The Carpenters' Company Chronicle 2026



Contents

Foreword by the Master 2

Building Crafts College 6

Craft 10

Wood Awards Winners 2025: Pushing the Boundaries of Timber Design 10
The Creative Dimension Trust (TCDT) 15
Craft Lecture: 'A Phoenix from the Ashes – The Reconstruction of Notre Dame' 17
Company Award for Excellence 19
Royal School of Military Engineering 21
Institute of Carpenters (IOC) 22
Carpenters' Craft Competition 23

Charities and Grants 24

What the Craft & Charities Administrator Did Next... 24
Carpenters' Company Charitable Trust (CCCT) 24
Norton Folgate Trust 28
Rustington Convalescent Home 31
The Carpenters' and Dockland Community Centre 33
Educational Bursaries 35

Company History 38

Lime Street: How a Carpenters' house became City offices 38

Affiliations 42

HMS DARING 42
4th Battalion, The Ranger Regiment 44
IV (Army Co-operation) Squadron RAF 46

Pastimes 48

Tennis 48
Skiing 50
Golf 51
Shooting 53

Company Business 56

Throgmorton Avenue and Great Winchester Street 56
Company Visit to Arles 57
Retirements 59
Fundraising 60
Admissions 63
Profiles 68
Obituaries 70
Gifts 74
Company Appointments 74
Calendar 76

Front cover image: Carpenters' Hall Company window designed by Alfred Fisher, 1988



▲ *The Master Lawrence Mallinson*

Foreword by the Master

A year is a very short time. No sooner am I being installed as the new Master, than I find I am packing up our things and vacating the Master's flat at Carpenters' Hall. It has been a wonderful year and a fascinating opportunity to learn about the City and the other livery companies, and in particular getting an in-depth understanding of the workings of the Carpenters' Company.

In brief what did this entail?

- 43 Livery committee and Court meetings
- 40 dinners (10 white tie) of which 30 were as guests of other livery companies, the Lady Mayor and our military affiliates
- 61 lunches of which 20 were as guests of other livery companies, the Corporation of London and our military affiliates
- 47 other events including receptions, church services, prize givings, school visits, lectures, music recitals, exhibitions, sports, the Company and the Lady Mayor's weekends, the Lady Mayor's Show and the Buckingham Palace tea party.

A busy year!



The Master (centre right) at the November Livery Dinner with (left to right) Sheriff Robert Hughes-Penney, Lady Mayor Dame Susan Langley and Sheriff Keith Bottomley ▼

The most significant event of the year was the departure in January of Tim Gregson, our Clerk for over 18 years, and the arrival of Ralph Arundell as his successor. Tim was an outstanding Clerk and can be proud of passing the reins of such a thriving and happy Livery to Ralph. It has been a joy to work with both during the year. Ralph is a natural Clerk, the future is bright, and the Company is in safe hands.

The Master Carpenter is principally an ambassador for, and a custodian of, the Company's assets and overseer of its activities. Thanks to the careful stewardship of my predecessors, Carpenters' has significant assets to be responsible for and we are rightly proud of the very considerable and wide-ranging charitable activities that we support. In this we are both fortunate and privileged – most livery companies have few resources and their masters are expected to spearhead fundraising activities to enable them to fulfil their charitable ambitions. It has been humbling to see how ingenious and hard working some fellow masters have been in fulfilling this expectation.

The delay to the redevelopment of the east side of Throgmorton Avenue, including our Hall and Great Winchester Street described on page 56, has been the one setback of the year. However, this turned out to be to the Company's advantage by providing an opportunity to revise and improve the plans for the Hall. An enormous amount of work by a small number of liverymen has gone into this – thank you on behalf of all the Livery.

There have been many memorable highlights. Our livery weekend in Arles, southern France, (fully featured in Liveryman Lizzie Haynes's report on page 57) was one of them. Happily, Frank Gehry's extraordinary Luma tower, where the Company's welcome drinks party took place, the spectacular L'Arlatan Hotel, where some of us stayed, and Arles' narrow winding streets, Roman antiquities, museums and market were all within walking distance.

At home, the 3 visits for masters and masters' consorts that Doe, my consort, and I made to the Building Crafts College were truly inspiring, with so many young people seen working hard with a true sense of purpose. The college is our jewel in the crown and we should sing about it.



▲ *Masters' Consorts visit to the Building Crafts College in May*

Next, the wonderful performance by Steven Osborne of Schubert's last piano sonata (D960) and Keith Jarret's *Encore*, together with the performance of Samfire (my daughter Phoebe) at the Spring Livery dinner, provided the musical highlights. The fascinating Craft Lecture by Hank Silver on the restoration of the roof and spire of Notre Dame also deserves mention.

And finally, Doe and I were extremely fortunate to be invited to join the Butchers' Company float for the Lady Mayor's Show. Dressed as butchers, we were attached to a giant inflatable rib of beef. My only appearance on national tv during the year!

Traditionally, the Carpenters' Company gives a grant of £5,000 to a charity of the Master's choice. I used this to restore a beautiful staircase for Pro Corda, a training school for young string instrumentalists located at Leiston Abbey, Suffolk: Carpenters' money being spent on fine carpentry work.

Doe and I have so enjoyed the year. It has been a great honour to have been given this opportunity. Thank you to all the staff, both office and Hall – you are a wonderful team. The Carpenters' Company is in fine fettle, as will be demonstrated by the following pages.

The Master and Doe Mallinson at the Lady Mayor's Show ▶



Pro Corda's restored staircase ▶



Building Crafts College

The Principal Selena Bolingbroke reports:

As another academic year draws to a close, it is a pleasure to reflect on a year of achievement for the Building Crafts College. This has been a year shaped by investment: in people, in skills, and in the future of the College.

The demand for specialist craft education continues to grow. Applications for our Furniture Making, Bench Joinery, Stonemasonry, Bricklaying and Site Carpentry programmes have remained strong throughout the year, and we are preparing to welcome another large intake of students in September. Our 16–19 provision has more than doubled in the last three years, a reflection of the continuing appeal of practical craft careers and success of our outreach work with schools across east London.

One of the most important investments made by the Carpenters' Company is in the students themselves. Through the generosity of the Company and individual Liverymen and Freemen, bursary support continues to enable learners to access training programmes that might otherwise be beyond their means. Many adult students on our Furniture Making, Bench Joinery and Stonemasonry courses rely on this support to pursue specialist craft education. At a time when vocational training receives relatively little public financial assistance, these bursaries provide opportunities that change lives. I would particularly like to recognise Freeman **Jerome Bradley**, who organised a fundraising lunch at Carpenters' Hall in March in support of the **Barry Breed Memorial Bursary Fund**. The event raised almost £30,000 for future bursaries. This remarkable achievement is a powerful demonstration of the Company's commitment to supporting the next generation of craftspeople.

One of our Fine Woodwork students, **Henry Marks**, won the prestigious **American Cherry Award Object Competition** organised by the American Hardwood Export Council. Henry's winning entry was a beautifully designed trophy that impressed judges with both its design and craftsmanship. Henry was also awarded a Pysden Scholarship by the College in recognition of exceptional merit, demonstrating how targeted support can help talented students realise their potential.

Henry Marks' award-winning design ▶



▼Henry Marks (left)





▲ *Tobias Wright (right) received his award from the Master Lawrence Mallinson at Carpenters' Hall*

The College's annual **Graduation and Prize Giving Ceremony** at Carpenters' Hall in November is one of the highlights of our calendar. It is an opportunity to celebrate student achievement and recognise the close relationship between the College and its founding Livery Company. The Student of the Year Award was presented to Tobias Wright, whose achievements and commitment to the craft of stonemasonry exemplified the values we seek to foster in all our students. Tobias was selected for a coveted place on the King's Foundation Building Conservation programme and also won the Rising Star award at the SkillsBuild competition. The ceremony remains a wonderful opportunity to bring together students, families, employers, governors and members of the Company to celebrate achievement and progression.

Student achievements have continued throughout the year. At the City & Guilds Awards held at Mansion House, **Merlie Luckhurst** from our Furniture Making and Design programme received the **Carpenter of the Year Award**, sponsored by the Carpenters' Company. We also celebrated a number of Stonemasonry students, William Johnson, Sam Griffiths and Max Higgins, who received Worshipful Company of Masons' Apprenticeship Awards in recognition of their developing expertise.

The College's stonemasonry students have enjoyed particular success in 2026. **Layal Halabi** represented the College at the European Stone Carving Festival in Germany, where she successfully sold her carved work during the event. More recently, stonemasonry students **Seth Moran** and **Joseph Rowan** progressed through the regional heats of the prestigious SkillBuild competition. One of our Bricklaying Apprentices, Freddie Ford, went one better and won the national SkillsBuild competition held in Milton Keynes in November.

Employer engagement remains a key strength of the College. Throughout the year employers have worked closely with students through careers talks, workshop visits and recruitment activities. One particularly successful initiative involved a group of Level 2 Bench Joinery students visiting True Staging, touring their workshop facilities and undertaking interviews for apprenticeship positions. Experiences like these help students understand industry expectations and make the transition from education into employment.

As well as supporting individual students, we continue to invest in raising aspirations amongst young people. Our Construction Craft Careers Taster Days have brought hundreds of school pupils into our workshops, introducing them to careers in the construction and heritage crafts sectors. Supported through partnerships with schools, charitable funders and employers, these activities help ensure that practical craft careers are seen as a first-choice destination by young people in East London. The impact of our students can be seen around the College itself. During the final weeks of term, groups of students worked on improvement projects across the campus. Bricklaying apprentices constructed new features within the outdoor spaces, stonemasonry students contributed landscaping works, and Bench Joinery students created new benches for the College grounds.

The academic year concluded with our **End of Year Show**, an occasion that never fails to impress. Students from all our disciplines exhibited work produced during the year, welcoming families, employers, governors, members of the Company and friends of the College to celebrate their achievements. The quality of workmanship on display was exceptional and reflected the dedication of students and staff. We were especially delighted to welcome Liveryman **Sir Grayson Perry** as a guest.

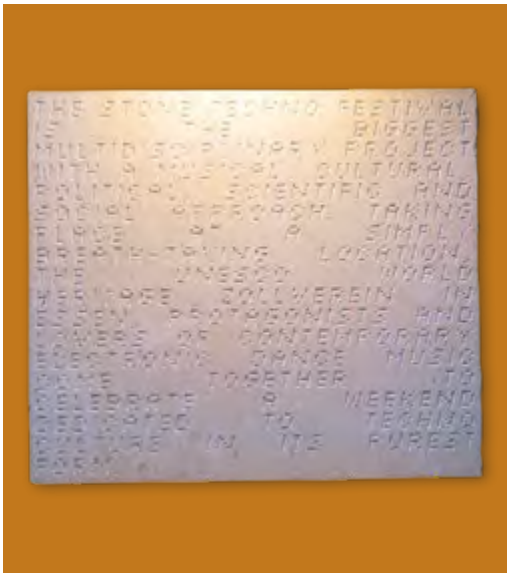


▲ *Bench Joinery stand at the End of Year Show with Ed Shamwana (left), students and parents*

One of Britain's most celebrated contemporary artists, Sir Grayson spent considerable time exploring the exhibition and talking with students, staff and parents about the work on display and what had brought students into the crafts. His generosity in engaging with our students was greatly appreciated and contributed to a genuinely memorable evening.



▼ *Sir Grayson Perry*



Stone carving at the End of Year Show ◢

Equipping BCC students for work is a central part of what we do and some of our students will go on to become freelance makers. This year we re-established our **Makers in Residence** programme to support graduates taking their first steps into professional practice. The 2026 makers are Arthur Campbell (Furniture), Ann Kathrin Richter (Bench Joinery) and Kyle Holmes (Stonemasonry), each of whom is contributing to College life while developing their own creative careers. We have also created a gallery of student work on our website – this is our online WorkShop **https://thebcc.ac.uk/resources/work-shop/** – which aims to connect commissions and customers with our graduating makers. Do take a look!

In addition to investing in students, the Company is investing in the future of the College itself. This summer we commenced work on the new **mezzanine development at Kennard Road**, a significant capital project that will increase teaching and workshop capacity and support continued growth in student numbers. As demand for places continues to rise, this investment by the Carpenters' Company is a powerful vote of confidence in the future of specialist craft education and the role the College plays in developing skilled craftspeople.

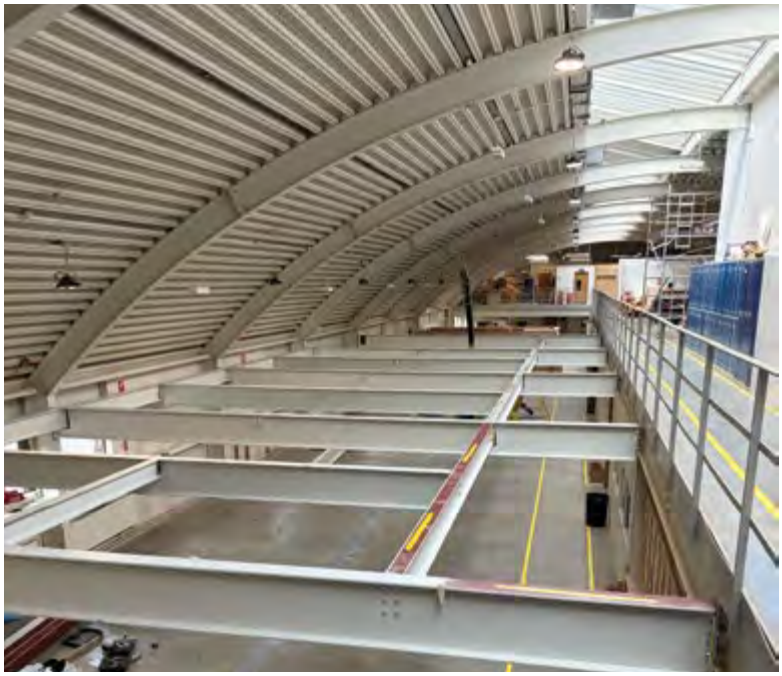
2026 Makers-in-Residence (top to bottom) Arthur Campbell, Ann-Kathrin Richter, Kyle Holmes ▶







▼ *Steelwork for the new mezzanine floor*



As Principal, I continue to be inspired by the talent, determination and creativity of our students. On behalf of the College, I would like to thank the Carpenters' Company for its unwavering support.

Craft

Wood Awards Winners 2025: Pushing the Boundaries of Timber Design

Lucy Bedry of Timber Development UK & Wood Awards Project Manager reports:

From public landmarks, workplaces and homes to restorations, experimental structures and furniture, this year's Wood Awards demonstrate how wood is redefining design values and driving some of the UK's most structurally ambitious, environmentally responsible, and finely detailed architecture and design.

▼ ***Urban Nature Project***
Gold Award winner

Timber in the public realm

The 2025 Gold Award winner, Feilden Fowles' **Urban Nature Project**, delivers a sensitive transformation to the Natural History Museum. Two new Douglas fir-framed buildings are integrated into the re-landscaped grounds: a naturally ventilated garden café with finely detailed joinery, and an education pavilion whose



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cedar-shingled roof reveals the layered logic of its timber construction. Together they exemplify craft at its most disciplined: simple, economical carpentry elevated through refinement and contextual awareness.

Also celebrated for technical and environmental ambition, **Paradise** by Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios (FCBS) received the Structural Award. This low-rise London workspace integrates mass-timber construction with architectural clarity, providing characterful interiors animated by exposed spruce. Judges praised the project's exemplary coordination and expert resolution of structural and fire consideration.

▲ ***Paradise***
Structural Award winner

▼ ***Chowdhury Walk***
Residential Award winner

Homes and living spaces

Timber's versatility is equally evident in this year's residential projects. Al Jawad Pike's **Chowdhury Walk**, winner of the Residential Award, sets a new benchmark for council-led housing. Using cross-laminated timber to deliver generous, well-organised homes, the scheme extends thoughtful design from the terrace's external environment to its interiors. Exposed CLT ceilings and finely finished façades bring texture and warmth, demonstrating that social housing can be sustainable, affordable and beautifully made.



© RORY GARDINER



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Reuse, circularity and conservation

Circularity emerged as a key theme in 2025. **New Wave House** – winning the Commercial & Leisure and Sustainability Awards – transforms an industrial building with a vertical timber extension. Designed by Thomas-McBrien Architects with New Wave London, the project features a carefully coordinated glulam structure with expansive glazing that floods interiors with daylight. Much of the material palette was salvaged or reused, resulting in a compelling demonstration of how circular design can enhance commercial value and environmental performance.

The Restoration & Reuse Award went to ***The Cowshed*** by Design Storey Architects: a deft transformation of a dilapidated, listed agricultural structure into a two-bedroom home. Judges admired the precision of its joinery, with new timber carefully scarfed into old, and the clever unlocking of space.

Studio Hagen Hall's **Pine Heath**, winner of the Interiors Award, offers a masterclass in sensitive retrofit. The refurbishment of this modernist town house preserves original timber features while dramatically improving energy performance.

▲ ***New Wave House***
Commercial & Leisure and Sustainability Awards winner

The Cowshed
Restoration & Reuse Award winner ▶

▼ ***Pine Heath***
Interiors Award winner



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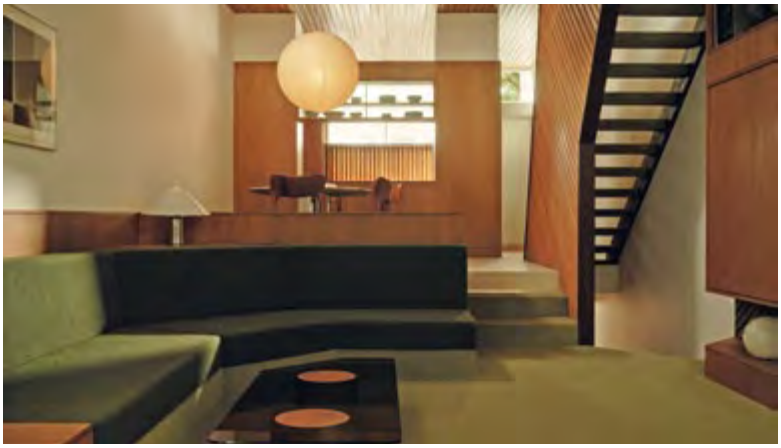

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Experimental structures

Experimental timber projects continue to push technical and creative frontiers. **A Forest Datum**, winner of the Bespoke Award, pioneers the use of natural beech forks as structural nodes in a repeatable construction system. The project was celebrated for reimagining under-utilised timber species as high-value components.

Winner of the Small Project award, **The Armadillo** by Unknown Works, combines elegant, acoustically driven form with material innovation. The demountable structure tests the use of a new hybrid eucalyptus-pine CLT, demonstrating how experimentation can inform advances in timber engineering.

▼ ***A Forest Datum***
Bespoke Award winner

▼▼ ***The Armadillo***
Small Project Award winner





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Celebrating UK hardwoods

The 2025 Furniture & Object projects highlight the diversity UK-grown species – from ash, oak and beech to horse chestnut, cedar and sycamore.

The Production Award went to the **Levity Collection**: a family of solid ash chairs balancing manufacturing efficiency with graceful refinement, designed by Katie Walker Furniture maker for British maker Gaze Burvill.

Ash also featured in the Student Award winner, **Her Captain's Chair** by Lily Hitchcock Design. This project impressed judges with its research-led design and beautiful steam-bent form that considers posture and its psychological impacts.

▲ ***Levity Collection***
Production Award winner

The Growth Project
Sculpted Object award ▶

Red Knot
Sculpted Object award ◢



Her Captain's Chair
Student Award winner ▶

In the Sculpted Object category, **The Growth Project** by Darren Appiagyei and **Red Knot** by Laura Welsh were both awarded. Distinct in concept yet united in sculptural sensitivity, both explore wood's material intelligence and emotional resonance, inviting reflection on how we understand, shape, and co-exist with wood.

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.



© JENNY CATLOW



The Creative Dimension Trust (TCDT)

Liveryman Penny Bendall, Founder and CEO reports:



◀ *Craft Your Own Carry Case workshop at the Building Crafts College*

The Creative Dimension Trust is deeply grateful to The Carpenters' Company for its ongoing and generous support. This year marked a momentous milestone for the Trust. On 17 March 2026, TCDT was honoured to be granted Royal Patronage by His Majesty The King. This represents an inspiring recognition of our work and the tangible impact we have on young lives.

TCDT continues to deliver free, high-quality specialist workshops and work experience to talented young people from disadvantaged or geographically isolated backgrounds. Far from being standard art classes, our intensive programmes are career-shaping experiences. They are designed to build confidence, ignite ambition and develop vital hand skills. These include manual dexterity, draftsmanship and the ability to understand and reconstruct three-dimensional structures. These essential skills lay the foundation for successful careers in design, engineering, architecture and manufacturing.

Our reach continues to scale significantly. Over the past year, we received more than 1,700 applications, delivered nearly 600 workshop places and 63 industry experiences. True to our core mission, recruitment remains fiercely targeted. This ensures 80% of our participants come from underserved backgrounds. Since our inception, TCDT has now engaged with approximately 700 schools and taught more than 120 specialist skills. Students regularly use the physical work they produce with us to dramatically strengthen their applications for further education, placements and employment.

Innovation remains at the heart of our curriculum. In 2026, we introduced nine new specialist subjects to our main workshop programme to expand our technical rigour and creative breadth. These new additions included Stump Work Embroidery, Calligraphy, Metalwork and Finishing, Textile Design, Geometry and Structural Design in Building, Endangered Animal Toy-making, Historical Puppet Making, Traditional Waistcoat



▲ *Sculpture, Creature/ Character Creation with Zone Creations*

Making and a Butchery course run in partnership with Fortnum & Mason. As part of this main programme, we also returned to the Building Crafts College to deliver two hands-on courses: Stone Carving and Craft Your Own Carry Case, which welcomed 10 dedicated students onto each.

Our schools outreach programme achieved great momentum across the entire academic year. We delivered workshops across an extensive range of partner schools, including Maria Fidelis, Parliament Hill, La Sainte Union, Acland Burghley, Woodford School and Mulberry School for Girls. The programme also expanded to add Featherstone High School and Graveney School as important new partners.

Our vital industry pipeline remains robust, giving students direct insight into professional environments. This summer features an exceptional line-up of intensive work experience placements. Architecture students will gain hands-on mentoring at the Allford Hall Monaghan Morris (AHMM) Summer School and with Make Architects. In engineering, students will develop skills on site with Heyne Tillett Steel (HTS). Aspiring jewellers will experience a professional studio environment at the Ravn School of Arts & Crafts. Furthermore, our longstanding partner Emrys Architects is hosting several extended placements throughout August, where a talented TCDT alumnus will actively contribute to project delivery.

▼ *Metalwork and Finishing workshop with Cox London*



Alongside these placements, our brand-new programme of one-day Insight Days gives students a concentrated window into creative industries. Host partners for these experiences include Soane Britain, Bill Amberg Studio, Tom Faulkner Ltd, Cox London, Thomas Lyte and Theo Fennell.

Looking ahead, we are incredibly excited for September and the upcoming launch of the TCDT Saturday School at the Building Crafts College. This new chapter will feature specialised wood turning with Joey Richardson in collaboration with The Turners' Company. It will also offer calligraphy masterclasses led by Jenny Collier, The King's Calligrapher.

Learn more at: **thecreativedimension.org**

Craft Lecture: 'A Phoenix from the Ashes – The Reconstruction of Notre Dame'

Liveryman Hugh Petter writes:

GODEFROYPARIS OWN WORK, CC BY-SA 4.0
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▲ *Notre Dame on fire 15 April 2019*

On the evening of 15 April 2019 a catastrophic fire broke out in the roof of Notre Dame in Paris. That date, and the miraculous reconstruction that followed, will remain etched in the minds and hearts of all who value historic buildings.

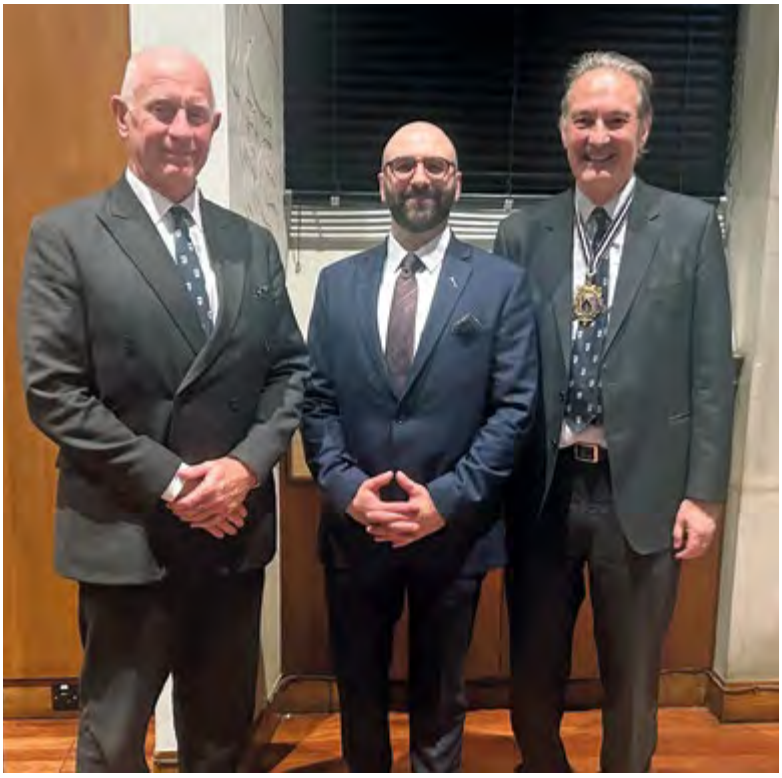
This incredible story was told to an enthralled capacity audience this spring at our annual craft lecture by Hank Silver, a master carpenter of American origin, who has played a central role in this remarkable story.

Notre Dame has been a holy site since the twelfth century and has witnessed many defining moments in French history, including the coronation of Napoleon in 1804 and a thanksgiving service following the liberation of France in 1944. By the nineteenth century the cathedral had fallen into serious disrepair, prompting a major restoration led by architects J.B. Lassus and Eugène Viollet-le-Duc. The celebrated spire and choir roof, both lost in the fire, dated from this period.

Mr Silver explained how medieval cathedral building brought together journeymen craftsmen from across Europe, creating a valuable exchange of ideas and techniques. The cathedral's original oak roof structure illustrates this process. The first seven trusses differ markedly from one another, showing structural experimentation before a successful design was established and, thereafter, repeated in the remaining structure, providing a unique record of medieval innovation.

Fortuitously, a detailed photographic and measured survey of the medieval roof had been undertaken in 2012 by two architecture students. One of them, Rémi Fromont, became a recognised expert in historic monuments and so was appointed to oversee the reconstruction. The original nineteenth-century drawings of the spire and choir roof survived in an archive outside Paris and also proved invaluable. Following the fire, there was considerable debate about whether the roof should be rebuilt in oak. Questions were raised about fire risk and whether sufficient suitable timber could be sourced.

Mr Silver described the role of stereotomy, the medieval geometric method used to prepare complex timber and stone structures from two-dimensional drawings. Such traditional skills had been preserved through organisations such as 'Les Compagnons du Devoir', although post-war training increasingly favoured modern materials and machine methods. In response, François Calame had founded 'Charpentiers



▲ *Hank Silver (centre) at Carpenters' Hall on 1st April, pictured with the Clerk Ralph Arundell (left) and Master Lawrence Mallinson*

▼ *Rooster at the top of the new spire of Notre Dame Cathedral, 2024*



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sans Frontières' in the 1990s to revive traditional oak-working techniques. Mr Silver joined that organisation in 2018 and this was how he became involved in the Notre Dame project. Calame argued convincingly that the roof could and should be reconstructed in oak. Instead of creating a simplified version, it was decided to reproduce the medieval structure exactly, including the natural irregularities resulting from working green oak by hand. In January 2023 'Charpentiers sans Frontières' were instructed to proceed on this basis.

Silver vividly recalled his shock at the arrival of 600 oak trunks at the Normandy workshop, each geotagged to allow future monitoring! Ten blacksmiths forged around seventy axes modelled on medieval examples. Mr Silver explained that hand tools preserve timber fibres more effectively than machine tools, creating stronger structural members. A team of twenty-five carpenters, both male and female, worked on the project; those from America introduced the concept of a production line, so speeding up efficiency. The trusses were carefully marked, cut and assembled in the workshop before being dismantled, transported to Paris and reassembled on a deck before being lifted into position. Although medieval builders began construction from the west end, modern programme requirements dictated that installation commence with truss eleven, enabling simultaneous work on the new spire. Meanwhile, a separate team reconstructed Viollet-le-Duc's nineteenth-century choir roof, incorporating some surviving timbers with 'lightning bolt' joints.

Mr Silver highlighted many other aspects of the wider restoration. Archaeologists discovered 150 skeletons beneath the floor; the 8,000-pipe organ was dismantled, cleaned and retuned at night (it was too loud to do so during the day!); fifty-four grotesques were re-carved; and 450 tonnes of British-made cast lead were used to re-cover the roof. Miraculously, a gilded cockerel containing holy relics survived the fire, was restored, and reinstated.

Concluding his lecture, Silver reflected on the importance of traditional skills in an age increasingly dominated by artificial intelligence, observing that hand craftsmanship has a positive impact upon cognition. He also highlighted what he called the 'Notre Dame effect': a significant increase in young people seeking to learn traditional trades.

The parallel story of the catastrophic fire at Clandon Park in Surrey in 2015, and the scandalous decision by the National Trust to leave it as an 'interesting ruin' makes one hang one's head in despair at the numerous lost opportunities outlined so eloquently by Mr Silver in his unforgettable lecture. Restoration not only provides a unique opportunity to understand more profoundly the buildings of bygone eras; it facilitates the training of a whole new cohort of craftspeople, as well as the positive legacy of those whose skilled work endures for decades.

Hugh Petter and Hank Silver won Arthur Ross Awards for lifetime achievements in architecture and craftsmanship respectively in May 2025 in New York.

Company Award for Excellence

Liveryman Nick Gutfreund writes:

For the second time in a week I found myself sitting on an aeroplane 35,000ft in the air, finessing yet another presentation I was due to give not long after landing. As I flicked through the slides, I kept thinking 'What am I really getting from all this?'.

It was a big and nerve-racking decision to walk away from my well paid and secure role in advertising to venture into a whole new career. However, from the very first day of college and ever since, I've never looked back.

My journey through the world of furniture design and making started at the Building Crafts College 23 years ago, with my very first commission fittingly being a games table for the late Past Master Hugh Barnes-Yallowley. I've always considered myself very lucky and privileged to have been given the opportunities and commissions that have come my way. I will always be very grateful for the support of the Company, and particularly Tim Gregson, who became Clerk just as I finished college. I've been fortunate enough to make some very special pieces, some of which you can see at Carpenters' Hall and nearby (e.g. the Wardens' Table for The Drapers' Company; the Cross Table for the Dutch Church; and the Lectern for The Carpenters').



▼ *Drapers' Company Wardens' Table*



▲ *Table for HMS Prince of Wales and feather carving detail* ▶



During my journey I've managed to pick up a few awards, such as Medal for Excellence, the Lion Award, and now the Carpenters' Craft Award for Excellence. I am very grateful to be recognised in this way as I'm sure these have played some part in my being offered other notable commissions such as; the Anointing Screen for the King's Coronation; two pieces for HRH The Prince Philip; the captain's tables for the navy's flagships HMS Queen Elizabeth and HMS Prince of Wales, and HMS Daring; and commemorative tables for 4 Ranger, 1 Rifles and 5 Rifles.

▼ *The Anointing Screen for the King's Coronation*

I was invited to become a Freeman, and then Liveryman of the Worshipful Carpenters' Company in 2005/2006 and, as some of you may know, I have always tried to give something back by actively supporting the work of the Company and our craft, by sitting on various committees, as well as being a Governor of the Building Crafts College for six years. I am currently representing the Carpenters' Company in a project to create a new Altar for All Hallows-on-the Wall Church as well as taking on smaller special commissions – working around Grand Daddy Day Care, Golf (I'm rubbish by the way but love it!) and walking my Fox Red labrador Cedar.

Nick Gutfreund (left) received his award from the Master Lawrence Mallinson at the Court Lunch in January ◢





Royal School of Military Engineering

Visit to Brompton Barracks

Liveryman Kay Buchan writes:

On a sweltering day in Chatham, a group of us were treated to a rare, behind-the-scenes look at Brompton Barracks, the historic home of the Royal Engineers. After cooling off in the Officers' Mess, we were given a fascinating presentation by the Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel John Newton, on whom the 'Sappers' are, and how they are trained.

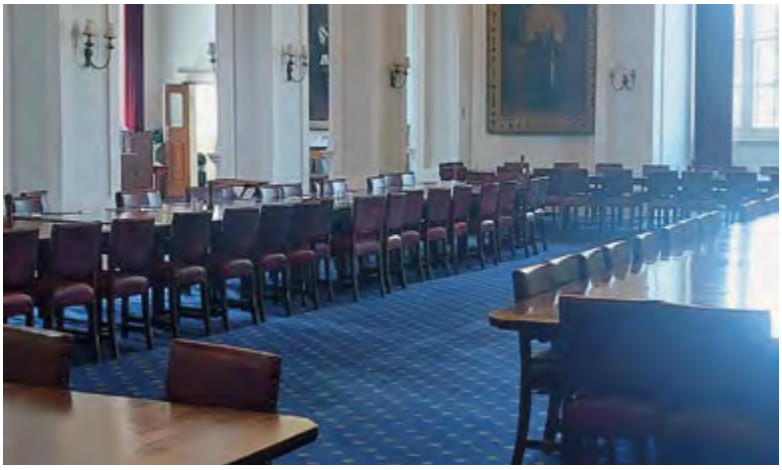
These soldiers are a truly unique breed, dual-trained as both top-tier combat troops and highly skilled technical specialists. They are trained all over the country in different disciplines including Carpenter & Joiner, Bricklayer, Plumber, Electrician, Welder, Draughtsman, Geographic Technician, and Plant Operator Mechanic. It was interesting to hear that because technical trade skills do not strictly follow military rank structure, a lower-ranking Junior Non-Commissioned Officer (like a Corporal) might take charge of a construction site because they happen to be the most qualified electrician on the team. Their philosophy of 'improvised engineering' is renowned; because of their unique, high-level training, they are able to work in hostile, resource-denied zones, using whatever is at hand, local timber or scrap metal for example, to solve critical infrastructure problems.

The tour of their training facilities was a real eye-opener, with massive, state-of-the-art carpentry and metalwork bays. We spoke to trainers and students there to gain a more personal insight into their experience of life at the Barracks. We were also shown a cutting-edge 3D printing facility. This served as a high-output production hive as well as a lab actively manufacturing hundreds of items like replica landmines for realistic training drills, or bespoke repair parts. This is a brilliant example of how they use expedient technology to bridge the gap between complex engineering design and immediate field ready solutions. I was interested in their 'Competency-Based Training' model. Rather than adhering to a rigid timeline for all students, they fast-track those who have prior skills or learn quickly, which places engineers out in the field as soon as they're ready.



▲ *Company members visited Brompton Barracks in May*

We rounded off the visit with lunch in the impressive dining hall of the Officers' Mess and a peek at some hidden treasures, including Terence Cuneo's famous paintings (and the challenge of finding the mice hidden within them!) and a stunning silver collection commemorating battles and acts of extraordinary bravery. It was a true privilege to glimpse this private world, and a huge thank you is owed to Lieutenant Colonel Newton and his officers for such a fascinating, rare look into the life of the Royal Engineers.



▼ *The Officers' Mess Dining Hall*



◀ *LCpl Kacey Weir (left) received her award from the Master Lawrence Mallinson at the March Court Lunch, accompanied by Lt Col John Newton (right)*

Premier Carpenter of the Year

Lance Corporal Kacey Weir demonstrated outstanding craftsmanship throughout the Carpentry and Joinery Class 1 Course, with a comprehensive understanding of all carpentry disciplines. Her ability to plan and execute complex tasks proved exemplary and she achieved a final theory trade score of 100%, placing her at the top of her cohort.

Institute of Carpenters (IOC)

Liveryman Geoff Rhodes reports:

After serving for 10 years since 2016, Liveryman Geoff Rhodes has stepped down as President of the Institute of Carpenters to allow for fresh input, ideas and impetus in the years ahead.

The role has been held by members of the Carpenters' Company since 1890, and is particularly relevant to the craft as the UK continues to place increasing emphasis on craft skills, apprenticeships and vocational training.

As a partner within the National Occupational Standards Carpentry skills review working group, as well as sitting within the government's Timber in Construction Roadmap working group (Skills), the IOC's influence is growing, as recently acknowledged by the government's Minister for Skills, Baroness Smith of Malvern.

The IOC also works closely with the National Association of Shopfitters, supported by the Construction Industry Training Board, on initiatives such as linking students and colleges with experienced members and the wider timber and construction industry. International partnerships with organisations in Germany, France and elsewhere, together with the forthcoming expansion of Erasmus+ in the UK, also offer exciting opportunities for student exchanges.



▲ *HRH The Duchess of Gloucester, Royal Patron of the IOC, with Geoff Rhodes meeting students at Exeter College*

The IOC's purpose is straightforward: to promote, support and develop the interests of its members and the wider woodworking profession through standards, qualifications, professional development, education and practical membership benefits. A new five-year strategic plan is currently being developed and deployed, with membership growth, relevance and value at its heart.

Carpenters' Craft Competition

Liveryman John Taylor reports:

The prizes for the National Winners of the 2025 Carpenters' Craft Competition were presented by the Master prior to the November Court Luncheon at Carpenters' Hall.

Harry Morgan of City and South Birmingham College was the winner in the Under-20 age group. He received a cheque for £500 and a National Winners Certificate bearing the Carpenters' Company Seal, signed by the Master, the President of the Institute of Carpenters and the Competition Chairman. He also received the Joinery Managers' Association Cup, which is awarded annually to the National winner in the Under-20 age group. Enrico Bernardi of Exeter College, the winner in the Over-20 age group, received a £500 cheque and an embellished National Winners Certificate, similarly signed and sealed, plus the Institute of Carpenters' Shield.

Both winners, accompanied by their respective college tutors and a personal guest, attended the Court Lunch; a most memorable occasion. The Carpenters' Company also kindly invited members of the Competition Committee who much appreciated the warmth of the hospitality. The Chairman expressed his gratitude to the Company for sponsoring the competition, which attracts entries from students at colleges across the length and breadth of the United Kingdom. He thanked the Competition Manager, Freeman Chris Higley and all those behind the scenes who had done so much to make the competition a success. The Chairman concluded by paying particular tribute to the college tutors who had encouraged their students to produce work of such a high standard.

Harry Morgan (right) with the Master Lawrence Mallinson ▶



Enrico Bernardi receives his award ▶





Merlie Luckhurst, Furniture Design and Making student at the Building Crafts College (centre right), was awarded the City & Guilds Carpenters' Company Livery Prize at Mansion House on 12th March. She is pictured here with the Master (right), Lady Mayor Dame Susan Langley (centre left) and City & Guilds Foundation Interim CEO Mike Adamson ▶

Charities and Grants

What the Craft & Charities Administrator Did Next...

Rebecca Datta writes:

After 18 months in post, I am pleased to report that I love this job as much now as I did in my first year! Along with the honour of advocating for our charities and partners in craft, I have enjoyed lots of social events with the Carpenters' team.

You will see below an outline of financial commitments made this year from our two Charitable Trusts: the Carpenters' Company Charitable Trust (CCCT) and the Norton Folgate Trust (NFT).

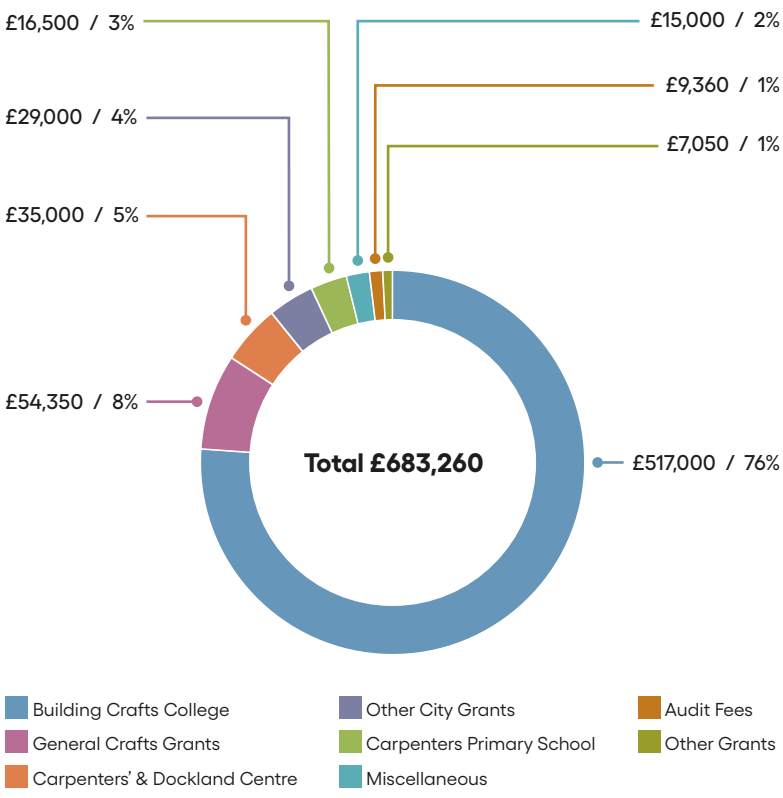
Carpenters' Company Charitable Trust (CCCT)

In the year 2025-26, the Trust donated £683,260 to charitable interests and the chart on the right shows how the funds were divided, with Building Crafts College business accounting for 76% and other organisations receiving 24%. ▶

All our stakeholders will be familiar with the work of our Building Crafts College.

I'm a regular visitor to the College and enjoy being part of the BCC family. Over the past year, we have come together for the End of Year Show and Prize Giving 2025, highly competitive Christmas quizzing, visits from the Master's consort and her friends and visits from the Master and his peers from other Livery Companies. At every event, guests have been welcomed, fed extremely well and have learned about the College and its learners. I have never attended an event at the BCC where guests did not leave the place with eyes sparkling, inspired and impressed by the brilliant work of staff and students. It is truly uplifting for me to be part of an organisation

2025-2026





▲ *Rebecca Datta (left) and BCC Principal Selena Bolingbroke at the End of Year Show*



Restoring an external staircase ◥

which demonstrates so clearly its passion for Craft Education while delivering a genuinely transformative experience for its learners.

In relation to the smaller commitments pledged to other charities, I'd like to share some of the visits I have enjoyed since last summer.

St. Paul's Cathedral (Other City Grants)

In July, I was given an exclusive 'behind the scenes' tour of St. Paul's. In addition to our annual donation to the Cathedral, the BCC is training Stonemasonry and Carpentry apprentices to become part of the Cathedral's Wren Centre of Excellence – a project launched to secure the future of heritage crafts, and inspire a diverse new workforce to safeguard historic buildings for generations to come. It was great to meet long-serving craftspeople who kindly brought out many of their treasures and showed me the plans for the Wren Centre beneath the Cathedral.

Sheriffs' and Recorder's Fund (Other City Grants)

The AGM for the Fund was held in July at the Old Bailey, a beautiful building with its main atrium filled with statues and decorated with frescoes. The AGM showcased an ex-offender who had benefitted from a 'books in prisons' project funded by S&RF. The project gave him the learning bug, and he has already completed several undergraduate degrees and written two books of his own. The project leader told us a bit about the challenges of the project, notably the logistics of installing bookcases on prison corridors.

London Youth Rowing (Other Grants)

A warm early evening stroll took me across the bridge at Stratford Olympic Park where I met Matt Rostron, CEO of LYR, a London based youth charity. He told me about Active Row Newham and the Life Skills programme integrated within it. The programmes focus

on engaging disadvantaged young people who might not otherwise enjoy the opportunity for physical activity, especially rowing, and Matt explained how being on the water is a social leveller allowing youngsters from diverse backgrounds to collaborate in a neutral setting – ('Everyone is equal out on the water'). We went down to the river to watch a session in action, where around 15 young people were racing and throwing and catching between a range of water vehicles. One of the programme's alumni described how the sessions developed her love of outdoor activity and contributed to the development of leadership skills generally.

Carpenters Primary School

We were delighted to host the Year 6 pupils and staff from Carpenters Primary for the annual Christmas Party on 1st December. It kicked off the festivities brilliantly and great fun was had by everyone. Enormous thanks to our wonderful organisers: Liveryman Rachel Luton and her daughter Emily, who was allowed a volunteering day off school to run this special event for us. The children enjoyed traditional party games, sleight of hand magic, delicious party food, an educational and exciting Birds of Prey demonstration and gifts from none other than Father Christmas. Their

Father Christmas ▶



behaviour was impeccable and they were a credit to their school and the accompanying staff.

The Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch (Other City Grants)

In April our merry band of Carpenters took our annual trip round the corner to the Guildhall for the Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch. Members who have attended this event will know that it is big, loud and busy, but also enormous fun and the food is delicious. The event raises more than £400K every year, with funds going to charities supporting members of the armed services.



▼ *The Carpenters' Curry Lunch party*





▲ *Woodcarving projects at the Art School* ▶

City and Guilds of London Art School (Other Grants)

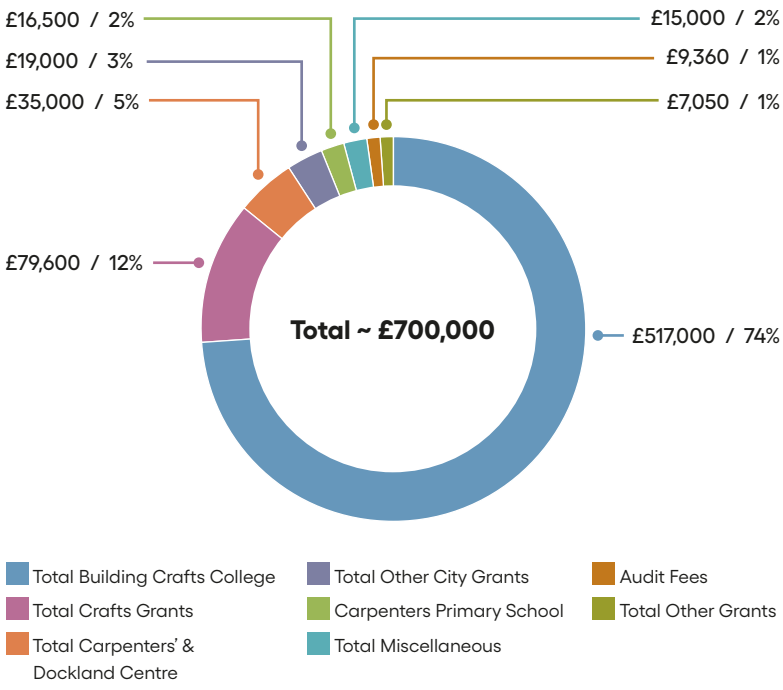
In addition to bursaries funded by the NFT, CCCT sponsors the annual woodcarving prize at the Art School.

Carpenters' & Dockland Centre

It has again been a busy and challenging year for the Centre. The number of people using their services has increased again and the team has continued to expand to meet the needs of the Stratford community. In October, the Grants Committee heard a presentation from the charity's Chief Executive, Lorraine Cavanagh OBE and Ben North, Operations Director, about the challenges they face as a small team with a diverse remit. In response, the CCCT pledged £15K per year for 3 years to part-fund the salary of a new team member dedicated to fundraising. Recruitment took place in May and the new staff member (Mike McConnell) started in June.

In the coming year we plan to increase our charitable giving to approximately £700K, and to commit additional funds to established and new charity partners. ▶

2026-2027



Norton Folgate Trust

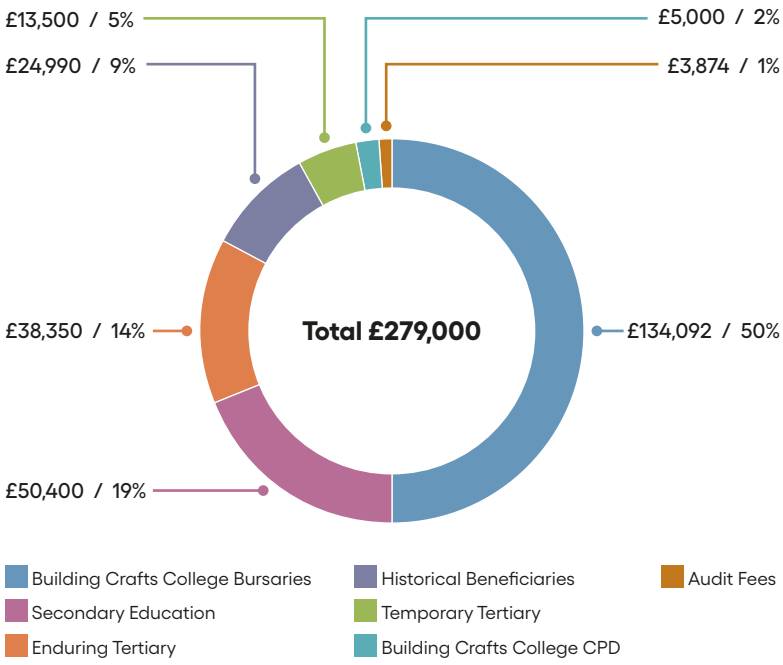
The Norton Folgate Trust funds individuals through a bursary award for their education. A total of £279K was devolved to individuals in the year 2025-26. ▶

I am delighted to share some of the outcomes and successes for students who I have met this year.

Edward Barnsley Workshop (Enduring Tertiary)

Last Summer, I visited the Treasure House Art Fair where the Barnsley workshop exhibits. I met their CEO, James Ryan who invited me to the workshop in Hampshire for a good look round and to meet the team. In April I met our sponsored apprentice Jake, a Building Crafts College graduate, and saw his extraordinary work. The workshop is a very special and inspirational place.

2025-2026





▲ *Left to right: Jake and CEO James Ryan at the Barnsley workshop*



▲ *Prize Giving at the Guildhall*



◀ *Chief Happiness Officer Bertie*

Guildhall School of Music and Drama (Enduring Tertiary)

I have been invited to several GSMD productions this year in which our scholars, Hannah (Opera) and Iris (Production) were involved. *Opera Makers and Owen Wingrave* showcased Hannah's voice and characterisation brilliantly. *The Government Inspector* was an uproarious comedy filled with colour.

City of London School (Secondary Education)

I have made several visits to City of London School this year: on site and for Prize Giving at the Guildhall in October. On one occasion Bertie (The Clerk's corgi) joined me and was good as gold throughout. Rhian and Menna from the outreach team always offer a warm welcome and I appreciate their close collaboration with me, as they are well informed about the life of the school and the progress of our scholars.

This year one of our scholars (Aarush) has won a place at the University of Oxford to study medicine. We also have a new scholar, Yunis, now in Year 8. We have a long history of offering our secondary scholars financial support for their tertiary studies and Aaron, who graduated CLS last summer, is supported for 3 years of his undergraduate medical studies at UCL (Temporary Tertiary). He started his degree in October 2025 and at the scholars' lunch in January reported that he was settling into college well.

City of London School for Girls (Secondary Education)

Like CLS, CLSG is a very active charity partner and I have been welcomed by Lizzie and Kate (from the development team) for visits to meet our scholar Taybah. As well as enjoying Taybah's company, I attended a conference which the school organised: 'Women in AI'. A diverse panel of speakers from different backgrounds and industries, each with their own view on the use and future of AI across the board contributed, and I was struck by the mature thoughtfulness of the questions and comments from the sixth form audience and also pleased to see that the school had brought in pupils from partner state schools to benefit from the learning.

King Edward's School Witley (Secondary Education)

After a brief lull in which we did not have an appointed scholar at KESW, I visited the school during summer vacation 2025, viewing their wonderful student houses and the chapel in which the pews were made by apprentice Carpenters. We renewed our relationship with KESW during this year and now support Tohir, a Year 9 student. He has written to the Grants Committee to express his gratitude and has taken his place in the photo gallery on the main office wall. Tohir sings in the choir (as well as being a brave and enthusiastic footballer) and Past Master Martin Samuel and I were delighted by the beautiful music we heard at the school's annual Bridewell Service which we attended in March.

City of London Freemen's School (Secondary Education)

I was lucky enough to enjoy the COLFS speech day in July 2025. Performances by the pupils were outstanding and I was relieved to see that I was not the only audience member to be moved by the youngsters' presentations. Our scholar Jude told me how lovely it is to study in such a beautiful environment. He is a keen photographer and the philosophy of the school (outlined by the lower school Head) is to get the pupils off devices and out having fun. The school grounds are clearly a precious resource and very well used!

The Create Programme at the Snowdon Furniture School, Kings Foundation (Temporary Tertiary)

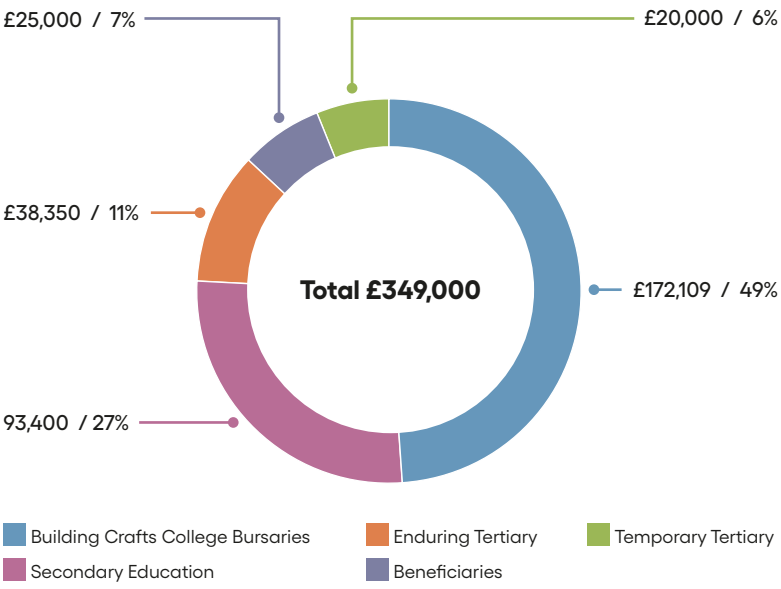
We were approached by Anna for funding for her accommodation costs while studying on the 4 month Create Programme this year. Her contact, and the committee's approval, gave me the wonderful opportunity to visit the school, which is on the Highgrove Estate. Anna reported that her experience on the programme was transformational. She was working with a cohort who each had different skillsets, and the discussions and collaborations I observed in the workshop were inspiring.



▲ *Anna with her trysting bench*

Expenditure is planned to increase to £349K of which the Building Crafts College Bursaries form 49%. I will be excited to meet new scholars at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and the Royal College of Art as well as following the progress of our established cohort. ▼

2026-2027



Rustington Convalescent Home

Past Master Michael Neal, Chairman of the Committee of Management writes:

"Bustling" would be an appropriate description of the activities on site at Rustington. 2026 has seen the redecoration and upgrading of the bedrooms and bathrooms in the Home progressing at a pace.

At the same time 34 houses are being built on the land that we sold to local housing developer, Macar. Despite all this, we are very fortunate that room occupancy has remained at a high level throughout which bodes well for when life returns to normal at the Home.

You will see from the photographs below that the bedrooms and bathrooms look fresh and appealing. The feedback from guests who have been lucky enough to occupy the new rooms has been very positive. Most of the work has involved reconfiguring the plumbing and pipework in the bathrooms and running this vertically down to the basement, avoiding penetrating the centres of rooms below and then directing this to new drainage runs. The old plumbing was not acceptable for today's standards. At the same time, we are steering towards electric boilers and electric systems in the rooms to future-proof the building.



▲ *The Home undergoing major work*

▼ *Ground floor lounge*



One of the new en-suite bathrooms ◢





◀ *The bell being lowered, and close up* ▶



▼ *Macar houses under construction*



With scaffold erected on some of the façades of the building, we have taken the opportunity to restore the bell. The date of its casting is 1894 which suggests that it was made for the building. The restoration is being carried out by John Taylor & Co of Loughborough whose roots can be traced back to 1420 and established under the Taylor family name in 1784. We are looking forward to its return in the Autumn, although our neighbours may not appreciate our test chime.

Macar's new houses can be seen in the photo, showing the first builds on the western side. The Show House is complete and being viewed by potential purchasers. The existing buildings in the rear garden, such as the Matron's House and the Laundry Building are being refurbished to create flats. Discussions are being held with Macar with a view to upgrading our electricity supplies, drainage and landscaping the approach to the Home.

Please do mention the many benefits of the Home to your family and friends. Despite all the work going on, it continues to be an oasis of calm (most of the time) and this comes down to the professional management of the Home by the Manager and her staff and which is so appreciated by our guests and the Court of the Carpenters' Company.

The Carpenters' and Dockland Community Centre

Freeman Ben North, Operations Manager, writes:

First and foremost, we would like to express our sincere gratitude for the ongoing support we receive from the Carpenters' Company, who on top of giving us an annual grant to support our food bank and other charitable projects, recently awarded us an exceptional grant to help fund a new part-time fundraising role at the centre.

After a competitive application and interview process, we chose Mr Mike McConnell for the job. Mike was previously a creative director and copywriter in the marketing sector. After redundancy in 2025, he began volunteering at our food bank on the Isle of Dogs, which led him to apply for the fundraising role where his writing skills could make a real difference to people's lives. A few weeks into the role, Mike is finding his feet and getting to grips with everything the centre does, at the same time applying for grants to keep the good work going.

Carpenters', and specifically Past Master Martin Mosely, have also found a professional from State Street Bank to mentor Lorraine and myself. We look forward to getting invaluable support from them as we are both of the opinion that you are never too old to learn and never too wise to listen, and maybe our mentor will even learn a few things from us – like how to blag freebies!

▼ *Mike McConnell*







▲◥ *Maxine Mitchell (right), the Centre's Food Bank Manager with customers*

The London Borough of Newham has recently decided to re-start the design process for our proposed new community centre on the Carpenters' Estate in Stratford. Various factors contributed to this decision, which we support in the hope that a purpose-built centre will better serve ours and locals' needs. Naturally this has resulted in a delay to the project and we hope to acquire a short extension on our current lease, which expires in six years. The delay does make things tricky for our current centre, the maintenance of which can be a struggle. We do our best to maintain the building and often use corporate volunteers to provide a lick of paint and maintenance. Just recently a small flood from a roof water tank inevitably had a knock-on effect for our charitable projects. For example, the homeless people we support could not use our showers for a few days which must have been very uncomfortable for them, especially in the hot weather. In this instance, the kind people at Westfield Facilities repaired the water tank for us, pro-bono. Significant investments by funders are hard to come by when we only have a short lease remaining, so it is a matter of holding it all together until we move to our new centre and the bulldozers arrive.

As I type this the World Cup is in full swing. Hopefully, England are now world champions but if not, perhaps our charity will help our nation improve our chances in the American Football World Cup, with our recently funded NFL Flag Football project. We have also acquired grants for our Warm Haven which will help us support our food bank users and local rough sleepers with food, drinks, showers, Wi-Fi, clothes washing as well as NHS services, haircuts and more. Lastly, we have had a few small grants for the food bank, which still supports more than 1,200 people every single week. It is a constant battle keeping everything funded, applying for grants, reporting back to funders and liaising with our stakeholders and partners. This is why the support from the Carpenters' Company is hugely appreciated by us and our Board of Trustees.

Educational Bursaries



◀ *Hannah McKay*

Hannah McKay

Guildhall School of Music & Drama

I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for the continued support of the Carpenters' Company toward my studies.

The world-class training I have received has prepared me fully for the next significant chapter of my career: moving to Switzerland to join the Zürich International Opera Studio for the 2026-27 season. During my time at Guildhall School, I have been pushed to new heights. A major highlight of the past year was performing the title role in the UK premiere of Respighi's *Lucrezia* in early November 2025. I also had the unforgettable experience of performing as Ein Sklave in the London Symphony Orchestra's production of *Salome* at the Barbican Hall, conducted by Sir Antonio Pappano. These opportunities, along with my performance as Mrs Coyle in *Owen Wingrave* in March 2026, have given me the confidence to step onto international stages.

In Zürich, I will be performing four roles throughout the year, including Erste Dame in *Die Zauberflöte* and Harper in *Angels in America*. I am also looking forward to covering the role of Tatyana in *Eugene Onegin* at The Grange Festival this summer. I am sure I would not be where I am today without your generosity, which is down to the rigorous teaching at the School and the vital financial support you have provided me with. I have recently launched a website **hannahmckaysoprano.co.uk** which I will be updating regularly and I hope you will follow me there.



▲ *Iris Towers*

Iris Towers

Guildhall School of Music and Drama

I am writing to thank you sincerely for your generosity this year as a recipient of the production arts scholarship: I am at the end of my third year of studying Production Arts – Costume Pathway.

Carpenters' assistance has allowed me to excel through my final year of education here at Guildhall. I have worked on multiple external projects such as *Die Rheinnixen* with Gothic Opera as assistant supervisor, and as costume intern at the Almedia on *The Line of Beauty*. These work placements have grown my industry contacts vastly and made me much more confident in my abilities. It was really exciting to have some show experience external to the Guildhall model as I became more familiar with how other organisations work. I also had the opportunity of being a costume maker for one of the operas, *Owen Wingrave*. I made an Edwardian evening gown and a number of day skirts, and my patterns were then used and adapted by other team members. I also undertook the role of Costume Supervisor on *The Government Inspector* at Guildhall back in March and will be Wardrobe Manager for the Opera Makers' performance this summer.

It has been enormously beneficial for my learning to take on these senior roles and it has given me much-needed experience. I really enjoyed being in the role of supervisor, and I think this will be something I want to pursue further in the industry. I also did my Graduation project in January/February, where I made a full-size Audrey II puppet from *Little Shop of Horrors*, which this scholarship helped me fund the supplies for. This was a big undertaking for me, and as I had to learn how to do many of the processes from scratch, I made myself considerably more versatile as I dived into the world of costume props. The project was a great success and has been on display in the school since. The contributions I have received have allowed me to focus on my studies and develop my skills, ready for the industry. Overall, I cannot overstate how grateful I am to the Carpenters' and how they have improved my university experience.

Betsy Hiltunen

Christ's Hospital

My time at Christ's Hospital has been, an immensely fulfilling experience.

Over the last seven years I have had the opportunity of trying a vast range of

▼ *Betsy Hiltunen*



activities and pursuits and in doing so I have grown as a person. I have especially enjoyed community action doing things such as making Christmas packages for the local food bank and paying weekly visits to nearby care homes. I hope to carry on with these rewarding experiences with similar voluntary work in the future. Studying maths, biology and chemistry at A-level was, whilst enriching, also challenging, and founding the Poetry Society gave me an important creative outlet. It was always fun to discuss poetry with friends and became an effective way of balancing the scientific side of my studies.

Being able to attend Christ's Hospital has been hugely beneficial to my academic studies and having a calm environment to work in, surrounded by the beauty of the West Sussex countryside, meant I could study efficiently with a clear mind. I hope to read planning and real estate at university. I have had an interest in this sector for a while and would like to see where it takes me. I will always be grateful to those who have supported me and at Christ's Hospital and will cherish my memories from my days spent there.



▲ *Taybah Aaida*

Taybah Aaida

City of London School for Girls

The finishing line is in sight, and I have almost finished my GCSEs! Fortunately, I have come out relatively unscathed so far.

I am cautiously optimistic that the majority of subjects went well. At the end of the school year, I can firmly say that I love STEM subjects, especially Physics and Biology. I am now looking forward in sixth form to the DELF course in Year 12, which is a European B2 qualification in French. I love languages, and it's one of my goals to be semi-fluent or fluent in French, or any other language.

Throughout the year, I've been an active member of the school's 'ISOC', the Islamic Society. I enjoy talking to other members of our society and helping out during multi faith fairs, one of which took place early this year. We ran a henna 'stall' in a slightly cramped classroom (due to so many of the younger years wanting to get their henna done). Strictly speaking, henna is not 100% religious, however it was used by the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and many women from all cultures celebrate Eid by adorning their hands with beautiful designs.

Outside school, I have signed up to take bike riding lessons with friends after GCSEs finish. I have decided summer truly is the best time to ride around London and enjoy the beautiful parks. I am also doing part-time work experience in a hospital to further my interest in becoming a doctor.

Company History

Lime Street: How a Carpenters' house became City offices

Company Archivist Julie Tancell writes:

Nearly 450 years ago on 15th November 1477, Thomas Warham, first Master of the Carpenters' Company, signed his will. Amongst his bequests was his house in Lime Street, left to the Company and beginning an unbroken line of ownership meticulously documented over the centuries, held in the Company's archive.

Elected the first Master of the Company in 1456, Thomas became Master a further six times and was an influential figure in the early development of the Company. Senior members had long been closely involved with the regulation of the City's carpenters and the building trade, but it was in Thomas's time that the Company's legal status and its future as a livery company was secured. He was one of the small number of Carpenters who met weekly to oversee the Company's responsibilities.

The Company's 1466 Grant of Arms ▼



Accounts were scrutinised, disputes settled, admissions and apprenticeships approved, funerals and feasts organised and property interests managed. By his death in 1481 the Company had drawn up its Ordinances (1455), received its Grant of Arms (1466), its first Royal Charter (1477), all establishing a more formalised company body.

A successful carpenter, Thomas began his working life in Croydon. Although living several miles away from the City, he became a prominent Company member well before moving to Lime Street in the 1450s, having been elected Warden in 1441. His Lime Street house became the first property to be owned outright by the Company – although the Company's Hall had been built in 1429, it was on land leased from the Hospital of St Mary's and only permanently acquired in 1519. Thomas moved into an area where other carpenters had already congregated, and which was also in easy walking distance of Carpenters' Hall on London Wall. The neighbourhood was also home to many of the City's merchants, conveniently close to the City's eastern entrance point of Aldgate and Leadenhall market.

The property itself is first recorded in the Company accounts in 1454, two years before Thomas was first elected Master and well before his will was drawn up. Ownership of the property was transferred to five Company members, including Thomas and his nephew William, who was himself elected Warden in 1462. Development of the site began soon after, with William Warham paid £8 in 1457 to build a timber house. The Company took care to maintain



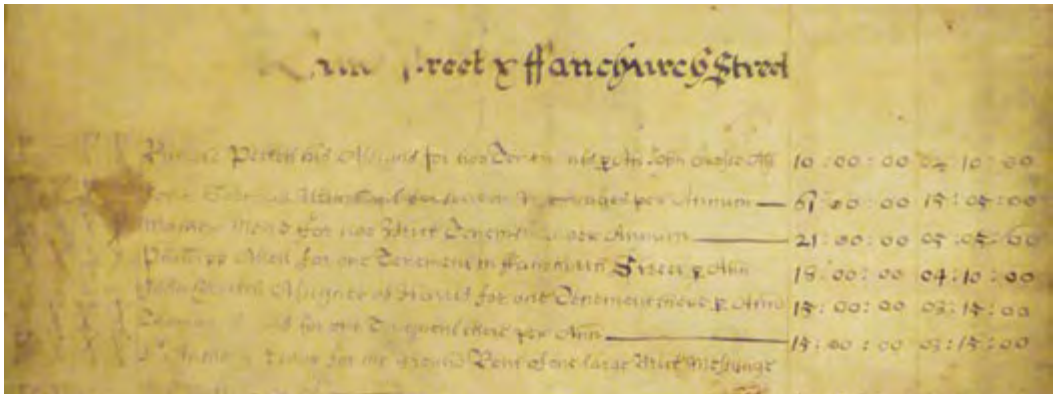
▲ *The Company's 16th century chests, used for storing plate and ready money*

the property, paying 10 shillings in 1479-80 for repairs to *'Thomas Warham's house in Lime Street'* to three tilers for five days' work. At the same time, other entries in the accounts suggest the Company had a strong interest in acquiring the property – they include legal costs for drawing up Thomas's will alongside payments for the Company's first Royal Charter. Although initially appearing to be a generous gift, the bequest may also have been a way for the Company to buy and secure ownership of the property without the need for a Royal licence.

The property doubled the Company's rent roll, but soon after building two tenements and stables there in 1546, the Company's ownership was challenged, caught up with Henry VIII's Reformation. A long and protracted legal battle ensued, caused by Thomas Warham's instructions in his will for the Master and Wardens to pay 20 shillings out of the Lime Street rent for 'obits'. These annual memorial services were held for him and his family in two churches close to his Lime Street home – in 1490 the accounts record a payment of 20 shillings for *'the obbit of Thomas Warhm. and Elynor his doughter'.*

This was not an unusual bequest in Catholic England, but the Acts passed during the Reformation 70 years later abolished these services and the income used for the payments fell to the Crown. Various legal suits were brought against the Company for 'concealed income' and the whole affair was only settled in 1619 when £20 was paid out of the Company chest for confirmation by the King of the Company's title to the property.

By 1666 the Lime Street site was occupied by four houses and gardens, leased to merchants Richard Peskett, John Godschall, and William Tryon. Godschall had paid £1,100 in 1665 for the lease of two tenements, probably the timber-framed buildings built in the previous century, common across the City and vulnerable to fire. Fortunately, the Great Fire in September 1666 was stopped two-thirds of the way along Lime Street, and not all the Company's buildings were destroyed. Even so, the tenement let to William Tryon was completely demolished and part of John Godschall's property was destroyed. The Court waived both £56 of rent owed by Godschall and the annual fine of a buck stipulated by his lease. Richard Peskett's property fortunately escaped undamaged.



1684 Rent Roll for Lime Street and the newly acquired Fenchurch Street site. The same tenants are recorded in 1666 ▶



The Company expanded their property holdings in the area in 1680, purchasing three houses and gardens close by in Fenchurch Street. A detail from the Company's earliest plan made in about 1690 shows the houses, newly built after the Great Fire, also incorporated a carpenter's yard. There was one more addition to the site in 1740, a garden next to the Wren church of St Dionis Backchurch where Thomas Warham once worshipped. The houses were sold in 1866 and 1868 to the City Commissioners of Sewers, and the church, by now in poor condition with a much-reduced congregation, was demolished a decade later to make way for new buildings.

A plan of the Lime Street property made in 1717 illustrates how the tenants still lived next door to their business premises – although no longer used by carpenters, the merchants' houses are intermingled with warehouses and yards (right).

▲ *Plan of the Fenchurch Street houses, about 1680*

Plan of Lime Street in 1717 by George Chamberlen, with the key enlarged below ◥ ▶

By the 19th century, most of the 17th century timber buildings at Lime Street were in poor repair and the property had become a prime site for redevelopment. The leases were brought back to the Company's ownership by 1875, and a development scheme was agreed with neighbouring property owners the Fishmongers' Company and the Bridewell and Bethlehem Hospital Governors. A new avenue was created from Lime Street to Billiter Street and another (now Fenchurch Avenue) running south from Lime Street Square to Fenchurch Street



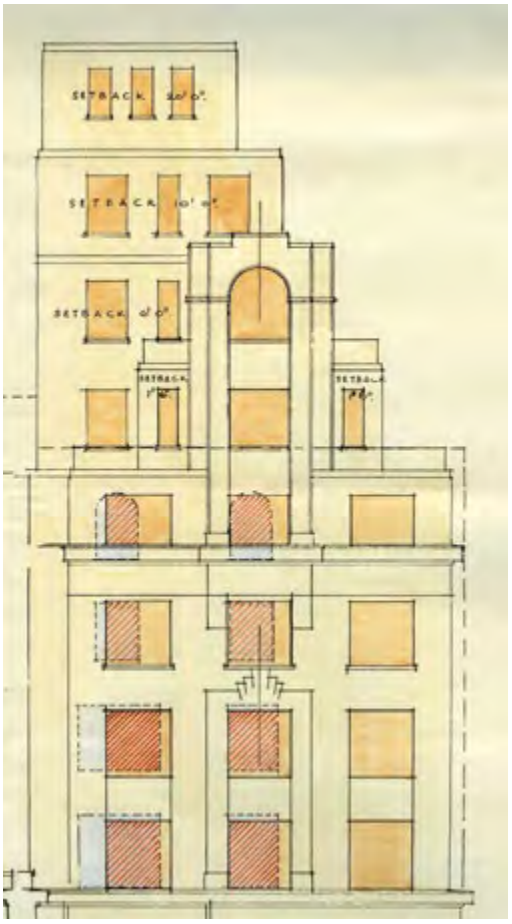




▲ *Drawing of Fen Court about 1875. It was originally the site of the churchyard of St Gabriel's Fenchurch, destroyed in 1666.*

through Fen Court. Development proceeded slowly, with negotiations over the demolition of the old properties, the new avenues and boundary disputes all stalling at times. Four properties were finally built for the Company on Lime Street and the new Fenchurch Avenue. The new tenants included Colls and Sons, a major London construction and building company, and the auction house Hale and Sons.

The inter-war years saw more changes in the area, with new office blocks appearing, and the Company took a different approach to the property. Agreement was reached with the City of London Real Property Company Limited (CLRP) to remodel the site and construct new office blocks. 37-39 Lime Street, built by Leo Sylvester Sullivan in classical style, now Grade II listed, was completed in 1929. 40 Lime Street/2–12 Fenchurch Avenue, an office block with art deco styling by Sir Henry Tanner, was completed in 1938. Both buildings escaped damage during the Second World War although the properties all around were destroyed, and they stand today opposite the Lloyds building.



◀ *Detail of Elevation of 40 Lime Street, 1938*

Affiliations

HMS DARING

Lieutenant Commander James Callendar RN, Executive Officer, reports:

HMS DARING has made exciting progress towards returning to sea, with significant changes since the last article in the *Chronicle* a year ago.

The Ship's Company 'moved on board' in February 2026, so we are now living and working on board the Ship once again. Shortly afterwards, she made a significant move from her refit location in a basin to her current 'tidal' berth in the Naval Base, where she is visible for all to see. Furthermore, we have a full complement of crew, with nearly 200 sailors calling DARING their home. We are also steadily regaining our Warship status, many of our weapon systems, radars and command systems having been recommissioned.

We have also had the pleasure of maintaining our close relationship with the Carpenters' Company this year. Several of our sailors were generously invited to participate in clay pigeon shooting and golf tournaments, as well as attending the Court Luncheon when the Award for Excellence was presented to our chosen sailor. These events provide valuable opportunities to recognise and reward the hard work and dedication of our people, which is crucial to good morale. We were also delighted to welcome a number of Carpenters on board during our Affiliates Day. We hope they were able to see the tremendous progress the Ship has made and can feel proud of their longstanding affiliation with DARING.

Finally, in the last few weeks we have seen a change of Commanding Officer. Commander Graeme Hazelwood has departed DARING to assume command of another Destroyer, and Commander



▼ *Members of DARING's crew attended a Company Court Luncheon in June*

Andrew Platt has taken command of DARING to lead her back to sea and into future service. As always, we are very grateful for our close affiliation with the Carpenters' Company and look forward to continuing a strong and valued relationship.

Award for Excellence

Chief Petty Officer Edward Partington was the recipient of this year's Award for Excellence for outstanding professionalism, leadership, and commitment to DARING's resurgence. He ensured the Ship's staff training was delivered and overseen to an exemplary standard, making a significant and lasting impact on the Ship's capability.

Alongside Day, Portsmouth

Liveryman Cliff Cooper reports:

Our day began in warm sunshine in HMS DARING's aircraft hangar with a welcome to the assembled touring groups. DARING has been in dock for a number of years and has now undergone a major refit and should deploy by October this year. For our party of ten, including the Master and the Clerk, the tour started with the Foredeck armaments, ranging from small arms and machine guns to the 4.5" gun – we were encouraged to get 'hands on'. We moved up to the Bridge and then, carefully navigating bulkhead obstacles and steep ladders, progressed below decks into the heart of the Ship to explore the various 'ops' rooms and living quarters, none of which have any natural light. We were served an excellent lunch in the Mess Rooms and continued our below-decks tour of weapons, power and control rooms, all bristling with screens and 'hi-tech' all clearly explained to us by the friendly crew. Of particular interest was the Medical Room, where we were much impressed by the two leaders of the medical team who explained the procedures they are able to perform. Several ladders later, we emerged into daylight, which was now cool and overcast. After being given a demonstration of sea rescue equipment and fire-fighting, we gathered on the foredeck for the closing address by the Commanding Officer, Commander Graeme Hazelwood. With military precision, the address concluded just as heavy rainfall started. We headed home having enjoyed a thoroughly interesting and informative day and the special privilege of access to an important ship and its crew and, hopefully, reviving and reinforcing the affiliation between the Carpenters' Company and HMS DARING.



▲ *CPO Edward Partington (right) at the June Court Luncheon with the Master and Cdr Graeme Hazelwood (left)*



▲ *Carpenters' on board DARING on the 18th June. Left to right: Jonathan Barnes-Yallowley, Bruce Hodgson, Stephen Samuel, Ralph Arundell, Lawrence Mallinson, Naomi Hawkes, Richard Galbraith, Cliff Cooper, Jeremy Archer and James Galbraith*

4th Battalion, The Ranger Regiment

Adjutant, Captain Tim Rice reports:





▲◀ *Members of Special Operations Task Group B carry out training alongside helicopters from the RAF*

2025 has already brought significant change and momentum across all our lines of effort and 2026 is already shaping up to be much of the same.

Our operations in the Middle East place us at the forefront of a region experiencing considerable turbulence. In Lebanon, the establishment of Camp GILL marks a major milestone. The new base provides an outstanding platform from which to deliver our mission, and stands as a fitting tribute to Corporal Gill, who tragically lost his life last year while on a career course. From this position we continue to reinforce the United Kingdom's enduring commitment to Lebanon, working to strengthen the operational capability of our Lebanese partners and deepen our understanding of the Beqaa Valley and beyond. In Jordan, our focus remains on supporting border security and working alongside partner organisations. During the Twelve-Day War, the Battalion provided assistance to the British Levant Consulate with the evacuation of entitled personnel from Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Perhaps the most significant milestone for the Battalion this year has been the Land Special Operations Task Group NATO Special Operations Forces (SOF) validation and accreditation – an achievement with 4 RANGER firmly at its core. This marks a first for the United Kingdom. The two-year journey to reach this point has demanded monumental changes in how we operate and how we communicate and integrate as a force. It has been a genuinely collective effort, with every officer, NCO, Ranger, enabler, and member of the staff contributing. This success reflects not only

technical proficiency and operational excellence, but also the adaptability, resilience, and professionalism that have come to define the Battalion throughout this period of transformation. Working with our colleagues from the maritime and air components, the UK is now poised to provide the Special Operations Component to NATO's Allied Reaction Force from this year. The Task Group will be prepared to deploy anywhere at short notice, in support of NATO missions, crisis response, and deterrence operations.

Beyond operations, the Battalion has continued to excel in sport and individual endeavour. Staff Sergeant Mullen captained the Army Women's Rugby Team to a decisive victory over the Royal Navy at Twickenham, while Captain Basty remains a key starter for the Army XV. Three members of the Battalion summited Mount Everest in May following a year of rigorous preparation for this extraordinary challenge, which marked the fifth anniversary of the Ranger Regiment.

It was an absolute pleasure to host the Master and the Clerk during Her Majesty The Queen's visit to the Battalion in September. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all Liverymen for your generosity in contributing to the brooch we were able to present. Her Majesty is thrilled with it and we look forward to receiving her official portrait wearing it.



▲ *Warrant Officers Gill & Sjt Sulaiman during training to summit Everest*

Chosen RANGER

The Chosen Ranger Award winner this year is Lance Corporal William Kent. He has made a significant contribution to 4 RANGER in his first year with his exceptional commitment and professionalism. Since joining the Battalion in early 2025, LCpl Kent has won the FALCON Trophy, demonstrating marksmanship, navigation, fitness and medical skills. He also piloted the Dismounted Close Combat Survivability (DCCS) course and has completed multiple UK and NATO courses.



▲ *Lance Corporal William Kent*



◀ *Her Majesty the Queen visited the Battalion in September, pictured with (left to right) the Beadle Darren Neal, WO1 RSM Sean Kirkham, Lt Col Charlie Bairsto, Master Lawrence Mallinson, Clerk Tim Gregson and Clerk Designate Ralph Arundell*

IV (Army Co-operation) Squadron RAF

Commanding Officer, Wing Commander Christopher Rugg reports:

Since our last article for the *Chronicle*, our focus has remained on a steady build of the instructor cadre delivering young fighter pilots to the UK front line.

There are two squadrons of Hawk at RAF Valley in North Wales. IV(AC) Squadron delivers the final phase of training to young fighter pilots before they fly the Typhoon or F35. It focuses on teaching trainees how to fight the aircraft as a team, graduating as a pilot who in a formation of two aircraft can fight their way to a simulated target with a hostile aircraft threat to take into account. As important as the technical skills taught to our trainees has been the concentration on creating a 'warfighting' ethos, aided in no small part by the recent influx of pilots returning from the UK front line to become instructors on the Hawk. These new instructors provide perfect role models, given their recent experience of delivering on the many UK operations of which the Typhoon and F35 have been part.

The Squadron has graduated 15 trainees and qualified four new instructors. The instructor cadre will build to 14 by this time next year, designed to meet the increase in aircraft availability from Spring 27. IV(AC) continues to be a popular destination for visits by politicians and from the military,



▼ *Exercise Freedom Hawk, July 2026*



▲ *Hawk Flight Fly Past, July 2026*

including from the Air Officer Commanding of No. 1, No. 2 and No. 22 Group RAF. Finally, as part of on-going work for our trainees, we hosted a group of UK Olympic and international sports coaches for a three-day workshop on learning to achieve high performance.

A real highlight of the period was our detachment to the French Air Force Base Solenzara on Corsica in March. We deployed eight Hawk aircraft and over 120 personnel, both civilian and military. This was largely an air-to-air focused detachment and provided a welcome early spring weather opportunity following a particularly wet winter. Uniquely, for a fast jet training school, our trainees had the opportunity to help plan and fly across Europe – experience invaluable to them as they progress to the front line.

Looking to the future, IV(AC) will absorb the other Hawk Squadron at RAF Valley in Spring 2027 and the Valley Hawk output will come under a single Squadron banner. It also seems likely that a new fast jet trainer platform will be brought into service. As always, we are grateful for the support of the Carpenters' Company and look forward to opportunities to meet and host in the future.

Champion Pilot

Flight Lieutenant Jonathan Coates is the recipient of this year's award, his arrival having made an immediate impact on the Squadron. He was awarded his wings in 2018, had previous roles as Assistant Air Advisor at the British High Commission in Australia and instructor at the Air Ground Operations School. He returned to RAF Valley in 2025 as a Qualified Flying Instructor on IV(AC) Squadron, training the next generation of Combat Air Force pilots.

▼ *Flt Lt Jonathan Coates (left) received his award from the Master at the Court Luncheon in July, accompanied by Wg Cdr Christopher Rugg (right)*



Pastimes

Tennis

Inter-Livery Tennis

Liveryman Caroline Wells writes:

On 18th September 2025 the Feltmakers' Company organised the annual Inter-Livery Tennis Tournament at The Queen's Club.

Luckily the temperature was perfect for tennis – not too hot, minimal wind and the predicted rain held off, allowing for a lovely day on the clay courts. This year the Carpenters' Company was represented by the Master Lawrence Mallinson and Liveryman Caroline Wells. Unfortunately, the Carpenters' other pair had to withdraw due to injury.

The day began with a gathering in the Club House, up in the President's Room for a welcome speech, tournament rules and coffee, whilst overlooking the magnificent lawn tennis courts of the Queen's Club. We all then moved down to the clay courts for the start of the Tournament. The first part is a 'round robin' with six groups of four mixed doubles teams from different Livery Companies. The Carpenters' team played the Solicitors', Cordwainers' and Spectacle Makers'. All the games were closely fought with competitiveness and friendly banter. Once all the Round Robin matches were played, the winners of each group then entered the Championship playoff, with all other pairs, including The Carpenters', playing for The Plate. At 5.30pm the finals of the Championship Cup and Plate were played. This provided some wonderful tennis, exciting rallies and very close games with every point being fought for.



▲ *Caroline Wells and Lawrence Mallinson (second and third from right) with teams from the Solicitors', Cordwainers' and Spectacle Makers' Companies*

The Inter-Livery Tennis Championship winners for 2025 were the World Traders', who narrowly beat the Tallow Chandlers' to retain their title. The Plate winners were the Cordwainers' – whom the Carpenters' had played in the group round. The day ended with drinks on the President's Balcony followed by a delicious, three-course dinner, providing a relaxed and friendly atmosphere for interacting with other Livery Companies. For tennis players in the Company, I would recommend this day.

Livery Tennis

Liveryman Hugh Felton writes:



▲ *The Hurlingham Club*

This year, the Livery Tennis evening on 9th July was one to remember – principally, due to the inclusion of the young blades Sean and Daniel Everlegh.

Both fizzing like a fresh bottle of kombucha, they took care of business on the court, exchanging the kind of shots more akin to SW19 than SW6. The Master, Lawrence Mallinson, stepped forth like Rodri, the Ballon d'Or winner and recent World Cup victor, exchanging baseline rallies with the Liverymen with solid, low ground strokes. There were great rallies held with Philip Brading, Ben Brading, Stephen Samuel and Master's Lady – Doe Mallinson. Angi Birts ajudicated proceedings from the shade. It certainly was a good workout. Temperatures were in the low 30s – like a still evening in Madrid – and the games went on late, to maximise the tennis playing time.

Such was the warmth of the evening, Peter Birts had kindly organised a long dining table *al fresco* overlooking the croquet lawn in front of the main building where we all enjoyed a refreshing glass of Pimm's. Tim Gregson later recommended the Rosé, and some of us enjoyed a chilled Indian pale ale to settle the adrenaline after facing the Evelegh brothers. As always, it was lively company discussing topics, from England's progress in the football World Cup to the carpentry skills required to build a grandfather clock.

A big thank you to Peter for helping to organise a wonderful evening at the Hurlingham Club. The prestigious Russell Hutchons cup was awarded to yours truly this year, which I am very proud to receive.

Inter-Livery Skiing

Liveryman Lizzie Haynes writes:

2026 saw a new venue for the Inter-Livery Skiing Championships in Mayrhofen, Austria in the Zillertal Valley – a big move from Morzine, France after 16 years.

It worked out well; in fact, it was a hit! The snow conditions were perfect: snowing as we arrived, allowing skiing in the Ahorn and Penken areas, and practising race skiing in the 142km diverse slopes and the notorious 78% gradient Harakiri Piste. Some of our team skied this. A few slid on their backs, but all survived.

The racing competition lasts over two days, beginning with the Parallel, which dictates the starting order for the main race with the Giant Slalom on the following morning. There were 27 Livery Companies competing – Carpenters' came 15th out of 49 teams. At the Prize-giving Dinner on Friday night, Carpenters' were able to award our trophy once more. 'The Wooden Skies Carpenters' Trophy' for the most relaxed team on adjusted time, was this year awarded to the Worshipful Company of Barbers. The replacement trophy (our original trophy was lost by a recipient) was made by Piers Shorrock, a former Maker-in-Residence at the Building Crafts College. The trophy and box are made from a variety of woods, with the plaque made of oak, the skis veneered in Macassar Ebony and the binding carved out of Solid Macassar, held by brass pins. The stand on the back is dovetailed and the box itself is plywood with a softwood lining.



◀ *The Wooden Skis Trophy*





▲▲ *Team Captain Stephen Samuel powering through the second gate on the Giant Slalom*

▲ *Left to right: Liz Galbraith, Mark Horn, Richard Samuel, Lizzie Haynes, Geoff Rhodes, Ben Brading, Stephen Samuel, Jon Evelegh, Richard Galbraith, Louise Galbraith and Hannah Galbraith*

After a successful week, the next Inter-Livery Skiing Championships will take place from Wednesday 13th to Friday 15th January 2027.

Finally, I must thank Stephen Samuel, Team Captain who organises us, and the rest of the team who make the event so enjoyable. It is a great way to meet other Liverymen away from the City. Lastly, thank you to the Company for its generous contribution to the skiers' expenses.

Golf

Livery Golf

Liveryman Geoff Rhodes reports:

Inspired from the previous weekend when Rory McIlroy won the 2026 Masters with a score of 12 under par, securing his second successive Green Jacket and becoming only the fourth player ever to win back to back at Augusta, we gathered at the RAC Golf Club, Woodcote Park, Epsom on Friday 17th April for our annual Golf Competition.

As last year, we were blessed with a perfect spring day and had the of pleasure of playing our competitive Stapleford round over 18 holes on the Old Course.

The Old Course, designed by Herbert Fowler and opened in 1915, is a historic parkland course, known for its mature layout. It hosted a European tour event in 1978 and the Bob Hope Classic in 1980. We were delighted to be joined on this occasion by Chief Petty Officers Laura Raynes and Sarah Feltham of HMS DARING and Josh Yates and Tom Kempster of the RANGERS. Our golfing guests played exceptionally well, with the two worthy winners taking home a bottle of Champagne to mark the occasion. For our own competition, golfing skills were in evidence as always and following an excruciating and nerve-racking countback, this year's winner of the Penny Newman Trophy was Richard Samuel, beating Geoff Rhodes by just one point. For lunch and for the presentation, we were all delighted to be joined by Martin and Rosemary Samuel as well as the Clerk, Colonel Ralph Arundell. As in previous years, selected members of the Carpenters' Company golfing group represented the Company at the Inter-Livery Golf competition at Walton Heath Golf Club in May.

▼ *Left to right: Martin Samuel, Ralph Arundell, Rowan Montague-Smith and Trophy winner Richard Samuel*



Inter-Livery Golf (Prince Arthur Cup)

Liveryman Rowan Montague-Smith reports:

Our day at Walton Heath was as always very enjoyable, but a tale of two story lines.

The first was very unfortunate for my partner Geoff Rhodes, who strained his back three quarters of the way through our morning round. Despite taking pain killers, he was unable to continue in the afternoon.

The second is some great news: Richard Samuel and Harry Neal played some fabulous golf and won the award for the best pair in the whole competition, out of 152 players.

In all the 20 plus years of playing at the event, it's a result that has never before been achieved!



▲ *Winning Pair Harry Neal (left) and Richard Samuel at Walton Heath on 21st May*



◀ *Rowan Montague-Smith (left) and Geoff Rhodes*

Shooting

Livery Clay Shoot

Liveryman Tim Gregson reports:



▲ *The Carpenters' Shooting Party*

On defiance of Tube train drivers trying to extract yet more money from us beleaguered citizens, on 24th April 18 members of the Company gathered at the West London Shooting Ground near the Polish War Memorial, north-west London, for yet another splendid day of sport and camaraderie.

As has often been the case in recent years, the weather was blissful, more typical of Tuscany than Uxbridge, as the group photograph bears witness. We also much enjoyed the traditional gentle pace to the day, starting with bacon and sausage baps for breakfast, followed by three stands of diverse clays, then a leisurely break for refreshments, then the last two stands, culminating in the finale Team Flush. For several of us, I sense that it was the first time we had shot since the previous year – but that mattered little. The winner, with 41 hits out of a maximum 50, was Freeman Chris Pask. This was the second year in a row that he had lifted The Rifles' Cup, so he cannot win it again (there is hope for others next year). The runner-up, with a score of 40, was Liveryman William Barnes-Yallowley, with his brother Johnnie in third place with 39. The top-scoring guest was the Adjutant of 4 RANGER, Captain Tim Rice, with a score of 37.

Down the years we have much appreciated the organisational skills of Past Master Michael Neal – and his remarkable ability to come up with carpentry-related titles for each team. This year was no exception, although I had initially suspected that he had invented something spurious for this year's winning team: 'Wymbylles'. It turns out that a 'Wymbylle' is a medieval iron spoon auge. I should have known that of course, having been Clerk for a while – but it was news to me. Anyway, that team, with scores in brackets, captained by Past Master Allen Zimbler (36) included Tom Gregory-Smith (32), Harry Neal (31), Ben Brading (36) – and Chris Pask (inevitably).

Inter-Livery Clay Shoot

Liveryman Richard Mitton reports:

The 36th annual Inter-Livery shoot was held at the West London Shooting School and, for the first time, we entered two teams.

Once again, it was ably organised by Chris Parr of the Environmental Cleaners' and Richard Ferrand of the Fishmongers'. A total of 109 teams took part with over 400 guns.

The School put on a wide range of different stands designed to represent various birds – although some were very odd in appearance! The only thing that could not be organised was the weather and, for the first time ever, we endured several downpours. In spite of this, it was a very enjoyable day.

One of the good things about the Competition is the opportunity to meet people from a wide range of other Livery Companies. The Bowyers' Company deserve a special mention for their caps. As well as their coat of arms on the front they have Crécy, Poitiers and Agincourt written in bold letters on the back. Probably not a good idea to wear the cap on a trip to France!

Over a buffet lunch, prizes were awarded for the first day and a special mention goes to our very own Chris Pask for highest scoring Freeman. Congratulations! Overall, the Gunmakers', with six teams, dominated the leaderboard over the two days and the two Carpenters' teams came 34th and 96th in a closely fought competition. There are prizes for the best Lady shots and it would be good to have some Carpenters' ladies in future. A very enjoyable day and our thanks to the Court for sponsoring us.



▲▲ *Left to right: Bruce Hodgson, Andrew Wolstenholme, Harry Neal and Chris Pask*



▲ *Left to right: Jonnie Barnes-Yallowley, Michael Neal, Charlie Birts and Richard Mitton*

Inter-Livery Rifle Shooting Competition

Bullseyes, Barbers, and Benevolence

Liveryman Bruce Hodgson reports:

The annual Inter-Livery Target Rifle Competition took place on 29th May 2026, when the RAF Small Arms Association and the City Livery Companies again joined forces for a splendid day of shooting, fellowship and fundraising in support of the RAF Benevolent Fund, the RAF's longest-standing charity.

Now in its 12th year, the Competition brought together more than 60 participants from 15 Livery Companies, along with one United Livery team, all ready to test their aim, nerve and ability to look composed while missing the target. Organised by volunteers from the Worshipful Company of Bakers and the Royal Air Force Small Arms Association, the event was held at Bisley Camp in Surrey, the home of British rifle shooting and, for the day, a useful reminder that confidence and accuracy are not always the same thing. The participating Companies included the Carpenters', Merchant Taylors', Glovers', Agincourt Bowyers, Crécy Bowyers, Builders Merchants', Horners', Gunmakers', Grocers', the Ram and the Teasels (Clothworkers'), Cordwainers', Knights of the Moth (Clothworkers'), Barbers', Tallow Chandlers', Barber Surgeons' and the United Livery team.

Co-founded by Colin Sach, Past Master of the Worshipful Company of Bakers, the Competition featured six disciplines: the 1,000-yard Target Rifle, which is certainly not for the short-sighted; the 300-yard Sniper Rifle; the elusive Running Boar Moving Target; the satisfyingly dramatic Black Powder Pistol; the .22 Rimfire Gallery Rifle against the clock; and, new for 2026, the Dart Target Challenge. Prizes were awarded to individuals and teams in each discipline. There is also an aggregate scoring system which, despite several years of close observation, remains one of the great mysteries of the Competition!



▲ *Bruce Hodgson*

Nick Gutfreund ◥

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****. All are welcome.*



This year, the Carpenters' team comprised Chris Pask, stepping in for Nick Thornton, Nick Gutfreund and the writer. As last year's overall winners, we arrived with reputations to defend and, having travelled to Bisley the evening before, took the opportunity to discuss tactics and steady our nerves with a glass or two. In hindsight, this may have been less sports science than wishful thinking, and by the narrowest of margins, the Worshipful Company of Barbers proved worthy winners of the Bakers' Cup. Nevertheless, the Carpenters team had a highly enjoyable and respectable day, winning both the Gallery Rifle and Pistol ranges and producing some excellent individual scores along the way.

The team is very grateful to the Company for its continued support of this event.

RAF veteran Ivor Barnett, who has received support from the Fund, also attended the event. He said: 'I had the most wonderful time at the 2026 Inter-Livery Target Rifle Shoot. It was so exciting to see all the different disciplines included in the day and to be able to have a go at Bell Target Air Rifle Shoot; it took me back 70 years to my National Service.'

Overall, the day was a great success, raising several thousand pounds for the RAF Benevolent Fund. Our thanks go to the RAF Small Arms Association for all their hard work, good humour and generous hospitality.

Company Business

Throgmorton Avenue and Great Winchester Street

Past Master Michael Morrison, Chairman of the Hall Development Sub-Committee, reports:

Writing a report for the Chronicle at this time last year all seemed to be going well with the redevelopment of the Avenue and the work to refresh and extend the accommodation in the Hall.

Since then, we have taken a few steps backwards and are now looking at a delayed start to the redevelopment. In the second half of last year and the early part of 2026 we thought we had found the perfect development partner in the US Investment Management Company 'Nuveen' – who wished to develop the property and then occupy it as their own offices. As a bonus they proposed acquiring 'Garden House', the property at the end of the Carpenters' freehold on the corner of Throgmorton Avenue and Austin Friars, which they would throw into the development – with the freehold reverting to the Carpenters' Company. All this fell through with the announcement that Nuveen had acquired the London based firm Schroeders and would be moving into their offices.

Since this setback we have reconsidered and, we think, improved the proposed work to the Hall. The Hall, as it stands at present, falls under the new Higher-Risk Building legislation (post the Grenfell disaster) as it is more than 18 metres high. The Court has decided that the provision of accommodation for the Master, Clerk and Beadle as well as a small number of bedrooms for staff working late and for occasional visitors is a high priority. We have therefore decided to insert a party wall into No.3 Throgmorton Avenue and a party floor above our present office floor, thus creating a self-contained box below the 18-metre height. The three new floors of offices above the Hall will be thrown into the proposed commercial development; in this way we will not be a Higher-Risk Building and can include the desired accommodation.

We do have both planning permission and listed building consent for the work to the Hall and Avenue buildings, but we are currently seeking to amend this permission to allow for the proposed revised layout. We hope to submit the application for these alterations to the City planning department immediately after the Christmas holiday. Our surveyor, John Harding, is in the midst of a series of preliminary discussions with potential development partners and he reports that there is a good deal of interest and that the market for central City, Grade A office space is buoyant. We hope that a development partner will be in place early next year and detailed design work can then be progressed.

This has all meant yet a further delay to the proposed works. We now think that we will remain in occupation of the Hall for the whole of 2027 and part of 2028. We hope that building work will start towards the end of 2028. The aim is to be back in the Hall by the end of 2031 – though given the number of hiccoughs encountered so far it is probably best not to be too optimistic!

Company Visit to Arles

Liveryman Lizzie Haynes reports:

The annual Company visit this year took us to Arles in the Provence region of southern France. Famous for its uniquely preserved Roman monuments and strong links to Vincent van Gogh, the City affords a stunning gateway to the wild, marshy landscape of the Camargue and its world famous indigenous white horses.

Our Master spent his gap year in this region and formed a lifelong friendship with the Hoffman family. Maya Hoffman is the founder and president of the LUMA Foundation, an arts centre in Arles created by the Foundation, and the welcome drinks party on the Friday night was held at the LUMA Foundation Tower – an extraordinary 56-metre high structure designed by Frank Gehry in collaboration with Maya Hoffman, that now forms the centrepiece of the Luma Arles arts campus.

We were fortunate enough to be given guided tours of the magnificent Tower. It features twisted façades clad with no fewer than 11,800 hammered stainless steel bricks, each individually designed to occupy a specific position in the structure. The metal captures and reflects every shift in daylight, giving the building a constantly changing appearance while creating façade transitions from silvery highlights to warm tones of gold and pink. The interior walls are an artwork made of crystallised salt from the Camargue, and within the tower are installed two vast stainless steel tubular slides enabling some brave liverymen to zip down into the party!



▼ *The LUMA Tower*



The LUMA Tower slides ◢

Saturday's itinerary consisted of a city walking tour in the morning and a visit to the LUMA imaging cultural campus in the afternoon. The city tour included a visit to the Roman Amphitheatre where, our guide told us, bull fights still take place, as do large scale concerts. Among other notable sites we saw the Ancient Theatre, St-Trophine Cathedral and the exquisitely restored Cloisters dating back to the eleventh century and completed in the twelfth, when Romanesque architecture was at its height.

The Parc des Ateliers is a 27-acre site built on the site of a 19th century railway yard and the LUMA Foundation Tower. The site has an industrial feel to it, probably due to the repurposing of former SNCF locomotive repair shops into multidisciplinary exhibitions, performance spaces and restaurants/cafés. Among the exhibitions we visited were overpainted photographs by Gerhard Richter and a contemporary work *In the Veins*, an immersive moving-image by Camille Henrot.

A tour of the Hotel L'Arlatan, where some of our party had chosen to stay, kicked off Saturday night's entertainment. Originally built as a 15th century palace, the hotel has been beautifully reimagined into a vibrant artist's residence and a boutique hotel by Maya Hoffman and the Cuban American artist Jorge Pardo. He designed every detail of the hotel, including the installation of thousands of hand painted ceramic floor tiles, furniture and lighting.

An excellent dinner brought to an end a most enjoyable and stimulating weekend. Thanks are due to the Master, the Clerk and Caroline Stevens for their hard work in organising such a successful visit.



Carpenters gathered at the Drinks Reception

Retirements



◀ *Tim Gregson (right) and Nick Bashall with the portrait*

Brigadier Tim Gregson MBE

Tim Gregson, Clerk to the Company from 2007 to 2026, retired in January 2026.

He is only the Company's twelfth Clerk since 1750 and continuing a long held tradition, the Company has commissioned his portrait. It was unveiled by the artist Nick Bashall and Tim Gregson at the Company's Court Luncheon in December and now hangs in the Company's Committee Room.

John Cattini

John Cattini, Hall Steward, retired in August 2026 after 25 years with the Company.

He joined the Hall staff in 2001 and was admitted to the Freedom of the Company on 2nd December 2008. John was silver steward for the Hall collection and a familiar figure to members attending Company dinners and events at the Hall.



◀ *John Cattini*

Fundraising

The Alabaré Big St Paul's Sleep-out

The Clerk Ralph Arundell writes:

On Friday 26th June, the Clerk to the Carpenters' Company, along with 100 or so others, headed to St Paul's to support fundraising for Alabaré.

The Salisbury-based charity works to tackle homelessness by providing support to homeless people to return to a better living. Much to the organisers' delight, those attending included the Lady Mayor, Alderman Sheriff Robert Hughes-Penny and numerous Masters and Clerks.

After Evensong, the Salisbury Plain Military Wives Choir and the British Imperial Military Band gave uplifting choral performances. A short commemorative service followed, with moving testimony from 3 formerly homeless Veterans and an Act of Remembrance read by the Carpenters' Clerk, Colonel Ralph Arundell. Colonel Richard Winstanley, Clerk to The Drapers', gave the well known Kohima Epitaph. His father had fought with the West Sussex Regiment 'across the tennis court' at the 1944 World War II battle which added great poignancy to the occasion.



◀ *Alabaré at St Paul's*



▲ *Settling down for the night*

Decamping to our various sleeping bags and tarpaulins in the gardens, we quietly melted during the night until 4.30 am when a large thunderstorm and downpour led to the majority drawing stumps and heading home.

Later on Colonel Arundell received a good lecture, with top tips for sleeping rough, from a homeless man outside Waterloo, combined with effusive thanks for what the group had been doing for him and others: the jungle drums of the homeless community are impressive in their speed and accuracy.

The night raised just over £110,000, including £2,057 raised by the Clerk, who is extremely grateful for the Company's very generous donation of £1,000. It has gone to an exceptionally worthy cause.

John O'Groats to Lands' End Cycle



Liveryman Will Barnes Yallowley and his former Squadron Leader Brigadier Nick Smith left John O'Groats on the 21st March 2026.

Together they had a hilarious, fascinating, life affirming and sometimes gruelling unaccompanied cycle ride covering 1070 miles and ascending twice the height of Everest. With the help of friends and family and Carpenters they raised some £13,000 for Stroke Association and Cancer Research. On Easter Monday they arrived at Lands' End to a wonderful welcome. If anyone would like to know more and possibly is thinking of doing the journey please do feel free to contact Will.

◀ *Will Barnes Yallowley (left) and Nick Smith*

Woolmen's Company Sheep Drive and Livery Fair 2025

Freeman Janet Giles writes:

Freeman Stephen Rapley and I were lucky enough to get tickets to this long-established charity event which celebrates a City of London Freeman's ancient right to bring sheep to market over the Thames. Being put on the waiting list showed us how sought after this event is!

We duly turned up early with family and friends at Southwark Bridge to visit the very interesting stalls showcasing wool products, handcrafted items and ancient crafts north of the river. Also to see the Lord Mayor of London and special guest Adam Henson commence the first drive (later shown on *Countryfile*).

Stephen Rapley and Janet Giles at the Fair in September ▶





◀ *Janet Giles with Young Freemen Chris Veazey-Doucet (right) and João Cruz*

The distance walked covered only part of the bridge to accommodate as many drives as possible – this year 1,000 Freemen and guests took part. After registering, the Guild of Young Freemen were on hand and did a marvellous job of 'herding' the groups to the right place at the right time. Within the group we all had a chance to move to the front for photo opportunities and wave to our supporters. After the drive we received a certificate to prove that we had exercised our ancient right. I now have this on display at home next to my Florrie the Freedom sheep!

If you are a Freeman of the City of London we would thoroughly recommend taking part in this wonderful ceremony. All profits from the day go to the Lord Mayor's Appeal.

2026 Pedal to Paris Challenge

Liveryman Richard Galbraith took part in this year's challenge in support of the Royal British Legion, the 30th Anniversary of the event.

After four days of hard but enjoyable cycling, finishing at the Arc de Triomphe, Richard raised over £2,250 for the charity.



◀ *Richard Galbraith*

Admissions

To the Livery



On 1st October 2025

Andrew Blair

Andrew is a partner and head of UK private client and charity business development at Brown Advisory, with over 25 years of investment industry experience.

He formerly worked as a director in the charities and asset management teams at Rothschild & Co and has had roles at Mirabaud Asset Management and Skandia Investment Management Limited. Educated at Radley College and Robinson College, Cambridge where he took an MA in Theology, Andrew is married with two sons. He is interested in all sports, particularly cricket and has coached rugby. He is also an Ambassador for the Army Benevolent Fund and a Pensioner Trustee for the United Bible Societies Defined Benefit Pension Schemes.



On 1st October 2025

Jeremy Archer

Jeremy worked for Cazenove Capital Management and Lombard Bank after serving for 13 years in the Devonshire & Dorset Regiment.

He is now retired and sits on committees as a Trustee for a number of organisations, mostly military charities such as The Not Forgotten and Royal Commonwealth Ex-services League. He writes on military history and for his latest book *The Final Curtain* he interviewed veterans from the Second World War's Burma Campaign, drawing on his work as a Trustee of The Burma Star Memorial Fund. Educated at Sherborne School, St Catherine's College, Cambridge, and the University of Buckingham, Jeremy is married and his interests include shooting, book collecting (Private Press) and mycology (the study of fungus).



On 14th January 2026

Tim Gregson MBE

Tim was a long-serving Clerk to the Carpenters' Company from 2007 until his retirement in January 2026.

Previously he had a long and distinguished career in the army, spending most of his first ten years in Germany and Northern Ireland, with two years seconded to the Gurkhas in the Far East. He went on to train officer cadets at Sandhurst and completed his regimental service commanding 1st Battalion, The Light Infantry, in Colchester and Northern Ireland. He held staff appointments in MOD London and Northern Ireland, covering operations, intelligence, organisational and personnel issues and was Brigadier and Military Attaché to the Embassy in Paris. He was one of the founding Colonels of The Rifles regiment, successor to the celebrated Light Division: The Rifles. In 2021 the regiment became the 4th Battalion, Ranger Regiment which is affiliated to the Company.



On 6th May 2026

Amy Burton

Amy was an Executive Director with UBS/Credit Suisse for 25 years having joined Credit Suisse in 2000 and is currently Interim Head of UK Client Services and Sales Support at Jupiter Asset Management.

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.



On 6th May 2026

Thomas McLaughlin

Tom is a Chartered Surveyor and Senior Director at Strutt & Parker specialising in strategic rural property advice.

His previous roles include eight years at Lloyds of London, during which time he served as an Officer in C Coy 4th (Volunteer) Battalion Royal Green Jackets in the City of London. He has over two decades of experience working in the rural property sector, advising private and institutional clients on a diverse range of strategic rural asset matters, property investments and valuations. He also oversees diversification and development work and is an accredited mediator with a long track record of acting as a mediator in rural property and farming disputes. His interests include motorcycling, mountaineering, skiing, golf, shooting and a new found love of skydiving.



On 3rd June 2026

Bernard Donoghue OBE

Bernard has been CEO of the Association of Leading Visitor Attractions since 2011, the trade association and advocacy body representing the UK's most significant museums, galleries, heritage sites, places of worship, stately homes, zoos, cultural organisations and performance venues.

Between 2020 and 2025 he was Co-Chair of the London Tourism Recovery Board and has been a member of the UK Government's Tourism Industry Council, advising Ministers on issues affecting tourism since 2016. He is Chair of the Boards of the Bristol Old Vic Theatre and the People's History Museum, Manchester and since 2011 Chair of the London and South East Regional Advisory Board of the National Trust. He is a guest lecturer for a number of academic institutions, including the Saïd Business School of the University of Oxford, the Royal Academy of the Arts and University College London. He was awarded the OBE in 2022 for services to tourism and culture.

To the Freedom



On 1st October 2025

Camilla Evelegh

Camilla is a Production Coordinator with Lifted Entertainment specialising in entertainment programming for ITV Studios.

She has always been interested in the Arts and Dance in particular, taking a BA Hons in Dance at the University of Lincoln. She continues to follow her love of dancing at Pineapple Dance Studio and Musical Theatre Shows. Camilla is the daughter of Liveryman Rupert Evelegh and granddaughter of Past Master Nick Evelegh.



On 1st October 2025

Nsinjiri Chilunga Phiri

In recognition of seven years service

Nsinjiri is the Company's Housekeeper, having joined the Carpenters' Hall staff in 2018.

She has previously worked with the Drapers' Company after training at Whitechapel College specialising in Nursing studies.



On 5th November 2025

Daniel Evelegh

Daniel co-owns and manages a bespoke fine furniture studio with his brother Sean Evelegh in Sevenoaks, Kent, working with private clients and interior designers across the UK.

Before turning to the art of furniture design, Daniel took a master's degree in Economics at St John's College, Cambridge and was an analyst for a software provider in the financial services industry. He is the son of Liveryman James Evelegh and grandson of Past Master Nick Evelegh.



On 5th November 2025

Leo Emmett

Leo is a Construction Project Manager, managing commercial fit-out projects in London for Overybury EOS, an interior design company providing fit-out and refurbishment projects for the business, technology, retail, education, and leisure sectors.

Leo took a masters in Civil & Structural Engineering at the University of Manchester and has worked as a Quantity Surveyor, Site Engineer, Site Manager and programmer for a number of companies on both traditional and new build projects.



On 4th March 2026

Anthony Lainson

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

Anthony has been Head of the Bench Joinery Department at the Building Crafts College since 2024, leading a team of seven staff teaching over 120 students.

He worked as a carpenter and joiner in industrial and educational settings before studying for the Foundation Degree in Historical Building Conservation at the College from 2013 to 2015. Anthony joined the College as a tutor in 2015 working across a range of carpentry programmes as well as developing the Site Carpentry Diploma. He has a keen interest in boats and ships and works on the renovation of historic tall ships when he can. He is also a volunteer for the charity Sailing Tectona, supporting people suffering bereavement and mental health problems. A Trustee of Greenwich Mencap, he has been involved with the Riverwood Project which provides wood-working skills to adults and children with learning disabilities.



On 4th March 2026

Adeline Wartner

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

Adeline has been Stonemasonry Tutor & Assessor at the Building Crafts College since 2020 teaching both the Diploma and Apprentice Courses.

She came to the craft after taking a Diploma in Conservation Studies at the City & Guilds London Art School during the 1990s. After working in a variety of conservation and restoration roles she returned to studying in 2015 at the Building Crafts College. On completing her Stonemasonry Diploma in 2018 Adeline was appointed Maker-in-Residence to the Stone Department. She is a keen participant in the College's engagement and outreach programmes helping to inspire a new generation of stonemasons, holding stone-carving demonstrations and 'have a go' activities. She has also held stone-carving workshops for her local community and has exhibited widely, including at the Grinling Gibbons 300 Award Exhibition, Bonhams and Compton Verney Art Gallery and the Worshipful Company of Masons' exhibitions.



On 6th May 2026

Thomas Varty

Tom is a Senior Banker at J P Morgan in London, where he works with entrepreneurs and family offices in the UK and Channel Islands.

Prior to this, Tom served as a Puma Helicopter Pilot in the Royal Air Force from 2006 to 2016 before joining J P Morgan. He holds a BSc (Hons) in International Studies and supports a number of charities including the RAF Benevolent Fund and Meningitis Now.



On 1st July 2026

Joseph Tusting

Joe is a joiner by profession and has his own business, Jamb Joinery, designing and making heritage windows and doors.

He runs his workshop from the Burghley Estate and enjoys countryside pursuits including shooting, fishing and running. Educated at Shrewsbury School and the Royal Agricultural University where he took a BSc Hons in Land Management, Joe is married with two small children.

Profiles

The Master 2026



▲ *James with the Company's portrait of Past Master Alfred Preston*

James Preston

James Preston has been a Liveryman of the Carpenters' Company since 1983 when he was aged 22.

Son of the late Past Warden Christopher Preston, he was born into a family that has been heavily involved with the Carpenters' for almost 250 years. James is the fifth successive generation of his family to serve on the Court and in 1881 his great, great grandfather, Alfred Preston, was the first of three successive generations to serve as Master.

James is a Chartered Surveyor, and after studying at the University of The West of England, he has worked in the consultancy side of commercial property management and asset management for over 40 years. Being based in the West End, he worked at Bernard Thorpe and then Savills, before becoming a partner at specialist agency, Joiner Cummings. In 2004 he co-founded James Boatman Chartered Surveyors, a highly focused boutique agency. Long term clients include the largest global fund managers and the largest private property company in the UK. In the latter part of his career, James has been heavily involved in turning around distressed property investments. Now largely retired, James remains a director for a major distribution park in Essex.

Over the four decades that James has been a Liveryman he has served for long periods on a number of Carpenters' Company committees including the Carpenters' and Dockland Centre, and 11 years on the Rustington Convalescent Home Committee of Management where he also assumed the role of Surveyor to the Home. As an 'Old Blue' James has served as a Donation Governor at Christ's Hospital for the Company since 2009, closely following the progress of some five presentees.

A practical person, and an enthusiastic carpenter in the craft sense, James has been practising (and occasionally perfecting) various facets of woodworking from his micro workshop at home. He also has a passion for adventurous sailing and spent a season cruising the west coast of Ireland before basing his sailing in the Western Isles for the last six years. The stunning coastline and wildlife of the Inner and Outer Hebrides has proved to be addictive.

James has lived in London for most of his working life and is married to Susan, a university lecturer. They have two sons, the elder of whom was made a Liveryman in 2023.

The Junior Warden 2026



▲ *Aidan Mortimer*

Aidan Mortimer

Aidan's career started in the construction industry in the late 1970's studying for a Higher National Diploma in Building Management at Oxford Polytechnic.

Following this, in 1980, he set up his own building business in Oxfordshire specialising in the restoration and alteration of historic buildings.

In 1986 Aidan joined Symm, a privately owned, family building company based in Oxford, as a Contracts Manager. He managed a wide range of contracts including major refurbishment projects in the colleges of Oxford, large private residential schemes and a series of contracts for chef Raymond Blanc at his restaurant and hotel, Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons.

In 1997 Aidan was appointed Chief Executive of the Symm Group. He developed the business and extended its reach into Europe and America, exporting joinery from the Group's joinery division to the east coast of the United States. In 2016 Aidan went on to work as a Business Consultant, Non-Executive Director and Director with a range of family and privately owned companies, advising on strategy, business development and succession, both in the UK and America. He served for 5 years on the Advisory Board of a major construction business in Chicago and has worked as a non-executive director and chairman for a number of privately owned UK companies. He is currently chairman of Nicholsons Trust an employee-owned environmental consultancy, contracting and forestry business. He is also Director of Fast Track Projects for the London based property consultancy, Red Book, and a board consultant for a leading London building contractor.

He served as a Governor and Trustee of Ackworth School in Yorkshire for 12 years, as a Governor of The Building Crafts College, sat on the judging panel of The King's Foundation 'Building Crafts Apprenticeship Scheme' and is a member of Quakers and Business.

Aidan has a MSc in Historic Conservation and is a Fellow of The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, The Institute of Building and The Royal Society of Arts. Aidan is married and has 3 children, and enjoys sailing, cycling and climbing with family and friends.

Obituaries

Livery



▲ *Lord Flight of Worcester*

Lord Flight of Worcester

16th June 1948 – 24th January 2026

Past Master Howard Flight, a successful City fund manager and prominent Conservative politician, died on 24th January aged 77. His funeral took place at Leigh Church near Malvern on 23rd February, and a memorial concert was held in London in June.

Howard Emerson Flight was born in Romford on 16 June 1948 and raised in Little Waltham. He read history and economics at Magdalene College, Cambridge where he chaired the University Conservative Association, was active in the Debating Union and in 1969 became vice chairman of the Federation of Conservative Students. After taking his MBA at the Ross Business school, University of Michigan, he joined Rothschild as an investment advisor.

In 1977, he joined Wardley in Hong Kong, the banking arm of HSBC, focusing on HK$ and Eurobond issues which led to a transfer to Mumbai to start a merchant banking division for HSBC. In 1979, with a newly born son, Thomas and two-year-old daughter Kitty, Howard and his wife Christabel returned to London where he and his Cambridge friend Tim Guinness set up a managed currency fund – Guinness Mahon – and later negotiated a limited management buyout. Howard stayed with Guinness Mahon for seven years, the final three as a board member, and in 1986 he and Guinness set up Guinness Flight Global Asset Management, also acquiring Ambrose fund management business. In 1989 they bought out Guinness Mahon's 80% stake, later accepting an offer for their business from Investec Acid Management, where Howard became Chairman, remaining on the board for 17 years.

In 2007 he launched Flight & Partners Recovery Fund, chairing several investment trusts as well as the Enterprise Investment Scheme, designed to help smaller companies raise equity finance. Howard also held a number of public advisory positions in economic and financial affairs and was much involved with Metrobank, serving as Chairman of the nomination and remuneration committees.

Howard's appetite for a political career was whetted while working for Norman Tebbit in the 1970 general election. After standing unsuccessfully in Bermondsey in the 1974 elections, he chaired the Putney Conservative Political Centre from 1984 to 1994, in 1997 taking the new seat of Arundel and South Downs with a 14,035 majority. He was appointed to the Commons' Environment and Social Services Committees and chaired the all-party Hong Kong Group after the handover to China.

His political career continued to flourish when, in 1999, William Hague made him Shadow Economic Secretary to the Treasury and Iain Duncan Smith appointed him Shadow Paymaster General after the 2001 election. A year later he joined the Shadow Cabinet as Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury, raising the prospect of his eventually becoming Chancellor of the Exchequer in a Conservative government.

In 2004, Michael Howard, Chairman of the Conservative party, made him Party Deputy Chairman, a key role of which was the supervision of a review of public expenditure ahead of the 2005 General Election Campaign. When, at an ostensibly private but secretly recorded meeting, Flight asserted that much deeper public expenditure cuts could be made than those proposed by the Shadow Cabinet, Michael Howard sacked him as Deputy Chairman and withdrew the Whip. Flight challenged the latter action on legal grounds and obtained a confirmatory opinion from a QC. The constituency association at first refused to seek a new candidate but later relented.

Howard Flight failed to find a seat for the 2010 election, but with the Coalition in power he was created Lord Flight of Worcester by David Cameron and served five years on the Lords' EU Economics and Financial Affairs Committee.

Howard was the descendant of several prominent 18th century members of the Carpenters' Company which he joined in 1999, becoming a liveryman the following year. He served as a member of the Investment Committee from 2008 to 2014 and in 2019 was elected Master, conducting meetings despite increasing disability and with his tenure severely disrupted by the Pandemic.

Lord Flight married Christabel Norbury in 1973 who, with their son and daughter, and ten grandchildren, survive him. Lady Flight was a Westminster Councillor who became Lord Mayor of Westminster from 2015-16. Flight was very active in his adopted county of Worcestershire, helping to raise £50k for the restoration of Croome Hall near Pershore for the National Trust. He was a trustee of the Elgar Foundation and an active supporter of the Three Choirs Festival. In 1988 he published *All You need to Know about Exchange Rates*.

In 2016 Flight observed: 'Unfortunately, I didn't get the opportunity to serve in government. However, my life has worked out happily anyway'.

The Editor is most grateful to Lady Flight for providing much of the material used for this obituary.

Alan Horn

8th April 1929 – 9th December 2025

Liveryman Mark Horn writes:

My father, Alan, was born in April 1929, the eldest of four siblings, and spent most of his childhood living in Woodford Green on the northeast edge of London.

Having commenced schooling at Selwyn Avenue Infant School in Highams Park, he

Alan Horn ▶



was moved to nearby Chigwell School during the war years where he boarded. In a letter home to his parents he wrote: *'Dear Mummy and Daddy, thank you for your letter and I'm sorry we didn't see you on Sunday. We are getting quite a few bombs, and some quite near, we are getting used to the gunfire.'* He very much enjoyed school and the sporting opportunities that it offered and went on to represent the school as Captain of Cricket.

After school he enrolled at the Brixton School of Building and during his time there was awarded a scholarship to study Civil Engineering and Building Technology at Cardiff University where he spent four happy years. As further education was a means by which National Service call up could be deferred, when he completed at Cardiff University, he was then called up for Army service and joined the Royal Engineers. With his Engineering Degree he rapidly progressed to Officer ranks, leading the passing-out parade with the baton of honour and was then posted to a field regiment in northern Germany. There he encountered long periods of inactivity where he was able to continue his love of sports with football and cricket, as well as learning to sail and ski.

In the background to family life was a building company that had been started by Alan's great grandfather and by now was being run by Alan's father. On his return from Germany, Alan joined the family building firm, progressing from a Site Foreman through various management positions to become a Director. His commitment to building things properly would have come from his father before him and stood the business in good stead, and he continued to enjoy the process of building throughout his career, supporting his brother who went on to become Managing Director. He had a particular interest in traditional building crafts and became somewhat of an expert in brickwork and the application of traditional lime products.

Following his father, who had been a Liveryman since 1967, Alan was admitted to the Freedom in 1978 and became a Liveryman the following year. He remained a strong advocate for the Company's work in supporting building crafts and thoroughly enjoyed the friendships that he made at the Hall, and whilst representing the Company on the golf course and at the bridge table. At 96, he enjoyed a long retirement and was not one to sit around. His enormous enthusiasm for life led him to playing music in folk groups, attending art classes and alongside my mother, starting a bridge club in his local community, teaching many of the members how to play bridge from scratch. However, with his love of crafts which developed during his years in construction, his main focus turned to making violins. He enrolled at a specialist school in Cambridge and he was rightly proud of the four violins that he completed. The violin you see in progress in the picture is now played by Liveryman Rachel Luton, and he would have been delighted when Rachel played this so beautifully at his funeral in January.

Freedom

Michael Barnicoat

12th December 1948 – 25th May 2026

Michael Barnicoat, who died on 25th May 2026, was a long-standing staff member at Rustington Convalescent Home.

He joined the staff in September 1991 and became a stalwart member of the catering team for over twenty years, leaving in 2011. Michael became a Freeman of the Company on 2nd February 1999 in recognition of his service.



Bruce Critchley

Bruce Critchley

6th October 1946 – 5th August 2026

Bruce Critchley, who died on 5th August, was a long-standing member of the Carpenters' Hall staff.

Having joined in 1989, he retired in 2011 after 22 years with the Company. Bruce was made a Freeman in 1996, and as the Avenue Attendant he became well known in the immediate area of Carpenters' Hall for his steady guardianship of Throgmorton Avenue.

Angela Phillips

Angela, a long-standing and well-liked member of staff at the Building Crafts College passed away on 21st September 2025 after a long and brave battle with cancer.

Angela joined the College as Additional Learning Support Tutor in 2009 and became a Freeman of the Carpenters' Company in 2016 and a Freeman of the City in 2017.

Colleagues from the BCC pay tribute to Angela as follows:

Angela was always the kindest and most committed colleague and friend. She kept her students' and colleagues' wellbeing at the very front of her practice and quietly noticed when one of us was feeling low or struggling, never failing to check in on her workmates and genuinely offering her help and support, without ever making us feel like it was an effort. Reflecting her caring nature, she made a great cup of tea and was very generous in doing that for others – the best kind of person to share an office with!

Angela was always interested in people and was held in high regard by all her work colleagues and the students. She had a great sense of humour.

Angela's professional conduct was exemplary. Her cancer diagnosis in 2014 was a blow, but she carried on working and remained very committed to her role until her retirement in January 2020.

Angela Phillips



Gifts

Liveryman Tim Gregson

Hugh Johnson's Encyclopaedia of Trees Hugh Johnson (1984); A collection of commemorative spoons and other items, all gifts of Lord Mayors from 2013 to 2026

Liveryman Edward William Bestow

A generous bequest from his estate in memory of his father, Liveryman Sidney Francis Bestow

The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

An Historical Account of the Worshipful Company of Carpenters of the City of London Edward Basil Jupp & W. Wilmer Pocock (1887)

Company Appointments

The following held appointments during the Company year 2025/2026

Court

Master

Mr. L. S. Mallinson

Senior Warden

Mr. J. W. Preston

Middle Warden

Vice Admiral P. M. Bennett, CB OBE

Junior Warden

Mr. J. A Greaves

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
Brig. M. J. Meardon DL
Dr. A. Zimbler
Sir Loyd Grossman, CBE

Past Masters Emeritus

Mr. F. D. Hornsby
Mr. V. G. Morton-Smith
Mr. N. B. C. Evelegh, 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
(*died 24th January 2026*)

*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. A. T. Mortimer (Co-opted)
Mr. J. Barradell (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
Brigadier M. J. Meardon
Mr. A. W. L. Wolstenholme (Co-opted)
Miss R. J. Luton (Co-opted)
Mrs. K. A. Buchan (Co-opted)
Mr. P. G. Wilkinson (Co-opted)
Miss R. Avery (Co-opted)
Mr. C. Holt (Co-opted)
The Clerk
The Deputy Clerk
The Principal of the BCC

Craft Committee

The Master
The Junior Warden
Mr. M. R. Mosley
Mr. M. W. F. Felton
Brig. M. J. Meardon
Mr. W. M. Avery (Co-opted)
Mr. M. P. S. Horn (Co-opted)
Mr. J. M. Burton (Co-opted)
Mr. L. R. Conway (Co-opted)
The Clerk
The Principal of the BCC
The Crafts & Charities Administrator

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)
Col. N. P. S. Thornton (Co-opted)
Mr. R. J. Hamilton (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. W. F. Felton
Mr. M. H. W. Neal
Mr. R. C. Galbraith (Co-opted)
Mr. C. P. Browne (Co-opted)
Mr. N. S. Corderey (Co-opted)
Mr. P. W. Brading (Co-opted)
Mr. F. M. C. Wheeler (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)
Miss E. R. Haynes (Co-opted)
Mr. N. Gutfruend (Co-opted)
Cdr D. I. Burns (Co-opted)
Mrs. C. E. Whittaker (Co-opted)
Mr. C. R. Cooper (Co-opted)
The Clerk
The Crafts & Charities Administrator

Admissions Committee

The Master
Mr. M. R. Mathews
Mr. M. R. Mosley
Mrs. R. F. Bower
Dr. A. Zimbler
Sir Loyd Grossman
The Clerk

Master and Wardens Committee

The Master
The Senior Warden
The Middle Warden
The Junior Warden
Mr. M. H. Neal
His Hon. P. W. Birts
Mr. M. J. Morrison
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

Officers of the Company

Clerk

Brigadier T. J. Gregson MBE
(to January 2026)
Colonel R. G. Arundell

Deputy Clerk/ Financial Controller

Ms. J. L. Brundell

Beadle

Mr. D. Neal

Manager of the Rustington Convalescent Home

Mrs. J. Haynes

Principal of the Building Crafts College

Ms Selena 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

**Names in bold are Chairmen*

Calendar

2026

14th November
Lord Mayor's Show

18th November
Livery Dinner

24th November
Building Crafts College
Prize Giving

25th November
Wood Awards

2027

13th – 15th January
Inter-Livery Skiing,
Mayrhofen, Austria

2nd February
Liverymen and Freemen's
Reception

1st March
Inter-Livery Bridge

10th March
Livery Spring Dinner

19th March
United Guilds Service

9th April (TBC)
Livery Golf

15th April
Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch

23rd April
Livery Clay Shoot

12th – 13th May
Inter-Livery Clay Shoot

14th – 15th May
Company Visit

14th – 15th May
Inter-Livery Regatta, Cowes

20th May
Inter-Livery Golf

9th June
Court Summer Dinner

24th June
Sheriffs' Election

14th July
Court Visit to Rustington
Convalescent Home

15th July
Building Crafts College
End of Year Show

TBC July
Company Tennis

20th July
General Court of the
Livery and Election Court

TBC September
Open House

28th September
Sheriffs' Admission

29th September
Lord Mayor's Election

12th October
Wine Tasting

9th November
Building Crafts College
Prize Giving

13th November
Lord Mayor's Show

17th November
Livery Dinner

24th November
Wood Awards

Open House at Carpenters' Hall, September 2026 ▶





The Worshipful Company of Carpenters

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