

# The Carpenters' Company Chronicle 2025



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# Foreword by the Master

It was, to say the least, 'interesting' being Master of a City livery company in a year of unprecedented global turbulence. I, and I suspect many others, watched events unfold with a mixture of horror and disbelief as the rules-based international order which delivered a welcome degree of stability and prosperity for nearly eighty years was consigned to the dustbin of history. All around us violence, authoritarianism, intolerance and brute force had a field day: 'might makes right' is the motto of the day. Thankfully we still 'Honour God'.

**The Master** at the Company's Livery Dinner in November, with the **Lord Mayor Alastair King** (left) and **Sheriff David Chalk** (right)



The enduring rituals and traditions of the City are in sharp contrast to a world in flames. The Livery Dinners, the election of the Mayor and Sheriffs, the sheep drive over London Bridge, the United Guilds Service carry on as they have done for decades and in some cases centuries. Time sometimes appears to stand still in the City or at least to glide serenely, but there is a great deal of energetic paddling beneath the surface. By which I mean to point out, that the pomp and pageantry of City Life is in no way escapism, but a constant and vivid reminder of the achievements and aspirations of our predecessors: our history spurs us on to do more in the future. We Carpenters are immensely proud of our charitable activities, not just those of our 'flagship' the Building Crafts College, but the support we give to schools, students, the people of East London and the

general promotion of our craft. And those charitable activities will certainly benefit from the income produced from the redevelopment of 'our side' of Throgmorton Avenue and the adjoining ex-Morgan Grenfell Building. Equally significant for the future of our Company is the renewal of our Hall which after all is our home and occupies a plot of land that we have been on since the fifteenth century. The Hall and Throgmorton Avenue initiatives - about which you will read more in the Chronicle - are as exciting and inspirational as they are complex and demanding and we all owe a great deal of gratitude to the skill and dedication of those Liverymen who, along with our staff and professional advisers, have so far put in many long hours on these things. So as we embark on a period of, let's say, three years without a hall, we do have a great deal to look forward to: a more comfortable,



**The Master Sir Loyd Grossman**

appropriate and efficient hall, and greater income streams to feed the ever increasing demands of our charitable activities.

So, what were the highlights of my year? First, to say what an immense privilege and honour it was to lead this significant Company. Secondly to recognize the generosity and kind spirit with which other Livery Companies entertain us. Thirdly, the great satisfaction we get from supporting and entertaining our affiliate units of the Army, the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force. And finally, to be able to participate in so many of our Company's activities. Although I am inept at both, our Livery tennis evening and the clay pigeon day were great fun and exhilarating. The top event for any Master must be the Livery trip abroad and in my year we exceptionally managed to have two! This year, our traditional trip which in the past has taken us to Paris, Dublin, Rome, the Hague and Madrid, was a Florentine holiday where we wine, dined, rubbernecked and were fascinated to learn the history of the ancient guilds of Florence. Our exceptional other trip abroad was an excursion to Philadelphia to celebrate the 300th birthday of our American cousins, the Carpenters' Company of Philadelphia. We were delighted that a small group of them were also able to attend our Summer Livery Dinner.

But the most historic event of my year, was being the last Master to benefit from a full year's work alongside our long-serving soon to retire Clerk, Tim Gregson. Tim's service to the Company, his knowledge, collegiality and good humour have all been exceptional. I thank all the Court members for their help and all Liverymen and Freemen for the part they play in the life of the Company. Finally, my most profound thanks to my Consort Melissa without whose enthusiasm, counsel and love, my year would have been a much lesser event.



*The Master and his Consort at Buckingham Palace in June after receiving his knighthood*

*Left to right: John Burton, Francesca Gregson, Sir Loyd Grossman and Michael Mathews in Florence*



# Building Crafts College



*Graduation and Prize-giving Ceremony in November*

## THE PRINCIPAL SELENA BOLINGBROKE REPORTS:

In **September** the 2024-25 academic year started in the best way possible: welcoming back our continuing students and a bumper crop of new enrolments. We exceeded our expectations in terms of new admissions. The increase in teaching activity has allowed the College to reduce the level of subsidy from the Company to the College by over 40% since 2023. Thanks to the generosity of Liverymen, we were able to support 11 Fine Woodwork students with bursaries through the Livery fund – this accounts for almost a third of bursaries

allocated. As our student numbers grow, the demand for bursaries increases. With no public funding for vocational training, we are incredibly grateful for the support given by individual members of the Company, enabling students to pursue their craft training with the College regardless of their background.

A more ambitious programme of engagement with local schools has enabled the College to strengthen recruitment. In **October** Stepney All Saints school kicked off our year



*Student from Stepney All Saints School*

with a careers taster day visiting the College for a tour, an opportunity to try stone carving and a talk with industry employers including Liveryman Jerome Bradley from Beau Bespoke. This programme was supported by the Portal Trust and charity partners. Other schools who joined us throughout the year for taster days include Mary Hare School for Deaf Children, Morpeth, Rokeby, Langdon, Ark Isaac Newton, Jo Richardson and Belmont Park.

We held our annual Graduation and Prize-giving Ceremony at Carpenters' Hall in **November**. This is where we celebrate the achievements of graduates from our diploma and apprenticeship programmes. The Student of the Year prize was awarded to Ryan Upton, one of our carpentry apprentices from Hannaford & Company. Ryan also won

the Barnes Award for Craft Carpentry as Apprentice of the Year.

In **December** we tried out our first external market event, supporting students who wanted to sell their work at the Handmade in Chelsea event. We also received disappointing news that the Department for Education had decided to 'defund' craft level qualifications in Stonemasonry and Bench Joinery. The new year started well for short course enrolments. In **January** we had our best term ever for learners signing up for our evening courses and Saturday schools. We've seen a 50% increase in short course income over the last two years – the DIY market for instruction in plastering, bricklaying and basic carpentry skills delivered by our Gibbins Road construction staff proved particularly popular.



*Natasha O'Byrne with Sir Loyd Grossman (left), Lord Mayor Alastair King (centre right) and City & Guilds Executive Director Faiza Khan (right)*

National apprenticeship week was held in **February**, when we celebrated the achievements of our apprentice students and their employers. **March** saw more awards for BCC students at the City & Guilds Awards at Mansion House. Carpenter of the Year, sponsored by the Carpenters' Company, was won by Natasha O'Byrne from the Furniture Making and Design diploma course. Three of our Stonemasonry students received their Master Craftsman Apprentice Awards: William Johnson, Sam Griffiths and Max Higgins.

In **April** we were visited by portrait photographer Jason Atwood who shot some of our bricklaying apprentices and 16-18 diploma students as part of his Foundations of the Future project. We also restarted our makers-in-residence scheme when recent graduates continue their work with us on a variety of commissions, teaching support and engagement events. Max Higgins for Stonemasonry, Piers Shorrock for Furniture and Ed Shamwana



*The Master Sir Loyd Grossman (left) with Student of the Year recipient Ryan Upton*

for Bench Joinery took up their posts at the start of the year. In the Spring Max Higgins received a special commission from the Royal Palaces to create a stone piece as part of a wider installation. We cannot reveal more now, but as part of the process yet another film crew visited the College.

During **May** we held our Careers week for 16-18 year-olds, when several talks were given by employers as well as a 'speed-interviewing' session with some built environment professionals. As Principal, I was invited to speak at the Inspiring Makers conference in Bath organized by Liveryman Bruce Hodgson's company Artichoke and sponsored by the Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers. I spoke about our Aspiring Construction Craft careers project which is supported by the Portal Trust.

Two Stonemasonry students were interviewed in **June** for places on the King's Foundation Building Crafts programme. Only ten places were allotted

on this prestigious programme, which gives practical experience in traditional building skills and the opportunity to work towards a Level 3 NVQ in Heritage Skills. I'm happy to report that both Tobias Wright and Max Higgins gained a place and have now started their 8-month placement at Dumfries House Estate in East Ayrshire.

Finally, in **July** a group of our Furniture students visited three furniture making companies in the south west – Artichoke, Halstock and Little Halstock – and learned much about the industry of making. We finished the year with our End of Year Show, a joyous occasion when our graduating students from all disciplines exhibited work created during the year. Held at the College, this annual event is a wonderful opportunity to welcome parents, employers and guests to admire the talent our hardworking students have developed during their time at the BCC. I speak with a good deal of 'Principal Pride' when I say that this year's show was the biggest and brightest yet!



*The End of Year Show 2025*



*Left: Work by Level 2 Bench Joinery 16-18 Diploma students*

*Right: Stone carving by Tobias Wright*

# Craft

## Wood Awards: 2024’s best wooden buildings and furniture

LUCY BEDRY OF TIMBER DEVELOPMENT UK & WOOD AWARDS PROJECT MANAGER REPORTS:

Seven buildings, one interior, three furniture items and one sculpted object have been awarded as outstanding examples of contemporary timber architecture and craft in the Wood Awards 2024. Demonstrating remarkable creativity and skill, these diverse projects illustrate how wood, as a renewable and sustainable material, can enhance our environments and enrich our lives.

Claiming three accolades, the **Brighton Dome Corn Exchange & Studio Theatre** by Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios won the Gold Award along with the Restoration & Reuse and Structural categories. Commended by the judges as a ‘tour-de-force of engineering achievement’, this meticulous retrofit updates Brighton’s historic arts centre for a 21st century audience.



**Clare College**  
Education winner



**Brighton Dome**  
Gold Award winner



**Bough Terrace**  
Interior winner

Timber's role in extending and enhancing existing buildings is also exemplified in **Clare College** by Witherford Watson Mann, winner of the Education category, where an intricate oak glulam extension stitches together existing spaces and unlocks new ones. Interior winner **Bough Terrace** by Tuckey Design Studio shows the utter transformation of a Victorian mews house with a sculptural staircase and a beautifully restored interior.

The winning projects also reflect advances in the use of mass timber to provide solutions to specific problems. dRMM’s **WorkStack** was

**WorkStack**  
Commerical winner



**Uist House**  
Research & Innovation winner

**Rhodes House**  
Garden Pavilion  
Small Project  
winner



awarded in the Commercial category for its highly original, low carbon, CLT approach to urban industrial design. Recognised with a special Research & Innovation award, **Uist House** by Koto Design and Hiraeth Architecture progresses modular construction with its high-value use of UK timber to create a delightful home in a wild and remote location.

Defined by an inventive and elegant timber roof structure, **Rhodes House Garden Pavilion** by Stanton Williams displays an expressive lattice carefully crafted from LVL and ply for which it was awarded the Small Project prize.

**HIAVEN** uses a composite structure that maximises both the performance and aesthetic of mass timber beams. Described by the judges as a 'complete architectural composition', this contemporary farmhouse by BPN Architects received the Private award.



**Hiaven** Private  
award winner

**Haileybury SciTech**  
Sustainability  
award winner



Recognised for its advances in sustainability, **Haileybury SciTech** by Hopkins Architects is a forward-looking science and technology campus that uses timber to create a low carbon learning environment.

The Bespoke Furniture & Object winner **Communion**, by Giles Tettey Nartey, uses innovative CNC manufacturing to work black-stained maple into a culturally significant piece of furniture, described by the judges as a 'powerful piece of storytelling'.

Responding to the issue of ash dieback, the handcrafted **Ebworth Stools** by the Sylva Foundation and the National Trust won in the Production category for their use of locally felled timber and their meaningful contribution to carpentry education.

**Ebworth Stools**  
Production award  
winner



**Communion**  
Bespoke Furniture  
& Object winner

Entwining ancient stones with Scottish elm and larch, **Endless Orbit** by Oliver Spendley – the first recipient of the new Sculpted Object prize – revives traditional boat-making techniques to create intricately constructed structures that delight in the interaction between natural forms.

The **Karl and Rita** loveseat by Alex Radivan won the Student Designer award, celebrated by the judges as an impressive piece of craftsmanship featuring carefully arranged seats to encourage intimate conversation.

JUDGES AND SPONSORS

The Buildings panel is chaired by Liveryman Jim Greaves, Principal at Hopkins Architects; he is joined by Kirsten Haggart (Waugh Thistleton), Andrew Lawrence (ARUP), Jonas Lencer (dRMM), David Morley (David Morley Architects), Ruth Slavid (Architecture journalist), Neil Smith (Max Fordham), Andrew Trotman (Timberwright) and Nathan Wheatley (Engenuiti). The Furniture & Object panel is led by designer and maker Liveryman Sebastian Cox RDI; he is joined by Johanna Agerman Ross (Design Museum), Hugo Macdonald (Critic and curator), Sophie Sellu (Grain & Knot) and Caroline Till (FranklinTill).

As a not-for-profit competition, the Wood Awards can only happen with collaborative industry sponsorship. A huge thank you for continued support from the Carpenters' Company, American Hardwood Export Council and Timber Development UK.

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

**Karl & Rita** Student Designer award



**Endless Orbit** Sculpted Object winner

# The Creative Dimension Trust

LIVERYMAN PENNY BENDALL, FOUNDER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORTS:

## Crafting Confidence, Shaping Careers

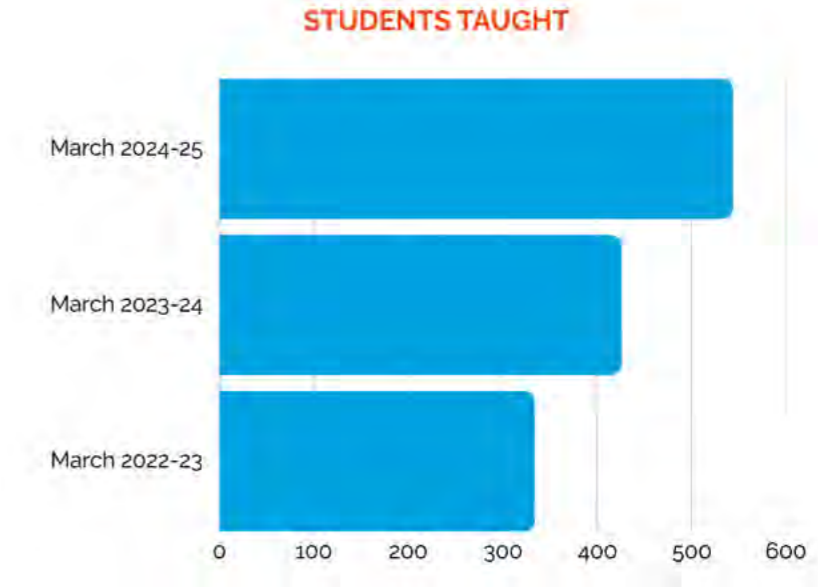
The Creative Dimension Trust (TCDT) delivers free, high-quality workshops and work experience to talented young Londoners from disadvantaged backgrounds. Our intensive programmes are not art classes—they are career-shaping experiences designed to build confidence, ignite ambition, and to help develop essential hand skills like manual dexterity, draftsmanship, and spatial awareness. These skills are the foundation for careers in design, architecture, fashion—and even surgery.

Over 80% of our participants come from schools in areas of economic and social deprivation. Over the past year alone, we received nearly 1,000 applications and delivered over 500 workshop places and 25 work experiences. We anticipate a 20–25% increase next year. Since launching, TCDT has reached 675 schools and taught over 110 specialist skills. Thanks to generous supporters like the Carpenters' Company, TCDT continues to thrive. Our workshops have included restoring banquettes at Buckingham Palace, regilding Fortnum & Mason's storefront, blending perfume at Floris, embroidery with Royal Warrant holders Hand & Lock, jewellery making at the Goldsmiths' Centre, furniture making at Windsor Castle, leather tassel

crafting with Bill Amberg Studio, and architectural model making with Allford Hall Monaghan Morris.

New workshops this year included collaborations with Heyne Tillett Steel (Engineering Drawing), Royal Collection Trust (Gilding), Royal Household (Gilding), Lucy Newman (Embroidery), Keira Mayhew (SFX Makeup for Film & TV), Emma Leslie (Furniture Making), and De Montfort University (Contour Fashion / Footwear). We also

ran two hands-on workshops in collaboration with the Building Crafts College. In March, twelve students took part in a Stone Carving course, learning to handle traditional tools and techniques over five consecutive Saturdays. Last autumn, ten students joined Craft Your Own Carry Case, designing and building versatile wooden cases that could serve as toolboxes, crafting kits, or even toiletry holdalls. We are excited to return to the College this autumn to deliver two more workshops.





Furniture Making student

Our schools outreach programme—bringing expert-led workshops directly into classrooms—has seen tremendous impact. We have seen a 44% increase in workshop applications from Camden students since we piloted the programme there in 2022-23. We've since expanded into five more schools and are reaching three new ones in Newham, Woodford, and Tower Hamlets later this year.

TCDT celebrated its 10th Anniversary in March 2025 at The King's Gallery Buckingham Palace. With 150 guests

including funders, sponsors and collaborators, the evening consisted of an exhibition of TCDT alumni work, and the unveiling of our 'Human Tassel' made to celebrate the year in various workshops including tassel making, enamelling, jewellery and gilding. The piece featured in World of Interiors, including a behind-the-scenes film shot at both Carpenters' and Drapers' Halls. Fortnum & Mason will be hosting TCDT's fifth window display at their Piccadilly store this autumn. I'm also delighted to report that jeweller Theo Fennell has joined the Board of Trustees.

'Human Tassel' at Carpenters' Hall



## Craft Lecture: 'Whose Design is it Anyway'

### PAST MASTER JOHN MEARDON WRITES:

Liveryman Bruce Hodgson gave the 2025 lecture to a large and fascinated audience in the Hall. He explained that his full title was 'The advent of AI and the legacy of craft – a new era for bespoke design', an apposite choice by a leading bespoke designer in wood whose company 'Artichoke' is faced with adapting to new technology while maintaining traditional standards of fine workmanship and design.

Until relatively recently, new technology in the craft world meant new tools and labour-saving devices, but now that computers appear capable of replicating human thought processes, AI is being used in creative development and design. Bruce had clearly given this matter careful thought and his aim was to set out how AI could best be used by answering the question: 'Can AI replicate the soul of craftsmanship and how best to harness its strengths?' The presentation was both philosophical and forward-looking but firmly grounded in the practical realities of making (and selling) high quality designs in wood. To make his point, Bruce gave two recent case studies from his company's bespoke design portfolio, one in the public eye and the other a private commission for a wealthy client, for as he noted, wealthy clients are an essential part of the craftsmanship ecosystem.

The latter commission was to replace all the architectural

joinery in an 18th century house in Switzerland, the home of a Danish Bitcoin entrepreneur whose historic heroes included Napoleon and Nelson, and whose concerns for his personal security were matched by an amazing collection of valuable items and militaria. With plentiful illustrations, Bruce explained the brief and the detailed research that went into the planning of each room and the incorporation of subtle features that reflected the client's approach to life. The pièce de résistance was undoubtedly the custom-built desk in the study. It had to combine storage (including weapons) and display facilities and give protection – it was suitably bulletproofed. Bruce used AI software to define and interpret the mass of data but discovered that a skilled surveyor and CAD technician actually worked better to produce practical

designs, especially since the inspiration for the desk was the Great Cabin in HMS Victory.

By contrast, the other commission was much nearer home and came from our own Liveryman, Sir Grayson Perry. Grayson wanted a custom-built cabinet for his forthcoming exhibition 'Delusions of Grandeur' at the Wallace Collection. The brief was to design and build a Queen Anne style cabinet to mount 47 ceramic plates designed and made by Grayson, but it had to appear as if from an Alice in Wonderland illustration and be given a finish that made it look like a 'well sucked humbug sweet'. Clearly a job for AI, but having seen the result produced by computer, Bruce decided that designing and making the whole piece in oak, by hand, was the right solution. The result has been a focal point of the whole exhibition.

'Delusions of Grandeur' cabinet



Bruce’s overall conclusion was that future bespoke design needs to make flexible use of both old and new technologies, the key being an understanding of where human skills and AI intersect. As he said, ‘The soul of craftsmanship is the knowledge and understanding of craft, art and history, coupled with sensory appreciation and the dignity of making and designing useful and beautiful things’. The point was very well made in this absorbing lecture and it reflects the comment made a while ago by Steve Jobs, the founder of Apple, that ‘technology alone is not enough. It’s technology, married to the liberal arts and humanities, that yields results that make our hearts sing’.



Left to right:  
**Bruce Hodgson, Sir Loyd Grossman and Sir Grayson Perry**

## Company Award for Excellence



Left to right:  
**John Taylor** receives the Craft Award from the Master **Sir Loyd Grossman** in November

Liveryman John Taylor has been awarded this year’s Carpenters’ Company Craft Award for Excellence in recognition of his long service to the Company and the Craft, initially as Director of the Building Crafts College until 2007 and then as our Liveryman representative on the Livery Companies Skills Council, which he chaired for over a decade. This has given him (and the Company) a significant profile in the City as ‘Craft Ambassador’. He attended ex-officio every meeting of the Corporation’s Livery Committee

and many other Livery events. He has also nurtured the Institute of Carpenters throughout this period.

A graduate in Mechanical Sciences from the University of Cambridge, John Taylor served for 30 years in the Royal Engineers. He was appointed MBE for operational planning in Germany. He was Chief Instructor at the Graduate-entry College of the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst and commanded the Army’s Amphibious Engineer Regiment. He served on the

Ministry of Defence Policy Staff before retiring from the Armed Forces in 1992.

John took up a second career centred on his long-standing interests in urban planning, architectural conservation and traditional building crafts. He was, for five years, Chief Executive of the British Urban Regeneration Association and chaired the Assessment Panel for the Secretary of State for the Environment’s annual Regeneration Awards.

He was Director of the Building Crafts College from 1997 until retirement in 2007. He planned the College’s move

from Westminster to its brand new building at Stratford, alongside the fast-developing railway hub there, and close to what subsequently became the Olympic Park. The College achieved Government recognition as the Centre of Vocational Excellence in Traditional Building Skills in 2004. John planned a further extension of the college which opened in 2008. During this period he was awarded MSc in Historic Building Conservation (Bath) and Fellowship of the City & Guilds of London Institute.

In retirement, John continued to promote vocational

education and training as Chairman of the Livery Companies’ Skills Council, Vice President of the Institute of Carpenters and Chairman of the Carpenters’ Craft Competition. He remains a Trustee /Director of several craft-related bodies, including the City & Guilds of London Art School and the Livery Companies Apprenticeship Scheme. John received recognition from the wider Livery through the City Livery Club ‘Root and Branch Lifetime Achievement Award’ for his work in promoting Livery skills and apprenticeships, presented by the Lord Mayor at a Civic Banquet in July 2024.

## A Project to Sing About

FREEMAN NINA BILBEY WRITES:

In early 1999 John Taylor welcomed me into a dusty room at the Building Crafts College, then situated in Great Titchfield Street in central London. I had just returned from working with carver masons in the US and was desperate to gain a qualification that allowed me to work on site here in the UK. His warm introduction to the College and the Carpenters’ Company’s generous bursary, allowed me to dare to dream of a career in stone. Today, almost thirty years later, I find myself knee deep in a unique heritage restoration project using every tool in my belt, many of which I first encountered at the College.

late Queen Elizabeth II and The Duke of Edinburgh for the West Door of Canterbury Cathedral. After further work I won the commission to reinstall four gorgeous angels in the 15th century Lady Chapel in the Cathedral itself. Having scanned the surviving angels (some damaged in the Reformation, others simply out of fashion) I had the most intact angel printed 1:1 scale in clay. This was a new process to me, and Ben at Artscan 3D invented a technique that allowed us to print clay blanks exactly to scale that I could remodel into new beautifully sympathetic additions.

In 2017 I was fortunate to win the commission to carve our

After several months of experimentation we had four



3D visualisation of the new designs

new angels, one a perfect match to a partial surviving piece. These were re-scanned and Ben sat the new designs into the wall virtually, allowing the Cathedral's Fabric Advisory Committee to see the new designs in situ. After a full meeting of all involved, we were good to go.

The search for suitable stone was quite a struggle. Today one can source wonderful Caen stone, but at the time it was like hens' teeth. Ben printed my new designs exactly to scale, and we gathered the necessary professionals together, fitting the prints to the building. After that I was all set to carve these beautiful little angels. Several months later, a colleague and I revisited the site and fitted the new carvings, which were almost perfect. A week of fixing and we packed up our tools

to leave. Just as I turned to take the last bag to the van, a volunteer who hadn't seen the finished works, entered the chapel and looked around. 'What have you been doing?' she asked. I pointed to the frieze and said 'I've made some new angels' Her answer was perfect: 'Which ones?' In that perfect moment, when the work went unnoticed and quietly took its rightful place in one of our most cherished buildings, I realised that the smallest birds can sing the prettiest songs. And this bird's journey started in a dusty office, with a supportive Principal and the invaluable help of the Carpenters' Company.

Today I am studying for my long-awaited MA in Carving, and once more I am generously supported by the Carpenters' Company Crafts fund.



Nina and angels in the workshop

# Barnsley Workshop

## JACOB JANOFF, APPRENTICE AT THE BARNESLEY WORKSHOP SUPPORTED BY THE NORTON FOLGATE TRUST

On graduating from the Building Crafts College in 2023, Jacob joined the Barnsley Workshop as an apprentice and has now completed almost two years in post. His tutors report that he has made impressive progress as a furniture maker and has thrived within the learning environment, taking on additional responsibilities in the workshop, and being tasked with more important and complex commissions. Jacob has also performed outward-acting roles at open days and exhibitions, including the prestigious Treasure House Fair at the Royal Hospital Chelsea. His commitment to the craft and wider contribution has so impressed the team that they have offered him a third year of training.

Jacob's work over the last year has included the making of an oak bookcase for a longstanding client of the Barnsley Workshop; a commissioned nest of tables in walnut and another in cherry for the Barnsley showroom; a commissioned chair (made in walnut from the client's garden) and a version of the workshop's renowned Aspire library steps for a client's Manhattan apartment. All demonstrate Jacob's high quality work and focus on precision, making him a much valued member of the team.



Jacob's nest of tables



Aspire steps

# Royal School of Military Engineering Premier Carpenter

Sapper Lizan Chhantyal (centre left) received his award from the Master Sir Loyd Grossman in March, accompanied by Major Allan Ridler (left) and Lt Col John Newton (right)



Sapper Lizan Chhantyal of 36 Engineer Regiment Royal Engineers was presented with the 2025 award at Carpenters' Hall following his exceptional performance in the 2-1 Carpentry and Joinery course, and in recognition of his attitude, leadership, and positive influence on others.

# Institute of Carpenters (IOC)

LIVERYMAN GEOFF RHODES, THE IOC'S PRESIDENT, REPORTS:

On 27th March Exeter College hosted the Institute of Carpenters (IOC) Timber Industry College Hub event, graced by the presence of Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Gloucester, Royal Patron of the IOC. This landmark gathering marked the final milestone in a programme of IOC events that have connected industry leaders, educators, and aspiring carpenters and joiners across the UK over the last two years (see *Carpenters' Chronicle* 2022 p 25).

The royal visit and undoubted success of the event highlighted Exeter College's commitment to preparing students for rewarding careers in the timber industry, while promoting sustainable practices that will shape the future of construction and forestry. The event featured a line-up of industry expert speakers and practical demonstrations by students, covering key themes such as sustainable forestry, the evolution of timber in construction, and the wide

variety of available employment pathways in the trade. The Construction Industry Training Board provided an insightful overview of the employment landscape and career opportunities, while Exeter College staff gave a College perspective on how industry partnerships can help shape student futures.

Key highlights of the event included: in-depth insights into sustainability, technological advancements and employment

trends, provided by leading professionals from across the timber sector; student participation in interactive workshops intended to demonstrate cutting-edge woodworking techniques

for attending guests; and direct access for students to potential employers and industry monitors, bridging the gap between education and real-world career opportunities.

The IOC Mentoring Champions initiative was a central theme, reinforcing the imperative that the next generation of carpenters and joiners should receive guidance given by experienced professionals.

Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Gloucester (centre) with Geoff Rhodes (centre left) and Exeter College staff and students



## Carpenters' Craft Competition

LIVERYMAN AND COMPETITION CHAIRMAN, JOHN TAYLOR REPORTS:

The prizes for the National Winners of the 2024 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, Isaac Bruce, of Exeter College, received a cheque for £500, and a National Winner's 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 George Pysden Trophy for exceptional craftsmanship, and the Joinery Managers' Association Cup, awarded annually to the national winner in the Under-20 age group.

Clement Le Pelley of Guernsey College, the winner in the Over-20 age group, received a National Winner's Certificate, also bearing the Company seal, signed by the Master, the President of the Institute of Carpenters and the Competition Chairman, a £500 cheque and the Institute of Carpenters' Shield. Both winners, accompanied by their college tutors and a personal guest, 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 this competition, which enables students at colleges across the length and breadth of the United Kingdom to demonstrate their skills at a level beyond the requirements of normal coursework. He also thanked Freeman Chris Higley, the Competition Manager, and all those behind the scenes who had done so much to make the competition a success. The Chairman paid particular tribute to the tutors who pass on their skills and encourage their students to produce such a high standard of work.



Isaac Bruce (top) and Clement Le Pelley received their awards from the Master Sir Loyd Grossman

## Charities & Grants

### Adventures of a Craft & Charities Administrator

REBECCA DATTA WRITES:



By the time this article is published I will have spent half a year as Craft and Charities Administrator (CCA) of the Carpenters' Company, having taken over from Vivienne Pocock who retired in March 2025. It has been the happiest six months of my career. As a previous Business Manager of the Building Crafts College (BCC), I was already aware of the substantial financial support given to the College and the bursary funding to its students, but in my role for the Company I have learnt so much more about our many and varied charitable interests. The BCC remains the most significant of these as can be seen from the financial breakdowns below. Two Charitable Trusts support our charities, the Carpenters' Company Charitable Trust and the Norton Folgate Trust.

## Carpenters' Company Charitable Trust (CCCT)

In the year 2024-25, the Trust allocated £737,150 to charitable interests with College business accounting for 83.7% and other organizations receiving 16.3%.

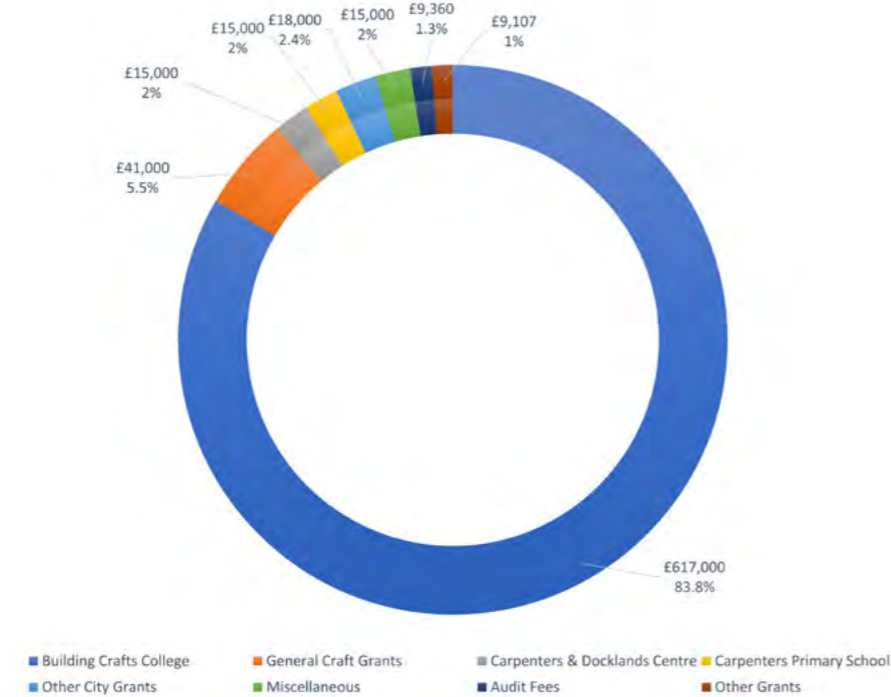
The final expenditure at year-end was close to the original budget expectation, with a 3% overspend.

In this issue of the *Chronicle* you can read about the outcomes delivered by the organizations funded here such as The Creative Dimension Trust (General Craft Grant); Carpenters' and Docklands Centre; Carpenters Primary School and Sheriffs' and Recorder's Fund (Other City Grants). I have visited these charities to learn about the work they carry out. These have been some of my 2025 highlights.

### THE LORD MAYOR'S BIG CURRY LUNCH (OTHER CITY GRANTS)

I had the pleasure of attending my first LMBCL at the Guildhall in April, enjoying not only a delicious meal but delightful company. The event was enormously well supported and raised a record-breaking sum of £434,914 for the All Four Service Benevolent Fund. I was also invited to the post-lunch reception at Mansion House to announce the amount raised accompanied by Past Master Martin Samuel.

2024 – 2025



Carpenters gathered before the Curry Lunch



### CARPENTERS' & DOCKLANDS CENTRE

Across the road from the BCC is the transformative Carpenters' and Docklands Centre. In May their Operations Director, Ben North, hosted me for an early morning meeting and treated me to a hive of activity. Volunteers were hard at work everywhere, arranging food for

breakfast, packing variety bags for the food bank and sorting nappies and clothes into sizes, ready for issue. The queue of service-users stretched way past the neighbouring flats. The atmosphere was collaborative and friendly with everyone having a part to play. I heard

that many volunteers who come for the day under a work scheme, return again and again. With only two paid employees, it's hard to believe the extent of the benefit the Centre provides to the community.

### BUILDING CRAFTS COLLEGE

I have been involved in several celebratory and showcasing events at the BCC in recent months. The Master's Consort's Day in May was an especially joyful and uplifting day. My thanks to Melissa, Lady Grossman for inviting me to join in the fun. It was wonderful to meet so many of the City and Livery community and hear about their experiences and witness their genuine interest in our College and students. The day itself was for learning and celebration, starting with breakfast in the College's lecture space. This was followed by a presentation from the Principal and her senior team and tours of the College, when guests were invited to watch students and staff at work. Back at the Hall, guests learnt about



Past Master Martin Mosley (left) and Tutor Neil Hayman

Carpenters' history from our archivist, Julie Tancell, before having lunch beneath Queen Juliana's portrait. The Livery Open Day in June followed a similar pattern of presentation and tours of the College, finishing with a delicious curry lunch prepared by the College catering team. I was impressed by the way the whole team found time to 'show and tell' during the working day, demonstrating what a special place it is to study and work.

Principal **Selena Bolingbroke** (centre) with Liverymen



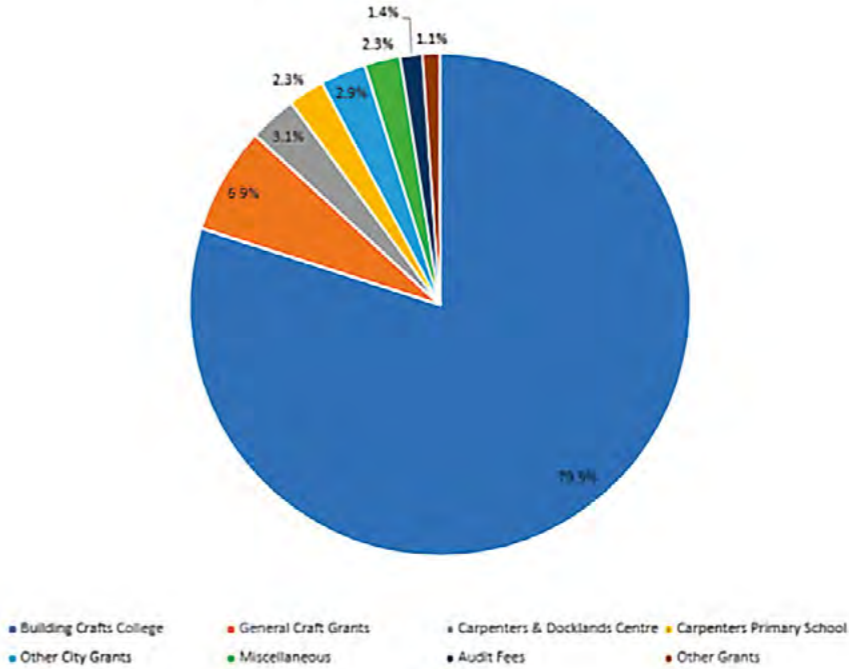
QUEEN ELIZABETH SCHOLARSHIP TRUST (CRAFT GRANTS)

On 29th May I enjoyed my second visit to the Guildhall, this time for the Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust (QEST) Royal Warrant Holders Association Annual Luncheon. Here I met makers in a diverse range of disciplines including metalworkers, weavers, printers, puppet makers, stonemasons, leatherworkers and furniture makers. Every award recipient I met spoke highly of our joint funding with QEST and the difference it had made to their progress within their craft. It was inspiring to meet so many motivated makers striving for excellence, and the work they showcased was truly outstanding.



**Jay Heston,**  
QEST/Carpenters'  
Company Emerging  
Furniture Maker

2025 – 2026 Funding

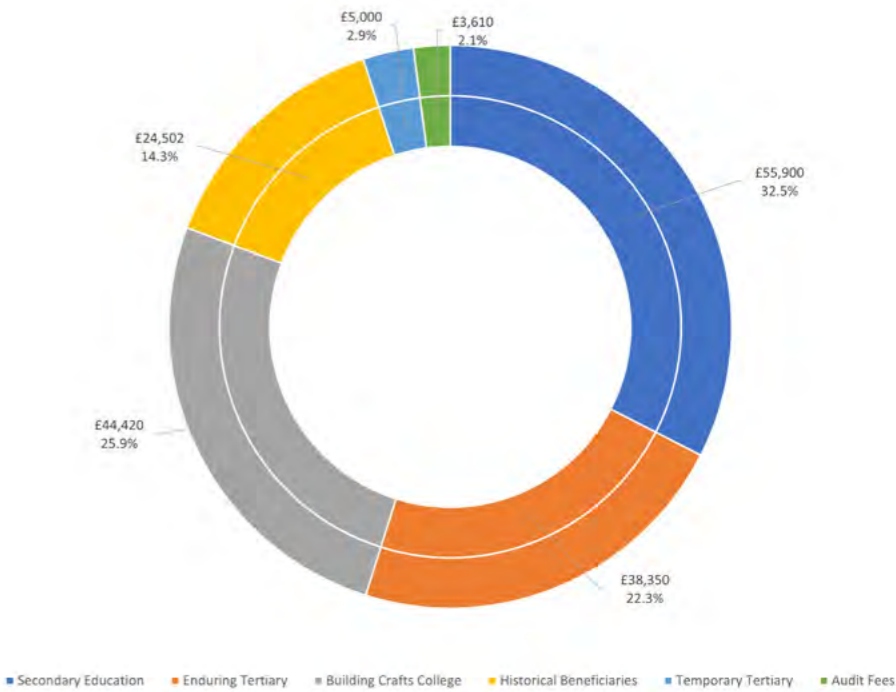


In the coming year 2025-26, funds have been allocated in a similar way to 2024-25 except that the reduction of the annual support given by the Company to the BCC to 79% as the College increases its student numbers confirms less reliance on subsidy and more on generated income.

Norton Folgate Trust (NFT)

This Trust funds individuals rather than organizations, with funds allocated according to the level of study undertaken by recipients. In 2024-25, from available trust income of £171,782, funding for students in Secondary Education (at City of London Schools) was the largest allocation of funds and students of the BCC the second largest. The impact of such funding on those individuals receiving them can be very powerful, the personal stories in our Educational Bursaries section confirm.

2024 – 2025



CHRIST'S HOSPITAL SCHOOL (SECONDARY EDUCATION)



Left to right:  
**Betsy, Emily,  
James Preston and  
Rebecca Datta**

I have visited this unique school twice since joining the Company. On my second visit in May for Speech Day I had the pleasure of accompanying Middle Warden James Preston, a Carpenters' Company Donation Governor and alumnus 'Old Blue'. After breakfast with 2 of our 3 presentees, we attended Chapel, followed by the March Past, Prize-Giving and then the Art exhibition which included the work of the Carpenters' Prize winner for Art and Design Maria Santana. There followed an impressive speech by the Senior Grecian (Head Boy).

CITY & GUILDS LONDON ART SCHOOL (ENDURING TERTIARY EDUCATION)

I have now visited the School twice. Once during London Craft Week, where I met several wood-carving students all working hard to complete pieces for the annual competition on the theme of 'Beasts'. The breadth of the theme allowed for considerable diversity of output from the competitors and it was inspiring to see how each had interpreted it in their work. I also spoke in detail with two wood-carving students about their curriculum pieces: Alice Ridgeway (one of our sponsored students this year) and Alec Stevens (who we have sponsored in the past). They were both happy to tell me about their work and plans for the future and tell me how helpful the sponsorship has been to them. As the weather started to heat up in June, I attended the Degree Show where I spent time with Liveryman John Taylor, a Trustee of the City & Guilds



**Alice Ridgeway**

London Art School. While admiring some of the beautiful work on display I spotted Dario Thompson, a former student of the Building Crafts College who had completed two years in the



**Alec Stevens**

Stone-carving department of the School to refine his skills. It was pleasing to hear that he is in work and continuing to develop in his craft. The work he displayed was impressive.

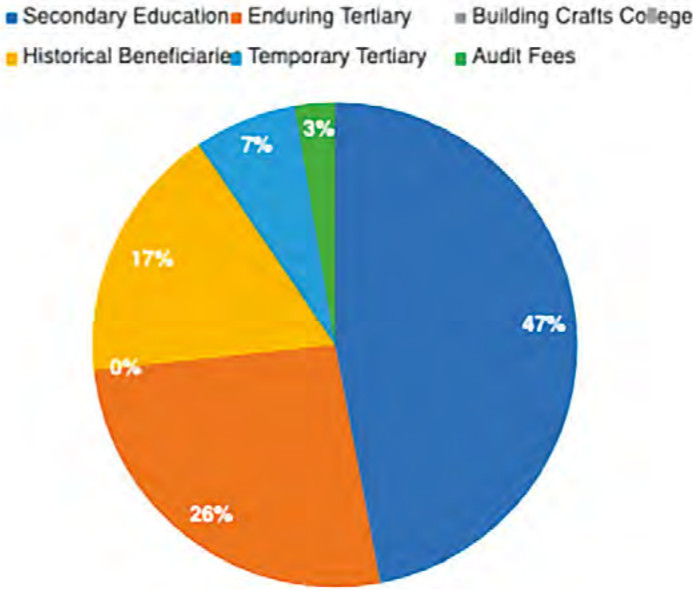
GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND DRAMA (ENDURING TERTIARY)

As well as meeting the school's development manager Rachel Davis and learning about the processes for choosing awardees, I was lucky to get tickets for a sold-out performance of 'Orlando' (an adaptation of the Virginia Woolf novel). My primary interest was to view the costumes as our Production Scholar, Iris Towers, was an assistant on this production. I was surprised and delighted to see how the costumes brought the performance together so effectively.

CITY OF LONDON SCHOOL (SECONDARY EDUCATION)

On a rainy June morning I visited the City of London School (COLS) where my tour was conducted by Ayman, from the Lower Sixth form, who gave me a very positive picture of life there, including outlining how their School Parliament contributes to decisions about the operational running of the School. I enjoyed meeting their development team, Rhian and Menna, and hearing their vision for primary school partnerships as well as the School's ambitions to use educational bursaries as a social mobility tool. The Company has a long history of offering Carpenters' Primary pupils and COLS nominated pupils financial support. We have agreed to support one of the COLS graduates, Aaron Selvakumar, during his undergraduate medical studies at University College London (Temporary Tertiary) for the next three years.

2025 – 2026 Funding



Funding allocations in 2025-26 are outlined in the chart. The variation from 2024-25 relates to reduced investment income. The biggest effect of the reduction will be to Building Crafts College bursaries which are well supported by other endowments.

# Rustington Convalescent Home

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

By far the majority of referrals to the Home come by word of mouth from guests to their friends commending the quality of care. With our low turnover of staff, we can provide familiarity for returning guests, along with consistent care. The Home was closed in January to remove some asbestos lagging in the boiler room and it has been gratifying to see how guest numbers have quickly returned to satisfactory occupancy levels. Most of our guests come to the Home for hip and knee replacement recovery. Over the past years, we have sought to engage with orthopaedic consultants through our marketing adviser's outreach programme. The top ten referring consultants are asked to pass on information about the Home to their patients and we are now seeing enquiries from new patients and hospitals. Our leading referring hospitals are Goring Hall Worthing, Montefiore Hospital Hove, and the Horder Centre Crowborough, and we are starting to get enquiries from hospitals in Southampton, Portsmouth, Guy's and St Thomas's, London.

Having largely completed critical repairs to the external facades of the building, we are turning our attention to the bedrooms and reception rooms. The renowned interior decorator, Nancy Lancaster would advise her clients: 'When restoring a Home you must realize its period, feel its

personality and bring out its good points'. You will see from the photographs that we have accomplished all three. We are close to tackling a third of the bedrooms, turning suitable en suite bathrooms into wet rooms and (looking ahead) providing electric heating to take the strain off our gas boilers. On the ground floor, we have redecorated the more popular east facing reception

rooms and updated the electrical circuits. When Past Master Henry Harben built the Home in the 1890's he instructed the architect to adopt the latest building techniques, using cast iron support and cavity voids in the brickwork. As Carpenters will appreciate, cast iron and brickwork tend to expand and cause cracking in the brickwork



The newly decorated reception rooms and bathrooms

and we are challenging our structural engineers and builders to find a solution. This is particularly evident in the turrets on the corners of the building, the clock tower and the piers between the windows. It is testament to Henry Harben that the Home was solidly built and well able to withstand battering from the prevailing winds.

The land to the rear of the Home was recently sold to the Horsham based housebuilder Sigma, which in turn sold it to Macar based in Sutton, Surrey. They have a good reputation and employ experienced management and operatives. It is anticipated that the building work will take 30 months and discussions are taking place to consider how best to coordinate the work and keep the Home fully functioning.

Please mention the Home at Rustington to any family or friends who might need care after an operation. Its position overlooking a magnificent stretch of Sussex coastline is hard to beat. The garden between the sea and the Home can provide hours of relaxation in a glorious setting. Our web site is [www.rustingtonconvalescenthome.co.uk](http://www.rustingtonconvalescenthome.co.uk)



## Docklands Settlements

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

Although things don't seem to be moving very quickly on the Carpenters Estate towards the building of our new Community Centre, there's a lot happening within our present Centre. We are now helping to feed more than 1440 people every week through our Food Bank and Warm Haven, both of which are open three days a week. We are also expanding the work we do to support local rough sleepers, providing more second-hand clothes, a clothes washing service and more suitable food bags as they don't usually have access to cooking facilities.

Our recent provision of a women-only sports session has proved very popular. Those taking part have also attended a self-defence class, a workshop on nutrition/healthy eating and one on planning and positive thinking. Our 'Baby Grow' project, funded by Newham, is nearly at an end, but we are reapplying for

funding so we can continue to offer this weekly social event for parents of newborns. We also give out nappies, wipes and recently organised a Baby First Aid course. Of course we hope parents will never need to utilise this in practice but they will be better placed to assist in an emergency.

As always we are very grateful to the Carpenters' Company for their ongoing support of our charity. The grant we receive makes a huge difference to the people we support. Fundraising is very competitive, especially in these austere times. We are trying to increase our fundraising income by recruiting more runners for the Brighton half and full marathon as well as the London Marathon, so if you know any Carpenters who are crazy enough to run 13 or 26 miles and raise vital funds for us, please ask them to get in touch.



A giant watermelon for the Food Bank held by a volunteer, Paul



Benedict, one of our Corporate Volunteers from AmTrust who regularly provide Food Bank volunteers and also had four runners in the London Marathon for us



Anouf, who does volunteer grant bid writing for us, completed the Brighton Half Marathon

## Sheriffs' and Recorder's Fund

HILARY, LADY RUSSELL, CHAIR OF THE TRUSTEES, WRITES:

We are a London-based charity supporting the rehabilitation of prison leavers and their families resident in the Greater London area through individual grants and prison-based rehabilitation projects. Our activities are funded by charitable donations from our supporters, of which The Worshipful Company of Carpenters is one. We also run fundraising activities to supplement our income which is dedicated to the support of prison leavers.

We believe every person deserves a second chance. We are committed to the rehabilitation of prison leavers and the welfare of their families, to help them stop offending and start a new life. The cost to the country of prisoners' re-offending is massive, so funding directed towards reducing it is also strongly in the public interest. Leaving prison is a complex process and leavers need the best possible chance to rebuild their lives. The probation service, whose officers are responsible for supervising prison leavers, needs support in helping them to find work, obtain an income and build self-esteem. Many prisoners prefer to work for themselves and the Fund provides grants to individuals for clothing, tools of trade, household goods and education and training. In the last year the Fund has supported more than 1300 prison leavers and their families. Grants made possible by the support of our donors include:

- A 28 year-old woman leaving HMP Downview applied for £300 to buy a sewing machine. She had been very well trained as a seamstress in the prison fashion workshop, a project we had also funded, and was keen to set up her own alterations business.
- A 29 year-old man applied for £150 for barber's clippers to enable him to take a chair in a local barber.
- A 34 year-old man applied for £250 to go on a Decontamination and Biohazard Cleaning Course with the aim of setting up his own biohazard cleaning company.
- A 35 year-old man, who had recently completed a Painting & Decorating course, needed

paint brushes, ladders and other tools to set up business. The S&R Fund paid for these items.

Prison leavers come out of prison with little more than a Government grant of £89.52 and cannot immediately sign up for benefits. We know that our grants, though modest, can make a huge difference. The Sheriffs' & Recorder's Fund is the only charity that helps in this timely way. We recognise that the probation service is under huge pressure as a result of the early release scheme, forcing each probation officer to managing larger caseloads. As a charity we are experiencing a significant increase in grant applications and we are very proud of our longstanding record of fulfilling 100% of eligible applications.



Trustees & Patrons visit Pentonville Prison

## Educational Bursaries

### CECILIA NERI

The past three terms at Oxford have been amazing since joining St Anne's College. As part of my BA English Language and Literature course, I have had the opportunity to explore the evolution of the English language, from its Old English roots to its modern-day global presence, and to study literature across different cultures and periods. It has been an incredibly exciting experience. What has stood out most during my first year is the collaborative nature of learning at Oxford. Engaging with other students in tutorials and seminars has broadened my perspectives and introduced me to interpretations of texts that I may not have discovered alone. The community at St Anne's is vibrant and dynamic, conversations often continue well beyond the classroom, whether over coffee at St Anne's Bar & Coffee Shop or during long walks around college grounds, and the environment is one of mutual encouragement and curiosity.

Beyond academia, Oxford offers a wealth of extracurricular opportunities, many of which I have been able to embrace thanks to the generous support of the Carpenters' Company. I have become involved in my college's Art Society and joined the Italian Society, both of which have enriched my time here socially and creatively. These experiences have helped me build lasting friendships and provide much-needed balance to the rigours of academic life. The Carpenters' Bursary has had a profound impact on my first year, financially, it has allowed me to purchase essential resources for my course, as well as cover day-to-day living and travel costs. This stability has meant I can give my full attention to both my academic and personal development. It is not an exaggeration to say that the bursary has been instrumental in helping me make the most of my time at Oxford. As I look ahead to the rest of my degree, I remain deeply grateful for the opportunities that have made this year so fulfilling.



### ELINA SADAT SEYED NIKKHOU

#### Architecture Scholar at the Royal College of Art

I am thrilled to receive this Bursary from the Carpenters' Company and I am sincerely grateful for your generous donation. This support allows me to fully engage with my second year studies and drives my ambition to create a positive social impact for underprivileged communities through my architectural career. I truly value this opportunity and its contribution to my education. During my undergraduate years, my studies concentrated on socially driven design solutions, particularly for

people with limited choices in their environment. The stark contrast between my formative years in Tehran and subsequent life in London revealed to me the nuanced ways in which space and architecture can either perpetuate or challenge social disparities. This personal journey shaped my dissertation, which explored the spatial challenges faced by young people in London, and my thesis, which centred on creating a safe haven for women and children escaping domestic abuse. I intend to build on this research at the Royal College of Art, focusing on addressing spatial challenges faced by marginalised communities. I

look forward to engaging with an open-minded approach to architecture that explores real-world issues, aiming to expand my impact in public and social architecture. I am incredibly grateful for this opportunity and the invaluable support from the Carpenters' Company.



Taybah (front centre right) in Berlin

### TAYBAH AAIDI

#### City of London School for Girls

As Year 10 draws to a close, I'm pleased to share that it has been full of new experiences, from debating competitions to an exciting history trip to Berlin. In September, I finally joined the debating club, which I had hoped to do for a while. Together with my friends we took part in the LSE debating competition. My partner and I won second place twice which was both exciting and encouraging, but it also boosted my self-confidence and made me want to carry on pushing myself, whether in the classroom or in relation to my personal development. Academically, one of my weakest subjects has been German, but I'm proud to say I've tackled some challenging grammar points so far in the IGCSE course. Our history trip in Berlin was an incredible

opportunity to immerse ourselves in the culture and history of Germany. We visited the Brandenburg Gate, the stunning Potsdam Palace, and Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp. The most memorable and thought-provoking part for me was the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe. Walking through it was an extremely powerful experience. At first it didn't seem particularly overwhelming, but as we progressed through the huge concrete blocks, I found it both unsettling and moving, being something that affected millions of individual lives and left a lasting impact on the world.

Thank you so much for your support which has allowed me to experience all of this and continue learning at CLSG.

## Carpenters Primary School

2024/25 has been an exciting year for Carpenters with many events and visits taking place. Miss Neath - our reading lead - worked hard to raise funds for the school library and in September we had our grand opening. All year groups are now making use of the space and enjoying having access to a wide range of books. Zariya, our year 6 librarian said: 'My job as a librarian has positively impacted my reading skill and has given me access to a wide variety of books. I enjoy organizing the library and keeping it a nice space to visit!' As part of our objective to increase children's love of reading, all children took part in world book day when they dressed up as their favourite character. Year 5 and 6 children also took part in the 'Poetry by Heart' competition and had to recite a poem of their choice. As always, the Christmas party at Carpenters' Hall was a highlight. Pupils and staff enjoyed every minute, from learning about the history of the company, playing party games and especially the bird man show. As the year comes to an end we are busy preparing our year 6 pupils for

transition to secondary school. They attended a residential programme at Fairplay House and took part in a number of activities. The giant swing and canoeing are always a favourite. The children and staff were exhausted on their return but couldn't wait to tell us all about it. The year 6 performance of Shrek was outstanding and the children showed exceptional acting skills throughout. It is always a pleasure to see the quietest of children come alive during the performance and take on lead roles.

Carpenters' Christmas party – the bird man



## Whiteley Village — Brief History and Latest News

### PAST MASTER MARTIN SAMUEL WRITES:

Whiteley Homes Trust owns and administers Whiteley Village, an area in Hersham, Surrey. Whiteley Village was formed as a result of a bequest realized in 1907 upon the death of William Whiteley. Whiteley Homes Trust, a charity registered in the UK, provides over 250 almshouses for older people of limited financial means who are capable of independent living. In 2017, the Carpenters' Company sold Wyatt's Almshouses in Godalming, Surrey and, with the Charity Commission's approval, passed the proceeds to Whiteley Homes Trust. Richard Wyatt was three times Master of the Carpenters' Company in the early 17th century. It had

been the responsibility of the Carpenters' Company to administer the almshouses since that time, which included an annual visit by the Master and Wardens of the day (a two day journey each way in olden times). Upon sale, it was agreed with Whiteley Homes Trust that the proceeds would be used to convert the building known as 17 Circle Road into three separate residential units and the original administration building into five separate units. Further, priority in lettings at both locations would be given to any applicant from Godalming and the surrounding parishes in line with Richard Wyatt's wishes.

For further information, please contact me via the Company's archivist, Julie Tancell, and I will endeavour to satisfy your interest.

Whiteley Village



# Company History

## The Carpenters' Company Experience in the Second World War

THE ARCHIVIST JULIE TANCELL WRITES:

2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. Wartime reporting restrictions meant that Company reports and even the Court minutes were at times minimal in detail, yet the impact of the war on Company life was immediately apparent. As the Clerk Henry Osborne noted in July 1940, his first wartime Report was ‘issued in abnormal times’ and had the character of a wartime bulletin. Preparations for the outbreak of war had already begun in early 1939 with the appointment of an Air Raid Precautions Committee.



The Clerk  
Henry Osborne

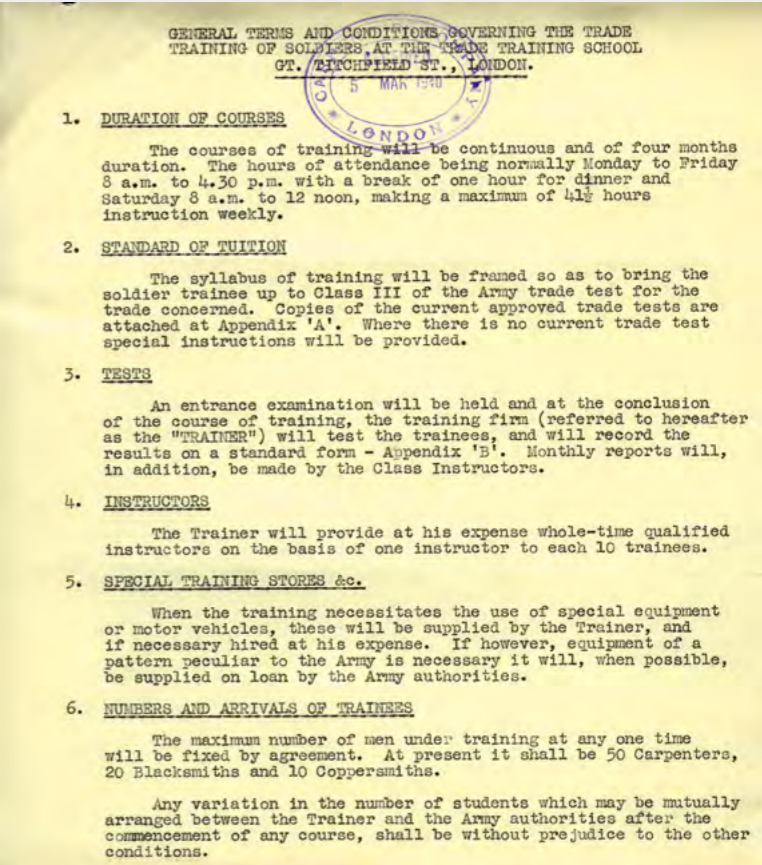
With the safety of residents at Carpenters' Hall and staff at its other properties a priority, air raid shelters were built at the Hall, the Trades Training School in Great Titchfield Street in London's West End (now the Building Crafts College) and its property at 171-173 Aldersgate (on a site in the northwest of the City opposite Ironmongers' Hall). The Company's valuable items and works of art were also a concern, and the Committee's first order was to move the earliest records, sixteenth-century crowns and seventeenth century silver-gilt cups to the storeroom of a bank in the country (the exact whereabouts was not

disclosed). The Master's steeple cup of 1611, on loan at the New York World Fair exhibition, was kept abroad until the end of the war.

After war was declared on 3rd September 1939, an Emergency Committee was convened, the Trades Training School and the Company's Convalescent Home at Rustington in West Sussex were closed and Dinners and social events cancelled. Another immediate decision was that all staff called up for war service would be reinstated after the war. In July 1940 the Clerk reported that two were on active service, with one safely returned from Dunkirk. The number of members in active service steadily increased through the war, with 36 names listed in the Clerk's report of 1945. In 1942 the next six liverymen due to join the Court as Junior Warden declined because of war service, and the Master and Wardens served for two successive years to ease matters. Three members of the Company were killed in active service.

The Trades Training School reopened after a few weeks, having been adapted for a War Office scheme to train servicemen as carpenters, blacksmiths and sheet-metal workers. Training courses of 17 weeks were provided for 50 carpenters, 20 blacksmiths and 10 coppersmiths at any one time. Over 3000 servicemen

Soldier Trades  
Training — Terms  
& Conditions

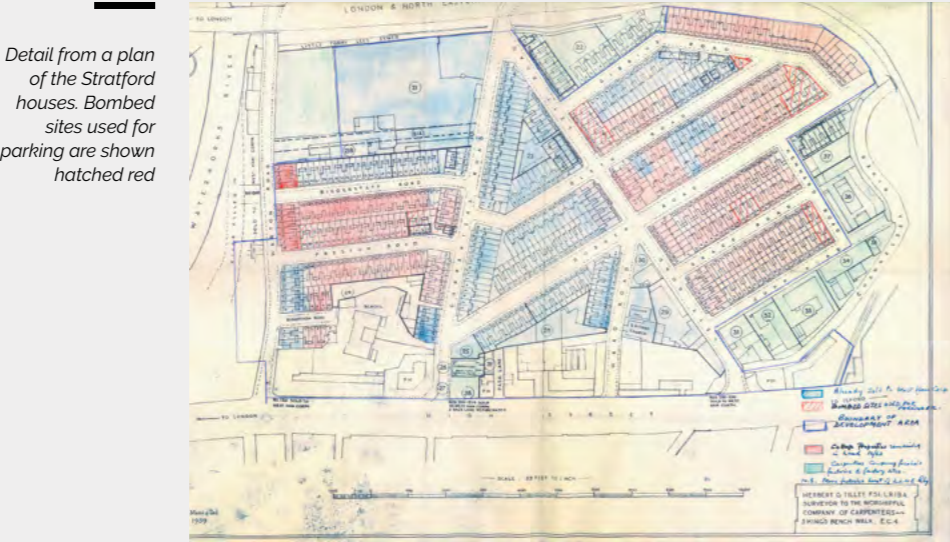


signed up to the courses over the duration of the war. In return, the School received a fee of £1 per man, per week. In July 1941 the Clerk's Report noted that the School was a ‘hive of industry and enthusiasm’. The War Office was so impressed by the success of the School's work that many of its instructors' adaptations to the syllabus were adopted across the board. The Plumbers' class, reopened to train unemployed men in lead-burning, proved extremely successful, with the Clerk reporting that exam results ‘were most satisfactory and students have little difficulty in obtaining work of national importance’. The Home Front too needed skilled labour, and

attendance in the Class fell dramatically in September 1940 when repairs to gas mains and water services damaged by enemy action were urgently needed. The School Director's suggestion to allow instructors to give carpenters practical instruction on the sites of bombed buildings met with War Office approval. The School itself suffered bomb damage on four separate occasions, the most serious being in April 1941 when incendiary bombs landed on its roof. The annex and life classroom were burnt out; utility services were completely disrupted and the lower rooms flooded. Repairs were carried out by instructors and students, but from then on the severely

weakened building required frequent maintenance.

At the Company's Convalescent Home in Rustington the building was immediately taken over by the Ministry of Health under the Emergency Hospitals Scheme. Anticipating this, the Company had closed the Home in late August 1939, making seventy beds ready for cases discharged from hospital to convalesce. Patient numbers gradually increased until July 1940 when the building was requisitioned by the Ministry of Works – a fact only discovered by the Matron and the Ministry of Health when the Coldstream Guards arrived to dig machine gun pits and trenches in the grounds. The Home was evacuated immediately as it was in the coastal zone threatened by German invasion. The Committee reported on their last visit that 'there was considerable aerial activity and bombs were dropped in the vicinity during the afternoon.' All entry was banned without a security pass, but the Committee Chairman was allowed a monthly visit to monitor and report on the building. Most of the domestic and nursing staff were given two weeks' notice and an additional month's wages, with Matron and Sister placed on retainers. As the war progressed the building was at times empty but otherwise occupied by convalescent soldiers. From the evacuation of Dunkirk to



D-Day, large numbers of troops billeted in Rustington enjoyed a relatively luxurious stay at 'The Carpenters' Arms', with its well-stocked bar, kitchen and comfortable beds. The farm attached to the Home continued to operate and by 1942 land girls were working there.

Evacuation of children from the 600 terraced houses on the Company's 70-acre estate in Stratford, East London, began in September 1939. Located close to the East End docks, the area was one of the most heavily bombed in the country. The Company's Institute, a social and recreational club for the residents, became a great boon to members (as the Clerk noted), especially during the long blackout evenings of the winter of 1939-40. But as members numbers declined with men called up and families evacuated, after serious damage from air raids in September 1940, the Institute was closed

until after the war. The Company found it impossible to keep open the badly damaged Jupp Road Slipper Baths, public baths used by estate residents lacking bathrooms and running hot water. With wartime reporting restrictions lifted, in 1947 the Clerk described the extensive bomb damage sustained by the estate - only one factory site was totally lost, but nearly half of the 600 terraced houses were destroyed.

The safety of the residents at the Company's two sets of almshouses in Twickenham and Godalming were also of concern, and in May 1939 the Twickenham almsmen were asked if they wanted to move in case of air raids, but all preferred to stay. The annual Court visit to the Godalming almshouses was cancelled from 1941 until 1945, but the Senior Warden continued to visit and monitor the building and residents. All were subject

to wartime rationing, but the Senior Warden succeeded in obtaining a petrol allowance for the motor mower and the gardens were used extensively for growing vegetables.

On 16th October 1940, the Dutch Church near Carpenters' Hall in the City was totally destroyed by a land mine, shattering the windows of the Hall and stained glass beyond repair. On 29th November an air raid caused minor damage to the Twickenham almshouses but no residents were injured, and the Senior Warden and Clerk visited the next day to find morale running high. On 29th December an air raid so severely damaged the Company's property at 171/3 Aldersgate Street that the tenants were obliged to move out. The ground floor shop was lent to London County Council for a meals service, but the rest of the building was unusable. At 1.43 a.m. on 11th May 1941 a land mine fell on London Wall, exploding a gas main. The clocks in the Hall stopped, and with fires raging all around the water pressure was too weak to halt its destruction by fire. Those resident in the Hall included the Head Porter Mr Hill (who earlier in the evening had disposed of incendiary bombs landing on the roof), the Housekeeper, a Fire-watcher, Air Raid Wardens and a First Aid Worker, all led to safety by the police and Air Raid Wardens. The Clerk later reported to the Livery that the

site could not be approached for several days due to the presence of a 7 foot long 1400 kilogram unexploded bomb in Finsbury Circus, but he did obtain a permit for himself and the Beadle (Frank Powell) to inspect the ruined Hall. They entered the basement kitchen by ladder from the street, noting that the upper floors had collapsed to the level of the basement strong room roof and brick vaulting. This had sustained the whole weight of the fallen debris, making progress through the basement passage possible. The brick vaulting had also protected most of the furniture, artefacts and archives stored there.

When the Draper's Company offered the use of their Hall for meetings and lunches the Company offices were immediately transferred there, moving soon afterwards to 8 Throgmorton Avenue courtesy of the Company's tenants, the Provincial Bank of Ireland. The

small numbers of lunch guests throughout the war were often invited from refugee Allied governments and armies in London. They included Polish, Greek, Norwegian, American, Soviet and Chinese diplomats and military officers. From 1944 the offices moved to 28 Austin Friars, rented from the Drapers' Company. The Hall remained covered in scaffolding until rebuilding could commence in 1956, unusable except for a reservoir in the basement used by London County Council for firefighting. By contrast, as the Clerk reported, the imposing seven storey office property built on Company land in Lime Street in 1939 by the City of London Real Property Company, was in 1947 standing 'intact in majestic isolation, most of the surrounding property having collapsed during the bombing'. A fortunate survival, the property still stands today, opposite the Lloyd's building.



Carpenters' Hall, May 1941. Looking into the basement

# Affiliations

## HMS Daring

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

Currently, DARING has been assigned its engineers to begin an intensive testing and commissioning period during which the newly installed power and propulsion systems will be tested as they strive to return DARING to sea under her own steam. The remaining Ship's Company will start to be assigned with the aim of regaining DARING and taking ownership of the Ship during August/September.

I handed over my role as Senior Naval Officer to the new Executive Officer, Lt. Cdr. Fiona Stephenson RN in June, who will continue to liaise with the Carpenters' Company as DARING moves forward into the next phase. For me personally, it has been an

honour and pleasure to have been SNO to DARING for the past two years, particularly in maintaining our links with the Carpenters' Company. I hope our affiliation continues for many more years to come as DARING returns to service - for myself, a whole-hearted thank you for all your support.

## 4th Battalion, The Ranger Regiment

ADJUTANT, CAPTAIN TIM RICE REPORTS:

As with many of our previous contributions to this publication, I start with a clich  : 2024 has been the busiest year for the Battalion so far! The Fourth Battalion, The Ranger Regiment, part of the Army Special Operations Brigade, continues to advance in maturity, mirroring the escalation of our operational tempo. In a world fraught with diverse threats, the 4th Battalion remains at the forefront of supporting Defence's commitments to national security and global stability. Last year, this included turmoil in the Levant, a conventional war of attrition in Europe, and terrorism and organized criminal groups sowing instability. The summer of 2024 proved to be a particularly turbulent year for the Levant. Lebanon found itself entangled in a bitter conflict between Israel and Hezbollah. As the security situation deteriorated, the Foreign and Commonwealth

Office and Ministry of Defence revisited plans to evacuate thousands of British Nationals. Whilst deliberately remaining vague, we can say with certainty and pride that our Rangers proved their worth time and time again. Closer to home, 4 RANGER has been chosen to play a pivotal role as part of the UK's contribution to NATO's war-fighting plans. This should prove to be one of the MoD's most significant commitments in 2026.

The 4th Battalion continues to benefit from high levels of investment. The L403A1, our new rifle, continues to prove best in class (despite its dreary title). Its performance can be likened to the toughness of a Land Rover with the sophistication of an Aston Martin. We thoroughly look forward to welcoming your Liverymen back to Ash Ranges for a test drive. For the second year running, we have participated in Project Convergence in Nevada to trial and test a variety of new communication suites alongside our US Green Beret and Australian Commando allies. Thankfully, after a busy few weeks the team were able to unwind in Las Vegas for several refreshments before their long flight home.

We continually strive to prepare our personnel for the most challenging situations and environments, from the jungles of Belize to the Rocky Mountains and the Arctic North. We have enhanced our medical capabilities by establishing



Close Quarter Marksmanship training with one of our partners in the Middle East

the Ranger Medic Foundation Course, designed to equip our Combat Medical Technicians (CMTs) to operate autonomously and in geographically isolated areas. Our CMTs have evolved into some of the most proficient in the Army. For the past three years, a CMT from 4 RANGER has been awarded the 'Best CMT of the Year'. With personnel from 4 RANGER deployed forward

24/7, 365 days a year, we remain an operationally focused and busy battalion. However, we could not achieve this alone, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to The Carpenters' Company for their continued support to our soldiers at home and abroad on operations. We wish all Liverymen and their families good health and prosperity and look forward to hosting you at the next Battalion range day.

## Chosen Man

ADJUTANT CAPTAIN TOM FARROW WRITES:

Corporal Inardev Chaudhary is the recipient of this year's Chosen RANGER Award. As a Special Operations Task Unit Weapons Specialist, he has proved an exceptional instructor with our Middle Eastern partners. During the year he launched into new and challenging environments,

from the jungles of Brunei to the Middle East whilst managing his transfer from the Royal Gurkha Rifles. Corporal Chaudray started the year with G Company, and received an Instructor Recommendation Pass on the Jungle Warfare Instructors Course before transferring to 4 RANGER'S



Corporal *Inardev Chaudhary*

Special Operations Task Group A. After impressing whilst exercising troops in Brunei, he quickly established himself as one of our most reliable non-commissioned officers. Corporal Chaudhary was a natural choice to deploy to the Middle East, arriving just as tensions and violent exchanges were reaching new, previously uncharted, levels.

Alongside delivering military assistance as a weapons and tactics instructor, his role was to reach out to our partners to initiate, develop and sustain relationships. At this he proved exceptionally gifted, in turn acquiring the skills required to inform and develop UK MOD and HMG contingency planning and decision making.

## IV (Army Co-operation) Squadron RAF

COMMANDING OFFICER, WING COMMANDER CHRISTOPHER RUGG REPORTS:

As always, we have had a busy year since last Summer's report. August 2024 saw the handover of command from Wg Cdr Boning to Wg Cdr Rugg. At the same time Squadron Instructor numbers reached their lowest levels in recent history and we have been focused on rebuilding our cadre of instructor pilots. Almost a year on, we have some 12 Qualified Flying Instructors, with more due to arrive and qualify. In the same period, the Squadron has continued to train young pilots and has graduated 16 Trainees to the front line to fly the Typhoon FGR4 or F-35 Lightning. Our objective remains to deliver the

highest calibre of Fighter Pilot to the UK combat air front line. A real highlight of the period was that, after a few years hiatus, IV(AC) returned to an overseas detachment. Squadron members dusted off the European Waypoint directory and headed south. Alongside XXV(Fighter) Squadron, we deployed for two weeks in March, with eight aircraft, to French Air Force Base Solenzara in Corsica. The detachment was a great success and provided a much-needed jump into spring weather following a North Wales winter. It also gave our trainees invaluable exposure to overseas operations.

Away from flying, we have been hosting a regular drumbeat of visitors, from young people supported by the Jon Egging Trust to more well-known visitors such as newly elected MPs, Chief of the Air Staff and the Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer, who visited RAF Valley in June as part of the UK Armed Forces weekend and was hosted for part of the visit by IV(AC) trainee pilots. We've also had occasional visits from the front line, with F35s and Typhoons giving trainees a glimpse of what they will be flying in a few months' time. In June this year, Flt Lt Ali Thomson and I were privileged to be hosted

by the Master of the Company of Carpenters in London for lunch. Flt Lt Ali Thomson was the recipient of the Company's Champion Pilot Award for 2025.

*IV(AC) Sqn Instructors & Trainees deployment to Corsica with Hawk*



## Champion Pilot

Flight Lieutenant Alistair Thomson BEng is a Qualified Flying Instructor on IV(AC) Squadron at RAF Valley, Anglesey. Raised in Wiltshire, he studied Aerospace Engineering at the University of Surrey and became a member of the University of London Air Squadron. He joined the Royal Air Force in July 2014 and earned his wings on the Tucano T1 in 2016, before going on to fly the Hawk T2 as a student at RAF Valley. In between these courses he was fortunate to spend a year with 17 Squadron at Edwards Air Force Base in California, gaining a valuable insight into operating with partner nations. On

completion of flying training in 2020, Flight Lieutenant Thomson was streamed to the Typhoon FGR4 and posted to II(AC) Squadron at RAF Lossiemouth, Scotland. During this tour he conducted operations in Iraq and Syria and took part in early NATO air policing missions to the Ukrainian border in February 2022. In November 2024 he was posted to RAF Valley and completed the instructor course. He currently teaches advanced fast jet flying and tactics on the Hawk T2, where he enjoys being able to pass his front-line experience to the next generation of Royal Air Force and Royal Navy pilots.



*Flight Lieutenant Alistair Thomson received his award from the Master at the June Court Lunch*

# Pastimes

## Tennis

### Inter-Livery Tennis

LIVERYMAN HUGH FELTON WRITES:

A glorious day of tennis at Queen's Club! The 2024 Annual Inter-Livery Tennis Tournament was held on Wednesday, 18th September, a warm and humid September day — the kind of conditions you'd expect on a cultural tour of Rome in late summer. With the rising stickiness there was a sense of an imminent cyclone building over W14 for the final, to be played at 5.30 pm that evening.

The Carpenters' Company was represented by two mixed doubles teams: Liveryman Rupert Eveleigh and his partner Ana Frappell, and Liveryman Hugh Felton with partner Trudie Clements. We met promptly at 11 am and after a sharp coffee made our way to the orange clay courts. Both Carpenters' teams started with endeavour and were not intimidated by the grand surroundings. All games were strongly contested, with rallies often going to the wire. After the preliminary rounds, the tournament splits into two competitions: the Championship for those who top their group, and the Plate for those who finish at the lower end of the table. Having competed well, both Carpenters' teams were entered into the Plate Competition.

After a brief lunch break we resumed play. It was clear Ana and Rupert had a good partnership. On one rally, Ana played baseline, metronomically - with Djokovic consistency - and Rupert putting away volleys like a Tudor executioner. Despite their efforts, Ana and Rupert's progress halted just before the quarter-finals. Meanwhile, Trudie and Hugh clawed their way into the semi-finals, dispatching the Salters' and

then the Constructors', but eventually succumbing to the eventual Plate winners, the Cordwainers', with a 4-2 loss. The Carpenters' team stayed for the post-match drinks and a delicious guinea fowl dinner, held in the prestigious President's Room, overlooking the courts below. This is a highly recommended Company event for any Liveryman tennis player looking to unleash their competitive zeal in a great atmosphere.



Left to right: **Hugh Felton, Trudie Clements, Rupert Eveleigh** and **Ana Frappell**

### Livery Tennis

LIVERYMAN HUGH FELTON WRITES:

On a temperate July evening, Liverymen of the Carpenters' Company gathered for the annual Livery Tennis evening at the prestigious Hurlingham Club on the banks of the Thames in South West London.

Play commenced promptly with a mixed doubles match led by the Master, Sir Loyd, partnering with Liveryman Kieran Felton. In the thick of the action was Senior Warden Lawrence Mallinson, for whom the match was a kind of warm-up ahead of the General Court of the Livery elections, due to take place a week later. It was great to see the legendary Barnes-Yallowley sisters (Janie Binney and Caroline

Wolstenholme, daughters of the late Past Master, Hugh Barnes-Yallowley) exchanging some serious baseline ground shots with Rupert Eveleigh and Philip Brading. The competitive zeal was burning deep as Peter Birts and I faced down some tough opposition, showing the kind of composure you might expect from Roger Federer, deep into the fifth set of a US Open semi-final.

A special mention to Ben Brading, who was awarded the Russell Hutchons cup. Deservedly won not only for being a superb tennis player, but also for showing a solid commitment to Carpenters' Company tennis participation

over many years. The Clerk presented the cup under the new lights of the recently opened Brasserie 1869 at Hurlingham Club, where we enjoyed the luxury of a private dining room. A fine setting. A special mention too of Andrew Wolstenholme, who was unable to set foot on the court on this occasion due to pressing grandfather duties. Andrew attended the dinner but had to keep his low, torpedo back-hand in the locker for another year. It was lovely to see Doe Mallinson, Alistair and Sally Gregory-Smith, as well as Angi Birts, for their warm and uplifting company at dinner.

Left to right: **Ben Brading, Hugh Felton, Philip Brading, Lawrence Mallinson, Janie Binney, Caroline Wolstenholme, Kieran Felton** and **Rupert Eveleigh**



# Inter-Livery Skiing

LIVERYMAN RICHARD GALBRAITH WRITES:



2025 has been a reflective year of change for Inter-Livery Skiing. The first Inter-Livery Skiing Championships, which took place at Morzine in 2010, part of the Portes du Soleil ski area, have gained momentum every year since to become one of the most popular events in the Livery Companies' calendar. The first attendance by a Carpenters' team was in 2012 when a trio of enthusiastic Liverymen, Ben Brading and Fergus Wheeler under the captaincy of Mark Horn, first displayed their skiing prowess. Though we've never returned with any great accolade, we have constantly achieved a good solid standard which, whilst not calling for further space in the trophy cabinet, has left us holding a respectable and consistent position high on the leaderboard. This year,

the Carpenters' team finished 4th overall (age-adjusted) out of a total 47 teams, putting us amongst the top teams — which was a great success. One of the outstanding characteristics that make the event so enjoyable is its convivial atmosphere and inclusive culture. It is the relaxed atmosphere of the event and the opportunity of getting to know fellow Carpenters and Liverymen from other companies, that make attendance such a pleasure and privilege. Amongst the highlights of the event is a reception attended by all the competitors and guests when, following the Grand Slalom, the teams come together for a celebratory lunch on the slopes. The Championships conclude with a Dinner and Award Ceremony on the final night

The Carpenters' Ski team at Morzine in January

of the festivities which bring Liverymen together in a very positive way.

After many successful years in Morzine, the next Inter-Livery Skiing Championships will be held at Mayrhofen, Austria, from Wednesday 14th to Friday 16th January 2026. Our tireless captain, Stephen Samuel, is busy organising accommodation and any member of the Livery who would like to attend is most welcome to make their interest known. Finally, the organizational skill and effort made over the years by the three captains, Mark, Harry and Stephen must be recognised, together with the generous financial contribution made by the Company that allows our skiers to take part.

# Golf

Livery Golf

LIVERYMAN MARK HORN REPORTS:

We gathered at the RAC Country Club at Woodcote Park, Epsom for our annual Golf Competition on 4th April, one of the most convivial meetings in the calendar. For many of us, this means a very early start, well before sunrise, in order to get to the Club for breakfast at 7.15 am, and onto the first tee by 8.00 am. This year, in line with much of the spring, the weather was absolutely beautiful, with cloudless skies and the golf courses in immaculate condition. For the first time that I can remember, the morning competition was held on the less familiar Coronation Course. There have been two courses at Woodcote Park since 1931 (the 'Old' and the 'New'), however the New Course had been ploughed up during the Second World War, and it was redesigned and opened in 1953 to celebrate the Coronation. Much work has been done in recent years to improve the Coronation Course, and for our lack of familiarity it proved an excellent challenge. We were delighted to be joined by Major Rob Parsons and Captain Rob Gribble from the Rangers and by Martin and Rosemary Samuel, who hosted an excellent lunch. The two Robs both played very well, achieving joint second place with 37 Stableford points, and each took home a bottle of Champagne. However, this year's winner of the Penny Newman trophy was Andrew Wolstenholme, with 38 points.



Left-right: Major Rob Parsons, Andrew Wolstenholme and Captain Rob Gribble

### Inter-Livery Golf

#### LIVERYMAN ALGY WOLSTENHOLME REPORTS:

The Prince Arthur Cup was played, once again, at Walton Heath on 15th May 2025, on what must have been the only cold, and windy, day since January. Walton Heath is a championship course, which means it's used for professional tournaments and provides the toughest of challenges. The heathland course is famously known for the long carries required and thick heather that awaits anyone who strays off the tight fairways. The Inter-Livery Competition was first played at Walton Heath in 1927, and is the largest one-day amateur tournament played over two courses in the UK. The Coachmakers' did a wonderful job of scheduling the 35 Livery Companies who took part, with each Company putting up two pairs. Rowan Montague-Smith and Marcus Dill teamed up to form the Carpenters' first pair, with Richard Samuel and Algy Wolstenholme as the second pair. At the halfway mark, Rowan and Marcus were near the top of the leaderboard and showed promising form that challenged the leading teams from Merchant Taylors', Apothecaries' and Turners'. Meanwhile Richard and Algy were in the middle of the pack after a round of mixed fortunes.



Clockwise from top left: **Algy Wolstenholme, Rowan Montague-Smith, Marcus Dill and Richard Samuel**

The three course-lunch served, as teams prepared for the second round, was very impressive and must be one of the key differentiators between the amateur and professional tournaments at Walton Heath. It certainly helped both teams fight the freezing north-east wind that continued to blow across the fairways of New Course, which was arguably even more challenging than the Old Course played in the morning. Both teams impressed with huge drives on the hard fairways, long putts and approach shots applauded for their skill and daring – though the combination of this play

did not convert to a winning score for either team. I have to report that the Carpenters' were mid-table when the combined scores of both pairs were crunched through a complex set of algorithms to consider individual handicaps and the Course Rating, which form part of the new global handicap system.

A great day of sport and adventure. Despite not troubling the leaderboard, we came away with the sense that the Carpenters' had been central to proceedings and a Company to watch out for in the future.

## Sailing

### Liverymen William and Ruth Avery represented the Carpenters' Company at the 2025 Inter-Livery Regatta held on 16th-17th May in Cowes, Isle of Wight.

#### WILLIAM AVERY REPORTS:

We were sailing the Maxi 1200 (12m sailing yacht) owned by the Avery family. We came fourth out of 10 in our class and were somewhat surprised to have won the Sir Robin Gillett Cup, as the winner of the first race who is not the overall winner of those who are members of the City Livery Yacht Club. There were Keel 28 boats competing, including three Sonars for the first time, up on last year. All the boats were moored in Cowes Yacht Haven and the presence of the Carpenters' Company was proclaimed by the flying of the Company Battle flag. The Friday reception and buffet supper was held at the newly extended Royal Ocean Racing Club premises with spectacular views over the Solent.

The racing on Saturday was restricted to one race for lack of wind as no boat could sail against the tide. Despite this we were over the line at the start and a few minutes late, probably because we were so light with only two of us aboard. But with nearly empty water and diesel tanks we more than caught up. One boat finished several minutes ahead of the rest of the fleet having struck lucky with the wind, but only 36 seconds

separated the next three boats including us, on corrected time. Unfortunately, the expected sea breeze set in too late for the race officers to fit in a second race within the time limit. No-one really minded as it was a glorious sunny day.

The Presentation Dinner at the Royal Yacht Squadron was full to capacity. The Lord Mayor was not available, but we were delighted to have Alderman Sheriff Gregory Jones and his wife, Rosali Pretorius, as guests of honour to present the prizes. I'm pleased to add that the event charity was the Ellen MacArthur Trust for which over £500 was raised.

Next year's Regatta is on 16th May, so book 15th to 17th May inclusive in your calendars now if you are interested in participating and rest assured, no experience is needed.



**Ruth Avery and William Avery**

## Bridge

### PAST MASTER MARTIN SAMUEL WRITES:

In June we finished another season of Bridge with a visit to the Girdlers' Company and the picture here, taken during the supper afterwards, sums up the enjoyment had by all. For the most part, we play at Carpenters' Hall, with a cup of tea and slice of cake around 3.00pm and start of play at 3.30pm. Supper follows at about 7.00pm. We are usually 4 or 5 tables and our number includes Girdlers. But we would like to see more Carpenters (this includes your relations) so do come and join us.

The new 'season' starts on Monday, 20th October. If you would like to play, please contact Janet Giles, our Finance and Corporate Services Administrator, by email at [janet@carpentersco.com](mailto:janet@carpentersco.com) or telephone 020 7382 1661.

Supper at Girdlers' Hall



## Shooting

### Livery Clay Shoot

#### LIVERYMAN PHILIP BRADING REPORTS:

Twenty-five years ago, only six Liverymen met for the Livery Clay Shoot and, led by Past Master Hugh Barnes-Yallowley, they decided to reinvigorate the day. It is now a firm favourite in the Carpenters' calendar. On 11th April this year 23 Liverymen, including two Barnes-Yallowleys (his two sons) competed for the Rifles Cup. In addition, we had two guests from the Rangers, Captain Pudney and Captain Jones. The day started with coffee and bacon rolls, with various individuals explaining

why their shooting might be sub-optimal. They needn't have worried as we soon moved into our individual teams and were assigned an expert instructor. It being the last such day attended by our current Clerk, Past Master Michael Neal had whimsically named the teams after past Clerks.

We proceeded to the shooting ground and obliterated the clays on three stands. If anyone is in doubt about joining this fun day, do not be concerned that you may not hit any

clays, as the expert instructors will ensure that you do so, all with great good humour. The mid-morning break was an opportunity to chat and where, to the disappointment of some, the customary sausage rolls had been replaced by delicate pastries. Then back for two more stands with further encouragement from the instructors. Next, it was time for the Flush where each team shoots together in a line of stands being faced with all manner of clays simulating a day in the field, with rabbits

and game birds. A stroll back to the Club House for a delicious lunch and the results of the Competition. The winning guest was Captain Pudney. The top scoring Carpenter was Harry Neal but as he had won the Rifles Cup on two occasions (the maximum allowed) the cup was presented to the next best scorer, Freeman Chris Pask. A great day came to a convivial end with a few glasses of wine.



Carpenters at the West London Shooting School

### Inter-Livery Clay Shoot

#### PAST MASTER MICHAEL NEAL REPORTS:



Left to right: **Michael Neal**, **Harry Neal**, **RANGERS Major Jack Barnes** and **Major Mark Cripps**

The annual Inter-Livery Clay shoot took place on Thursday, 15th May at the West London Shooting School. With many of the Carpenters' potential team members away on the Company visit to Florence, Liverymen Michael and Harry Neal were joined by Major Mark Cripps and Major Jack Barnes, 4th Battalion, The Ranger Regiment. Mark had shot with us before and we knew he was a good shot, borne out by the Carpenters' team coming 14th out of 76 teams - a significant improvement on last year's performance. The Pattenmakers' was the top-scoring Livery Company team with the Grocers' runners up, followed by the Butchers' A

team and the Gunmakers'. The Shoot is held over two days and is well-run and the catering excellent. Each member of the team shoots 80 sporting clays over 12 stands as well as a 20 clay two-gun flush and an 80 bird team flush. There is much opportunity to talk to Liverymen of other companies. The Carpenters' competed alongside the Armourers' & Brasiers' and sat with the Clothworkers' at lunch. Many of the Livery Companies have several teams - Court teams, ladies' teams, guest teams etc - so please enter next year's competition to enable Carpenters' to emulate other Livery Companies.

Inter-Livery Rifle Shooting Competition

LIVERYMAN NICK THORNTON REPORTS:



Left to right:  
**Nick Gutfreund, Nick Thornton, Colin Bell, Colin Sach and Bruce Hodgson** at Bisley on 6th June

As the shadows lengthened over the ranges and pavilions of Bisley, the waiting crowds began to think it was all over. Accompanied by a growing chorus of 'It's coming home!' the news filtered through that the Carpenters' shooting team had triumphed, with a commanding win to bring the overall Competition Winners' Cup back to Carpenters' Hall. As if that wasn't enough, Bruce Hodgson's superb solo performance across every shoot of the day won him best individual shot, with Nick Thornton taking the Individual Pistol. On the way, we scored top on the 1000 yard Target Rifle, with an excellent score from Nick Gutfreund, and in the Running Boar - the latter a remarkable turnaround from previous years in what had long been our worst event.

Much of the team's success must be down to the innovative and extensive pre-match preparation. Meeting the evening before at a local hostelry, we eschewed the physical jerks and cold bath approach, concentrating on ballistics discussions and mindfulness exercises focused

on becoming one with the firearm - all over a glass or two of Côtes-du-Rhône. On the morning of the Competition we were surprised by a change in the normal running order that saw us first up on the Target Rifle range in gusty conditions. Early concerns that starting off with the Blue Riband event would be tricky were assuaged by a strong team performance.

This year's prizes were presented by 104-year old former Mosquito bomber pilot Colin Bell who gave a humorous and engaging speech that completely belied his age. It was then time for the team victory lap and photoshoot to mark a most satisfactory showing. As ever, we remain very grateful to the Company for allowing us to take part in such a great event. The bar is high for 2026!

*Members interested in taking part in any of the shooting events and pastimes should email the Clerk's PA Caroline Stevens at [caroline@carpentersco.com](mailto:caroline@carpentersco.com), all are welcome.*

# Company Business

## Throgmorton Avenue and Great Winchester Street

PAST MASTER MICHAEL MORRISON, CHAIRMAN OF THE HALL DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE, REPORTS:

In last year's edition of the Chronicle I remarked on the lengthy process of getting planning permission for the redevelopment of the east side of Throgmorton Avenue, including Carpenters' Hall, and Great Winchester Street. The planning application was submitted in September 2024 after some thirteen pre-application meetings with the City Planners and Conservation Officer. I am pleased to be able to report that in May this year the City resolved to give the scheme planning permission and at the time of writing we are engaged in negotiating the details of the 'Section 106 Agreement'. This sets out the obligations that the Company and the developer of the properties in Throgmorton Avenue

and Great Winchester Street will be required to fulfil. By the time this article goes to print, unless there is some unforeseen hitch, we should have Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent. A big step forward.

To keep the momentum going, the extensive (and expensive!) professional team have been commissioned to proceed with the next stage of the design work, and by the end of July this year they will have completed the outline design of the new Hall and all the commercial premises down the avenue.

The plan remains to vacate the Hall immediately after the Installation Court at the beginning of August

2026. We expect the work needed to strip out the Hall and start the demolition of the internal walls of the Avenue properties to be well underway by the Autumn of 2026. Our Surveyor is now engaged in conversations with potential development partners for the project, which we hope will reach fruition in the next few months. With the major decisions about the building work now made, a committee chaired by the Senior Warden, James Preston, is in the process of interviewing interior designers. We hope we'll be back in the newly reordered and reserviced Hall no later than the summer of 2029. Plans are already underway for the Company to hold events in other Companies' Halls during our absence from 'home'.

## Philadelphia – 300th Anniversary Visit

PAST MASTER RACHEL BOWER WRITES:

I was one of the liverymen who visited the American Carpenters' Company in Philadelphia in May 2009, when John Sennitt was Master. With happy memories of that trip I was looking forward to visiting again in 2024, this time with my daughter Hannah. Our hosts, the American Carpenters' Company in Philadelphia are architects, engineers and building contractors who work all over the United States. They were celebrating the Tercentenary of their founding and our visit in October was a key event in their celebrations. Carpenters' President, Tony Naccarato, Chief Executive Michael Norris and team – including the first two women identified as future Presidents - had organized an entertaining three-day programme for us.

Most of us were staying in the Bellevue Hotel, near the Union League where our Welcome Dinner was held. During the evening we were comprehensively welcomed, found old friends, and made new ones. Breakfast next day was at Carpenters' Hall, a truly special brick and timber-framed Hall at the heart of the Independence National

Park. Designed by architect Robert Smith in 1768, it was built and financed by Carpenters' members and completed in time for the First Continental Congress in 1774. Our guided tour took in Independence Hall, a replica of the Senate House Chamber, the First Bank of the United States and the great cracked Liberty Bell. Throughout, our knowledgeable guide explained the relevance of all these in the evolution of justice and democracy in early America. That afternoon we had a tour of the Barnes Foundation's vast collection of Impressionist and post-Impressionist paintings. To my mind, though, the huge Philadelphia Museum of Art with its top rate collections is the cultural star of the city.

Philadelphia is known as America's Garden capital and on day two we went south-west to the Brandywine Valley to visit two du Pont family estates - Winterthur and Longwood Gardens - both in lovely countryside. Winterthur is part mansion, with breathtaking Chinese porcelain and hand-painted wallpapers, and part museum. The museum holds

an important collection of early American culture and domestic life: utensils, furniture, street furniture, shop frontages and interiors of early houses, from 17th and 18th centuries.

After lunch we visited Longwood, famed for its gardens and early 20th century conservatories (grand and full of beautiful planting), where some hi-tech 21st century glasshouses were nearing completion. Later, strolling in the gardens surrounding the house, I was thrilled to see and feel cotton growing. Dinner and a spectacular son et lumière fountain display, as dusk fell, concluded a wonderful day.

Saturday was our own to explore until we reassembled on the top floor of our hotel for the American Carpenters' Tercentenary Dinner – some 400 guests wining and dining, a few short speeches and dancing into the night. A joyous occasion. The fellowship, warmth and generosity of our American hosts was incomparable and it was a privilege to be there to share their celebrations.



Guided tour of Philadelphia



Winterthur wallpaper

## Company Visit to Florence

LIVERYMAN FRANCESCA GREGSON REPORTS:

On a weekend in mid-May, 60 Liverymen and guests arrived in Florence for the Carpenters' annual Company Visit. For our first evening in the Tuscan capital, we were treated to a drinks party at Palazzo Antinori. Not only is the Palazzo a stunning example of Florentine Renaissance architecture, it is also the home of the Antinori family, who have been winemaking since 1385 and today own nine estates. There was much excitement in the air as we were offered heavenly glasses of wine on arrival paired with generous servings of cicchetti, including meats, breads and cheeses. It's a wonder how the Florentines manage to stay so slim! The drinks party was the perfect start to a glorious weekend. We were so well looked after by our hosts that some Liverymen stayed on for an after party – it's heartening to find that our traditional stirrup cup can travel across Europe.

On Saturday morning, we reconvened at the British Institute of Florence's 16th century palazzo on the south bank of the Arno River. Affectionately known as 'il British' by the locals, the Institute has taught English to Italians, offered art history and Italian courses to visitors and runs a lively programme of cultural and social events for over 100 years. We were

fortunate to be told about the rich history of the Florentine guilds by the Institute's Head of History of Art, Jeremy Boudreau. Known as the 'Arte', the Guilds controlled the arts and trades in Florence from the twelfth to the sixteenth century. It was fascinating to learn about the contributions made by the Guilds to the development of early Florence, especially those working in our own craft: 'Arte dei Maestri di Pietra e Legname' (Master stonemasons and woodcarvers) and the 'Arte dei Legnaioli' (Art of Woodworkers). We were left to our own devices in the afternoon, allowing us to explore the City, visit one of the many museums or consume gelato at our leisure. In the evening we met up at the Master's favourite restaurant, Trattoria Cammillo. Something of an institution, Cammillo, founded in 1945, serves up delicious, unpretentious Florentine dishes. Our set menu was superb.

'Grazie mille' to the Master, the Clerk and Caroline for organising a brilliant, delicious and educational weekend. It was a delight for us to be shown parts of Florence that we would not usually have access to or have previously missed. For Liverymen who haven't been on a Company Visit, I strongly encourage you to attend one.



Left to right: Naomi Hawkes, Amanda and Fergus Wheeler, Jamie Mawson, Alistair Gregory-Smith



Left to right: Hannah Bower, Angi Birts, Naomi Hawkes

## Anglo-Netherlands Society

### LIVERYMAN JOHN JACKSON REPORTS:



Visit to the House of Lords, left to right:  
**Liveryman Geoff Rhodes**, his wife **Linda**  
and **John Jackson** in Westminster Hall

The last report on the Society was in 2023. I am pleased to say that the Society is going forward strongly with an increase in its membership and many events, tours and other activities being organized throughout the year. The Society produces an excellent Newsletter twice a year, which is circulated by email. The 11 Liverymen included in the Company's Corporate membership of the Society have, between them, attended a number of events, including a visit to the House of Lords, courtesy of an invitation from the Society's President, Lord Taylor of Holbeach. Other events included the annual Members' Dinner at the Reform Club and private visits to Freemasons' Hall, Battersea Power Station, the National Gallery for the Van Gogh Poets & Lovers exhibition and Middle Temple Hall.

The writer was privileged to represent the Master at the Dutch Church's Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols (Viering van Negen Lezingen en Kerstliederen) in December 2024, accompanied by his wife Janet, where he read one of the lessons. The reception in the Church's Hall afterwards was a most congenial affair with good conversation and the sampling of some Dutch delicacies. In conclusion, mention should be made of Liveryman Tobias Preston who has lived and worked in the Netherlands for the past five years and has now been included on the list of Liveryman to be part of the Company's Corporate Membership of the Society. The Company's connections with the Netherlands are certainly growing pleasurably.

## New Company Clerk

Ralph Arundell joined the Carpenters' Company on 22nd September. He was educated at Pangbourne College and the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst before completing a 30-year career in the British Army. He commanded 3rd Battalion The Rifles on operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and Lebanon and had served on operations extensively in Northern Ireland and other

parts of the world. Ralph completed his military career in the Ministry of Defence working closely with the FCO and No 10 on both Information Operations and Media Operations in the areas of Global Counter Terrorism, delivery of the campaign in Libya, military support to the Olympics and the drawdown from Afghanistan. From January 2015 to June 2025 he was the Director of

Operations at Harrow School responsible for the operational delivery of all non-academic aspects of the School, which included overseeing two major construction projects totalling £52m. He has a lifetime commitment to education and training from the nurturing and development of his soldiers through to working at Harrow. He sat on the School's Charity Committee working closely with



its local community outreach programme Shaftesbury Enterprise.

Ralph is a Trustee of two charities. He sits on the Board of the Rifles Regimental Charity and is a member of the Grants Committee disbursing up to £16k a month to Riflemen and their families who are in need. He is also on the Board of Step Together Volunteering - a small Bristol-based charity that uses the mechanism of volunteering to help build self-esteem in young people and former

offenders to enable them to step into the workplace.

Ralph is married to Jo with three adult children, two of whom are married, one grandson and a corgi, Bertie. Ralph enjoys keeping fit, music, food and wine, sailing, skiing and open water swimming. He is passionate about rugby and is a former (very average) player who now lives his rugby fantasies vicariously through his youngest son who is a professional international rugby player.

## Staff Changes

### VIVIENNE POCOCK

Vivienne retired as the Company's Craft and Charities Administrator in March. She joined the Company in 2010 and became a Freeman in 2017.

Vivienne is looking forward to a busy retirement, devoting more time to singing with two choirs, gardening (in both her own and as a volunteer) and opera.



**Vivienne** (left)  
with Liveryman  
**Claire Whittaker**

Admissions

TO THE LIVERY

On 7th May 2025



**Sir Grayson Perry**  
Sir Grayson is an artist, best known for his ceramic vases and tapestries. He was the first ceramicist to win the Turner Prize in 2003. His work is held in the permanent collections of the Tate Gallery, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the British Council and Arts Council, the Crafts Council, Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam and the Museum of Modern Art in New York. In 2013 he delivered the BBC Reith Lectures, and he has presented several television documentaries including *Why Men Wear Frocks*, *All In The Best Possible Taste* with Grayson Perry and *Grayson's Art Club*. He has published two autobiographies, *Grayson Perry: Portrait of the Artist as a Young Girl* (2007) and *The Descent of Man* (2016). Grayson was appointed CBE in 2013 and awarded a Knighthood for services to the Arts in 2023.

On 4th June 2025



**Christopher Holt**  
Chris joined the Royal Engineers from Sandhurst in 1995 and has worked in insurance after leaving the army in 2005. He was employed at Aon and JLT insurance before establishing CHC Global in 2016, a specialist risk and insurance company based in the City of London. In 2004 he was appointed MBE for services to Bomb Disposal and is a committed supporter of veterans' charities, serving as Vice Chairman of the Lloyd's and City of London branch of The Royal British Legion.

On 2nd July 2025



**Clive Aslet**  
Clive is a writer, publisher and visiting Professor of Architecture at the University of Cambridge and is Chairman of the Lutyens Trust. He took an MA in the History of Art at Peterhouse, Cambridge, and went on to join the magazine *Country Life* in 1977 as their architectural writer, and later editor, for 13 years. He continues to contribute to *Country Life*, as well as writing for *The Times*, *The Daily Telegraph* and other media particularly on architecture, the countryside and British life. A founder of the publishing house Triglyph Books, he has published over 30 books, including *The Last Country Houses* in 1982 and *The Story of the Country House* in 2021 for Yale University Press. A recent venture is 'Your Places or Mine', a podcast about places and buildings with Liveryman John Goodall.

TO THE FREEDOM

On 2nd October 2024

**Jemima Neal**  
Jemima is Head of Operations at London and Jaipur-based fashion brand Pink City Prints. She studied at Heathfield School and the University of Edinburgh where she read Geography. She enjoys Art history and architecture and is a keen tennis and netball player. Jemima is the daughter of Past Master Michael Neal.

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

Ellie is Head of Pastoral Care at the Building Crafts College, supporting student development, welfare and behaviour, including attendance. A professional hairdresser, Ellie was a student trainer before gaining a Certificate in Education from the University of Greenwich and joining the College. She is a volunteer with the British Heart Foundation and the Salvation Army.

**Janet Giles**  
*In recognition of seven years service*  
Janet is the Carpenters' Company's Finance and Corporate Services Administrator. Before joining the Company she worked in a variety of roles, including at King's College London, Newcastle University and British Waterways. She gained a BSc from the Open University and has trained and worked as a chef.

Left to right:  
Eleanor Dennis,  
The Beadle Darren  
Neal, Jemima Neal  
and Janet Giles



On 6th November 2024



**Amy Burton**  
Amy is an Executive Director with UBS (formerly Credit Suisse Bank) having joined them in 2002 from the insurance group CGNU. She studied at Leeds Metropolitan University, taking a BA (Hons) in Consumer Services Management. The daughter of Liveryman John Burton, Amy skis regularly and is an active member of a running club, competing in local races and charity events.



**Christoper Pask**  
Chris is an Architect and designer. He is a Director of Charlton Brown Architects Ltd, Hampstead, specializing in architectural and interior design with an emphasis on traditional crafts.

On 5th March 2025



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

**Neil Hayman**  
Neil is a Tutor and Lecturer in Multi-crafts & Bricklaying at the Building Crafts College. He developed the Bricklaying Apprenticeship courses there and has introduced evening classes for Bricklaying, Plastering and Rendering. Neil studied at Canterbury University and went on to employment as a Prison Officer Instructor, an instructor at Bexley College and self-employed heritage brickwork. He plays the drums and has performed with many different bands touring Europe and the festival circuit.

On 2nd April

**Alexander de Rijke**  
Alex is Professor of Architecture at the Technical University Delft in the Netherlands. He is founding director of his own architectural practice, de Rijke Marsh Morgan (dRMM) Studio, with offices in London and Berlin. A pioneer in the use of timber in architecture, the studio won the Stirling Prize in 2017 and was this year's Wood Awards Commercial Award winner. He is also an architectural photographer, writer and speaker on wood design and construction in Europe.

**Jonas Lencer**  
Jonas is an architect and director at de Rijke Marsh Morgan architectural practice (dRMM). He studied at the technical University RWTH Aachen in Germany and developed an early interest in forestry and building with timber. He has worked on many of dRMM's timber projects, leading the studio's material research and development. Jonas is a 2025 Wood Award judge.

**Julia Brundell**  
*In recognition of seven years service*  
Julia is the Company's Deputy Clerk and Financial Controller. She took a degree in Maths & Psychology and qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1991, then started her career at the Corporation of London as an auditor, going on to the John Lewis Partnership before moving into the arts with the City of London Festival. An accomplished violinist, she enjoys skiing, walking, live music festivals and theatre.



Left to right:  
Alex de Rijke, Julia Brundell, The Beadle and Jonas Lencer

On 4th June 2025



**Louise Galbraith**  
Louise is a Commercial Agent for MJ Finn Commercial, an independent property practice based in Chiswick, London. She moved to the company after working for the Crown Prosecution Service and is currently studying for a MSc in Real Estate at London Southbank University, having graduated with a BA(Hons) in Film Studies from the University of Portsmouth. Louisa is the daughter of Liveryman Richard Galbraith.

On 2nd July 2025



**Louisa Mansel**  
Louisa is a partner and a business development director with Brown Advisory, an investment management company. Based in London, she supports private client and charity business and oversees international event and sponsorship strategy. She studied at the University of Exeter, taking a BA (Hons) in English & History. A long-term supporter and volunteer of the Body Dysmorphic Disorder Foundation, the Children's Literacy Charity and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Louisa is the daughter of Liveryman Edward Cottrell.

New Dutch Ambassador

His Excellency Paul Huijts was admitted to the Honorary Freedom of the Carpenters' Company in January in recognition of the close links between the Company and the Dutch community, particularly the Dutch Church in Austin Friars. Queen Juliana of the Netherlands was for many years an Honorary Liveryman confirming this long standing relationship.

His Excellency was appointed Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Kingdom in 2024 after a long career in the civil service in the service of Prime Minister Mark Rutte. He was Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in The Hague from 2020 to 2024, and previously Secretary General of the Prime Minister's and Cabinet Office for six years.

His Excellency **Paul Huijts** (left) with the Master **Sir Loyd Grossman**, in front of the Company's portrait of **Queen Juliana**



Profiles

THE MASTER 2025

Lawrence Mallinson



Lawrence is the founder and owner of James White Drinks Ltd. Started in 1989 as an apple juice manufacturer based in Suffolk, James White is now the UK's leading vegetable juice manufacturer with Big Tom spicy tomato juice, the Beet It range of beetroot juice and sports nutrition products and Zingers (ginger, turmeric shots). In 2002, James White Drinks was granted a Royal Warrant by HM the Queen and in 2025 a Royal Warrant by HM the King.

Having graduated from Jesus College, Cambridge in 1978, Lawrence qualified as a Chartered Accountant with Peat Marwick (now KPMG). A brief encounter with the City at Robert Flemings was followed by a four-year stint as Chief Financial Officer of Computacenter during a period of spectacular growth. In 1987, he left to become one of the founding directors of New Covent Garden Soup Company, the pioneer of

the fresh soup market in the UK. In 2008, Lawrence co-founded HeartBeet Ltd, a patent owning company, with the medical research teams that discovered that the nitrate in beetroot juice boosts nitric oxide levels in the blood system. This discovery explains why many of the world's sporting elite now regularly take concentrated beetroot shots. In 2014, Lawrence founded RenewalsDesk Ltd, a patents renewal business, which he sold in 2020. He is Chairman of the Wadham Lodge Sports Ground Trust, a largely football-based sports centre in Walthamstow, originally founded by his grandfather.

Lawrence now lives in Aldeburgh, Suffolk, and is married to Doe (currently Chair of Britten Pears Arts) and has three children – Barnaby (who now runs James White), Mathilda a broadcaster (Media Storm and Middle East Eye) and Phoebe a musician (Samfire).

THE JUNIOR WARDEN 2025

Jim Greaves



Jim is an architect. He graduated from Sheffield University, with distinction, and has been with Hopkins Architects since 1987. He is now one of the four Principals leading the work of the Practice. His early projects include: the Schlumberger Cambridge Research Centre; the Queen's Building, Emmanuel College; the Dynamic Earth Centre in Edinburgh; a new Hall for the Haberdashers'

Company in West Smithfield; a new mixed-use development and concert hall for Bury St Edmunds; new school buildings for Sherborne School, Benenden School and Brighton College and 100 Liverpool Street, for British Land. He is now working on a new indoor sports facility for Eton College, his fifth project for the College; a new student housing scheme on Albert Embankment; a major new project

for the Grosvenor Estate in Mayfair and a new racecourse project for Goodwood. During his career, Jim has won several architectural awards, including a recent shortlisting for the Stirling prize on 100 Liverpool

Street, and the City of London Building of the Year award, twice, in 2021 and 2022. His new concert hall for Eton College has, this year, been recognised with a RIBA award. Jim was also the proud recipient of the Carpenters' Company's Annual

Award for Excellence in 2023. He has particular expertise in the use of wood in new constructions and is Chairman of the Wood Awards. In his spare time, Jim enjoys DIY, gardening, and long-distance road cycling.

Obituaries

LIVERY

Steve Corbett

24<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 1954 – 13<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025



Steve joined the Carpenters' Company in 2011 and was elected Middle Warden in 2023. His sister Anna writes:

Stephen Geoffrey Corbett was born in a village in Suffolk on a clear, sunny and cool September morning, his father's birthday. As the third child and first son he was immediately treasured by all.

Steve travelled to his first home in the Gold Coast (as it then was), a few weeks old, bound tightly and sleeping soundly, in the luggage rack of a BOAC plane. His childhood was full of dreaming and adventure, freedom and protection, experiencing with awe the beauty, rawness, and ruthlessness of nature as it is in the tropics. Every weekend was spent at a beach with pure turquoise sea named 'Paradise Beach'.

Steve's first experience of carpentry was as an assistant (and design advisor!), when his father constructed a wooden climbing frame in the garden, and later a den in a large grapefruit tree. From the age of three much of his time was spent sitting on the veranda, reading. He became widely read in many fields, including arts, sciences, philosophy, as well as history. He was unobtrusively knowledgeable, prizing wisdom above cleverness. For safety reasons, the family came to England in 1959, without their father, for two years. This was a difficult time for young Steve, and he became more withdrawn and introverted, spending every spare minute making things in balsa wood. His love of wood and working with it — and his love of water, feeling at home near water, boats, sailing — remained with him as a constant throughout his life.

Steve's schooling was mainly at a small prep school, Endsleigh, in Colchester, followed by the Royal Grammar School for Boys, with their distinctive purple blazers, and finally privately in Rome, where his father was working for the UN. Steve had inherited his father's Honours brain. He gained a scholarship to Lincoln College, Oxford at the age of 16, to study History. For whatever reason, he discontinued his studies and began to carve out his future. An early occupation was as lighting technician for a progressive Oxford theatre company. He then worked on creating and marketing wooden loudspeakers and studied the science of sound waves and the curvature of wood. He established a reputation for restoring the interior of boats with beautiful, hand-carved fittings and came to understand how wood interacts with water and damp, affecting its form. Later he joined the Green Oak Company and was involved in the highly successful creation of the Weald and Downland Gridshell, and later the Savill Building in Windsor Great Park, both multiple-award winning projects. One of his happiest memories was his meeting with the late Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, when they toured the Great Park together, choosing which trees should become timber. When Steve's father died unexpectedly in 1992, Steve

undertook a great deal of responsibility for the bereft family. He moved to Sussex and in 2003 married Carol, a country woman who had lived in West Dean all her life. She survives him. The last five years of Steve's life, as for many since Covid, were less than happy but he sought to overcome his final illness with courage and integrity, and died at peace with himself

Martin Jacob

3<sup>RD</sup> JUNE 1931 – 27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024



Martin's wife Wendy writes:

The Jacob family's long association with the Carpenters' Company dates back to 1800 when James Jacob was admitted as a Liveryman. Martin, a 6th generation direct descendant of James, was admitted as a Freeman and Liveryman in 1953. Both his father Kenneth, and grandfather Walter, were Masters of the Company. Martin was a Civil Engineer, and after National Service he worked in London with the Port of London Authority and various consultant engineering firms. However, time spent working on projects overseas was not particularly compatible with bringing up a young family. Looking for an alternative, he came across an advertisement for the position of Port Engineer for the

Port of Darwin Authority in the Northern Territory of Australia. A successful application found Martin and the family emigrating to Australia in 1970. In addition to his connections to the Carpenters' Company, Martin inherited from his father an enduring love of boats and sailing - something he continued to pursue in Darwin. He soon joined the Darwin Sailing Club and was busy building a dinghy for his 7-year-old son, and repairing and refurbishing an old boat for himself. A man of many interests and talents, while in Darwin he became a strong advocate of good quality education for all children and parental involvement in educational decision-making at school and system level. Life in Darwin was more than a little up-ended over Christmas 1974 when Cyclone Tracey hit the city. But dealing with the onslaught of Tracey on the wharf in the final hours of Christmas Eve, and its aftermath on Christmas morning (and for months to follow), was just another thing he was able to take in his stride. When it was time to leave Darwin we had the enormous pleasure of sailing away in 'Lavinia', the yacht that Martin designed and built himself - a retirement project of some magnitude! All his own work apart from some help from a welder and a sailmaker.

Adam Watson

22<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST 1956 – 10<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2025



His sister Vanessa writes:

Adam's career spanned about 30 years at Sotheby's where he became an expert in stringed instruments and travelled the world. He was known for his photographic memory. When quite junior, he recognised an instrument brought in by an American as having been through Sotheby's hands in the sixties, when Adam would still have been at school, its provenance evidenced in Sotheby's own archive. He could wax lyrical about a beautiful lute, though he had no aptitude for playing any instrument. His colleagues remember him with affection. His constant companions in First Class were more often than not Stradivari cellos, too valuable to travel economy. He leaves three sisters, two nephews, four nieces, and in the third generation twelve great nephews and nieces, all of whose birthdays he managed to remember. Adam became a Freeman and Liveryman of the Company in 1978. His father Peter Watson was Master of the Company in 1969, his great-grandfather Charles Bartlett Master in 1909 and his cousin is Past Master Mike Felton.

Charles Brown

18TH DECEMBER 1930 –  
27TH JUNE 2024



Dr Charles Brown became a Freeman and Liveryman of the Company in 1980, serving on the Education Committee periodically from 1982 to 2001. He was Surveyor to the Fabric of St George’s Chapel, Windsor and three Cathedrals — Coventry, Litchfield and York Minster. Whilst at York he directed the operations of the skilled carvers and joiners continuously engaged on new and restoration work, including after the devastation of the south transept by fire in 1984. He designed and built several churches and was responsible for restoration work to a number of historic houses, including Stoneleigh Abbey, Penshurst Place, Chillingham Castle and Tregothnan House.

FREEDOM

RosemaryMacCrimmon

1933 – 2025



Rosemary died on 2nd May 2025. A Service of Thanksgiving was held at a packed St.Mary’s Church, Thorncombe, Dorset on Tuesday, 10th June 2025. Rosemary became a Freeman of the Company in 1977. She was the eldest daughter of Past Master Christopher Keysell and cousin of Past Master John Sennitt. She is survived by Fiona, Kirsty, Calum and grandson Liam. Born in Cambridge in 1933, the eldest of three daughters, Rosemary lived successively in Barnet, Salcombe and Rickmansworth. After schooling, she trained in Domestic Sciences at The London Polytechnic before working in Cambridge. There she met agricultural graduate Padraig (Paddy) MacCrimmon. They married in 1957. From 1957 to 1963, Paddy and Rosemary lived, and Paddy worked, in Nigeria before returning to the UK where Paddy worked for ICI at Fernhurst. Nearby Liphook became their home, before their move to Thorncombe in 1987. There they supported every aspect

of rural community life: ambitious gardening was a life-long passion for Rosemary. Widowed in 2017, Rosemary continued as the family’s anchor: humble, loyal, giving; grateful for life’s blessings, faithful - and with faith. And her joyful, infectious laugh we can still hear.

Edward Eastwood

4TH APRIL 1934 –  
13TH SEPTEMBER 2024



*Dr Eastwood (left) with Past Masters Guy Morton-Smith (centre left) and Morton Neal (right) at the Pinetum in 1999*

Ian Flack, Assistant Curator at the Clinton-Baker Pinetum writes:

Dr Edward Eastwood was the Curator of the Clinton-Baker Pinetum at Bayfordbury, near Hertford where he worked in a volunteer capacity from 1995 until his health began to fail in 2020. He was the driving force in the project throughout and recruited a faithful band of volunteer workers, established a Friends’ Association, managed the specimen trees and planted for the future. He was a real character and a gentleman in the true sense of the word, regularly enthusing visiting groups with the wonder of the various conifers in the collection. It was through the generous grants provided by the Carpenters’ Company towards his restoration project in the late 1990s that Edward’s ambitious dream was able to proceed. He was forever grateful for the assistance. He was invited to join the Freedom of the Company in 2004. In 2009, the

University of Hertfordshire (which owns the Pinetum), recognised Edward’s achievements by granting him a Fellowship. This was prompted by a recommendation from the Carpenters’ Company. Today the Pinetum continues to be managed in accordance with Edward’s principles, such as ‘It’s always better to move a path rather than to prune a specimen conifer’.

Peter Benson

The Company has recently learnt of the death in January 2024 of Peter Benson, who joined the Hall staff in April 1998. He became a Freeman of the Company on 4th July 2006 and retired in August 2009.

Timothy Llewellyn

30TH MAY 1947 –  
23RD DECEMBER 2024



His wife Elizabeth writes:

Tim was educated at St Dunstan’s School and Magdalene College, Cambridge. He joined Sotheby’s in 1969 working in the Old Master Paintings Department, eventually becoming Deputy Chairman. He went on to become Director of the Henry Moore Foundation from 1994 to 2007 and was awarded an OBE for services to art in 2007. Tim had an interest in woodworking beginning in school where he made several tables. Later in life he commissioned work from Wales and Russell Pinch, London. He was delighted to become a Freeman of the Carpenters’ in May 2019, and before illness struck he had been looking forward to engaging with the Company’s educational projects.

## Gifts

### From the Estate of Liveryman Terence Mallinson

*The Mallinson Story 1877-1977* W Euan Mackie (1977); *Wood: A Manual of the Natural History and Industrial Applications of the Timbers of Commerce* G S Boulger (1908); *Timber. A Centenary History of the Timber Trade Federation 1892-1992* Robert Fitzgerald & Janet Grenier (1992); *The International Book of Wood* Ed. Martyn Bramwell (1976)

### Past Master Dr Allen Zimbler

*Join Loyalty and Liberty. A History of the Worshipful Company of Joiners and Ceilers* Charlotte Young (2021)

### From the Estate of Past Warden Christopher Preston

A generous bequest, the majority intended to support the Building Crafts College and the residue to support the Carpenters' & Docklands Centre

### Carpenters' Company of the City and County of Philadelphia

Bottle of Straight Rye Whiskey (George Washington's Distillery); *The Carpenters' Company of the City and County of Philadelphia: 1786 Rule Book* Charles E. Peterson (2024); *The Carpenters' Company of the City and County of Philadelphia 1724-1924* (1925); *Philadelphia Architecture. A Guide to the City* John Andrew Gallery (2016)

## Company Appointments

*The following held appointments during the Company year 2024/2025*

### COURT

**Master**  
Sir Loyd Grossman CBE

**Senior Warden**  
Mr. L. S. Mallinson

**Middle Warden**  
Mr. J. W. Preston

**Junior Warden**  
Vice Admiral P. M. Bennett CB OBE

Mr. W. S. Haynes  
Mr. J. A. C. Wheeler  
Mr. M. O. P. May  
Mr. M. R. Mathews  
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  
Mr. M. J. Morrison OBE  
Brigadier M. J. Meardon DL  
Dr. A. Zimbler

**Past Masters Emeritus:**  
Mr. F. D. Hornsby  
Mr. V. G. Morton-Smith  
Mr. N. B. C. Eveleigh MBE  
Mr. D. F. Newman  
Mr. J. D. Sennitt  
The Revd. Dr. W. P. Povey JP  
Mr. G. P. S. Downes CVO  
Mr. H. M. Lancaster  
The Lord Flight, of Worcester

### 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. J. Morrison  
Brig. M. J. Meardon  
**Dr. A. Zimbler**  
Mr. J. A. Greaves (Co-opted)  
Mr. A. T. Mortimer (Co-opted)  
The Clerk  
The Deputy Clerk  
Company Surveyor  
Company Solicitor

**Building Crafts College Board of Govenors**  
The Master  
The Middle Warden  
Mr. A. M. Gregory-Smith  
Mrs. R. F Bower  
**Mr. M. J. Morrison**  
Brig. M. J. Meardon  
Mr. A. W. L. Wolstenholme (Co-opted)  
Miss R. J. Luton (Co-opted)  
Mr. B. J. D. U. Hodgson (Co-opted)  
Mr. P. G. Wilkinson (Co-opted)  
Mr J. Barradell (Co-opted)  
The Clerk  
The Deputy Clerk  
The Principal of the BCC  
The Business Manager of the BCC

**Craft Committee**  
The Master  
The Junior Warden  
Mr. M. R. Mosley  
Mr. M. W. F. Felton  
**Brig. M. J. Meardon**  
Mr. J. C. M. Taylor  
Mr. M. P. S. Horn (Co-opted)  
Mr. J. M. Burton (Co-opted)  
Mr. W. M. Avery (Co-opted)  
Mr. L. R. Conway (Co-opted)  
The Clerk  
The Principal of the BCC

**Investments Committee**  
The Master  
The Senior Warden  
Mr. M. O. P. May  
**Mr. M. R. Mosley**  
Dr. A. Zimbler  
Mr. E. A. C. Cottrell (Co-opted)  
Mr. J. R. D. Korner (Co-opted)  
Mr. R. J. Hamilton (Co-opted)  
Col. N. P. S. Thornton (Co-opted)  
The Clerk  
The Deputy Clerk

**Rustington Convalescent Home Committee of Management**  
The Master  
The Junior Warden  
Mr. M. O. P. May  
Mr. M. J. Samuel  
**Mr. M. H. W. Neal**  
Mr. R. C. Galbraith (Co-opted)  
Mr. N. S. Corderey (Co-opted)  
Mr. F. M. C. Wheeler (Co-opted)  
Mr. P. W. Brading (Co-opted)  
The Clerk  
The Deputy Clerk  
The Home Manager

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

**Admissions Committee**  
The Master  
**Mr. M. R. Mathews**  
His Hon. P. W. Birts  
Mr. M. R. Mosley  
Dr. A. Zimbler  
The Clerk

**Master and Wardens Committee**  
The Master  
The Senior Warden  
The Middle Warden  
The Junior Warden  
Mr. M. R. Mathews  
Mr. A. M. Gregory-Smith  
Dr. A. Zimbler  
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 Deputy Clerk

**Company Pension Fund Trustees**  
**Mr. M. R. Mosley**  
Mr. R. G. Gregory-Smith  
Mr. J. C. M. Taylor  
The Clerk  
The Deputy Clerk

**Building Crafts College Trading Ltd (Closed in April 2025)**  
Mr. A. M. Gregory-Smith  
**Mr. M. J. Morrison**  
The Clerk  
The Principal  
The Deputy Clerk

\*Names in bold are Chairmen

### OFFICERS OF THE COMPANY

**Clerk**  
Brigadier T. J. Gregson, MBE

**Deputy Clerk/Financial Controller**  
Ms. J. Brundell

**Beadle**  
Mr. D. Neal

**Manager of the Rustington Convalescent Home**  
Mrs. J. Haynes

**Principal of the Building Crafts College**  
Ms S. Bolingbroke

**Company Solicitor**  
Ms C. Nelson of Wedlake Bell

**Company Surveyor**  
Mr. J. C. Harding of Daniel Watney

**Company Auditor**  
Mr. E. Finch of Buzzacott



'Autumn Sun' taken by **Lucy Bull** in Carpenters' Hall during Open House in September 2024

**Lucy** won the Open House Festival photography competition with her composition, and it will feature as this year's Christmas card

# Calendar

2025	2026	
14th October Wine Tasting	15th-16th January Inter-Livery Skiing, Mayrhofen, Austria	15th July Court Visit to Rustington Convalescent Home
8th November Lord Mayor's Show	2nd February Liverymen and Freeman's Reception	16th July Building Crafts College End of Year Show
12th November Livery Dinner	2nd March Inter-Livery Bridge	TBC July Company Tennis
19th November Wood Awards	11th March Livery Spring Dinner	21st July General Court of the Livery and Election Court
25th November Building Crafts College Prize-giving	20th March United Guilds Service	25th September Sheriffs' Admission
	17th April (TBC) Livery Golf	29th September Lord Mayor's Election
	24th April Livery Clay Shoot	7th October Livery and Freeman's Reception
	15th-16th May Company Visit	20th October Wine Tasting
	13th-14th May Inter-Livery Clay Shoot	14th November Lord Mayor's Show
	21st May Inter-Livery Golf	TBC November Building Crafts College Prize-giving
	16th-17th May Inter-Livery Regatta, Cowes	18th November Livery Dinner
	10th June Court Summer Dinner	25th November Wood Awards
	24th June Sheriffs' Election	

