous invitation from the 4 RANGER Commanding Officer, Lt Col Mike Devenish MBE to Livery members to visit the New Normandy Barracks in Aldershot for the very popular range day, a group of liverymen were met at the range on 2nd March by WO2 Sean Kirkham, who escorted us to the Officers' Mess to meet our hosts Capt Rob Parsons, Maj David Bell, Capt Ollie Dean and Lt George Roberts for pre-range refreshments. B Company were instructing and manning the range on what was a beautifully sunny yet chilly day.

As we entered the Mess, the Commanding Officer welcomed us, kindly adding that it was a

privilege to be affiliated with the Carpenters' Company which the regiment greatly valued. As we made our way to the range, we passed the patrol table designed and built by Liveryman Nick Gutfreund.

As we approached the range we could hear the blast of shots from SA80 rifles and Glock 17 pistols. After a thorough safety briefing we split into two groups for further instruction from Cpl Vincent Sulaiman, Cpl Ben Chambers and their safety supervisors. Landing a shot on the target — in the shape of a man some 25 metres away — was easier said than done at first and after a few wide of the mark shots, I understood the point of the sandbank behind

the targets. But by trial and error our consistency improved so we could leave the range not too shame-faced. While there was no competitive element to the day, it certainly spurred me on to try and improve my aim with each shot.

A memorable day concluded with a delicious curry lunch prepared by Cpl Bikash Gurung and our guest for the 7 December 2022 Court Lunch, LCpl Prakash Gurung. On our return to the officers' mess the Master, Brigadier John Meardon, thanked Lt Col Mike Devenish and the 4th Battalion, Ranger Regiment for a wonderful day.



The Range Day party

### LIVERYMAN EDWARD NEWMAN ADDS:

The regiment commissioned the patrol table to celebrate and commemorate the formation of the 4th Battalion, Ranger Regiment. It is made from a variety of timbers: the Oak symbolizes the link between the regiment and Great Britain, while the Cedar of Lebanon and Olive Wood signify the territories with which the regiment has associations.

The Battalion motto, 'By All Means' and the formation date, 1 December 2021, is set in marquetry around the perimeter of the central Cedar of Lebanon circle which surrounds two specially created bronze versions of the Regiment's Peregrine Falcon cap badge.



Nick Gutfreund and Colonel Mike Devenish with the new patrol table

## Chosen Man 2022

### ADJUTANT CAPTAIN TOM FARROW WRITES:

A highly professional and exceptionally committed young Corporal, Joshua Powell consistently performs to the highest standard: from his placement as 'top Rifleman' on the 2021's Potential Non-Commissioned Officer Cadre, to his top-third pass on the Sniper Qualification Course,

and everything in between. In January, he excelled in the Section Commanders' Battle Course, impressing the directing staff and receiving a highly revered Instructor's Recommendation. Corporal Powell continues to work towards a degree in Environmental Sciences and is an active social member of the Company.



Corporal Joshua Powell

## IV (Army Co-operation) Squadron RAF

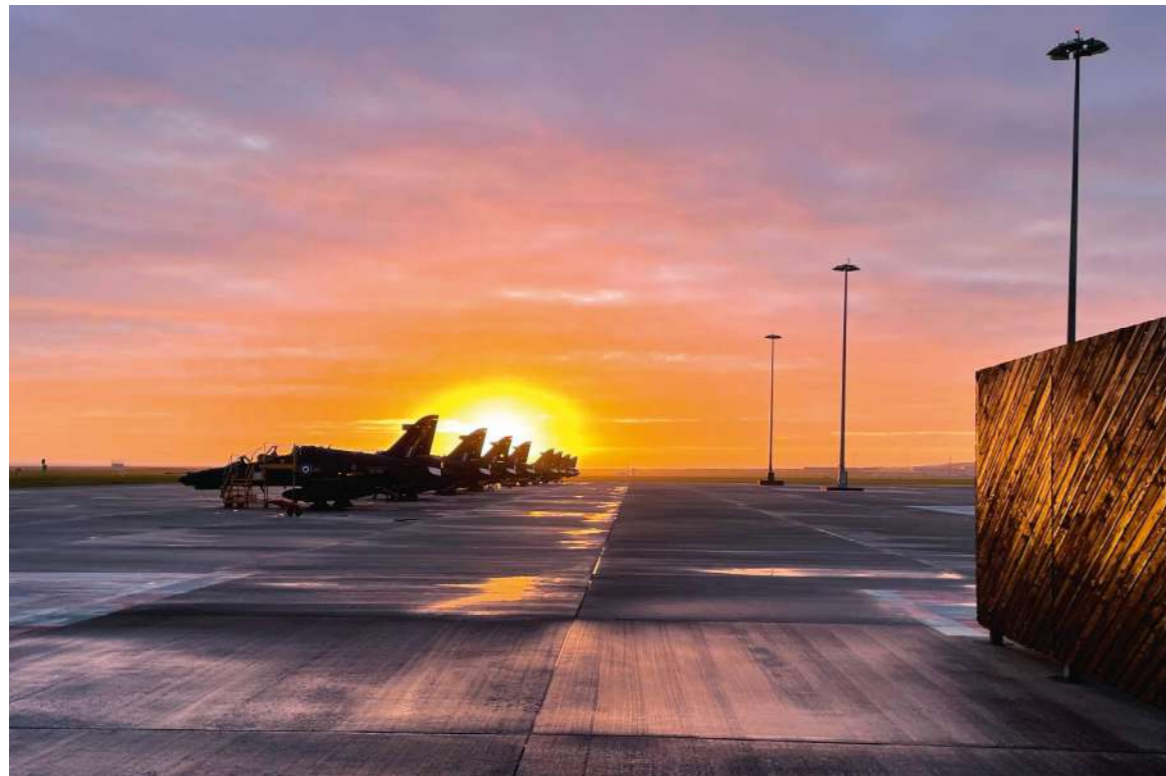
COMMANDING OFFICER, WING COMMANDER JAMES BONING REPORTS:

During the latter part of World War II, carpentry was the critical skill required to construct the revolutionary all wood de Havilland Mosquito, flown at the time by IV(AC) Sqn in the reconnaissance role. Whilst supplies of metal were increasingly threatened by the war, wood was in relatively good supply. With its favourable strength to weight ratio and two Rolls Royce Merlin engines, the 'wooden wonder' became the fastest bomber in the world, surpassing the Air Ministry's expectations. In contrast, our current aircraft,

the BAE Systems Hawk T2, has only six pieces of wood in the entire aircraft, two of which are axe handles stored in the Personal Survival Pack that automatically deploys on ejection and remains connected to the pilot during the parachute descent.

Happily, no post ejection survival skills were required when RAF Valley IV (AC) Sqn hosted the Master of the Carpenters' Company, Brigadier John Meardon, on his visit to the Squadron in June. I'm delighted to report that he

demonstrated some excellent Hawk aircraft handling during a simulator sortie. At RAF Valley fast jet training continues apace, with our two most recent trainee graduates from IV(AC) Sqn both being selected to fly Lightning aircraft at RAF Marham in Norfolk — which incidentally was home to a Mosquito Wing during World War II. After completing their conversion course they will soon find themselves embarked with Lightning aircraft aboard HMS Queen Elizabeth, projecting UK air power globally.



Hawk T2 at sunset

## Champion Pilot 2022

Flt Lt Rigg joined the Air Force as a pilot in 2002. On completion of fast jet training, he was posted to the Tornado GR4 at RAF Marham where he completed numerous operational tours, flying close air support and reconnaissance missions over Iraq and Afghanistan. In 2011, after four years on the front line, Flt Lt Rigg was posted to the first

Qualified Flying Instructor Course on the then new advanced jet trainer, the Hawk T2 at RAF Valley. He mentored the first ab initio student course under the new UK Military Flying Training System partnership. Since then, Flt Lt Rigg has been an instructor on the Hawk T1 Tactical Weapons course and an aggressor pilot on 100Sqn RAF Leeming. He is

now an instructor on the Hawk T2 Tactical Weapons course. He is responsible for Squadron standardisation and syllabus development and, amongst other things, produced a night close formation phase, a skill now learned on the Hawk T2. Flt Lt Rigg has also represented the Air Force at downhill ski-ing and windsurfing.



Flight Lieutenant John Rigg (right) received his award from the Master at the July Court Lunch, accompanied by Squadron Leader Peter Altoft

# Pastimes

## Shooting

### Inter-Livery Clay Shoot

SENIOR WARDEN ALLEN ZIMBLER REPORTS:

The Inter-Livery Clay Shooting Competition was held on the 17th & 18th May at the West London Shooting School. This represented a change from previous years, when it was held at Holland & Holland. Many Livery Companies were present, a significant number of them fielding multiple teams (the Gunmakers' alone fielded five teams!). Our Company was represented by one team: Senior Warden Allen Zimble, Douglas Hodgson, who kindly stood in at the last minute, and Liverymen Bruce Hodgson and Richard Mitton.

We shot on the second day of the Competition and were blessed with a beautiful, blue-sky day. The course consisted of 12 stands, with an additional two-person 20-clay flush, and a team 80-clay flush. The stands were varied and presented contestants with some difficult, high flying 'birds' and combinations thereof. The Hodgsons in particular did our team proud with some really fine shooting - young Douglas proving something of a 'secret weapon'. A wonderful day was had by all, most contestants appearing

to prefer the more relaxed atmosphere of West London, and certainly enjoying the very fine lunch that was laid on in the marquee afterwards. Great thanks to the Carpenters' Company for enabling us to participate in this excellent contest - we certainly made new friends, enjoyed the pervasive camaraderie, and did sufficiently well against some very serious competitors, coming 41st overall out of the 126 teams competing. This is a hugely enjoyable sport and we are looking forward to improving our standing in the results table next year.

Members interested in taking part in any of the shooting events and pastimes should email the Clerk's PA Caroline Stevens (caroline@carpentersco.com).



Left to right:  
**Allen Zimble,**  
**Douglas Hodgson,**  
**Bruce Hodgson**  
and **Richard Mitton**

### Inter-Livery Rifle Shooting Competition

LIVERYMAN COL NICK THORNTON REPORTS:

The multi-trophy winning Carpenters' shooting team took the stage at Bisley for the annual Inter-Livery Shooting match on Friday, 2nd June. The event is held to support the RAF Benevolent Fund and brings together around 20 companies from across the Livery landscape. Demonstrating the real squad-strength in depth on offer to the Company, two long-standing team members moved to the bench this year, leaving a starting line-up of Liverymen Nick Thornton and Nick Gutfreund and additional team member, Chris Pask.

After a chilly start on the always challenging Running Boar shoot, the sun broke through for the rest of a glorious day. We shot well on the pistol and rimfire events, but our best was saved for the afternoon. Defending the blue riband 1000 yard target rifle trophy, all three team members scored highly. We missed out on the team prize by a single point, but Chris won the individual event with a truly impressive score of 48.7 - to give some context, that involves putting ten rounds inside an 18 inch circle at 1000 yards, of which seven hit



Left to right:  
**Chris Pask,**  
**Nick Gutfreund**  
and **Nick Thornton**



Individual Winner  
**Chris Pask** (left)  
receives his trophy

a large plate (and all without telescopic sights!). His victory meant we retain the impressive silver cup for another year - newly inaugurated at last year's event, it has only had Carpenters' winners engraved on it. To round off the day, we were triumphant at the Sniper team event, so once again the Company was prominent at the prize-giving. It was, as ever, a terrific day and we are all grateful to the Company for the chance to compete.



## Livery Clay Shoot

LIVERYMAN PHILIP BRADING REPORTS:

The highly popular annual visit to the West London Shooting School took place on a rain-free late April day. For those members of the Livery who have not yet attended this event, it is an ideal opportunity to learn how to shoot clay pigeons or hone existing skills in a convivial and relaxed atmosphere.

After a breakfast of bacon rolls and coffee, five teams were formed under the guidance of the organiser, Past Master Michael Neal. Each team was led by a shooting school coach who provided all the kit required. The coaches were encouraging and faultlessly kind as they instructed beginners and experienced

guns alike. From the first stand, where the basics of clay pigeon shooting were mastered, the teams moved on to two more difficult stands.

After the coffee break a further two stands followed until it was time for the 'Flush', when each team lined up in succession and faced some 40 clays flying past rapidly from different directions, including 'rabbits' and overhead birds, testing everyone's skills to the limit. The entire party then returned to the shooting school for a delicious lunch.

As usual, representatives of our affiliated military organisations were invited to the day and certainly showed their mettle.

It was a great opportunity this year to learn about their current deployments and hear first-hand how large numbers of the British military are engaged in training the Ukrainians in the skills of warfare.

After lunch the Clerk presented the Rifles Cup to the highest scoring Liveryman who was, for the second year running, the Master. His team 'Throgmorton' also won the team competition, proving him to be a Master of Shooting also! A bottle of champagne went to Major William Hignet of 4 RANGER as the top scoring guest.



The Carpenters' shooting party gathered at West London on 27th April

## Inter-Livery Ski-ing

LIVERYMAN RICHARD SAMUEL WRITES:



Left to right: Jane Eveleigh-Hall with Sophie, Sharon Eveleigh Hall, Liz Galbraith, Stephen Samuel, Ben Brading, Richard Galbraith, Mark Horn, Richard Samuel, Frances Galbraith with Anabelle, Philip Brading, Louise Galbraith

Organised by the Ironmongers' Company, the Inter-Livery Ski Competition has established itself as the largest sporting event in the livery calendar. For this year's event, which took place between 25th and 27th January, a total of 34 companies sent race participants to the Haute-Savoie region of France, amounting to 200 competitors and more like 400 with team support included. The racing was held in Morzine over two days, beginning with a qualifying slalom on the Thursday, which determines the starting order for the main race, a giant slalom on the Friday. Conditions were generally good throughout the week, albeit the clouds were low on race day and so the

shortened course served up some misty excitement. The Carpenters' race team comprised Stephen Samuel (our 'Chef du Ski'), Ben Brading, Mark Horn, Jane Eveleigh-Hall, Frances Galbraith and the writer, and I'm pleased to report that we all negotiated the courses without mishap. A lot of the credit for ensuring that a well-primed squad turned up for both race days must go to the support team led by Richard and Liz Galbraith and family.

This year's ski competition was a welcome return for an event that had been cancelled in 2021 and 2022 due to Covid. The week culminated in a dinner dance held at the municipal Palais des Sports et des Congrès

(the Skoda Arena), the only in-town venue big enough for a 300 person celebration. Full details of the event can be found at [www.liveryskiing.com](http://www.liveryskiing.com)



Younger team members Sophie Eveleigh-Hall and Anabelle Galbraith

## Golf

### Company Golf Day

LIVERYMAN ALEX MONTAGUE-SMITH REPORTS:

The Carpenters' Company golf day is something special and one of the highlights of the year. It is a rare opportunity to play at one of the most prestigious golf courses in the south-east, RAC Epsom, an occasion I have enjoyed for the past 25 years. On 20th April we were delighted to be joined by Colour Serjeant Samuel Oliver and Warrant Officer Serge Zhoutyuk from 4 RANGER. My two playing partners were Sandy Macqueen and Colour Serjeant Samuel Oliver (Sam) who were both familiar with the course.

Things didn't get off to a good start, with all three of us trying to adjust to the lightning-fast greens which were in very good condition. However, it wasn't long before Sam found his rhythm and started to strike the

ball excellently. We all played better golf on the back nine, helped by the warmth of the sun and blue skies overhead. After the game, Past Master Martin Samuel and his wife Rosemary joined us for an excellent lunch back at the members' lounge. After all the scorecards had been handed in, Colour Serjeant Samuel Oliver was declared the winner with 35 Stableford points closely followed by Liveryman Mark Horn with 34.

On behalf of the other Liverymen I would like to thank Martin for supporting the Company Golf Day which enables us to play on this remarkable course.



Left to right:  
Geoff Rhodes,  
Rowan Montague-  
Smith and Mark  
Horn



Winner of the Newman Golf trophy **Mark Horn** (left) and **Martin Samuel**

## Sailing

### Inter-Livery Regatta - The Lord Mayor's Cup

PAST MASTER MIKE FELTON REPORTS:

The 2023 Inter-Livery Regatta took place in the Solent, off Cowes, over the weekend of 19th-21st May, hosted by the Island Racing Club. It was a highly successful event. Taking part were some 14 yachts from different Livery Companies including Baldur, the Carpenters' Company boat skippered by her owner Liveryman William Avery, with daughter and Liveryman Ruth, plus Liverymen Paul Bennett, Mike Felton, Hugh Felton, Richard Galbraith and Richard Hamilton, plus Freeman Jeremy Archer. With a good sailing wind of some 14-18 knots, the yachts competed around the 'cans' in two races, one in the morning and the second in mid-afternoon involving close quarter manoeuvres, split-second timing to gain ground, while avoiding a collision and possible disqualification. Regatta sailing is fun and a great opportunity to meet up with fellow Liverymen, but it is also a serious competitive business.

The crew arrived at Port Hamble Marina on the Friday, where Baldur is moored up. Following a sandwich lunch and a sailing and safety briefing by the Skipper, we cast off. We soon cleared the Hamble and sailed out into Southampton Water, and then the Solent, rounding Calshot Spit with Cowes ahead in clear sight. Richard Hamilton and Mike Felton were soon managing the jib sheet winches thinking they might have just about passed the 'satisfactory'

standard as far as the Skipper was concerned. As we entered Cowes, the westerly flowing ebb tide was running at some 2½ knots, and with the Skipper keen to keep well out of the way of the car ferry leaving the port, we were soon moored up along the Livery pontoon with the other Regatta yachts. The City Livery Yacht Club had organised a number of social events, including an invitation to drinks at the Royal Ocean Racing Club. All the crews had a chance to catch up with friends and colleagues in the Livery. Formalities over, we had a really hearty supper. On the Saturday morning, race day, the Skipper and Hugh Felton attended a briefing on the quay to finalise race arrangements and instructions. We cast off at 8.30am and

headed out of Cowes for the start of the first race at 10.15am. With the transect set for the starting line, the yachts edged forward careful not to cross it early. With the Skipper on the helm, Hugh and Paul below marking up the chart, the crew were briefed on the buoys to be rounded. With the race about to start, Paul, Richard, Ruth and Jeremy took up position on deck on the windward side, their legs over the side to help trim the boat. Baldur, skippered by William Avery, and the crew did exceptionally well. Overall we came third behind the two Innholder boats, Emily of Cowes and Incisor, a great achievement. Saturday night winners were presented with cups. Drinks and later the dinner were enjoyed with relish. Well done Skipper and Crew!

Left to right:  
**Richard Hamilton,**  
**Jeremy Archer** and  
**Skipper William Avery**



## Tennis

### Real Tennis Inter-Livery Tournament

LIVERYMAN CHRIS BROWNE REPORTS:

After a gap of some three years due to Covid and injury, Liverymen Charles Trevor and Chris Browne were reunited as a Doubles Pair for the Annual Inter-Livery Real Tennis Tournament at Queen's Club on 1st November. Sponsors of this year's event were Canaccord Genuity Wealth, who continued the generous support previously provided by Punter Southall Wealth Management, whom they recently acquired.

The format for the event was to be an eight game set or the score after 40 minutes play, unusual but necessary to fit in all the matches in one day's play, pairs to play in initial groups of three pairs

with only the winners going forward to the next round. Charles and Chris agreed on a strategy of coming out of the blocks for a fast start against their first opponents, R Hopkinson-Woolley & M Magnay of the Goldsmiths'. This strategy nearly paid off with the narrowest of defeats 7/8, which although disappointing proved to be the highest score achieved against the pairing that ultimately won the competition. Carpenters' Real Tennis pairings to date have lost only to the winners on every occasion, a remarkable though somewhat irritating record to have. In the second match in our group, we both played some

tenacious and daring tennis to triumph 8/5 versus the Chartered Surveyors' pairing of R Awford & J Walloch. But sadly this proved insufficient to progress further, leaving us to rue yet another year of losing to the eventual champions. All in all it was another superbly organised and enjoyable event and we would both like to thank Tournament referee Simon Mansfield, Caroline Stevens who organised our entry and the Carpenters' Company whom we are so very proud to represent.



Chris Browne (left) and Charles Trevor

### Livery Tennis

LIVERYMAN JAMES PRESTON WRITES:



Andrew Wolstenholme (left) was presented with the Hutchons trophy by Hugh Lancaster

The conditions on the evening of 12th July were perfect for an evening of relaxed tennis. The grass courts and all the landscaped surroundings at the impeccably maintained Hurlingham Club were looking at their best, and the weather was ideal. There weren't too many distractions from the tennis at The All England Club. Soon to be Wimbledon men's champion, Carlos Alcaraz had just won his semi-final in straight sets, and earlier in the afternoon, Ons Jabeur had won her semi-final in the women's tournament. Ours was tennis at its most sociable, and the evening was a great example of both the inter-generational activities of the Carpenters, as well as a reminder of the strong family associations. The Court was represented by Past Masters Peter Birts and Hugh Lancaster and there was father and

son line-up with Philip and Ben Brading. Cousins Rupert Eveleigh and Jane Eveleigh-Hall continued a long record of taking part, along with an impressive turn-out from the Barnes-Yallowley family. While not quite as structured as a 'round robin', the twelve players experienced a really enjoyable mix of partners, and everybody had plenty of time on court. Peter Birts and Hugh Lancaster showed themselves to be extremely adept veteran players, with keen eyes and masterful placing of the ball. Inevitably, as time went on, the pace and competitive edge increased, although in the spirit of the evening, some of the ablest players may have been a little restrained! By the close of play, Jane Eveleigh-Hall, Ben Brading, Hugh Felton and Rupert Eveleigh had demonstrated that there remains potential

for a competitive inter-livery team. Meanwhile, the final game of the evening involved Geoff Rhodes and James Preston slogging it out against Hugh Lancaster and Andrew Wolstenholme. Andrew showed remarkable consistency and stamina in his play, and for this he was justly awarded the Russell Hutchons trophy. With the competitive part of the evening over, we enjoyed an excellent dinner on the delightful terrace of the Harness Room restaurant. At the table we were joined by the Clerk and the magnificent Hutchons trophy. We reminisced about the late Russell Hutchons and his foresight in establishing the event many years ago, while remaining extremely grateful to Peter Birts and Laurence Mallinson for making the arrangements for such a pleasant evening to continue for a further year.

# Company Business

## Throgmorton Avenue and Great Winchester Street

PAST MASTER MICHAEL MORRISON, CHAIRMAN OF THE HALL DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE, REPORTS:

Last year's Chronicle noted that work was progressing on the potential redevelopment of the buildings on the east side of Throgmorton Avenue together with the building at No 23 Great Winchester Street which the Company had agreed to buy off Deutsche Bank. An enhanced listing had been procured from Historic England and a team led by the architects Alford Hall Monaghan Morris were developing a scheme to allow discussions with the City planners to obtain 'pre-application advice'.

The redevelopment possibilities are made more complicated by the Grade II listing of the Hall and No 23 Great Winchester Street, all the buildings being in the 'Bank' conservation area. The architects' initial outline scheme allowed the quantity surveyor to complete a first cost plan which suggested that the proposed redevelopment is financially viable. The architects were then commissioned to develop the scheme and meet the City planners to determine what would be likely to get planning permission and listed building consent.

All the buildings were originally constructed as individual properties, each with its own front door. Deutsche Bank, our former long term tenants, amalgamated all the buildings to allow them to function as a single office – but

the result is clumsy, with different floor levels in each building and some 'back of house' yards now full of ventilation plant. The buildings look tired and need a major overhaul if they are to be successfully relet. The Hall itself is over 60 years old, and despite routine maintenance and upgrading of individual areas some of the mechanical and electrical systems are on their last legs. The plans so far developed propose taking a slice of No 3 Throgmorton Avenue (the building adjoining the Hall to the south). This would allow a proper staff access with a modern goods lift and a stair between floors. We are also taking the opportunity to provide separate access to the lettable office space proposed for the top of the Hall, with a reception area at ground floor level and lifts and a new stair to the new offices.

The architects, together with planning and heritage consultants and the Company Surveyor, have held regular meetings to progress the scheme, meeting with the City Planners on four occasions to date. At the time of writing we await the final letter from the City giving their advice. We are optimistic that we will get permission for four new floors of offices above the Hall itself and the buildings in Throgmorton Avenue and Great Winchester Street.

There is still much to be done to refine the costs of the scheme, obtain planning permission and listed building consent and develop a detailed design. But things are now progressing, with a development sub-committee meeting once a month to monitor progress and take the difficult decisions. Nothing is likely to happen on site for at least eighteen months but it is possible that building work will commence in 2025, and we would hope no later than 2026. This will mean the Company vacating the Hall for at least two years.

## Anglo-Netherlands Society

LIVERYMAN JOHN JACKSON WRITES:

The Anglo-Netherlands Society is a non-party political, non-profit organisation, based in London. Run by voluntary effort, it aims to promote the social, artistic, literary, educational, scientific and other interests the Dutch and British have in common. It also seeks to develop goodwill and understanding between the peoples of the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. The Society was founded in June 1920 and its meetings and events are conducted in English. The Carpenters' Company became a corporate member in 2008.

The long and cordial relationship between the Carpenters' Company and the Dutch people originated in 1458 when the community of Dutch merchants and traders living in the vicinity of Carpenters' Hall began to hire it for their meetings. The Company's association with the nearby Dutch Reformed Church dates from 1550, when Edward VI granted the use of the church of Austin Friars to foreign Protestants escaping religious persecution. The Dutch congregation soon became dominant and the church became known as the Dutch Reformed Church. The Company's relationship with the Netherlands was re-affirmed and strengthened when Her Majesty Queen Juliana accepted the Honorary Freedom (1954) and Livery (1966) of the Company. The casket containing the Freedom scroll, made by Freeman William Wheeler (father of Past Master John Wheeler) was of wood salvaged from Carpenters' Hall and the old Dutch Church which were both destroyed by

Portrait of Queen  
Juliana at  
Carpenters' Hall by  
Sierk Schroder



enemy action in 1941. In 1972, Carpenters' Hall was the venue for a State Banquet given by Queen Juliana to Queen Elizabeth II and other members of the British Royal Family. In more recent times, the Company donated a window to the new Dutch Church in Austin Friars when it was rebuilt after the Second World War, and the Minister of the Dutch Church is invited to participate in the Company's Election Day service.

My own involvement with the Society began in February 2022 after I received an email sent to Liverymen from Caroline Stevens, PA to the Clerk, stating that the Company was seeking to recruit three new members of the Society. Due to the excellent response, the Company decided to increase its corporate membership so that all eleven Liverymen who had responded could be included. I was one of the eleven and so this report comes to be written. This report covers the period February 2022 to June 2023, during which the new Carpenters' Company members of the Society have attended a

number of Anglo-Netherlands Society events. The delayed Society Centenary Reception took place on 29th March 2022 at the State Apartments at Kensington Palace in the presence of Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester and Her Royal Highness Princess Beatrix of the Netherlands. Despite a waiting list for this occasion, four Liverymen had the privilege of attending. The Master was unfortunately unable to attend and so nominated Liveryman John Burton to represent him. It was an excellent opportunity to get to know other members of the Society and our group of four also met the British Ambassador to the Netherlands HE Joanna Roper and the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, HE Karel van Oosterom.

Also in 2022, liverymen members attended other events organised by the Society, including a visit to Salisbury and the city's Cathedral Flower Festival, a guided walk of the Inns of Court in London, a drinks reception at the Reform Club with a talk about the Dutch



Liverymen **John Jackson** (front left), **Geoff Rhodes** (front right) and Society members enjoyed dinner in Doesburg

Academic Network in the UK, the members' annual dinner at the Reform Club and the Society's traditional Unilever Lecture. In May 2023 Geoff Rhodes and I joined the Society's visit to the Netherlands. This was a marvellous opportunity for us to get to know more members of the Society and at the same time to learn so much more about the Netherlands and its people. We met in Oosterbeek, near Arnhem, in the Gelderland area of the Netherlands. On the first day we visited the War Graves Cemetery in Oosterbeek with two guides whose stories of the battle for Arnhem in 1944 were very moving. From there we went to the nearby Airborne Museum where we were met by the Mayor of Renkum-Oosterbeek, Mrs Agnes Schaap, and the Director of the Museum, Mr Ronnie Weijers. In the afternoon we had a guided tour of the Kröller-Müller Museum in the Park de Hoge Veluwe, home to an amazing collection of paintings by Van Gogh. In the evening the Society hosted the Mayor of Renkum-Oosterbeek and her husband Mr Cornelius Derks at a restaurant near the Airborne Museum as its dinner guests. The

next day saw us visit Het Loo Palace near Apeldoorn, making a brief stop en route to see the John Frost Bridge over the Lower Rhine in Arnhem. The Palace is a former Dutch royal residence and the large Baroque Palace was erected by Stadholder William and Mary, later to become King and Queen of England. In the afternoon we departed for Doesburg, a small Hanseatic town on the River Ijssel. Our guided tour of this highly picturesque town was in a horse drawn carriage called a paardentram. After some free time, dinner was taken at the historic 'de Waag' Grand Cafe, a fitting conclusion to a most successful visit.



Doesburg transport, the paardentram

When Queen Juliana was made an Honorary Freeman of the Company in 1954 the Master, Mr Kenneth M Roberts, said: 'We desire to offer to Your Majesty a most cordial welcome as an Honorary Freeman of this Guild and we affirm our earnest desire that the neighbourly relations that existed between the Brotherhood of Dutchmen and the Carpenters of London in the 15th Century may continue for ever.' I am sure this sentiment survives today through the renewed links between the Company and the Society.

I am indebted to the Company's Archivist, Julie Tancell, for providing me with information about the Company's links with the Dutch community in London which I have found useful in writing this report.

## Company Visit to Madrid

PAST MASTER RACHEL BOWER WRITES:

After the excitement of the Coronation, the following weekend of 12th-13th May saw a party of nearly 30 Carpenters and partners in Madrid for our first Company visit abroad since Berlin in 2019. There was a familiar theme – a welcoming cocktail party at the residence of Our Man in Madrid, His Majesty's Ambassador to Spain, Hugh Elliott, and his wife Antonia, a guided tour of the stunning Palacio Real the following morning, and dinner in the excellent Papageno restaurant of the Teatro Real, Madrid's opera house, on the

Saturday night. Having spent less than 24 hours in Madrid on a previous trip I remember walking past the south façade of the Palace and realizing it was sitting spectacularly on top of an escarpment, the ground suddenly dropping to the plains below. Exploring on foot this time, my daughter Hannah and I discovered Madrid is surprisingly hilly – turn a corner and a road drops steeply down before climbing up again. A model of the topography of the city would be fascinating.

The Ambassador and his wife live outside the city centre in a newish leafy suburb, close to the tennis club. After a short, interesting account of the work of the Embassy and the British consulates around Spain - Britain and Spain are important trading partners - Mr and Mrs Elliott invited us to drinks and canapés in the garden while we caught up with each other and they moved effortlessly round talking to everyone.

Group gathered outside the stunning Palacio Real



Next morning we gathered outside the Palace awaiting our guide and entrance slots in two groups at different times. The 18th century Palace is extensive and boasts more than 3000 rooms. It is mainly built round two great quadrangles by King Carlos III and his son Carlos IV following a fire in 1734. I found it the most sumptuous building I had ever come across, though I admit I have yet to see Versailles. The porte-cochère goes right through the building, guests then climbing the huge double stone staircase to the first floor, suitably awed. Many of the great rooms are still used regularly for State occasions, though the present King and his family live elsewhere. Several of the State rooms have frescoed ceilings by Tiepolo. There were far too many beautiful paintings and too much fabulous furniture to take in, but I found I was drawn to the soft furnishings which were of outstanding quality. While the Gasparini Salon, the Chapel and Throne rooms were stunning, the highlight for me was the small Porcelain Room whose walls were clad with white and green porcelain panels from the local Buen Retiro factory.

Madrid is famed for its world class art galleries, cathedrals, monasteries and churches, parks and gardens, fountains and equine statues — as well as tasty food places and even the odd bit of shopping. Our visit was a great way of filling in some of the gaps from my earlier stay. Huge thanks are due to the Master, the Clerk, Theo Gregson, Richard Hamilton and Caroline Stevens for their hard work in making this most enjoyable weekend possible.



At the Ambassador's Residence (left-right)  
**Allen Zimmer, James Preston and Rachel Bower**



Left to right: **Michael Mathews, the Clerk Tim Gregson and Fergus Wheeler**

## Admissions

### TO THE LIVERY

**On Wednesday  
5th October 2022**



#### **John Bernard Barradell**

John was the Town Clerk and Chief Executive Officer of the City of London Corporation from 2012 to 2022. Before joining the Corporation, his local government positions included Deputy Chief Executive at Westminster Council and Chief Executive at Brighton & Hove, following commercial experience in the IT sector in companies such as Unisys and Hewlett Packard. In the voluntary sector, John rose through the ranks of the Specials Police Force in the Metropolitan Police Service to Chief Officer, and was awarded an OBE for services to the police in 2008. He was educated at the Bishop Challoner School and University College London, graduating with a BA (Hons) Geography. John is a trustee of the National Emergencies Trust and chairs the board of trustees at the Sir Simon Milton Foundation, which helps young people into work and tackles isolation among older people. Now retired, he is married with three children. His hobbies include recreational cycling, philately, social history and national public radio.

**On Wednesday  
1st February 2023**



#### **John Arthur Annesley Goodall**

John is an author, historian and has been the Architectural Editor of Country Life since 2007. He was educated at Ampleforth College and read history at Durham University before taking an MA and doctorate in architectural history at the Courtauld Institute of Art. He worked for several years as a freelance writer and scholar and joined English Heritage as a senior properties historian in 2003. A part-time lecturer at the City and Guilds of London Art School, John sits on the Fabric Advisory Commissions of St George's Chapel Windsor Castle and St Albans Abbey, and the Arts and Architecture Committee of Westminster Cathedral. He is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London and a patron of the Castle Studies Trust. He was series consultant on the 2007 BBC series *The Way We Built Britain* and his publications include *The English Castle* (2011), which received a number of awards, and several guidebooks for English Heritage and the National Trust. John has two children. His hobbies include architecture, design, British history, and baroque music.

**On Wednesday  
1st March 2023**



#### **Sean Symons**

A Consultant Trauma and Orthopaedic surgeon, Sean is the son of Liveryman Lorna Symons and nephew of Past Master Alistair Gregory-Smith. Educated at Latymer Upper School and the Royal London Hospital Medical School, he qualified as a doctor in 1994 and became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England in 1999. He trained as a Trauma and Orthopaedic surgeon in North West Thames working at Charing Cross Hospital, Chelsea & Westminster Hospital and St. Mary's Hospital. Sean was appointed Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon in 2008 and is currently the Clinical Director for Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery at Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust, specialising in knee surgery. Sean is married and has three children. He enjoys all sport, especially rugby, cricket, golf and ski-ing. He is also interested in geopolitics and history, especially of London and Europe from the 1850s.

## TO THE FREEDOM

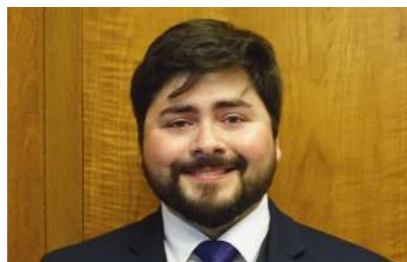
**On Wednesday  
5th October 2022**



**Andrew James Blair**

Andrew works in investment management as Head of International Business Development at Brown Advisory. Educated at Radley College and Robinson College, Cambridge, he is married with two sons. He is interested in all sports, particularly rugby (he has been a coach) and cricket. He also has an interest in fine wine and had a previous role with London wine merchants Justerini & Brooks.

**On Wednesday  
2nd November 2022**



**Tobias Alan Preston**

Toby is a robotics engineer, designing and manufacturing robots and robotic systems for use in the field of logistics. He was educated at King's College School Wimbledon and the University of Southampton, taking a Master's Degree of Engineering (MEng) in Mechanical Engineering with Mechatronics. He lives in Amsterdam and his interests include sailing, cycling and rowing.

**On Wednesday  
7th December 2022**



**Jeremy Michael Archer**

Educated at Sherborne School, St Catherine's College, Cambridge, and the University of Buckingham, Jeremy worked for Cazenove Capital Management and Lombard Bank, after serving for 13 years in the Devonshire & Dorset Regiment. He is now retired and sits on committees as a Trustee for 10 organisations, mostly military charities such as The Not Forgotten and Royal Commonwealth Ex-services League. Jeremy is married and his interests include shooting, writing, book collecting (Private Press) and mycology (the study of fungus).

**On Wednesday  
1st February 2023**



**David Saunders**

David was a student at the City of London School for Boys and went on to study at the University of Nottingham, taking a BA Hons in Russian & Contemporary Chinese Solutions. He has worked as a Content Handling Specialist for sports feeds and now works for Transport for London. His interests include languages, domestic and foreign politics and news and sports – he is a former football referee.

**On Wednesday  
7th June 2023**



**Julian Paget Norbury**

Julian is a Chartered Surveyor and a Director of Fairlie Norbury Real Estate, Malvern, an investment and development consultancy specialising in London and UK commercial property founded in 2017. Previously he was an equity partner jointly running the investment department of Chartered Wealth Management. He was educated at Rendcombe College, Cirencester and Birmingham Polytechnic, taking a BSc Hons in Estate Management. Married with two children, Julian is a nephew of Past Master Lord Flight. He is Chairman of the Worcestershire Archery Society and enjoys rural pastimes, cycling, cross-country running, long-distance swimming, and fine art. He has taken part in numerous fundraiser running, rowing and swimming challenges.



**Benjamin North**

Ben is Operations Director of the Docklands Settlements, based at Carpenters' & Dockland Centre in Stratford East London. A charity with a long-standing association with the Carpenters' Company, its three centres in East London provide much needed playcare, youth, community and social services to a wide range of residents in the local community. Ben is responsible for the management of the community centres and a food bank in Stratford. He was educated at St Vincent's College Gosport and the University of Sussex, taking a BA (Hons) in International Relations. He is married with two young daughters, and his interests include playing football for a Saturday League team in Essex. He also enjoys ski-ing.

**On Wednesday  
1st March 2023**



**John Campbell**

John trained as an architect at Robert Gordon's University, Aberdeen, and Heriot-Watt University/Edinburgh College of Art. He was awarded the Carpenters' Company Exchange Scholarship with the Carpenters' Company of the City and County of Philadelphia in 1985. After completing the scholarship, he

settled in Philadelphia and worked for an architectural practice until his retirement and return to the UK last year. John is also a member of the Carpenters' Company of the City and County of Philadelphia. He is married with two daughters and his interests include orienteering, running, cycling, walking, photography, sketching and travel.

**On Wednesday  
3rd May 2023**



**Naomi Nanteza Astrid  
Walusimbi Hawkes**

Naomi is a London-based barrister specialising in housing, property and litigation law and a Judge of the War Pensions and Armed Forces Compensation Chamber. She has been a Judge of the Residential Property Division of the Property Chamber since 2013. Educated at Downing College, Cambridge and the Inns of Court School of Law, Naomi was called to the Bar in 1994 and has over 20 years' experience as a trial advocate. She was appointed a Recorder (part-time circuit judge) in 2022. Naomi is also a Yoga teacher and member of the British Wheel of Yoga.

**On Wednesday  
6th July 2023**

*From the Building Crafts College, in recognition of seven years service*



**Andrew Stirrup**

Andy joined the Building Crafts College as a Site Carpentry Tutor in February 2016. He worked in the industry for 33 years as a carpenter and supervisor before becoming a project manager for a sub-contractor. He progressed into project management for main contractors, overseeing large commercial projects before joining the College to teach carpentry to apprentices. Andy teaches up to level 3 site carpentry and is an NVQ assessor. He is a keen long-distance runner and travels extensively.

## Profiles

### THE MASTER 2023

#### Dr Allen Zimbler

Allen Zimbler grew up in South Africa where, after being conscripted into the infantry, he became an officer in the Rand Light Infantry. In 1974 he joined the staff of the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, one of South Africa's few English-speaking anti-apartheid universities at the time. He taught first for eight years in the School of Psychology and then moved for the next seven years to the University's Graduate School of Business Administration, where he became a Full Professor teaching on MBA and executive programmes. During this time Dr Zimbler had established a strategic management and organisational development consultancy in Johannesburg, primarily helping South African organisations to deal with the transition taking place in the country, as well as consulting to a variety of international organisations. His pioneering work on the development of black managers became key to the development of some of the country's future managerial and leadership capability. This consultancy ran for 25 years, whereafter Dr Zimbler moved to London in August 1997 to help one of his client organisations, Investec Bank, initiate their international business. He had been involved with Investec from its inception having joined full-time in 2001. He retired from the Bank's Global

Executive in 2016. He became a British citizen in March 2007. Dr Zimbler is a Director of the African Leadership Institute, a pan-African organisation that runs best-in-class leadership programmes for some of the most outstanding young future leaders of Africa. He is Chairman of the Ju/'hoansi (pronounced 'JuTwansi') Development Fund, an organisation that raises funds for and is currently building five entry-level schools for young Khoisan children in the Nyae-Nyae Conservancy of northern Namibia, providing mother-tongue education in remote villages. Dr Zimbler is Chair of Governors of Morpeth School, a high school in one of the most socio-economically depressed boroughs of London. He is also a member of the Honorary Knights of the Round Table, a London charity providing bursaries to young people qualifying in a range of arts, crafts and professions. For the last five years he has been Chairman of his local amenity society, the Hyde Park Estate Association, as well as Chairman of the Hyde Park Paddington Neighbourhood Forum. He is an honorary member of Magdalene College, Cambridge and of Wolfson College, Oxford on whose Finance Committee he serves. He had an early interest in carpentry, having made some of his own furniture as a young man, and became a Freeman of the

Worshipful Company of Carpenters in 2009 and a Liveryman in 2010. A former martial artist, he is passionate about rugby, loves cricket and collects classic cars. Allen lives in London with his wife, Dr Caryn Solomon, and has four children and nine grandchildren.



### THE JUNIOR WARDEN 2023

#### Lawrence Mallinson

Lawrence became a Freeman of the Company in 1983 and a Liveryman in 1988. He was educated at Jesus College Cambridge where he read Law and History and went on to train as a Chartered accountant at KPMG from 1978 to 1983. He was Finance Director of Computacenter in its early years from 1984 to 1987, before entering the food industry as one of the founding directors of New Covent Garden Soup Company, pioneers of the fresh soup market. In 1989 Lawrence acquired the assets of a defunct Suffolk Cider company, and has managed and grown James White Drinks Ltd into one of the country's major fruit and vegetable juice pressers, packers and bottlers. Based at Whites Fruit Farm in Ashbocking, Suffolk the company is best known for its 'Big Tom' spicy tomato juice, granted a

Royal Warrant from the late Queen Elizabeth, and a range of organic beetroot juices and sports nutrition products, as well as a wide variety of other organic fruit and vegetable juices. Lawrence is also Chairman of Wadham Lodge Sports Ground Trust, a charity providing sporting facilities in Walthamstow.

Lawrence's late father Terence Mallinson was an active and long-standing Liveryman who was instrumental in establishing and running the Carpenters Awards (now Wood Awards) for many years. His brothers Michael and Roland are also Liverymen. Lawrence has been married to Doe for 33 years. They have 3 children and live in Aldeburgh.





## Obituaries

### LIVERY

#### Peter Alistair Luton

15TH APRIL 1936 -  
23RD JULY 2023



Peter was the son of Leonard Victor Luton, who was admitted to the Livery in 1945, and Jane May Luton. After leaving Oundle School in 1954 and gaining his flying licence he did National Service in the RAF, training as a pilot on Provosts and Vampires. On demobilization he attended Brixton School of Building and became an articled pupil to Dove Brothers Ltd where he trained to work in the family building company J T Luton & Son Ltd. He served as Assistant Contracts Manager then Contracts Manager, before being appointed Company Secretary in 1979 and later Managing Director. His professional qualifications included a Higher National Diploma in Building Construction and Licentiate, Associate and Member of the Institute of Building. For many years he was a staunch

supporter of the London Master Builders Association where his wise counsel was greatly welcomed. A deep-rooted interest in the building industry and the craft of carpentry led him to devote much time to training young people in a wide range of skills. His innate modesty and what Canon Chancellor Edward Probert at his funeral service in Salisbury Cathedral described as 'uncomplaining practicality' endeared him to many, as did his good humour and obvious delight in life's simple pleasures.

Peter joined the Livery of the Carpenters' Company in 1960. Then living and working in East London, he soon became actively involved in the Carpenters' and Docklands Settlement, serving on the Committee (its governing body) for 31 years, six as Chairman. He married Deirdre (née Munro), a musician and teacher, in 1968 and they had two daughters, Rachel and Anna-Maria. Rachel was admitted to the Freedom of the Carpenters' Company and sat alongside Peter on the Carpenters' and Docklands Settlement Committee for many years. He was especially proud that in his year as Master Anna-Maria was admitted to the Freedom of the Company and Rachel became one of the first lady liverymen to be admitted to the Company. Peter was involved in numerous other voluntary and church related activities in the local community, serving as Church Warden of Wanstead Parish and Vice Chairman of the Parochial Church Council for 10 years. These

and other responsibilities led him to being appointed a much admired and respected Justice of the Peace. After moving to Salisbury all the family became heavily involved in the Cathedral. Peter served as Treasurer of the Friends of Salisbury Cathedral and was appointed a Server, Administrant and Sub-Deacon. From 1997 to 2000 he was an Executive Officer of Southern Theological Education and Training Scheme, a ministerial training programme for church ministers, based in Salisbury. Peter's other interests included music and choral singing (he was a parish church choir member for over 40 years), historic buildings, gardening, walking and cooking.

The music at his funeral included the 2nd movement of J S Bach's Concerto for Two Violins in D minor, movingly played by Rachel and Anna-Maria accompanied by David Halls, Director of Music for Salisbury Cathedral. Most felicitously, we learned that Anna-Maria's instrument was hand made by liveryman Alan Horn, father of liveryman Mark Horn. By contrast, the organ voluntary at the end of the service consisted of a James Bond Medley arranged by John Challenger which would surely have brought a smile to Peter's lips as it did to the many mourners attending.

Peter Luton was elected Junior Warden in 2000 and progressed to Master in 2003. He became an Emeritus member in 2022. He was Chairman of the Craft Committee from 2008 to 2012 and

for many years he was Treasurer of Rustington Convalescent Home Committee of Management and a Trustee of the Charitable Trust. An especially active and conscientious member of the Court, he took a close interest in all aspects of the Company's many charitable and other activities. Defying increasing ill-health, he continued to make the journey to London for meetings without complaint right up to his death. With his passing the Company has lost a loyal servant who will be remembered with great affection and respect.

*(The editor gratefully acknowledges contributions from Past Masters Haynes, Povey, Wheeler and May, and members of Peter's family, in the preparation of this Obituary)*

#### Major General Paul Timothy Stevenson OBE

CLERK TO THE COMPANY  
1991-2007

9TH MARCH 1940 -  
28TH JANUARY 2023



*Portrait of the Clerk by Michael Noakes*

**Past Master John Wheeler writes:** 'The effects of good food and wine were counterbalanced with regular exercise. I woke at 6:15 AM and went for a 45 minute run along the Thames on most days.' This quote from Paul's own notes reflects his approach to life, involving activity both in and out of the Hall. His selection from some 300 candidates for the position of Clerk to the Company indicated that he was likely to be a pretty outstanding person.

When he came to the Hall he saw that a number of practices were somewhat unsophisticated, even for the early days of IT. Apart from his office updating efforts, he also took an active part in the rebuilding of both the membership and the investment portfolios. On the membership he oversaw the ending of patrimony and the creation of a better balance of members between craft and non-craft people; and, of course, the inclusion of ladies. During my time as Master, ladies were only allowed on to the balcony of the dining hall to hear the speeches. But that ended with the arrival of Lady Liverymen (as they chose to be called). Paul also improved the rebalancing of the investment portfolio between property and equities which is still ongoing. One memorable transaction which he supervised closely was the renegotiation of the fixed rent lease of our property in Lime Street, which had been set at £10,000 per annum, to a modern rent of £250,000 per annum. Other important property transactions were the rebuilding of the Building Crafts College in Stratford and the planning of a project to build 2000 homes on the Carpenters' estate, though this was overtaken by the eventual sale of the land to the Agency for the Olympic Games Swimming Pool. There was also the rebuilding of an old car wash in Lett Road with 57 flats, 12 of which

we kept as an investment.

Of the 17 Masters (including myself) whom Paul served, I asked four to offer a few thoughts for this article. Michael May remembers going on a recce for the Company's first overseas trip to the Vimy Ridge, the Champagne region and the home of Charles de Gaulle. The trip included seeing the timber houses at Troyes, together with the Carpentry Museum and champagne tasting. Michael consulted the Michelin guide and the group enjoyed a superb lunch before heading home on Eurostar. Bill Haynes mentioned Paul's involvement with the renovation of 8/10 Throgmorton Avenue and the building of the Crafts College. He recalls Paul's curt dismissal of his congratulations on being appointed Chairman of the Livery Clerks' Association: 'It comes with the rations'. Guy Morton-Smith remembers Paul as a workaholic spending long hours doing much of the work himself and being very demanding that everything should be just right. This was in the days before the modern office setup we have today. Guy also recalls the serious accident Paul suffered when he was knocked down by a van while out running in the City. Peter Luton made the point that all of us 'Stevenson Masters' greatly appreciated how supportive and helpful he was when we were launching into the unknown. In my own installation speech, I spoke of being 'handed the helm' and of being 'dependent on the hawk-eyed navigator, also known as the Clerk, to press the alarm if there was danger about'. While perusing some old files from Paul's time as Clerk for the purpose of this obituary I found a letter of mine to him dated 14 September 2005 urging closer cooperation with the City and Guilds Art School which I re-read with interest.

I feel it relevant to select from

Paul's Daily Telegraph obituary a few points from a distinguished military life which was twice as long as his time as Clerk. In addition to his early years in the 41 Commando, he pursued modern pentathlon at international level and managed the British Team in the 1984 Tokyo Olympics. He developed expertise in Arctic warfare techniques, including military ski-ing and winter survival. In 1982 he presented Julian Thompson's Falklands Landing Plans to the Prime Minister and the War Cabinet. He was also present at the Argentine surrender in Port Stanley. After retiring as Clerk, Paul became a County President of the British Legion and was involved in the local Beagle Hunt. He married Ann in 1965. She survives him with their daughter Iona, son Jonathan and four grandchildren.

A Service of Thanksgiving for his life was held on 21 April 2023 in his home village of Wotton-under-Edge at St Mary's Church, and was attended by the Master and a number of liverymen and their wives. Although the service included a Royal Marine trumpeter sounding the Last Post and the Reveille, as well as the Joint Master of the Severn Vale Beagles sounding Blow for Home, it was very much a family affair, with the children and grandchildren participating and quoting Paul's favourite saying: 'If you want to be seen stand up, if you want to be heard shout, but if you want to be appreciated shut up!' To quote once more from his own notes of his time as Clerk: 'It was a wonderful second career during which we made some splendid friends.'

## Peter Romer-Lee

15TH JANUARY 1939 –  
28TH NOVEMBER 2022



**Son and Liveryman Richard Romer-Lee writes:**

Peter Thornycroft Romer-Lee was born in London in 1939; the first six years of his life were spent whilst the world was at war. The family moved from London to Datchet, which was just as well as apparently the odd bomb or two did land in Eaton Terrace, where they lived. Peter's parents had a very strong influence on him – his father being an accountant and his mum a useful sailor – and both were hard acts to follow. But follow he did with great aplomb. He was educated at Fan Court, a prep school in Chertsey, which he described as 'not being up to much', Eton and then Trinity College, Cambridge, where he read Economics before switching to Law. He had a jolly good time there, sailing, partying and making lifelong friends.

Peter is survived by his wife Lynne – they were married for over 48 years – his two sons and two daughters and eight grandchildren, all of whom brought him much happiness. His passion, alongside

Lynne of course, was sailing. He was a cadet at Bembridge, doubtless under the watchful eye of his mother, herself an accomplished and ruthless helm, before sailing whenever he could. At University he was awarded two half blues. He went on to sail with lots of success at ocean racing, at Itchenor in Swallows, Bembridge where he raced the family's Redwing Toucan, and Cowes to race initially J24s and then Darings. He won Cowes Week in three different classes: Swallows, Darings and Redwings. He loved it when it was blowing hard – the windier the better - and was an exceptional helm. As a young man Peter was an accomplished skier. He loved fishing for trout and salmon, regularly enjoying the banks of various rivers in England, Scotland and Ireland. He was a wonderful father - warm, fun and not in the least bit scary.

He trained as an accountant at Deloittes. After a brief stint at L Powell Dawes he joined Brewers, where he spent the rest of his career. He thrived on seeing clients, could add columns of numbers in his head with ease and always gave sensible advice. He was a regular at the Bung Hole on High Holborn and I'm sure many other watering holes. He could never understand why anyone would want to have lunch at their desk!

Peter was Auditor to the Carpenters' Company from 1988 to 1999 and became an enthusiastic Liveryman when he retired, after which he and Lynne enjoyed many an outing and feast with the Company. In his later years his health started to present challenges. I never once heard him complain. When his cancer returned some two and a half years ago, he fought it with great courage, dignity and more consideration about its impact on others than him. He was thrilled

to see his youngest daughter marry in Bembridge in June and was comforted enormously in his final weeks by having his family at his side. He will be greatly missed.

## FREEDOM

### Patricia Wait

15TH AUGUST 1927 –  
7TH AUGUST 2022



**Liveryman James Preston writes:**

Patricia Wait died on 7th August 2022, nine days before her 95th birthday. She was the oldest daughter of Past Master Alan Westbury Preston, and became a Freeman in 1954. After leaving school Patricia trained as a nurse in Oswestry, Staffordshire where she worked on a TB ward. It was a tough first job due to a national polio outbreak and she witnessed the death of friends as well as patients. During Covid she recalled these times. In 1950 Patricia retrained as a medical secretary. She would later return to Harley Street in the 1970's and worked there until the late 1990's. In the mid-50's Patricia

became an air stewardess, flying out of London Airport, Croydon. She flew all over the world including behind the Iron Curtain. Patricia was the founding secretary of the Guild of Glass Engravers, and for many years worked as a fundraiser for a charity ICCS which ran a longitudinal study on a group of children. In retirement, Patricia travelled widely including India, Indonesia, New York and Hong Kong. Towards the end of her life, she showed real bravery dealing firstly with macular degeneration, and then with the indignities brought by Alzheimer's which eventually claimed her life. Patricia is survived by her daughters Sarah, Lucinda, Anne and Caroline.

### John Wilkie

DIED 3RD MAY 2023



**Liveryman John Taylor writes:**

John Wilkie, who died on 3rd May 2023, became a Freeman of the Company in 1999. His early career was as a civil engineer. He was also a squadron commander in 101 Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), a Territorial Army volunteer unit. After changing career in the late 1990s

to set up his own cabinet making business, he undertook the Fine Woodwork course at the Building Crafts College, then still at Great Titchfield Street. The standard of his craftsmanship was excellent. Following the College's move to Stratford and a significant increase in student numbers he became a part-time instructor, while continuing to run his successful craft business in Hertfordshire.

John was invited to become a Wood Awards judge where his particular contribution was to assess the technical woodworking and craft aspects of the projects entered. He much enjoyed travelling the length and breadth of the country to witness at first hand a wide range of stunning examples of craftsmanship in wood. His very significant contribution to the Wood Awards was much appreciated.

Unfortunately, he developed a health condition in recent years that sadly led to his untimely death. John was an active and well-respected member of the Building Crafts College staff and the Carpenters' Company. He and his wife Helen regularly attended Company and College events. He will be remembered for his warmth, his rapport with students, and passion for fine craftsmanship.

## Company Appointments

The following held appointments during the Company year 2022/2023

### COURT

#### Master

Brigadier M. J. Meardon, DL

#### Senior Warden

Dr. A. Zimbler

#### Middle Warden

Dr. L. D. G. Grossman, CBE

#### Junior Warden

Mr. S. G. Corbett

Mr. V. G. Morton-Smith  
Mr. W. S. Haynes  
Mr. J. A. C. Wheeler  
Mr. M. O. P. May  
Mr. M. R. Mathews  
The Revd. Dr. W. P. Povey, JP  
Mr. H. M. Lancaster  
Mr. M. J. Samuel  
Mr. M. R. Mosley  
Mr. M. W. F. Felton  
Mr. M. H. W. Neal  
Mr. A. M. Gregory-Smith  
Mrs. R. F. Bower  
His Honour P. W. Birts, KC  
The Lord Flight, of Worcester  
Mr. M. J. Morrison

#### Past Masters Emeritus:

Mr. F. D. Hornsby  
Mr. N. B. C. Eveleigh, MBE  
Mr. P. A. Luton (died 23rd July)  
Mr. D. F. Newman  
Mr. J. D. Sennitt  
Mr. G. P. S. Downes, CVO

### COMMITTEES\*

#### General Purposes Committee

The Master  
The Senior Warden  
The Middle Warden  
The Junior Warden  
**Mr. M. R. Mathews**  
Mr. M. R. Mosley  
Mr. M. H. W. Neal  
Mr. A. M. Gregory-Smith  
Mr. M. J. Morrison  
Mr. L. S. Mallinson  
Mr. J. W. Preston  
The Clerk

The Financial Controller  
Company Surveyor  
Company Solicitor

#### Building Crafts

##### College Board of Governors

The Master  
The Middle Warden  
Mr. A. M. Gregory-Smith  
Mr. M. R. Mathews  
Mrs. R. F. Bower  
**Mr. M. J. Morrison**  
Mr. J. Burton (Co-opted)  
Mr. N. Gutfreund (Co-opted)  
Mr. A. T. Mortimer (Co-opted)  
Mr. B. J. D. U. Hodgson (Co-opted)  
Mrs. P. A. Bendall (Co-opted)  
The Clerk  
The Principal of the BCC  
The Business Manager of the BCC  
The Financial Controller

#### Craft Committee

The Master  
The Junior Warden  
Mr. M. J. Samuel  
**Mr. M. R. Mosley**  
Mr. M. W. F. Felton  
Mr. J. C. M. Taylor  
Mr. D. J. S. Hill (Co-opted)  
Mr. C. C. G. Trevor (Co-opted)  
Mr. L. R. Conway (Co-opted)  
Mr. W. M. Avery (Co-opted)  
The Principal of the BCC  
The Clerk

#### Investments Committee

The Master  
The Senior Warden  
**Mr. H. M. Lancaster**  
Mr. M. R. Mosley  
Lord Flight of Worcester  
Mr. J. R. D. Korner (Co-opted)  
Mrs. M. C. Roberts (Co-opted)  
Mr. A. B. Cottrell (Co-opted)  
Mr. R. J. Hamilton (Co-opted)  
The Clerk  
The Financial Controller

#### Rustington Convalescent Home Committee of Management

The Master  
The Junior Warden  
Mr. M. J. Samuel  
Mr. M. O. P. May  
The Revd. Dr. W. P. Povey  
**Mr. M. H. W. Neal**  
Mr. R. C. Galbraith (Co-opted)

Mr. R. H. Eveleigh (Co-opted)  
Dr. C. N. Birts (Co-opted)  
Mr. F. M. C. Wheeler (Co-opted)  
The Clerk  
The Home Manager  
The Financial Controller

#### Charitable Grants Committee

The Master  
The Senior Warden  
**Mr. M. J. Samuel**  
Mr. M. W. F. Felton  
His Hon. P. W. Birts  
Mr. D. H. Thompson (Co-opted)  
Mrs. C. E. Whittaker (Co-opted)  
Mr. R. J. Samuel (Co-opted)  
Mr. C. R. Cooper (Co-opted)  
The Clerk  
Craft & Charities Administrator

#### Admissions Committee

The Master  
**Mr. M. R. Mathews**  
Mr. M. R. Mosley  
Mrs. R. F. Bower  
His Hon. P. W. Birts  
The Clerk

### TRUSTEES\*

#### Carpenters' Company Charitable Trust

**Mr. M. R. Mathews**  
Mr. M. J. Samuel  
Mr. A. M. Gregory-Smith  
Mrs. R. F. Bower  
The Clerk  
The Financial Controller

#### Company Pension Fund Trustees

**Mr. M. R. Mosley**  
Mr. R. G. Gregory-Smith  
Mr. J. C. M. Taylor  
The Clerk  
The Financial Controller

#### Building Crafts College Trading Ltd:

Mr. A. M. Gregory-Smith  
**Mrs. R. F. Bower**  
The Clerk  
The Principal  
The Financial Controller

\*Names in bold are Chairmen

CARPENTERS' HALL  
HOSTED THE WEDDING  
RECEPTIONS OF THREE  
LIVERYMEN THIS YEAR:



Liveryman  
Hannah Mosley  
and Tom O'Brien  
on 3rd December  
2022



Liveryman  
Francesca Gregson  
and Jamie Mawson  
on 20th May 2023

Liveryman Ben Brading  
and Lottie Hutchinson  
on 29th October 2022



## Gifts

#### Freeman Vivienne Pocock

A is for Ashbee. An Arts and Crafts  
Alphabet Peyton Skipwith & Brian  
Webb [2015]

#### Senior Warden Dr. A. Zimbler

The Museum of the Wood Age  
Max Adams (2022)

#### Past Master Michael Mathews

Sum of money to the CCCT invested  
for the Company prize for a student

at Christ's Hospital and a donation to  
the Carpenters & Docklands Centre,  
Stratford

#### Mrs. Cecilia Neal

A water colour painting 'Spring  
Landscape, Iver Heath' by John Nash  
(1893-1977); 'The Landscape of Love  
and Solace' Andy Friend (biography  
of John Nash) in loving memory of  
her late husband, Past Master Morton  
Neal

#### Worshipful Company of Masons

Crafted in Stone. A History of the  
Worshipful Company of Masons  
Ian Stone (2023)

## OFFICERS OF THE COMPANY

### Clerk

Brigadier T.J. Gregson, MBE

### Financial Controller

Ms. J. Brundell

### Beadle

Mr. D. Neal

### Manager of the Rustington

Convalescent Home

Mrs. J. Haynes

### Principal of the Building

Crafts College

Mr. J. Mercer (from July onwards)

Ms Selena Bolingbroke)

### Bursar of the Building

Crafts College

Mr. J. Mercer

### Company Solicitor

Ms C. Nelson of Wedlake Bell

### Company Surveyor

Mr. J. C. Harding of Daniel Watney

### Company Auditor

Mr. E. Finch of Buzzacott

## Calendar

### 2023

4th October  
Liverymen and  
Freemen's Reception

17th October  
Wine Tasting

1st November  
Inter-Livery Real Tennis  
Tournament

11th November  
Lord Mayor's Show

15th November  
Livery Dinner

22nd November  
Wood Awards

28th November  
Building Crafts College Prize-giving

### 2024 (Provisional)

24th-26th January  
Inter-Livery Ski-ing, Morzine,  
France

4th March  
Inter-Livery Bridge

13th March  
Livery Spring Dinner

15th March  
United Guilds Service

11th April  
Livery Golf

26th April  
Livery Clay Shoot

10th-11th May  
Company Visit

15-16th May  
Inter-Livery Clay Shoot

16th May  
Inter-Livery Golf

17-18th May  
Inter-Livery Regatta, Cowes

12th June  
Court Summer Dinner

TBC June  
Building Crafts College  
End-of-Year Show

24th June  
Sheriffs' Election

9th July  
Court Visit to Rustington  
Convalescent Home

TBC July  
Company Tennis

16th July  
**General Court of the Livery  
and Election Court**

TBC September  
Open House

29th September  
Sheriffs' Admission

30th September  
Lord Mayor's Election

2nd October  
Livery and Freemen's Reception

15th October  
Wine Tasting

9th November  
Lord Mayor's Show

13th November  
Livery Dinner

20th November  
Wood Awards

26th November  
Building Crafts College Prize-giving

The Worshipful Company of Carpenters  
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