



The Worshipful Company of Plaisterers
www.plaistererslivery.co.uk

YEARBOOK 2017-2018





YEARBOOK 2017-2018



Rising to the Challenge.....

2018 has seen the Livery Companies of the City of London exploring how they may be able to work together more closely.

Whatever may come of that, at the heart of it is the desire of all of us, in our own unique way, to contribute to the common good.

In a fast changing world and in a City where the future looks more uncertain than for a long time, each Company has to find ways of rising to the challenge of being relevant and playing its part.

At the Plaisterers, in the past year, our Charity has found new ways of working to make a difference to young lives through music. It has also been a pleasure to work with the National Literacy Trust to help them with their valuable work and we have embarked on a new partnership with the Prince's Foundation to promote heritage plastering.

I recently came across a reference to Past Master Thomas Kelly (See 2016/17 Yearbook) in 'The History of Booksellers' by Henry Curwen (published 1873).

It reads:

"Thomas Kelly was one of those men of whom London citizens are so proud – men who come to the mighty centre of commerce utterly friendless, and worse still, penniless, and whom industry, labour and good fortune exalt to the very pinnacle of a good citizen's fondest dreams.

But he was more than a Lord Mayor – he was a true friend; he was a loving, dutiful, and tender son – qualities not always insured even by commercial success."

Now there is a challenge for all of us!

**Nigel Bamping
Clerk**



SUPPORTING OUR CHOIR CHURCH (FUNDED BY THE PLAISTERERS' CHARITY)
AT A COMMUNITY BARBEQUE IN WHITECHAPEL



MASTER AT IRONBRIDGE WITH THE RESIDENT PLASTERER

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The Master's Year: Reflections

Richard Hanney
2017-2018



WITH 282 AIR CADETS' CARPET GUARD AND THE LORD MAYOR AT THE ANNUAL BANQUET

'Let Brotherly Love Continue'

I want to give you my reflections on the year and my thoughts on our Company. It is daunting when I look at the board in the Livery Hall and see that I have over 400 predecessors. We are number 46 in the Livery order of precedence which was worked out in the 1400's. We are one of about 35 companies who have a hall. I can tell you that Plaisterers' Hall is much admired within the Livery world.

Role of the Master

The role of a Livery Company Master is threefold. Firstly and most visibly, he or she is the head of their company taking a leading part in the traditions and ceremony of their own Livery and also the wider City community. Processing in St Paul's and Guildhall on more serious occasions and running in the annual inter-livery pancake race on more light hearted days!

The Master takes the Chair at all Company functions and chooses the menu with the Clerk. My culinary skills are limited. However the Mistress is a Cordon Bleu cook so we have been able to go beyond tomatoes on toast! I thank Brendan and the team at Create Food Limited.

Having been on the Masters' circuit I say to you that, in my opinion, the food and wines at Plaisterers' Hall compare with the very best in the City. Furthermore sometimes elsewhere you have to leave the building at 10:30pm or a further charge is levied. Not so at Plaisterers' Hall. We are known for our hospitality.

If members of the Royal Family come to Plaisterers' Hall it is the Master who greets them. This year the Duchess of Cornwall came for the National Literacy Trust's (NLT) 25th Anniversary evening and the Princess Royal for a dinner hosted by the Worshipful Company of Carmen (and, as an aside, What's in a name? Well the Carmen were originally the Guild of Carmen who provided the carts in the

City. Now they turn their attention to motorised vehicles).

Likewise the Master greets the Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs. This year Lord Mayor, Alderman Dr Andrew Parmley came to the Training Awards Lunch and Lord Mayor, Alderman Charles Bowman, The Lady Mayoress and both Sheriffs and Consorts came to the Banquet.

The Master invites Speakers to our functions. For me, Dame Julia Cleverdon (Chairman of NLT), the Prime Warden of the Goldsmiths, Lord Lisvane and Anthony Horowitz have all spoken well. As a lawyer I thought that a senior judge or other legal figure would be of interest as a Speaker. Although no opportunity arose I would like to say how much I enjoyed HH Judge Anthony Leonard's welcome to guests in April. I also thank him for hosting the Master's Outing to the Old Bailey.

On the subject of speeches I have delivered a number both here and elsewhere. I was periodically warned by Past Masters to "have a speech in your

back pocket". Well, on Ascension Day, I had a kind invitation to church and dinner afterwards with the Parish Clerks at Clothworkers' Hall. At 5:25pm I was sitting in church when my host's Clerk tapped me on the shoulder "our guest, Sir Stephen Lamport is unwell. You are the senior Liveryman. Please speak". I felt my back pocket but it was empty! So I collected some paper from the church office and wrote during the service, which I hope the good Lord overlooked!

Now a few thoughts on membership. I've sadly been to five funerals of Plaisterers and, during the year, we have had four resignations due to old age and an inability to maintain contact. During the Spring I spoke to approximately 100 liverymen whose attendance at dinners was low. I discovered no dissatisfaction but the members that I spoke to were getting on in years and some had moved away from London. Getting up here for lunch or dinner was simply more challenging. The good news is that numbers for all our events this year are up.



HRH THE DUCHESS OF CORNWALL ATTENDS THE NATIONAL LITERACY TRUST
25TH ANNIVERSARY GALA DINNER AT PLAISTERERS' HALL

We do however need more diverse younger members to take the Company forward in the next generation. We introduced a New Members' Evening in September for last July's intake and we now have two evenings in the year for potential new members. We must all help here to introduce new members, both men and women from all walks of life.

The second role of the Master is to lead the business of the Company as Chairman of its governing body - the Court of Assistants. The Master also attends all the Committee meetings and the AGM of Plaisterers Hall Limited. I want to thank the Court for all of their efforts on behalf of the Company.

I have been interested in all that we do but philanthropy has for me been core. In my key-note speech at the Masters' and Clerks' dinner I stressed that Livery Companies must be very much more than a set of dinner clubs. We Plaisterers must be relevant and forward thinking - that is why I am a Plasterer and not a Plaisterer. Our relationship with NLT has been productive and I hope has shown the Company in a positive way. I enjoyed the camaraderie of leading the Plaisterers' running team. Liveryman Fozzie Foster was a huge help. He put a team in place and kept them in touch with each other during training. Such a role is so important and I thank him. The generosity of our sponsors was appreciated.

However our support for the work of the Outreach team at St Paul's has been a delight and I want to thank the Clerk for his steadfast commitment to it. Music and education go well together.

The Company's support for 282 East Ham Air Cadets is also a treasure and I thank all those who have helped with this affiliation. I am proud of the financial support that we have provided to 282. This has enabled them to acquire band equipment and a flight simulator. But our support is not simply money. We have put in time mentoring the cadets with careers information. Past Master Bill Mahony had led this project with great distinction and I thank him for his work and dedication.

A word too about our other military affiliations. The Clerk puts a great deal of effort in to these long term relationships and they are as prestigious as any held by other Livery Companies in the City. I have visited and engaged with all of them.

I have found that they have appreciated their relationships with the Plaisterers' Company. The Royal Marines remain anxious about defence cuts and HMS Dragon is likely to have a long sail soon. We will continue to follow and support our affiliates.

I am not by trade a plasterer unlike my predecessor, Terry Wright. I have however engaged, whenever possible, with members of FIS and those who participate in the annual Training Awards. The Training Awards Lunch, in the presence of the Lord Mayor, was well supported and is our way of recognising excellence in our industry.

Finally, but perhaps most importantly, a Livery Company Master is a cheerleader and Ambassador for the good work done by his or her company. It is with great pleasure that I have explained, to the wider world, how the company continues to develop and contribute to City life.



WITH THE NEW BISHOP OF LONDON, THE RT
REVD AND RT HON DAME SARAH MULLALLY DBE

***"We Plaisterers
must be relevant
and forward
thinking - that
is why I am a
Plasterer and
not a Plaisterer."***



A change is occurring in the City. Mistresses and Consorts are doing a great deal more. Susanne went to over 45 events on her own and many more with me.

The Lady Mayoress and the Sheriffs' Consorts this year are hugely popular. This is good news. Susanne's lunch in this Hall with 125 guests helped us to increase the profile of the company and the Hall as an events' venue.

I mention City life. We Plaisterers have always played our part. We have provided Lord Mayors and Sheriffs and supported other City activities. However you may not all have heard about the 'Pan Livery Initiative'. It is a concept of mutual sharing and assistance between Livery companies. Deputy Master Terry Wright and I have attended various meetings to discuss the proposition. There are two main strands that are currently being considered. The first is communication. Getting the message across. Making sure the wider world is aware of the

good work of the Livery companies and resisting our critics. The second is charitable endeavour - philanthropy. This is a subject under consideration. Can the Livery companies as a whole make a bigger impact jointly rather than individually? These discussions have further to run but be aware wherever they go, the Plaisterers' Company will play its part.

I have continued to work full time throughout my year as Master. I like work and a sabbatical would not have been possible for twelve months. I have accepted as many invitations as possible. Engagement with other Livery Companies and City organisations is vitally important. It is therefore certainly possible to be a working Master. Indeed many other Masters, this year, were working too.

Most certainly Susanne's terrific support has been invaluable and I thank her. I've also learnt a lot from dialogues with Masters of other companies.



PRESENTATION TO ANTHONY HOROWITZ
FOR THE NATIONAL LITERACY TRUST



RUNNING IN THE ANNUAL INTER-LIVERY
PANCAKE RACE



MASTER & MISTRESS 2017



THE MASTER AND HIS BROTHER, LIVERYMAN JOHN HANNEY UNDERTAKING
THE LIVERY HALLS WALK IN AID OF THE NATIONAL LITERACY TRUST

Committee Reports

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Industry Committee

CHAIRMAN John Telling

The role of the Industry Committee is to develop relationships with leading organisations involved with, or influencing, the future development of heritage and modern decorative plastering in the UK and, at the same time, with leading contractors and those involved in training within the sector.

The purpose is to maintain the close association of the historic livery with this specialist industry sector to reinforce the Plasterers' contemporary role in helping to support the interests of all parts of this sector over the long-term.

The committee has agreed with the Membership Committee and the Court that a straightforward way for people in the plastering industry to connect with, and become involved with, the Livery is by becoming Freemen of the Company. This is now starting to show good progress with a number of people progressing towards becoming Freemen. In time this will strengthen our links with the industry and help to maintain the relevance of the Livery.

The Industry Committee has been keen to establish a way to formally recognise those people who have worked in the industry for over 20 years and acquired the highest level of skills and can demonstrate excellence in the art, craft, science and practice of plastering, allowing them to be called Master Plasterer.

There will be two routes to becoming a Master Plasterer. One is to hold a City & Guilds licentiate with level three qualifications and the other is to be able to provide documented and referenced examples of the quality of work and projects the person has been involved with during their career. It will be open to people who are currently working as plasterers and those who have moved from being "on-the-tools" to roles in management or training. Our aim is to build up the numbers of Master Plasterers in the coming years to form a group that is truly representative of excellence in the craft.

As a result of these changes we have discontinued the Associates' Scheme and will be inviting known Associates to apply to become Freemen or Master Plasterers, whichever is appropriate.



2017-18 COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JOHN TELLING



2018-19 COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JOHN TELLING

Tim Cooke
Alison Gowman
Nigel Bamping
Ray Deeks
Bill Welch

Matthew Morgan
Elizabeth Kitson
Stuart Brown
Tony Mitchell
Jon Riley

Invited to attend
Margaret Coates
FIS Representative



British Gypsum
SAINT-GOBAIN

ula
GOBAIN

HADLEY
GROUP

THE
PLASTERERS'
CHARITY

THE
PLASTERERS'
TRAINING AWARDS

2017



2017 Annual Training Awards



The Plasterers' Training Awards continues to recognise and reward excellence in the training of future plastering craftsmen.

We consider it crucial to support training across the UK and are making further improvements to the awards to allow for changes in the industry and government training initiatives.

Mentor of the Year

For the 2018 awards we have introduced a new category of Mentor of the Year after the highly successful introduction of the Apprentice of the Year category last year. The Mentor of the Year award is designed to recognise those individuals who provide the on-the-job training support, encouragement and guidance to the next generation of plastering craftsmen and women. Without their dedication the future of our industry would look very different.

Plasterers Charitable Trust Bursary

We are delighted this year to have formed an association with The Prince's Foundation, a charitable organisation established by HRH The Prince of Wales for the development of life skills, learning traditional arts, sharing advanced knowledge and experience of sustainable development.

We have made a three-year agreement with them and this year the Plasterers' Charitable Trust is providing a bursary for Esme Walker, a 27 year old plasterer from Skelmersdale in Lancashire, who will be taking part in the Building Craft Programme this year to develop her heritage skills.

2017 Annual Training Awards

The importance of the Training Awards was highlighted by the enthusiastic attendance of the Lord Mayor of London, Alderman Dr Andrew Parmley. He commented on the importance of education and training, referred to his own career in education and the rewarding and vital role played by those involved. The ceremony was once again expertly hosted by Alan Dedicoat, the voice of Strictly Come Dancing.

Our awards would not be possible without the support of our sponsors, British Gypsum, Saint-Gobain Formula and the Hadley Group who continue to demonstrate their commitment to training.

We are also grateful for the support of the Livery Company Charitable Trustees.

Thanks are also due to the judges and Avril Blanchot, the manager of the awards programme for their tireless efforts during the year.

We would like to commend everyone who entered the awards for their commitment to the future of the plastering industry and for the hours that they have spent inspiring the next generation of craftsmen.



Winners of the 2017 Awards

Lifetime Contribution to Training Award

Awarded to: Chris O'Connell

Chris O'Connell truly has committed himself to a lifetime of service to training both in the UK and Internationally.

Rising from a Lead Verifier with City & Guilds he became the Chief National Verifier in 2005 before taking a post in 2009 with Laings from which he retired last year.

The Plasterers were most fortunate that he agreed to bring his experience, professionalism and skill to the Training Awards and served with distinction as Chair of Judges for 10 years.

Student of the Year

Winner: Yagoub Mohammed

Forced to leave his native Sudan in 2010 and granted a temporary visa to live and study in the UK, in 2016 Yagoub enrolled at City of Liverpool College to embark on a Level 2 Plastering Course.

Yagoub immediately displayed genuine talent and his consistent hard work led him to compete in the Birmingham heat of Skillbuild in June 2017.

Apprentice of the Year

Winner: Josh Street

Josh Street has worked on several unique and complex fibrous plaster projects for the film industry, most notably the set production for "Star Wars - The Force Awakens" and "Star Wars - Rogue One".



2018 Training Awards: Tuesday 20th November



Winners of the 2017 Awards



HARMER TROPHY

SIR JOHN PIRIE
CUP

COLLINO TROPHY



SNELLING CUP

BRITISH GYPSUM
TROPHYJOHN G. ROBINSON
TROPHYLIFETIME CONTRIBUTION
AWARDSIR THOMAS
KELLY CUP

COLLEGE AWARDS

Harmer Trophy

For Colleges with over
13 students at Level 3

Winner: Leeds College of Building

Runner up: Coleg Menai

Sir Thomas Kelly Cup

For Colleges with less than
13 students at Level 3

Winner:

Accrington & Rossendale College

Runner up: Craven College

Collino Trophy

For Colleges with over
30 students at Level 2

Winner: NPTC Group

Runner up: Coleg Menai

Sir John Pirie Cup

For Colleges with less than
30 students at Level 2

Winner: Coleg Sir Gâr

Runner up:
College of North West London

The John G Robinson Trophy

Presented to the best overall
performing college from the regions.

Winner:

Accrington & Rossendale College

PLASTERING COMPETENCE AWARDS for Independent Training Providers

Snelling Cup

Awarded to the Winning
Training Provider of Plastering

Winner: South Lanarkshire College

British Gypsum Trophy

Awarded to the Winning
Training Provider of Drylining

Winner: Construction Skills People

REGIONAL CERTIFICATES

The Regional Certificates awarded to
the best College in each region based
on the percentage number of students
achieving NVQ/SVQ Levels 2 and 3/
ACA/ICA/Diploma combined.

London and Home Counties:

College of North West London

South and South West:

Bournemouth & Poole College

Midlands including East Anglia:

Leicester College

North:

Accrington & Rossendale College

Scotland:

South Lanarkshire College

Wales:

Coleg Sir Gâr



Finance Committee

CHAIRMAN **Gary Morley**

The Finance Committee supports and assists the Court and Clerk in managing the finances of the Company.

This is achieved by:

- Preparing an annual income & expenditure budget for approval by the Court.
- Reviewing the quarterly management accounts and events financial analysis.
- Submitting the annual accounts to the Court for adoption.
- Advising the Court on the above and on any financial issues that may arise.
- Considering applications for payment of ad hoc or unbudgeted items.

The committee is assisted by external tax experts.

Annual accounts

The annual accounts are audited by two Past Masters who are not members of the Finance Committee. Once adopted by Court the accounts are placed in the members area of our website.

This is the third year of the annual quarterage escalator which is designed to help secure the long-term viability of our beloved Company. The money is "ring-fenced" in a separate reserve as shown in the annual accounts.

Dinners

The cost of attending our dinners have been rising not only because of inflation but also to reflect their true cost. This helps to balance the budget which is still heavily subsidised by investment income.

During the year, at the behest of the Court, the Committee has produced, in accordance with good corporate governance, guidelines for the reimbursement of expenses incurred by officers of the Company whilst undertaking their duties.

The ex-officio members of the Finance Committee are the Master, Wardens and Clerk.



GARY
MORLEY



MARGARET
COATES

2017-18 COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN GARY MORLEY

JON
RANDALL



DAVID
JARMAN



2018-19 COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN GARY MORLEY

Tim Cooke
Alison Gowman
Nigel Bamping

Jon Randall
David Jarman

Invited to attend
Margaret Coates



Marketing & Communications Committee

CHAIRMAN De Bradshaw

As a committee we aim to ensure the Livery is well informed and that our external communications are interesting, informative and engaging.

It has been a busy year for the committee with our focus remaining on improving communication within and about the Livery. The website proves to be a fundamental tool and it is key for us to stay relevant although we acknowledge members feedback and are now looking into redeveloping the website.

This Court's strategic plan is to have all communication by electronic means and our aim is to integrate the newsletter, articles, publications and social media platforms more seamlessly so that they are more easily accessible to the public and our members. The facility to book online for our Livery events, and a photographic database of all members, will also be included.

It's been encouraging to see a further increase in followers of our Twitter account. If you have not done so already, please sign up.

Currently, the monthly Clerk's newsletter continues to be the most frequent and informative method of communication for the Livery. We are very grateful for the many interesting and amusing articles by our Learned Clerk and his review of the Master's visits each month. The introduction of Chris Mackey's

'Spotlight On' article in April was enjoyed by all and we hope it is the first of many. The consistently interesting and much appreciated 'City Article', written by Alderman, Alison Gowman, is also published monthly and continues to provide valuable details of City matters, history and traditions. If you too have an idea, or want to contribute an article, please contact the Clerk.

One of the most inspired outlets for the committee continues to be the Yearbook. With contributions from the Deputy Master as well as Livery members, this acts as a celebration of the hard work and great achievements of the Livery.

The committee's role is constantly evolving and adapting to the needs of the Livery. For this reason, the decision had been made to change our name to something more appropriate for its role and purpose. We will now be recognised as the Marketing & Communications Committee.

My thanks must be given to all the committee members and Court attendees for their generosity of time, initiatives and support which has been invaluable during my first year as Chairman.



DE
BRADSHAW



CHRIS
MACKEY



SIMON
HINKS



ARCHIN
TALPADE

2017-18 COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DE BRADSHAW



ADRIAN
MARSH



SUE
SPURLING



RICHARD
LEPPER



MIKE
HANNIBAL

2018-19 COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN DE BRADSHAW

Tim Cooke
Alison Gowman
Nigel Bamping
Simon Hinks
Sue Spurling

Richard Lepper
Mike Hannibal
Adrian Marsh
Archin Talpade
Chris Mackey

Invited to attend
Margaret Coates



Membership Committee

CHAIRMAN **Michael Jones**

The principal challenges faced by the Membership Committee are to increase recruitment whilst maintaining quality and calibre of individual and support the Company's need to fully engage with the current membership in line with the current Strategic Plan.

New Members

Informal gatherings for potential new members have continued with vigour. These twice yearly early evening events, free of charge to guests and their livery hosts, are usually held in January and September. They present an opportunity for guests new to the Company to discover more about us from the Master and other members of the Court in the relaxed atmosphere of the Court Room with wine, soft drinks and canapés served. These have proven to be very successful with several guests at the January event receiving their freedom certificates at the subsequent Robing Ceremony.

It is pleasing to note several respected figures from the decorative plaster industry amongst our new members alongside senior representatives from commerce, the legal sector and industry at large.

The Master, Richard Hanney, hosted a reception for new members and their partners in September of his year which was well received by all attending, helping them and, especially, their partners feel welcome in the Company. Our incoming Master, Tim Cooke OBE, is to continue this welcome new initiative.

Plasterers' Apprentices

This route into the Company represents a vibrant pipeline of potential future freemen and liverymen now numbering thirteen in total with the enrobing of Alexander MacNeil, Jade Hewitt-Boorman and Poppy MacNeil over the past two years.

Following the subsequent Inrolling of their indentures at Guildhall, all are on course to gain their Freedom of the City on completion of their apprenticeships.

A key benefit for each Apprentice is the ability to network, via their personal mentor, with members of the Company representing a range of senior professionals over a wide range of career choices.

Apprentices are usually close relations of existing Liverymen, Plasterers' choristers at St. Paul's or Peterborough Cathedral or serving cadets at 282 (East Ham) Air Cadet Squadron.

Candidates will be aged 14 or over and indentured for at least five years before becoming eligible for the Freedom of the Company. New applications are warmly welcomed.



2017-18 COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN **MICHAEL JONES**



2018-19 COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN MICHAEL JONES

Tim Cooke
Richard Hanney
Alison Gowman
Nigel Bamping
Sqdn Ldr Phillip Foster

David Hill-Kelly
Rohit Nathaniel
Richard Grove
Heather Dix
Ross Ashworth

Invited to attend
Margaret Coates



Almoner

During 2017-2018, Brian Dinnage has given exceptional service as the Company's Almoner. Having completed five years of service in the role, the Company was delighted to be able to recognise Brian's contribution at the Robing Dinner in July 2018.

The Almoner's report for the year follows:
It has been my privilege to have been Almoner for our Worshipful Company for five years and to have communicated with so many of our Liverymen and Freemen and with members of their families over that period of time. I have learnt that without exception Members and their families are appreciative that our Company does have an appointed Almoner and whether through accidents, illness or other reasons they are not able to attend our Dinners and other Functions a contact is maintained with our Company and assistance and support in many directions, if required, is there for them.

Dependent on the nature of the assistance or contact required I have communicated with the Proposer, Second, or if known, the close friends of that Member to ensure they are aware of the need of the Member at that time.

Regular reports have been prepared and sent to our Learned Clerk and to our Master; our Court of Assistants and to the Membership Committee.

I have received sound advice, guidance and assistance during my term as Almoner; which has been given freely and willingly; by our Learned Clerk, Nigel, and by Past Master Ernie Pilgrim as Almoner for many years to Plaisterers' Lodge.

I am delighted to be able to pass on the baton to my successor, Richard Grove, and would ask all Liverymen and Freemen to please communicate with Richard direct or through our Learned Clerk when you may be aware that assistance by our Company may be required for any one of our Members, or by a member of their family.

The role of the Almoner is to communicate with Liverymen and Freemen and their wives, husbands, partners and families, plus Companions of the Company, when sickness, operations or other needs may arise.

ALMONER 2018/19 RICHARD GROVE

3 The Limes, Oakley Road
Bromley, Kent BR2 8HH

Email richardgrove@btconnect.com
Telephone 020 8462 8810



NEW LIVERYMEN, FREEMEN & APPRENTICES

JULY 2018





Investment Committee

CHAIRMAN Tim Cooke

The Investment Committee is accountable for the management of the investment portfolios on behalf of the Livery Company, the Charitable Trust and Plaisterers' Hall Limited (PHL).

At the present time Rathbones remain as investment managers on all portfolios with responsibility on a fully delegated basis albeit operating within portfolio parameters and risk appetite as defined by the Committee. Each portfolio is invested across a specific range of asset classes, including bonds, equities, commercial property and alternatives to meet each of their objectives. The performance is then measured against agreed benchmarks on a quarterly basis.

Every six months Rathbones meet with the Committee together with the Charity Trustees and Directors of PHL. Interim quarterly reports are also provided and assessed by the Committee with any actions discussed and agreed with the investment advisers.

The portfolios continue to generate the targeted levels of income which provides a useful contribution to the activities of the three entities.

In anticipation of being installed as Master in July 2018, I handed the Chair of the Committee to James Minett who brings to the role multiple years of experience in investment management.

I am grateful to James and my other Committee members for the duty of care they apply to their responsibilities.



TIM
COOKE



PETER
BAKER



JAMES
MINETT

2017-18 COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TIM COOKE

STEPHEN
GILBERT



KEVIN
HOPWOOD



GARY
MORLEY



2018-19 COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN JAMES MINETT

Tim Cooke
Alison Gowman
Nigel Bamping
Gary Morley

Peter Baker
Stephen Gilbert
Kevin Hopwood
Terry Wright

Invited to attend
Margaret Coates



Master & Wardens' Committee

CHAIRMAN **Richard Hanney**

This Committee comprises the Master, Deputy Master and the Wardens, together with their partners and the Clerk.

The role of the Committee

Its role will be to develop a rolling programme of initiatives and social events both for the Company and for the Charitable Trust. These will reflect the varied make-up of our Membership and the different organisations with which the Company is connected.

How members can help

Members are invited to send the Clerk any ideas they have for events and activities for consideration by the Committee.



**RICHARD
HANNEY**



**ALISON
GOWMAN**

2017-18 COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN **RICHARD HANNEY**

**TERRY
WRIGHT**



**TIM
COOKE**



2018-19 COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN **TIM COOKE**

**Richard Hanney
Alison Gowman**

**Margaret Coates
Nigel Bamping**

**Plus the Wives/Consorts of
the Master, Deputy Master,
Upper and Renter Wardens
by invitation**



Nominations Panel

CHAIRMAN Terry Wright

The Panel comprises the Deputy Master (Terry Wright) together with the Master (Richard Hanney) and Past Masters Robert Dalrymple and Peter Baker, and the Learned Clerk, Nigel Bamping. It met regularly during the year.

Terms of Reference

The Panel's Terms of Reference, as set by the Court of Assistants, are summarised as follows:

- To take the lead in preparing each 5-year Strategic Plan and to monitor the actions necessary to implement each Plan.
- To identify Liverymen willing to serve on committees and to establish those who have the aspiration and potential to progress to the Court and, ultimately, to hold office.
- To identify future Stewards and to recommend a Chief Steward, when required.
- To identify potential Officers for each of the 3 succeeding years and to plan for the Officers for the next 5-7 years.
- To confirm the support of the Panel for the election of the Renter Warden to Upper Warden and of the Upper Warden to the office of Master.
- To advise the Past Masters' Committee of the proposed nominations for the Offices of Upper Warden and Renter Warden and Stewards for the ensuing year.
- With the assistance of Past Masters, particularly those recently past the Chair, to consult with Liverymen who have aspirations to become Court Members, with a view to advising as to what would be required of them and the desirability of their first serving on a Committee.
- To consider any other matters relating to the work of the Nominations Panel, or the governance of the Company, when necessary or as directed by the Court.



TERRY
WRIGHT



RICHARD
HANNEY



NIGEL
BAMPING

2017-18 COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN TERRY WRIGHT

PETER
BAKER



ROBERT
DALRYMPLE



2018-19 COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN RICHARD HANNEY

Tim Cooke
Nigel Bamping

Michael Jones
Peter Baker

Robert Dalrymple



Charitable Trust

CHARITY STEWARD Peter Baker

This is my first report as the Company's Charity Steward and Chairman of the Trustees' Committee and during the past year I confirm that the Charity has continued to evolve and operate in accordance with the Trust Deed, dated 1 July 1980, and the Company's Strategic Plan approved by the Court of Assistants for the 5-year period from 2016 to 2021.

In essence, the Charity continues to make fewer donations but of much greater value in order to 'make a real difference' to the worthy causes we have chosen to support, generally for a period of three years.

These being focussed on the areas of: the plastering trade (particularly heritage skills); musical education, including work in deprived areas of our city; our military affiliates; The Lord Mayor's Appeal; and the Master's chosen charity for his/her year. In each case we expect to be the lead donor; to receive regular feedback reports; to evaluate the outcome of bursaries and grants; and be involved with the particular cause we have chosen to support.

We are now coming to the end of the first 3-year period of the Strategic Plan and the Committee are starting to review those worthy causes to see if we wish to continue to support them, or else consider other worthy causes that may submit applications for the award of a bursary or grant.

Finances

The Charity's funds now stand at just over £2 million and, after a period of consolidation to increase our assets, I am pleased to report that, during the past year, we have managed to significantly

increase our charitable giving by 61% to approximately £56,000, which has been distributed to the various groups of bursary and grant recipients in the following proportions:

- 20% in furtherance of education and training in the plastering industry
- 54% in bursaries towards the education of Choristers and the provision of financial support for musical education to schools in impoverished areas of London
- 4% to our Military Affiliates
- 9% to the Lord Mayor's Appeal
- 8% to the Masters' nominated charities (British Gymnastics Foundation and the National Literary Trust)
- 5% to other registered charities in London

Our Trade

We provide support for education and training in the plastering industry via:

- Support for the administration of The Plaisterers' Annual Training Awards;
- One-off grants to plasterers, to assist with expenses incurred in their training and experience at specialist craft

courses - these grants are usually made in conjunction with advice from the Industry Committee; and

- Support for the delivery of training via the John N Robinson Bursary.

During the latter part of the year, a generous donation was received from Liveryman Andrew Spurling to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the Spurling Family's membership of the Livery from 1817 to 2017, during which period 7 of the 12 Spurling Liverymen have been Masters of the Company, a truly remarkable achievement. By agreement with the Donor, the annual income generated by this donation will be used to support the education and training of young plasterers, particularly in heritage skills plastering.

Just after the end of the year the Trustees, in conjunction with the Industry Committee, approved an exciting partnership with The Prince's Foundation, a registered charity originally set up over two decades ago by HRH The Prince of Wales, whose stated vision is: "To transform lives across the globe through the creation of enduring and harmonious communities that face the future with confidence".

This partnership agreement will fund and support a new bursary to train and educate a young person on the Foundation's Building Crafts Programme in heritage plastering skills for a period of three years, starting in July 2018, with a different student being supported each year. The funding of this bursary over the three year period will comprise the income from the John N Robinson Bursary, the Spurling Bursary, and the legacy of the late Past Master Emeritus Paddy Wettern, with the

balance being made up from the Charity's unrestricted funds.

The first recipient of this bursary will be Esme Walker, a 27-year old plasterer from Skelmersdale in Lancashire. Indirectly, this bursary will also strengthen our links with our Royal Liveryman, HRH The Duchess of Cornwall, Citizen and Plaisterer.

Our Bursary Recipients

We continue to fund support for a chorister at each of St Paul's and Peterborough Cathedrals via the designated 500th Anniversary and the Henry Mott Funds respectively. Also, via the Harry Humber Fund, we support Voces Cantabiles Music, based at the Gresham Centre in St Anne and St Agnes Church in our parish, with The Plaisterers' Newham Schools Singing Bursary in support of their initiative to help young people learn to sing, in two primary schools located in impoverished areas of London where no such musical facilities exist.

Further, we also continue to support Tom Daggett OBE, the Organ Outreach Fellow at St Paul's Cathedral with two initiatives. Firstly, with The Plaisterers' Choir Bursary for the after-school 'Choir Church' at St Paul's Church of England Primary School in Whitechapel; and secondly, with The Plaisterers' Organists Bursary, at two secondary schools in Hackney, Urswick School and Mossbourne Academy, which is also part of the Royal College of Organists 'Inspiring Organists' initiative.

One of the Year 10 pupils from Urswick School, 15-year old Matias Ademaj, gave a brief organ recital at our parish church of St Vedast-alias-Foster before the Court Dinner at the beginning of July and received a significant ovation for his efforts.



At the beginning of July, the Plaisters' Company Junior Design and Technology Prize was presented by the Master for the first time to a young pupil at Warlingham Park School at Chelsham Common. The School was originally founded in the mid-19th Century by the late Alderman Thomas Kelly, a former Lord Mayor of London and Master Plaisterer 1831-32.

Our Military Affiliates

We have continued to help our military affiliates: HMS Dragon; the Royal Marines; the Special Reconnaissance Regiment; and 282 (East Ham) Royal Air Force Cadets whenever we can. During the year we have provided a grant to a member of the Royal Marines (City of London) Reserve to assist with expenses in connection with a foreign language course, and we provided a grant to 282 (East Ham) RAF Cadets to enable them to purchase replacement/additional musical instruments and associated regalia. In addition to providing financial support, the Charity also provides 'Time and Talents' by providing mentors to assist the Cadets with careers and other professional advice.

The Lord Mayor's Appeal

Once again we have made a donation to The Lord Mayor's Appeal, the theme for which is to create 'A Better City for All'. The strategy covers the mayoralty for the next three years from 2018 to 2021 and follows a detailed research project with over 200 organisations, charities and thought leaders, with the aim to have a transformational effect on people's lives by bringing together businesses, neighbouring communities, employees and charities to find solutions to some of London's most pressing societal issues. Our donation was presented to the Lord

Mayor, Alderman Charles Bowman, when he visited Plaisters' Hall recently.

The Master's Charity

The Master's Charity during the past year has been the National Literacy Trust, an independent registered charity working with schools and communities to give disadvantaged children the necessary literary skills to succeed in life. The Charity has supported the Master in various fund-raising events throughout the year including: Walking the Livery Halls in the City; 10k 'Where's Wally' Fun Run on Clapham Common together with a team of 14 Plaisters; and contributions from both the Mistress' Consorts Lunch & Wine Tasting. The Company and Plaisters' Hall Limited also provided the Hall free of charge to the National Literacy Trust to enable them to organise an very successful fund-raising dinner in 2018 for their charity.

Conclusion

The Charity has further consolidated its healthy position during the past year, by encouraging Liverymen and Freemen to continue their support for its work. It is striving to communicate better with the Livery, via regular articles in 'The Clerk's Newsletter', as and when charitable matters of interest arise.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to my predecessor, Professor Hubert Lacey, who as Charity Steward for the past five years has implemented the agreed Strategy to change the Charity into an effective medium-sized grant-making charity which seeks to 'make a real difference' to the lives of those whom we support with our money, time and talents.

PM Peter Baker
Charity Steward



**PETER
BAKER**

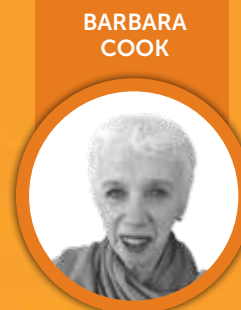


**RICHARD
HANNEY**



**RICHARD
WALKER**

2017-18 COMMITTEE CHARITY STEWARD **PETER BAKER**



**BARBARA
COOK**



**TERRY
WRIGHT**



**BILL
MAHONY**

2018-19 COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN **PETER BAKER**

Tim Cooke
Richard Hanney
Nigel Bamping

Bill Mahony
Richard Walker
Barbara Cook

Co-Opted Members
Paul Infield
Adam Edwards



Master's Charity

National Literacy Trust



“The National Literacy Trust transforms the lives of the UK’s most disadvantaged young people by improving their literacy levels.”



Jonathan Douglas, Director of the National Literacy Trust writes:

“2018 has been a very special year as we have celebrated 25 years of the National Literacy Trust. We were delighted to launch our anniversary year with a gala dinner hosted at the Plaisterers’ Hall, thanks to the generosity of the Worshipful Company of Plaisterers.

In 25 years we have directly worked with 2 million children and have seen a 24% increase in the number of young people achieving a good level of English at GCSE. However, the challenge is more pressing than ever and low levels of literacy are threatening the futures of 4 million children in the UK who are currently living in poverty.

Thanks to the support of the Worshipful Company of Plaisterers in the past year we have been able to widen our support to reach even more disadvantaged children and families, giving them the

chance to succeed in life and achieve their full potential.”

The UK has a serious and growing literacy problem:

- 1 in 7 adults in England lack basic literacy skills
- By the age of five, children from the poorest families are on average 19 months behind children from the richest families in their vocabulary
- 60% of disadvantaged 16 year olds in England fail to achieve good GCSE grades in English language and mathematics

The National Literacy Trust transforms the lives of the UK’s most disadvantaged young people by improving their literacy levels. We run literacy projects in deprived communities across the UK and support schools and early years settings to deliver outstanding literacy provision. Our mission is to ensure that all young people

have the literacy skills they need to get a job and to be successful in life.

The National Literacy Trust’s work this year: Supporting families

Our Early Words Together programme helped parents from disadvantaged communities, who often have low literacy skills themselves, gain confidence and the right skills to support their children’s literacy development at home.

One parent told us: “My daughter is singing a lot more, enjoying sharing books more and [her] confidence has grown.”

Supporting communities

National Literacy Trust Hubs exist in established communities where low literacy is entrenched and intergenerational. We partner with local businesses, health, education and cultural organisations to help raise literacy levels. This year sees the launch of Hubs in Nottingham, Swindon, the North

Yorkshire Coast and Hastings, taking our number of Hubs to eight across the UK.

Supporting young people to gain employment

Through our Words for Work programme we have brought business volunteers into secondary schools to give young people the communication skills they need to be successful in the workplace.

One teacher said: “It was incredible to see how quickly their confidence flourished and how much enjoyment and experience the students got from the programme. I recommend any school to take part, it really does ignite a fire in students that you wouldn’t typically see.”

Supporting children to fall in love with reading

Our Young Readers Programme inspires children to read for pleasure, which research shows has a greater impact on a child’s future than their socioeconomic background. We gave children the



chance to choose and keep new books, which for many of them are the very first books they have ever owned.

Raising literacy levels in East London

Research from the National Literacy Trust and Experian shows that London is the UK region most vulnerable to literacy issues: 95% of constituencies in London contain at least one ward with significant literacy needs.

Thanks to the support of the Worshipful Company of Plaisterers we have provided tools, resources and inspiration for schools in East London, helping disadvantaged pupils to reach their full potential. One local teacher said: "For schools in disadvantaged areas like ours, it is a wonderful chance to turn the kids onto reading in a way that would not be possible without the finance and expertise provided."

Our 25th anniversary gala dinner at Plaisterers' Hall

We launched our 25th anniversary year with our most successful gala dinner in our history, hosted at the Plaisterers' Hall in March.

The guest of honour was Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall, Patron of the National Literacy Trust and Honorary Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Plaisterers.

We also welcomed a host of star-studded authors and celebrities including Prue Leith, Jilly Cooper, Joanna Trollope, Ian and Victoria Hislop, David Baddiel and our Master of Ceremonies, Miles Jupp. The generosity of our guests helped the gala dinner to raise a fantastic £178,000 to support our vital work to give disadvantaged children a route out of poverty.

Livery fundraising

Led by the Master Richard Hanney, a team of eight runners from the Worshipful Company of Plaisterers took part in the National Literacy Trust's iconic 'Where's Wally?' fun run on Clapham Common on 18 March. They joined thousands of runners who braved the unexpected snowy conditions to dress up as the popular children's book character Wally and run, jog or walk to raise money for our work. The Livery team raised a fantastic total of £3,304.





Choir Church at St Paul's Whitechapel

In January 2017, a musical initiative began at St Paul's Church of England Primary School, Whitechapel – an outstanding, thriving and creative yet deprived school in Tower Hamlets. Previously, the school's only musical provision had been African drumming, following restrictive budget cuts across the Borough for the arts.

No general musicianship training was available to the children, and there was no choir; the school's culture of singing was suffering, having lost its singing leader in 2015.

This is despite the significant benefits for personal and social development that music (particularly singing) can bring. It raises self-esteem, builds community, and can give children and their families a sense of belonging and purpose.

Working with its patron parish of St George-in-the-East – and thanks to the support of the Worshipful Company of Plaisterers – the school was able to deliver a project with three primary aims:

1. Create a choir to accelerate the learning of the keenest students

The choir offered weekly musical interaction for children in years 2–6, and benefitted its members in a number of ways:

- Music covered a range of styles, with a focus on sacred repertoire; children came to terms with how to understand a musical score, giving them additional cross-curricular skills.
- Monthly performance opportunities were created, through a Eucharist in school, open to the public, and attended many times by members of the Livery.

- The children were actively involved in the mission of the church, helping to steer a successful campaign for affordable housing, and representing the school at a welcome service for the new Bishop of London, Dame Sarah Mullally.

2. Deliver weekly whole-school singing

Feeding the new choir by creating a culture of music in the school, and extending the general musicianship and vocal ability of hundreds of children.

3. Broaden cultural horizons through enrichment opportunities for those in the choir and in the wider school

The children discovered new places through performance:

- **Plaisterers' Hall (July 2017)**
The children performed for members of the Livery in a pre-dinner recital.
- **St Paul's Cathedral (January 2018)**
St Paul's Whitechapel were part of a massed choir of 300 children pupils who led a service for the Diocesan Board of Schools.
- **King's College, Cambridge**
St Paul's joined with its federation partner St John's, Bethnal Green in a visit to King's to work with Dr Stephen Cleobury CBE, and to observe the world-famous choir in rehearsal and Evensong.

Background: St Paul's Whitechapel Church of England Primary School

St Paul's Whitechapel Church of England Primary School is a single-form entry school with a nursery which serves the diverse communities of Wapping, Shadwell, and Whitechapel in Tower Hamlets, East London. The proportions

of pupils eligible for free school meals, who speak English as an additional language, who have learning difficulties or disabilities, or who are from minority ethnic groups are all well above the national average.

The majority of the pupils at St Paul's are Muslim. While the school respects the sensitivities of this community, it derives its strength from Christian principles, which are explicit in its vision and ethos. Moral and spiritual guidance from teachers is strong, and children show high levels of care and respect for one other, and enjoy learning about the traditions of others, demonstrating a deep respect for the Christian faith. The school enjoys a supportive relationship with its parish church, St George-in-the-East.

Starting a choir in the school has allowed more children to engage with the Christian heritage, through music. The monthly Eucharist has given the school the chance to engage with local people in the parish. It has not only contributed worship; it has provided a platform for showcasing the work of the pupils in the school.

Choir Church has been a hugely positive development for St Paul's. The children, parents, and staff have gained so much from the monthly services, and the level of singing in the school has shot up since this project began.

The enthusiasm for singing in the school is infectious, and we are thrilled to partner with St George's and the Worshipful Company of Plaisterers in delivering this important work.

Darren Rubin, Head of School



Changes in the Children

There are many advantages to being in a choir. Children think about their school subjects in new ways – for instance, linking mathematics to learning to read music through numbers; and understanding rhyming patterns in the lyrics of songs.

Attention and memory are enhanced as children reach a bar that is set deliberately high for them (covering a broad range of music at a fast pace, to a good standard).

All of these benefits have been seen in our children. More than this, rehearsals have given children an artistic forum for expressing their views, and for questioning how and why things are.

But it's the soft benefits where the greatest fruit can be seen in this project, and where children's flourishing has been especially noted:

- Feeling empowered by singing for social justice and making videos

about the poor conditions of local families' housing; then seeing the successful delivery of a campaign for affordable, high-quality housing for 140 local people.

- Being inspired by a trip to King's College, Cambridge – understanding that a world that most children feel is inaccessible to them is within their reach, through perseverance and hard work.
- Showing compassion and leadership by helping younger children navigate their way round a musical score, learning to be responsible and caring.
- Demonstrating dedication by attending weekly rehearsals, and performances out of school time.

On average, we have worked with 230 children each week through singing assemblies, and 21 children (10% of the school) have regularly attended weekly choir rehearsals. 60 local people have been engaged through the monthly Eucharist.

Working with the children in the first few months of Choir Church presented its challenges – there was significant room for growth, which was exciting. Children had never reached their 'head' voice before (the natural 'high' register which is especially open to children); nor had they seen musical notation. Setting the bar deliberately high, we have seen wonderful changes in the children.

At the end of our second year, the children are devouring the music we set for them, and they delight in performing in front of peers or friends. Having performed in St Paul's Cathedral and King's College, Cambridge, many of our children have caught the choir 'bug' that will hopefully remain with them for many years throughout their lives.

It has been an absolute pleasure to partner with the Worshipful Company of Plaisterers; the children also greatly value the relationship we have with the Livery.

*Tom Daggett, Musical Director,
Choir Church*

St Paul's School has just had its inspection from SIAMS (the body which evaluates its Christian ethos), and the musical collaboration with St George's - in Choir Church and singing assemblies - was one of the key factors identified by the inspectors in awarding the School "outstanding" status.

They recognised that the work being done is hugely valuable for the children's development and has built links into the wider community (including local Mosques and Muslim community groups), with whom both church and school have a deepening relationship.

*The Rev'd Angus Ritchie,
Rector, St George-in-the-East,
Whitechapel*



"Choir Club has been a very good club, where you hang out with your friends after school. It has taught us so many things above and beyond singing for the Lord in lots of different ways and styles.

Mr. Daggett will always be there to help you. I've enjoyed going on trips to places to sing, because they have nice food, and people always enjoy hearing us.

We have adventured into exciting new places, and that's why I have loved Choir Club."

Fred Poku-Prempeh, age 11.





Plasterers' Hall Limited

CHAIRMAN Robert Dalrymple

Plasterers Hall Limited, or as it is more commonly called PHL, is a unique company with a unique remit and an unusual set of parameters and sets of targets to achieve and operate within.

PHL is the means for promoting, preserving, protecting and progressing by making a profit for the long term benefit and prosperity of its shareholder, The Livery. This is in effect the commercial arm allowing the Livery to concentrate on its prime function, being a Livery Company.

PHL appoints, engages and oversees our events, catering, food and beverage partner who since 2006 has been Create Food Limited but at the end of last year this changed. Create Food Limited and The Concerto Group was taken over by CH & Co who are a much larger company with a turnover of some £300 million pounds and they have combined their 20 plus companies into 6.

They owned amongst others Harbour and Jones, Tonic, Amper&and and Chester Boyd, companies a number of Liverymen will have come across. CH & Co Catering, the parent company, hold a Royal Warrant from Her Majesty the Queen and will operate in the same market places as all their companies used to do but under different CH & Co banners. They are CH & Co Destinations, CH & Co Venues, CH & Co Workplaces, CH & Co Education, CH & Co Livery and CH & Co Events.

The plan is for the Hall to be marketed under the newly formed CH & Co Events and PHL and I are keen that in these days of fierce competition that we should be seen as an Events Venue that is a Livery

Hall and not a Livery Company that does events.

After thirteen years with the same incumbent events partner and as a duty of care and due diligence PHL is putting the contract, which runs out with Create/CH & Co at the end of 2019, out to tender. This process has already started and senior members of the board of CH & Co, including their CEO, have affirmed the importance of the venue in their portfolio and their determination to maintain the high standards we set for them and expressed a strong desire to retain the contract.

So it is vitally important that we get the correct deal with the best return to PHL in the future but without jeopardising our high culinary and service standards.

PHL is fully aware that 2017 was a difficult and candidly an unprofitable year producing a profit from our investments not our operations.

We found that additional works needed to be carried out during 2017 to further enhance and improve the asset post the flood works and this unplanned work

was prudent to commission to give continuity. This was not in our budget and contributed to the dip in profitability. However the main cause was the decline in footfall, giving the PHL accounts a £56k deficit in the figures that were predicted by Create Food Limited.

We did have insurance but it could not cover the whole amount. It proved more difficult to rebuild the business at 1 London Wall than Create had expected and that, coupled with a marked down turn in the market whilst we were "out of business", was responsible. Nine months away from the market place was hugely damaging.

Although we are the proud keepers of a beautiful Hall and Events Venue, the income generated by any events partners is reliant on their ability to sell the space and what they are prepared to forward invest and is never going to be infinite. Our overheads maintaining the Hall could very well overtake the potential income generated by an events partner.

We have to be aware that superficially après flood we have the best painted and most up to date and technologically advanced Hall in Town, but we still have an ageing fixed asset appliance portfolio with major plant and equipment not affected by the flood, so not replaced in the refit, which has been in situ for over 14 years with no guarantees or ability to insure. So PHL has to find a delicate balance of cutting costs but not cutting corners, cutting corners is not what PHL is about.

That being said we have a beautifully and superbly maintained venue the envy of many and a format and business platform that is envied by more.

We should also not forget the PHL long term investment, which was purchased in the 2017 financial year, of an apartment in Wood Street. The Master and Mistress and the Clerk have been able to have periodic use of it, to assist them in their duties and saving the Livery money avoiding costly overnight accommodation in The City. A percentage of its running costs is met by the Livery as a contribution to ensure availability is maintained for the Master and Clerk.

Becoming GDPR compliant has been a long and taxing project but we were compliant by the due date in May and it afforded an opportunity to 'Spring Clean' our historic files. Our privacy policy is also complete and both are available by email or hard copy upon application to PHL. The professional assistance employed producing these documents and policy's was given to both the Livery and Charity by PHL at no cost to either organisation.

Our Emergency Procedure in the event of a terrorist attack in, around or in the local of the venue is complete and is regularly re-assessed. For security I will not report further but it is a robust and well thought out document and both PHL and Create staff have been, or are being, trained.

The Worshipful Company of Security Professionals sponsored trauma packs are to be held at strategic halls around the City and this hall was asked and now stores one.

The Marriage Licence, that through necessity lapsed during the flood, has been reapplied for and granted, issued without the need for numerous visits which is testament to our systems and procedures and the hard work and expertise of our Hall Management team.



Thank you to them and to The Clerk's Office for all the assistance they have given over the year.

The small committee responsible for the upgrading of the Entrance Hall due in 2019, thanks to the generous bequest of our late Liveryman John Robinson, has met on a number of occasions and plans are being formulated but at this point not confirmed.

The committee realises the need to be sympathetic towards the history of the Livery, mindful of the thoughts of John and the Livery and anxious to ensure the correct criteria is established when making its final decisions. I am grateful to The Learned Clerk, Tim Stokes, Terry Wright and Derek Stubbs for their assistance in this.

Although for financial reasons, and in conjunction with all parties, a number of other projects have been placed on hold or rescheduled, none of these decisions will impact on the smooth running of the venue. It is however pleasing that after many years of water ingress to the South Wall of the Hall the ongoing

problem has now been finally rectified after months of investigating, testing and repairing.

Two colonies of "calm" bees brought in from Surrey are now thriving in the beehives at the southern end of the Plaisterers' wild garden attracting great interest from passers-by who seem to be enjoying the new information plaque installed on the balustrade by PHL.

It is common knowledge that our Learned Clerk is to retire in 2020. It is the remit of PHL to employ the Clerk on behalf of the Livery. A small committee formed of members of PHL and a Past Master amongst others is to be set up to work on Nigel's replacement. This is well in hand so a smooth transition in the Clerk's office will be achieved. I will of course keep the Livery fully informed.

And I finish with the news that as a result of our insurers managing to recoup most of the flood monies in excess of 1.7 million pounds from Thames Water we have received our voluntary excess back from them. We are trying to decide how to spend the £250....



**ROBERT
DALRYMPLE**



**TIM
STOKES**

PLASTERERS' HALL LIMITED

CHAIRMAN ROBERT DALRYMPLE

**TIMOTHY
COOKE**



**TERRY
WRIGHT**



DIRECTORS

Robert Dalrymple
(Chairman)
Tim Stokes

Timothy Cooke OBE
Terry Wright

In attendance
Nigel Bamping
(Secretary)



The Court 2018-2019



TIMOTHY COOKE



ALISON GOWMAN



MARGARET COATES



RICHARD HANNEY

The Court

Master

Timothy Cooke OBE

Deputy Master

Richard Hanney

Upper Warden

Alderman Alison Gowman

Renter Warden

Margaret Coates

Clerk

Nigel Bamping

Honorary Chaplain

The Very Revd
Charles Taylor

Assistant Clerk

Ali Mackey

Beadle

Jamie Wallis

Assistants

Nicholas Carr*
Robert Dalrymple*
J Hubert Lacey*
Peter Baker*
Gary Morley*
De Bradshaw*
Michael Jones*
Bill Mahony*
Terence Wright*
Richard Hanney*
Tim Stokes
James Minett
John Telling
Stephen Gilbert
David Botley
Anthony Mitchell
David Hill-Kelly
Jon Randall

Past Masters Emeritus

Derek Robinson*
Ronald Jordan*
Julian Dalrymple*
George Grover*
Hugh Kersey*
Ernest Pilgrim*
Bryan Lincoln*
Robert Faulkner*
Christopher Towlson*
Peter Cook*
Reginald Denby*
Alan Turner*
Robin Doran*
Michael Lepper*
Michael Hall*

*denotes Past Master

Assistants Emeritus

Graham Withers
Anthony Graham
John Mills
Christopher Money
Andrew Popat
Alan Clark
Phillip Holliday

Clerk Emeritus

Hilary Machtus

Chief Steward 2016-2019

Rohit Nathaniel

Stewards 2016-2019

Simon Hinks
Richard Lepper

Stewards 2017-2020

Mike Hannibal
David Peachell

Stewards 2018-2021

Timothy Butcher
David Jarman
Timothy Scott
Archin Talpade

Almoner

Richard Grove

Plasterers Hall Limited

Directors

Robert Dalrymple
(Chairman)
Tim Stokes
Timothy Cooke OBE
Terence Wright
Nigel Bamping
(Secretary)

Royal Liveryman

HRH The Duchess
of Cornwall GCVO

Honorary Liverymen

Sir Francis McWilliams,
GBE

Former Alderman of the
Ward of Aldersgate,
Sheriff of London
1988-89, Lord Mayor
of London 1992-93

Nicholas Anstee

Alderman of the Ward
of Aldersgate, Sheriff of
London 2003-04, Lord
Mayor of London 2009-10



Military Affiliations

By The Clerk



REGIMENTAL CHARITY LAKE DISTRICT ENDURANCE SWIM



RM OPERATION RUMAN

Royal Marines

Her Majesty's 'Sea Soldiers,' with whom the Company has been affiliated since the mid-1980s, have found themselves experiencing a busy year, as usual. Their motto, 'per mare per terrum' – by sea, by land – has once again been appropriate as their commando mind-set and ability to respond at very short notice has meant that the Corps has continued to be in demand.

Worthy of particular note this year has been 'Operation Ruman', the assistance provided to the British Virgin Islands following Hurricane Irma. Within a week, over 200 Royal Marines arrived and they were followed up by HMS OCEAN carrying vital equipment and aid.

Our own Past Master Emeritus Hugh Kersey, who has a holiday home in the BVI, was able to witness the friendliness and efficiency of 40 Commando.

Closer to home, the Company was able to see the excellent work of the Royal Marines Band Service during a visit to the School of Music in Portsmouth in July 2017, accompanied by a group from 282 (East Ham) Air Cadets (see report from the Cadets).

This led to the very generous offer for 20 cadets to attend the Saturday matinee performance at the Mountbatten Festival of Music in March 2018. An unforgettable experience for many of the young cadets. 2018 was a year when the Royal Marines performed 'Beating Retreat' on Horse Guards Parade in Whitehall and the Master and Clerk, with their wives, were invited to attend as guests of the Commandant General. The new Commandant General, Major General Charlie Stickland OBE, who took office in January 2018, was among the Company's guests at the Banquet in

May 2018. His predecessor, Major General Rob Magowan CB CBE, has accepted the Court's invitation to become a Liveryman of the Company.

We continue to enjoy a close relationship with the Signallers' Course based at the Commando Training Centre at Lympstone in Devon and the Master presented prizes at the Pass Out in December 2017. We are particularly grateful to Major Mike Macdonald, 2I/C of the Specialist Training Wing at Lympstone for all he has done to strengthen the relationship and we wish him well as he moves to his next posting.

Landing Craft Training has had a renewed focus in the Corps since the reduced commitment in Afghanistan. The Company is now providing prizes for all of the courses, including, for the first time in the summer of 2018, the Officers' Course. The Company has been represented at all three Pass Outs during the year.

As I write this report, we are awaiting an announcement from the Secretary of State for Defence on the latest Defence Review. The future of the Royal Marines has been under threat. Let us hope that our politicians have had the wisdom to see how invaluable the Royal Marines are in our national defence.



HMS DRAGON

Our Type 45 Destroyer has had a busy year of training exercises, particularly in preparation for the arrival of the new Air Craft Carriers, HMS ELIZABETH and HMS PRINCE OF WALES.

There is a new Commanding Officer, Commander Michael Carter Quinn and DRAGON is likely to be deployed in the autumn of 2018.

We were pleased to note the award of the Queen's Gallantry Medal to a member of the ship's company, LS Sally Hughes for her part in rescuing a yacht, the Clyde Challenger, in February 2017.

We were very grateful to the Officers and Crew for hosting a visit by members of the Company and cadets from 282 in July 2017 when the ship was alongside in Portsmouth. We all had a very interesting morning and an excellent lunch!

We look forward to news of DRAGON's activities during the coming year.



LS SALLY HUGHES



At the Masters' & Clerks' Dinner in January 2018, we were pleased to welcome the Ship's Liaison Officer, Lt John Richardson along with the 2017 winner of the Company's Royal Navy Cup, AB Andrew Cartledge. The citation for the Award was as follows:

"Able Seaman Cartledge joined the Royal Navy in December 2014, after a career working in Germany, New Zealand and Thailand as a diving instructor. After completing his training, Andrew joined HMS DRAGON, where has consistently performed far in excess of what would be expected of somebody so new to his job.

Andrew's biggest assets are his calmness and maturity and his unwavering excellent conduct has been an example for his peers (some of whom are more senior) to follow. On the Bridge, he upholds morale and motivation by regularly explaining to his peers why the Ship and the Navy have to deliver the allotted programme. His strong mentoring skills, amongst a very junior team in the Seamanship branch, is shown by taking the lead with on-watch training without prompting.

Andrew also volunteered to step in on another ship at short notice in order to cover a manpower shortage, a job usually conducted by somebody much more experienced. He received the highest praise from the Ship's Commanding Officer, and was approached again later in their programme, such was the impression he had made.

Andrew has occasionally had to step up in DRAGON to cover the role of Communications Yeoman, a job fulfilled by a Leading Seaman.

This prospect of having to brief senior personnel in a formal and high-paced environment would be daunting for most people of Andrew's rating, however every time, Andrew has demonstrated his maturity and adaptability to deliver an excellent service to Command. While the Seamanship sub-department was being inspected by staff from Flag Officer Sea Training prior to going to sea, Andrew delivered a sea survival brief, with an exceptionally confident and coherent lecture to the entire Ship's Company, including the Commanding Officer.

Quite simply, Andrew Cartledge is the strongest Able Seaman in DRAGON, across all departments. A combination of his natural leadership, mentoring, briefing style and composure under pressure make him the best possible upholder of the Royal Navy Core Values at his rate, and means that he has a very bright and successful career in the Royal Navy ahead of him."



AB ANDREW CARTLEDGE



Special Reconnaissance Regiment

The Company continues to enjoy a close and effective relationship with the Regiment and with the Regimental charity, providing support to members of the Regiment and their families.

We can all be grateful for the dedication and professionalism shown by the Regiment in the many demands made upon it.



282 (East Ham) Air Cadets

By Past Master Bill Mahony

Our bond with 282 squadron strengthened during a year of anniversaries. The Plaisterers' Company links to our important affiliate, 282 (East Ham) Air Cadets has been greatly strengthened this year as the Chairman of their Civilian Committee, Joan Boys, invited a representative of our Company to join the steering group. Joan said "This closer link has helped us grow our understanding and has given the cadets access to many more opportunities through Careers Mentoring and Funding requests, which has been invaluable to our achievements".

We were jointly able to harness the strength and relationships with our other military affiliates to help enrich the cadets' summer programme. Thus, a party of cadets led by The Master and accompanied by other Liverymen visited The Royal Marines School of Music at Portsmouth where they were able to

sit in on a concert rehearsal and at one point were invited to join the musicians whilst they played. The Marines gave them a tour of the school which used to be a Naval prison. The cadets were somewhat taken aback when they realised that the practice rooms were originally prison cells!

Earlier on the same day, the Commanding Officer and crew of our Naval affiliate HMS DRAGON gave the same party a tour of this wonderful Type 45 Destroyer which was moored alongside in the Naval Dockyard. The cadets were enthralled by the advanced technical equipment on show below deck and were pleased to have lunch with the crew.

This was a highly successful outing enjoyed by 282 Squadron and Plaisterers alike - a tour of a world famous military music school and a one-billion-pound ship - all in one day.

As ever this was a packed year of activity for the Squadron with considerable success in competition in the Inter-Squadron Inness Sword Challenge, Wing Field Day and the Corps Band Championships. The percussion section of the Squadron Band went all the way to the final of the Championships with distinction. We give strong financial support to the Band and have renewed their instruments this year, much to their delight.

OC Chris Booty recently said "Cadets from the Squadron band were given an amazing opportunity to attend the Royal Marines Mountbatten Festival

of Music this year which was made possible by the Worshipful Company of Plaisterers. The Plaisterers have shown an amazing interest in the Squadron's band and its development. To be given the opportunity to attend this event and see one of the best bands in the world perform was fantastic. The Royal Marines Corps of Drums are an inspiration to the Squadron's band and they thoroughly enjoyed being present."

For the third year running, led by Past Master Bill Mahony and aided by Assistant James Minett, members of the Company gave illuminating talks during a series of Careers Mentoring sessions. Topics covered included, Financial Services and the Legal Professions. These were well attended by young people eager to learn.

Corporal Nicholas Amakye commented "I found the sessions very useful, they helped me a great deal in selecting the direction I want to go in career wise. Thank you to the Plaisterers".

The Squadron enjoys adventures abroad, in recent years there have been trips to Australia, India, Poland, France and Belgium - always financed by Cadet self-funding - and always with the purpose of developing confidence, teamwork and help for the less fortunate.



282 AT THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN MEMORIAL



282 WITH THE ROYAL MARINES BAND



282 AND MEMBERS OF THE COMPANY ON BOARD HMS DRAGON



This year the trip was to Ghana, and a large group of cadets built a library alongside an orphanage school from scratch in less than two weeks in a hot, humid climate. The conditions were tough with no running water or electricity and many challenges, including making the bricks by hand. The cadets rose above this and pushed to complete the task in the allotted time.

Flt. Lt. Booty said:

"I have never seen cadets determined to make such a difference. Everyone worked 'overtime' beyond the call of duty. To see the staff and students of the school cry with tears of joy when they saw what the cadets had created for them was just priceless".

This leads us on to the anniversaries. At the annual 282 Awards Evening, held at Kingsford Community School in Beckton, many cadets and officers received awards and prizes and our Master not only awarded the top Musician prize to cadet Phoebe Cato but also presented Flt Lt Chris Booty, Officer Commanding, with a certificate to commemorate his remarkable period of ten years' service as leader of the Squadron. Chris, a Freeman of our Company, has worked tirelessly to ensure that his Squadron is "Simply the Best".

There was of course, another anniversary a few days later - that of the RAF's One Hundredth birthday. Of course the ITV News wanted a Carpet Guard for Piers Morgan's special guest, Hon Grp Captain Carol Vorderman MBE and they called on Chris Booty and his Squadron to do the honours - they are well practiced through their provision of this service at our Livery Company Annual Banquet!



282 APPEAR WITH CAROL VORDERMAN
ON GOOD MORNING BRITAIN



282'S OVERSEAS TRIP TO GHANA



THE MASTER WITH THE PLAISTERERS' SHIELD WINNER, PHOEBE CATO

"Our achievements go from strength to strength and we are very proud of our affiliation with the Plaisterers. It is by far the best affiliation in London."

282 CHIEF FLT. LT. CHRIS BOOTY



THE PLAISTERERS AND THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY

By The Clerk

It is fair to say that had the Plaisterers not been a classic, poor, old Livery Company the story I am about to relate would never have happened.

Equally, we may never have known about it had it not been for the unheralded arrival in the Clerk's Office of Professor Paul Lovejoy of York University, Toronto, Canada, who is a leading authority of the history of the African Diaspora, the 21st century name for the Slave Trade.



GUSTAVUS VASSA

It may be easiest to begin at the end. On 28th May 1796, Gustavus Vassa set his hand and seal to his Last Will and Testament at Plaisterers' Hall, 25 Addle Street in the City of London. We will return to the details of the Will later in our story.

Who was Gustavus Vassa and what was he doing in Plaisterers' Hall?

I shall answer the second question first.

The Great Fire of London in September 1666 was a double blow for the Worshipful Company of Plaisterers. Firstly, it destroyed the Hall on the corner of Philip Lane and Addle Street which the Company had occupied for 110 years. Secondly, the rebuilt City of London would no longer be of wood and plaster, it would be brick and stone, so whilst initially work was plentiful, within 10 years



GREAT FIRE

the main rebuilding was done. At the same time 'greater' London was growing apace and plasterers moved from the City to live and work in the burgeoning suburbs. So began a steady decline in the role of the Company whose writ only ran in the City. In a triumph of hope over expectation, the Company built a new Hall on the old site. It is said that it was designed by Sir Christopher Wren but the supporting evidence is, to say the least, sparse.

With no great wealth, particularly little in land or buildings, and with fewer active members, the Company faced a steady decline through the ensuing century. By the mid-18th century, necessity had forced the Company to lease the Hall to produce an income and on 24th December 1790, one William Rolfe, a goldsmith (see Yearbook 2015-16 for more about the gold and silversmith trade in the northern part of the City), entered into a 21-year lease for the whole of the Hall.

The Court was by this time holding its meetings in the Queen's Head tavern in Newgate Street. This, of course, made it easy to enjoy a good dinner afterwards. It is at this point that we welcome Gustavus Vassa to our story.

In 1791, he took a sub-lease of the Hall for a period of 21 years from William Rolfe. Sadly his untimely death in March 1797 (less than a year after completing his Will) meant that he only enjoyed the Plaisterers hospitality for six years.

Let us return to the first question.

Who was Gustavus Vassa?

He was not the first King of Sweden (crowned 1523), Gustav Vasa but there is, as will appear, a connection.



His story begins in Igboland, part of what is now Nigeria, then part of the Kingdom of Benin. In around 1745, a son was born to a provincial elder whose name was Equiano. The boy was called Olaudah. Raised in relative wealth, the father owned slaves, the boy had an easy time in his early years.

By the mid-1700s, the slave trade between Africa and the Americas was at its height and the risk of capture was real. Slavers were working their way further and further inland so older children in the village were given the task of "look out" whilst the adults were working in the fields. One fateful day, the traders arrived and Olaudah, together with his sister, were not quick enough in their attempt to escape and were captured.

They were separated and Olaudah was initially sold to an African who treated him well. Before long however, he was sold on and with others was marched to the coast.



What greeted him there was a shock as he described later:

"The first object which saluted my eyes when I arrived on the coast, was the sea, and a slave ship, which was then riding at anchor, and waiting for its cargo. These filled me with astonishment, which was soon converted into terror, when I was carried on board. I was immediately handled, and tossed up to see if I were sound, by some of the crew; and I was now persuaded that I had gotten into a world of bad spirits, and that they were going to kill me.

Their complexions, too, were differing so much from ours, their long hair, and the language they spoke, (which was very different from any I had ever heard) united to confirm me in this belief. Indeed, such were the horrors of my views and fears at the moment, that, if ten thousand worlds had been my own, I would have freely parted with them all to have exchanged my condition with that of the meanest slave in my own country."

Placed in a slave ship bound for Barbados, he experienced the full horrors of the 'Middle Passage' as it was called.

As he said:

"The closeness of the place, and the heat of the climate, added to the number in the ship, which was so crowded that each had scarcely room to turn himself, almost suffocated us. The air soon became unfit for respiration, from a variety of loathsome smells, and brought in a sickness among the slaves, of which many died.

The wretched situation was again aggravated by the chains, now unsupportable, and the filth of the necessary tubs, into which the children often fell, and were almost suffocated. The shrieks of the women, and the groans of the dying, rendered the whole a scene of horror almost inconceivable."

He arrived, alive, in Barbados but the respite was short-lived. He soon found himself en route to the English colony of Virginia (named after Queen Elizabeth I – the Virgin Queen). Here he was sold to a British Naval Officer, Captain Henry Pascal for £40.

During his voyage from Africa he had been named 'Michael', his first owner had called him 'Jacob'. Pascal decided to name him Gustavus Vassa after the King of Sweden but Olaudah was having none of it saying he preferred to be Jacob. Eventually he gave in and he answered to the name Gustavus Vassa for the rest of his life, using it, as we have seen, in his Will.

When Pascal returned to England he took Gustavus with him and he served as Pascal's valet. Consequently, he experienced the British Navy during the Seven Years War (1756-1763) during which he trained in seamanship.

He served in Canada and in the Mediterranean. Pascal realised that he was an able boy and during the time that he was not at sea, arranged for him to be cared for by the Guerin family, relatives of Pascal, who taught him to read and write and to do basic arithmetic.

During this time he also became a Christian, being baptised in February 1759 at St Margaret's Westminster with Pascal's cousins acting as Godparents.



In 1763, Pascal sold Gustavus to a Captain James Doran, who is possibly related to Past Master Robin Doran. Doran may well have been from Liverpool, a major trading and slave port, but at the time he owned the 'Charming Sally' based at Gravesend, Kent.

Having been baptised and Pascal having had the benefit of Gustavus' prize money, he had had some expectation of being freed but it was not to be. Doran sailed for the West Indies with the boy on board. On arrival in Montserrat in the Leeward Islands, Gustavus was sold to an American Quaker Merchant from Philadelphia named Robert King.

Although still a slave, King gave him opportunities to improve his skills and alongside working on King's ships, Gustavus began a small business trading fruit, glass and trinkets. This was not an easy time for him.

As he said:

"I was often a witness to cruelties of every kind, which were exercised on my unhappy fellow slaves. I used frequently to have different cargoes of new Negroes in my care for sale; and it was almost a constant practice with our clerks, and other whites, to commit violent depredations on the chastity of the female slaves; and these I was, though with reluctance, obliged to submit to at all times, being unable to help them."

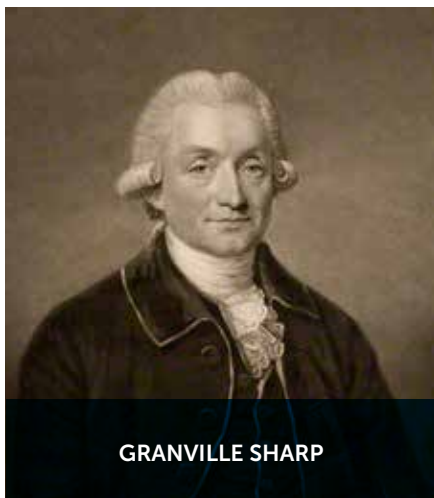
However, a change in his fortunes was approaching. After four years working for King, the proceeds of his business activities had enabled him to save £40 and he purchased his freedom in 1766.

What was Gustavus to do with his new found freedom?

Wisely, initially, he decided to stick with what he knew, the sea. In 1773, he served on board 'HMS Racehorse', a former French Privateer, which, under the command of Commander Constantine Phipps attempted, unsuccessfully, to find the North West Passage through the Arctic to India. On that voyage he met Dr Charles Irving who subsequently made his fortune through discovering how to distil fresh water from sea water.

In 1775, Irving invited Gustavus to participate in an expedition to establish sugar cane plantations on the 'Mosquito Coast' (what is now Nicaragua and Honduras). The venture failed and by the early 1780's, Gustavus had returned to London. He had managed to earn sufficient money to live modestly and through his involvement in the Methodist Church began to be influenced by the Wesleys and George Whitefield. This undoubtedly caused Gustavus to refine





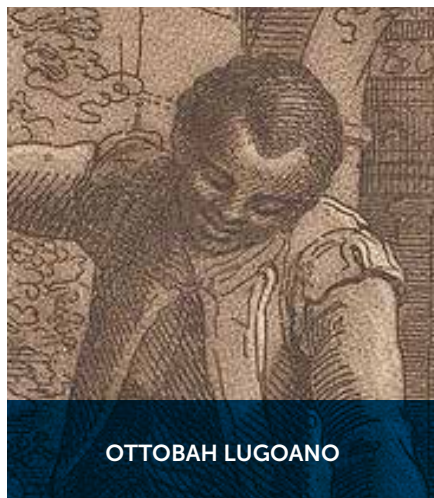
GRANVILLE SHARP

his views on slavery and he became involved with Granville Sharp who was one of the initial protagonists for the abolition of slavery.

In 1781, a little-known event occurred which, with hindsight, can be appreciated as one of the initial catalysts leading to abolition.

An over-capacity slave ship, 'The Zong' was en route to the West Indies. The crew had mis-navigated and water supplies were running low. The crew threw 130 slaves overboard and another 10, in despair, threw themselves overboard. It is thought that over 60 had perished from diseased and neglect.

The ship was owned by a syndicate of Liverpool merchants who decided to make an insurance claim on the basis of 'general average' under principles of Maritime Law, that 'cargo jettisoned at sea to save the remainder, can be eligible for compensation'. The Insurers refused to pay and litigation ensued.



OTTOBAH LUGANO

Gustavus got to hear of the dispute and, on 19th March 1783, visited Sharp to tell him about it. As the litigation was still in progress, Sharp got involved. Although the owners failed in their claim, Sharp was unsuccessful in persuading the authorities to take criminal action for murder.

All of this led Gustavus to meet many of the others who, over the next decade, led the abolitionist movement, including other freed slaves. This led him to establish the 'Sons of Africa' - all freed slaves living in London who began to speak out against the slave trade, including Ottobah Lugoana, known as John Stuart.

By 1786, Gustavus was sufficiently well-known to be appointed as a Commissary for the expedition to establish Sierra Leone as a 'Province of Freedom' particularly for 'the black poor of London'. Granville Sharp was also involved and one of the first settlements was called Granville Town.

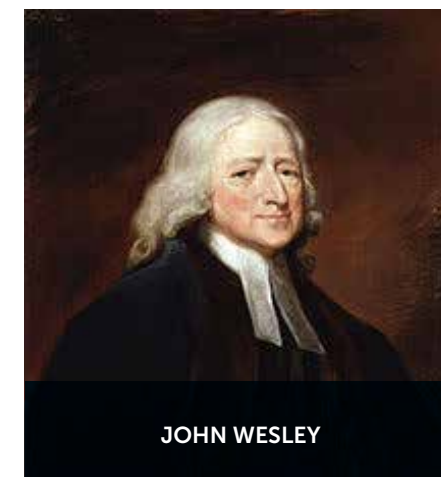
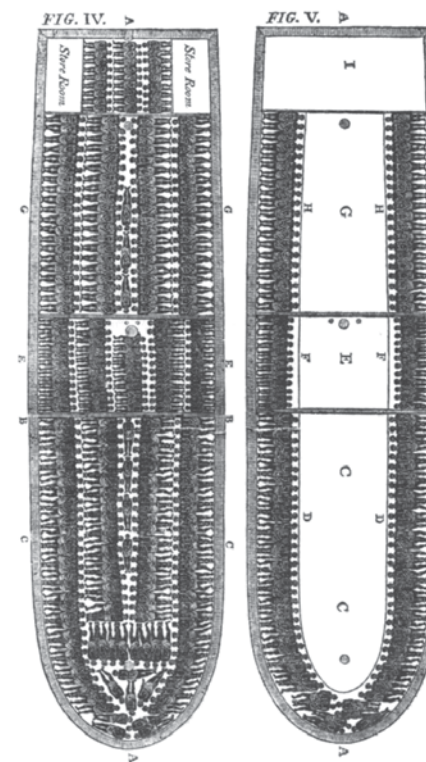
Gustavus was far from happy with the way the settlement was being run and soon returned to London. In 1788, he was part of a delegation to present a petition against the slave trade to Queen Charlotte and also a petition to the House of Commons to support William Dolden's bill to improve conditions on slave ships.

This was a turning point for Gustavus. He realised that one of the most compelling arguments against slavery was his own story. So it was that in 1789 'The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano or Gustavus Vassa, The African written by Himself' was published.

As was not uncommon at the time, publication was financed by 'subscribers'. Gustavus was undoubtedly fortunate to have amongst the subscribers for the first edition The Prince of Wales, The Bishop of London and other Bishops and an impressive list of Peers and MPs as well as Josiah Wedgwood and John Wesley.

It can truthfully be said that the remainder of Gustavus' life was almost completely overtaken by the book and its contribution to the abolition of slavery. The book was published in London, Dublin, Edinburgh and New York and also printed in Dutch. By 1794, it had achieved its 9th Edition. He toured the UK and the now independent Colonies of the USA publicising the book and its cause. It is highly likely that it was on one of these tours that he met Susannah Cullen from Soham, Cambridgeshire.

Whilst not completely unheard of, a marriage between a black man and a white woman was extremely uncommon in the 1790s, but marry they did on 7th April 1792 and they settled in Cambridgeshire. The union was quickly



JOHN WESLEY



ALDERSGATE FLAME



BROMLEY GRAVE

blessed with two daughters – Anna Maria born in 1793 but who sadly died 4 years later, and Joanna born in 1795.

The most attentive of my readers will have noticed that Gustavus had taken up residence at Plaisterers' Hall the year before his marriage, he kept it, probably as a convenient 'pied a terre' when he was in town and there is no evidence that he moved his family to London.

Susannah sadly died in February 1796 after a long illness at the age of 34.

Gustavus himself would outlive his wife by just over a year, dying on 31st March 1797 in Paddington Street, W1, aged 52. His burial was recorded at Whitefield's Methodist Church (now the American International Church) in Tottenham Court Road, although his grave is not marked.

Shortly afterwards the elder child died leaving one surviving daughter, Joanna to be cared for by her grandmother,

Anne Cullen, who had almost certainly cared for both children following the death of their mother.

Joanna was the beneficiary of Gustavus' estate, valued at £950 (in excess of £90,000 at current value). This included goods and furniture situated at Plaisterers' Hall, which was presumably sold following his death. In August 1821, she married The Revd Henry Bromley (a congregationalist Minister).

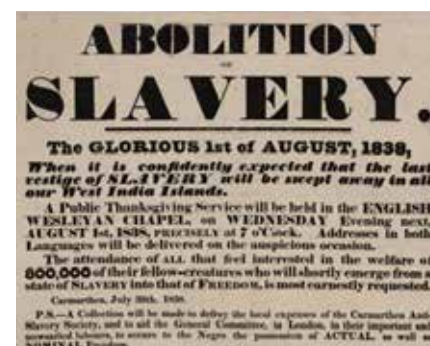
They married at St James Clerkenwell in London and then moved to Appledore in Devon where Henry was the Minister at the Independent Chapel. After five years they moved to Clavering in Essex. They ministered there for 18 years until concern about Joanna's health caused Henry to resign. It appears that Joanna spent most of her remaining years in London whilst Henry took roles in London and Harwich.

Joanna died on 10th March 1857, but Henry was not present. Victorian England was a small world and it is perhaps appropriate that at this point the Plaisterers should re-appear in the form of Past Master and former Lord Mayor, Thomas Kelly (see 2016-17 Year Book).

A model of Victorian philanthropy, Thomas Kelly was a promoter and contributor to the setting up of one of the new suburban cemeteries, Abney Park Cemetery in Stoke Newington – where Joanna Bramley (née Vassa) was laid to rest.

In recent years there has been some controversy over Gustavus' early years with some academics arguing that he was born in South Carolina rather than Africa. I have found his story, as told in the autobiography, sufficiently compelling to believe it.

What cannot be argued with is his significant contribution to the eventual abolition of slavery throughout the British Empire by the late 1830s, following the passing of the Slavery Abolition Act in August 1833. The Plaisterers' Company can make the modest claim to have assisted Gustavus in his quest.



What would Gustavus Vassa make of 21st century London or his homeland in Nigeria?

I fear he would consider that there was unfinished business.

I will leave Olaudah Equiano to have the last word, being the final paragraphs of the Narrative:

"My life and fortunes have been extremely chequered, and my adventures various. Even those I related are considerably abridged. If any incident in this little work should appear uninteresting and trifling to most readers, I can only say, as my excuse for mentioning it, that almost every event in my life made an impression on my mind, and influenced my conduct.

I early accustomed myself to look at the hand of God in the minutest occurrence, and to learn from it a lesson of morality and religion; and in this light every circumstance I have related was to me of importance. After all, what makes any event important, unless by its observation we become better and wiser, and learn 'to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly before God'.

To those who are possessed of this spirit, there is scarcely any book or incident so trifling that does not afford some profit, while to others the experience of ages seems of no use and even to pour out to them the treasure of wisdom is throwing the jewels of instruction away."

Further Reading:
The Interesting Narrative and other Writings:
Olaudah Equiano,
published by Penguin





A History of Plastering and the Plaisterers





The Armorial Bearings

A HISTORY OF PLASTERING AND THE PLAISTERERS

The original patent, which in part is worn and difficult to decipher, is now framed and hung in the foyer of the Hall, together with the blazon inscribed by the late Mrs Margaret Wettern, and reads as follows:

"Azure on a chevron engrailed argent a rose gules budded or, stalked and leaved vert, between two fleurs de lys azure; in chief a trowel fessewise between two plasterer's hammers palewise all argent handled or, in case a plasterer's brush, of four knots tied argent handled or."

Crest

On a wreath argent and azure an arm vested bendy of four gules and or, holding in the hand proper a plasterer's hammer as in the arms.

Mantling

Gules doubled argent.

Supporters

On either side an opinicus vert winged, membered and eyed gules, the throat and belly purfled or.

(Granted by Thomas Hawley Clarenceux - 20th January, 1545/6.)

Motto

Let Brotherly Love Continue.

Glossary of Heraldic Terms

Argent: Silver.

Azure: Blue. Any shade of blue. In the Company's Arms, as can be seen from the original Grant hanging in the foyer, it is dark blue.

Gules: Red.

Or: Gold.

Vert: Green.

Opinicus: An heraldic beast having the head, neck and wings of an eagle, except that the head has prominent ears, and the body and legs of a lion, but with a bear's tail. The modern version of an opinicus varies in certain respects from that of 1546, which is described in the Armorial Bearings.

There is also hanging in the Hall a beautiful banner worked by Mrs Wettern, depicting on the one side the Arms as in the original patent, and on the reverse a copy of the Arms as sometimes used.



The Company Prior to 1940



A Brief History of Plastering

Pre 12th Century

Although plaster was often used by the Romans, Anglo Saxons and even by early cave-dwellers, there is little recorded history of the Craft until the 12th century. Middle Ages

Nowadays, the term 'pargetting' refers to specialist tasks such as plaster decoration in relief on exterior walls, or flue-lining. In the Middle Ages, however, all plasterers were pargettors, and their main function was to protect outside surfaces from the weather and to prepare interior surfaces for painting.

1189

Already, in 12th century London there were so many cook-shop fires that Henry Fitz Alwyn, the first Mayor of London, ordered all such places to be plastered and limewashed for protection.

1212

The order must have had some success, because in 1212, King John endorsed the edict further, allowing shop-owners

on the Thames and London Bridge just eight days to whitewash and plaster, inside and out, any house covered with reed or rush, at pain of having their property demolished.

1254

In fact, it was rare for plastering to be used for ornamental purposes in Britain until 1254, when Henry III, on a visit to France, was so taken with the fine, white qualities of Plaster of Paris that he introduced it here.

Yet the first references in writing to our Craft record the fire-proofing, rather than decorative qualities of plaster and limewash. Ironically the first two Company of Plasterers Halls would later be destroyed by fire, the first of them in the Great Fire of 1666.

The 76 Crafts Practised in London

An entry in the Brewers' records, documenting the 76 crafts practised in London from the 12th century lists 'Plasterers' at number 20. At the time of this listing there is no record of how the order was agreed, but it is interesting to

note that, of the first 13 names on this list, ten remain in the Great Twelve City Livery Companies to this day, the first five in exactly the same order.

Mercers
Armourers
Saddlers
Drapers
Weavers (linen)
Girdlers
Goldsmiths
Dyers
Haberdashers
Skinners

Tailors
Grocers
Weavers (wool)
Ironmongers
Fishmongers
Fullers
Cordwainers
Vintners
Plasterers
Cutlers

Much later, in 1515, the Court of Aldermen of the City of London would agree an order of precedence for Livery Companies based on their economic or political standing.

Typical Work in the Early Days

An indication of a typical plasterer's work can be seen in an entry in the City archives for 1317.

This records an agreement by Adam le Plaster, citizen of London, to 'supply Plaster of Paris and to repair therewith the walls, within and without, and also the flues, of the Earl of Richmond's hall in the neighbourhood of St. Paul's Cathedral, in eight weeks on security of all his goods'.





The Mystery of Gipsars

Despite its existence as a recognised craft as early as the 12th century, it was not until 10 March 1501 that the Company of Plaisterers received its first Charter, granted by Henry VII. The Charter gave privileges to the Company of Plaisterers but also duties and obligations. These included:

“Authority for ever to search and try, and on making and exercising the search both in, on and of any stocks touching and concerning the art or mystery of Gipsars within the City of London, commonly called Plasterers, and in, on and of all workers and men working in the same art or mystery, so that their works in this way may be just faithful and legal without any deception and fraud.

And to duly correct the defaults and deceptions which in this manner they shall have found and to duly punish all persons in this manner offending according to their demerits and faults, or to cause them to be punished by the survey of the Mayor of the said City of London for the time being”.



The Charter

The Charter of 1501 hangs in the foyer of the Plaisterers' Hall, along with a transcription of the translation from the original Latin by Mrs Margaret Wettern, the late wife of Past Master Patrick Wettern, who died in July 2017.

It refers to Mary as the Company's Patron Saint, and describes the Company as: 'The Master of the Guild or Fraternity of the Blessed Mary of Pargettors, commonly called Plaisterers, of the City of London'.

It bears the following legend: 'Sigill: Artis Miste: de Daubers nunc nuncupat: Plaisterers Civitatis London'. This translates as: 'The Seal of the Art or Mystery of Daubers, now called Plaisterers, of the City of London'.

'By the Discreyson of the Wardeyns'

Although the first Charter was granted in 1501, and there is a record of donations to the Crown to arm men for the French War of 1513, the earliest proof that a petition for Livery had been accepted by the Court of Aldermen of the City of London was in 1538.

On 9 April 1538 the Wardens of the Company of Plaisterers asked the Court of Aldermen to establish the following articles of the Company:

“they that have bene on the lyverey and hath not bene wardeyn to have but one apprentice” and “they that bene owt of the lyvery yf the wardeyns thynke that he be hable [able] and of habilitie [ability] to kepe hym by the dicresyon of the wardeyns shall have one apprentice”.

The Company was granted its Armorial Bearings in 1545/46. In 1560, when the Court of Aldermen decreed that no further companies should assume a Livery without its consent, the

Plaisterers stood at number 46 in order of precedence, just as it is today.

Early Livery Halls and Accommodation

In 1556 William Elder, Citizen and Plaisterer, died and bequeathed to the Company its first known Hall. It may have previously been the Hall of the defunct Pinners' Company.

It was destroyed, like so much of the City, in the Great Fire of 1666. The second Hall, designed by Sir Christopher Wren, was built in 1669. It contained a Great Room, called the Common Hall of the Company, and some 15 other rooms including kitchen, buttery, cellars, parlours and chambers.

The first Plaisterers' Hall was situated at the corner of Addle Street and Philip Lane (close to London Wall), neither of which have survived into the 21st Century. This property too was destroyed by fire, in 1882.

The next building erected on this site was destroyed by enemy action in December 1940. In 1956, exactly 400 years after William Elder bequeathed our first known Hall, the site was compulsorily acquired by the Corporation of the City of London.



Conflict with Other Livery Companies

While our Motto is 'Let Brotherly Love Continue', there have been, during the course of our long history, occasional disputes with other companies and fraternities.

For example, after many years of dispute, the Company of Painter-Stainers resorted to an appeal to Parliament to restrain plasterers from using oil colours on enriched work.

In 1603, Parliament found in favour of the Painter-Stainers and an Act was passed forbidding plasterers from using colours on enriched plasterwork in London or its suburbs, though they were permitted to distemper and use blacking, whiting and ochres provided the mixed colours had no oil content.

The Act of Parliament did not prevent George Fewkes and Humphrey Willmott, both of whom would later rise to the position of Master within the Plaisterers' Company, completing the elaborate moulded plasterwork decorations and enriched plaster ceilings of the Mansion House when it was built between 1739 and 1752.

Discipline within the Livery

These entries from the Work Quest Book don't just illustrate the zeal with which the Company carried out its duty to preserve high standards of workmanship, they are also evidence that female plasterers were not uncommon in the 18th century.

Search Day

24 May 1726

Randolf Stanley for very bad workmanship in lathing and setting greene and bore and bad gurcks. Fined 10 shillings.

24 May 1726

Mary Smith for bad lathing not being lapped and not being nayled and or ends cut off. Fined 5 shillings.

20 August 1742

Thomas Parks for bad workmanship in washing stopping and whitening at His Majestys palace of Saint James. Fined 40 shillings.

20 August 1742

Hamerton widow of Thomas Hamerton for bad workmanship and repairing of plasterers work and washing and stopping and colouring of the outside of six houses in the strand. Fined £1.10.0.

31 July 1753

Wooldridge Plaisterer of Carters Rents for bad whitewashing at the Merchant Taylors Hall. Fined 40 shillings.

7 August 1760

Francis Edwin, a Master Plaisterer and Liveryman of the Plaisterers' Company having made use of bad materials and having mixed and used hay & straw with haire. Fined 40/-

5 August 1761

Humphrey a Master Plaisterer and Liveryman of the Company for bad and imperfect workmanship in the cleansing and whitening of Plaisterers' work by him done. Fined 42 shillings.

The Founding of The City and Guilds of London Institute

By 1860 the Company of Plaisterers comprised just 46 Liverymen and the Company's income was a mere £120. The last Apprentice Charles George Ive was 'bound' on 21 January 1840 to Joseph Staynes (Master 1852) yet in 1877,

Past Master S.M. Hubert represented the Company at two meetings of those Livery Companies which had promised to contribute to the proposed scheme for a national system of technical education.

In November 1877 the Plaisterers were one of the original eight Companies that formed an association for the purpose of united action in the promotion of technical education by means of a City Guilds University. This became the City and Guilds of London Institute.

By the time the Institute was finally incorporated under the Company Acts in 1880, a further eight Livery Companies had joined as founder members.

The Plaisterers have contributed to the City & Guilds of London Institute every year since helping to found it in 1877, with the exception of a few years following the destruction of its property in 1940 and the consequential loss of its income.



CITY AND GUILDS
OF LONDON INSTITUTE, 1881

Donations to the Armed Forces Prior to 1940

By 1884, the Company's income had increased by some £340, primarily due to increases in rent on our Addle Street premises.

In 1900 we were able to respond to the Lord Mayor's appeal with a donation of 50 guineas to the 'Transvaal War Fund' for the Boer War. The money was to be applied in such a way as the Lord Mayor in his discretion might think most advisable for the relief of distress arising from the War. The Company made a further donation of 50 guineas to the City of London Imperial Volunteer Fund.

In the foyer of our Hall there is a letter from the Under Secretary of State, War Office, thanking the Company and enclosing a medal with clasps to signify those earned by City of London Volunteers during the War.



The Company from 1940

The Plaisterers' Company during World War II

During the Second World War the Court continued to meet in spite of the difficulties.

At the beginning of 1940, the then Master, John Bellman died during his year of office. No one was available to take his place during hostilities other than Past Masters. Past Master Percy Mott was elected Master and held office until Henry Mott returned from active service overseas in time to be elected Master in July 1945.

Before the War, the Company's premises in Addle Street were let and Court Meetings were held in the Cordwainers' Hall. After its destruction by enemy action, the Court met in the Master's office for all its proscribed Meetings. On only four occasions did the number attending fall below nine, the number previously required for a quorum.

The Company suffered considerably during the War. The Clerk's office was badly damaged by bombing on two



occasions, but luckily none of the Company's records was lost, although the Master's chair was destroyed. The Carpenters' Hall, where the Company's safe was housed, was also destroyed. The safe remained underground until recovered by the Clerk in 1949, fortunately the contents were undamaged.

The most disastrous blow came when the Company's property was destroyed on the night of the 29 December 1940.

The tenants, Foster, Porter & Company, disclaimed the lease and no rent was thereafter received. This required the Company to sell a total of £1,200 of its 2% Consols to keep the Company running for the rest of the War and until the War Damage money was paid. Therefore in the years immediately following the War the Company's annual income after tax was only £13.14.6d. (£13.72), and the number of the Livery had fallen to 28.

Post War Compensation and Compulsory Purchase

When the War Damage was paid in December 1947, the bulk was invested in replacing the Consols, various Bonds and a few smaller stocks.

Despite food rationing, that started at the beginning of the War and continued for some years afterwards, a dinner for 12 was held on 19 October 1948.

A presentation was made to Alfred Mott on his retiring from the Clerkship. He and his father, Henry Mott, who had been appointed Clerk in 1848, completed 100 years in that Office.

At about the same time, the Common Council of the City of London applied for an Order that the Company's freehold land should be subject to compulsory purchase. The acquisition of the freehold site the Company had owned for 400 years took place in 1956.

In 1948 membership level dropped to 29 but in January that year the resurgence of the company began with the admission of freeman Doris Mary Oates.

The Building of the Plaisterers' Hall

At the Court Meeting on the 7 April 1959, the then Master, Harry Humber started the most momentous and far reaching event in the history of the Company by suggesting that the Company should acquire a site in the City to erect an office block and a Hall.

To safeguard the Company against any loss which might arise through the building of a new Hall, the Plaisterers Hall Limited was incorporated on the 21 January 1960. In March 1961 the Clerk gave the City Planning Officer the Company's requirements for a Hall and ancillary rooms and offices, etc. as 10,000 feet super with headroom of at least 20 feet, that being the minimum required for a hall to seat 300 persons.

At a meeting on 17 March 1961 the Planning Officer stated there was a site available on the south side of the corner of London Wall and Aldersgate Street. To get the outline planning permission from the City, Messrs Ronald Ward & Partners were appointed architects, and by April 1964 permission was obtained.

Past Master Derek Robinson was a member of the firm and was closely involved in developing the design. Past Master Ernie Pilgrim, an engineer, was also involved.

Harry Humber, as a builder and a qualified plasterer, made many helpful amendments to the plans in order to get the greatest amount of lettable space out of the office block and the best layout for the Livery accommodation. It was also he who insisted that the decor in the accommodation should be in the Adam style.

The final plans were eventually agreed by the City on the 19 March 1970, and tenders for the work invited.

The tender of G.E. Wallis & Sons Limited for a fixed price contract of £923,797 being accepted, and work commenced on the 8 June 1970.



Plasterers' Hall Takes Shape

The foundation stone was laid on the 27 May 1971 by the Lord Mayor, Sir Peter Studd. During the entire building work Harry Humber attended at the Hall frequently to check the progress and to ensure that the work on the Livery accommodation was carried out to the high standard Adam demanded.

Harry Humber masterminded the decor throughout the Hall, oversaw the design of the purpose made chandeliers, tables and chairs, chose the pattern for the carpet from one designed by Robert Adam, and supervised the purchase of all the other fittings and equipment. In recognition of Harry Humber's huge contribution, the Court commissioned a portrait of him from J. Hughes Hallett to be hung in the Hall.

In 2005 the old Court Room was renamed the Humber Room in honour of Past Master Humber's outstanding contribution to the Company and the portrait was re-hung there.

By now the number of the Livery had increased to 159. When the Hall was nearing completion, a fund was set up to the purchase of chairs or silver and over 90 Liverymen contributed.

The Clerk approached the City Corporation to see if they would loan the Company paintings to hang in the Hall.

At first they showed reluctance, but on seeing the Hall they not only loaned the portraits of four former Lord Mayors, two of whom were Past Masters of the Company, and the Four Virtues painted by Thornhill, but even arranged for their hanging. Now all was ready for the opening on the 29 November 1972 by the Lord Mayor, Lord Mais.

The Interior of Plasterers' Hall

The accommodation in the Hall consists of the Great Hall – the largest Livery Hall in the City, the Livery Hall, the Humber Room, the Mott Room, the Ambulatory and reception areas and a large kitchen.

The decor of the principal rooms is of the neo classic style created by Robert Adam in the 18th Century. His various designs have been faithfully reproduced in great detail both in plaster and wood.

The Great Hall

The decorations and plasterwork are at their grandest in Great Hall. The magnificence of the work is rarely attempted in this age, and provides a superb setting for the traditional banquets that the City of London is renowned for. Pairs of pilasters with capitals in early Corinthian style as first used on the Tower of the Winds in

ancient Athens, arcade the walls, with sunken panels between them terminating in 'three centred Plasterers ovals'.

A full entablature, richly ornamented and subtly picked out in colour, conceals lighting which illuminates a grand coved ceiling rising to a clear height of over 27 feet.

The three chandeliers are purpose made, each being approximately twelve feet high and eight feet in diameter.

The Livery Hall

The Livery Hall is quite different in style and design from Great Hall. The ceiling consists of ornamental fibrous plaster coffers illuminated by ten basket type chandeliers and the walls are panelled in rich mahogany with an ornamental plaster frieze. This Hall will seat 80. The names of Past Masters were inscribed on the wall panels in 2017.

The Humber Room

Adjoining the Livery Hall is the Humber Room, named in memory of Past Master Harry Humber, whose energy and enthusiasm ensured the realisation of a new Plasterers' Hall.

It is an elegant room decorated in dove grey with the plaster enrichment picked out in gold. Portraits of Past Master Harry Humber and Past Master Peter Cook (Sheriff 2009-2010) hang in this room.

The Mott Room

Facing the Livery Hall and adjoining Great Hall is the Mott Room, named as a tribute to the Mott family. Three generations were Clerks to the Company for 147 years – portraits of them hang there. The delicate enrichments of the plaster ceiling and frieze have been picked out in the traditional pastel shades of the Adam period.

The portraits now hanging on the south west wall of Great Hall, reading from the windows, are those of:

Lord Mais

Honorary Liveryman and Lord Mayor 1972/73

Alderman Nicholas Anstee

Honorary Liveryman and Lord Mayor 2009-2010

Sir John Pirie

Master of the Company 1828/29 and Lord Mayor 1841/42

Sir Thomas Kelly

Master of the Company 1831/32 and Lord Mayor 1836/37

Sir Peter Gadsden

Honorary Liveryman and Lord Mayor 1979/80

Sir Francis McWilliams

Honorary Liveryman and Lord Mayor 1992/93





Number One London Wall

The office block of 11 storeys and 50,000 square feet of lettable space, was finally completed on the 14 February 1973, and the Lease from the City to the Plaisterers Hall Limited was completed, signed and exchanged on the 23 March 1973.

The creation of Plaisterers' Hall Limited meant the Plaisterers' Company was protected if anything went wrong, but benefited if Plaisterers Hall Limited was a success.

Shortly before the Hall was opened the Beadle, H.G. Herbert, resigned after having served in that office for 52 years. H.G. Herbert had followed four other members of the Herbert family, who had been Beadles continuously since 1825.

The Mott and Herbert families, who served the Company as Clerk (1848-1995) and Beadle (1825-1972) respectively, both achieved 147 years of unbroken service. Without doubt this must be a record in the Livery Companies.



Jubilee Garden

In 1977 to mark the Queen's Silver Jubilee, Plaisterers Hall Limited obtained a licence from the City to create a formal garden in stone at the east end of the Great Hall, with two fountains and steps leading up to a balustrade over the old Roman Wall.

This was supervised by the Chairman of Plaisterers Hall Limited, Harry Humber and architect, Godfrey Gilbert.

Many challenges arose as consents had to be obtained from not only the City Surveyor, the City Architect and Planning officer, the City Engineer and the Comptroller and City Solicitor, but also from the Consultant to the City Corporation on Ancient Monuments, the Department of the Environment, the Museum of London, the City of London Museum, and the Trees, Gardens and City Open Spaces Committee!

Three years later the City agreed to extend the licence to the strip of land between the Jubilee garden and Noble Street running to the old watchtower further along.

The garden is now a lawn and wild flower garden and the annual licence fee of one Jubilee Crown is presented by the Master to a representative of the City of London Corporation at a suitable event during the year.

A beehive, in the care of the Worshipful Company of Wax Chandlers, was installed in the garden in 2016.

Social Activities

The only social activity before World War II was one dinner a year for the members of the Livery and their ladies. The last dinner, in October 1938, was attended by 18 members and 55 guests. There were no dinners during the War.

Since the War the number of functions has increased greatly. The first Annual Banquet, took place in February 1950, during the Mastership of Ashe Lincoln. It was attended by 18 members of the Court and Livery and 61 guests.

The Charitable Trust

In 1980 the Company started its Charitable Trust. While the Company had never had such a Trust before, it regularly supported the City & Guilds and other education projects out of its meagre corporate income. It also paid pensions to a number of widows and Freemen, amounting in some years to over £100, a not inconsiderable amount in the middle of the 19th century.

In the 21st century the Trust focuses on needs outside of the Company.



THE GREAT HALL PROVIDES A STUNNING ATMOSPHERE FOR SPECIAL PARTIES AS WELL AS FORMAL DINNERS.



Quincentenary Celebrations

The 500th Anniversary celebrations of the Company in 2001 started with a special Service of Thanksgiving in St Paul's Cathedral followed by a Reception in Great Hall on 9 March. On that day in excess of 1,000 people were present in St Paul's including the Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, Dean and Chapters and choirs of both St Paul's and Peterborough Cathedrals, Royal Marines trumpeters and the Masters and Clerks of 63 other Livery Companies.

Christopher Gower, the Director of Music at Peterborough Cathedral at the time, wrote a special Anthem for the occasion and has since become a Liveryman of the Company.

At the following champagne reception, nearly 800 people gathered to witness a brilliant moment of theatre. With a fanfare of trumpets from the Royal Marines, King Henry VII swept in with his

entourage to re-present our Charter and make clear the duties and responsibilities of the Company. The Master, Peter Cook responded on behalf of the Worshipful Company, who once again undertook all the directives placed upon it in 1501.

On 28 June 2001, a Gala Banquet took place in Guildhall in the presence of the Lord Mayor, Sheriffs and some 60 Masters of fellow Livery Companies. The glittering evening was rounded off with the Royal Marines Beating Retreat in Guildhall Yard.

To complete a very exciting year for the Worshipful Company, in November the Livery sponsored a horse-drawn Landau in the Lord Mayor's Procession. The Landau carried the then Master, Alan Turner, accompanied by the Clerk, Ralph Vickers, the Upper and Renter Wardens and the Beadle, Michael Coyle, on a most enjoyable journey around the City.

Redevelopment

Only fifteen years after the opening of the Hall, concerns were raised about the office block at Number One London Wall and redevelopment was suggested.

Thirteen years after that in late 2000, Heads of Terms were agreed between Plaisterers Hall Limited and the developer, a partnership between Kajima, a Japanese Bank, and Hammersons Limited.

The redevelopment agreement required the sale of our Head Lease from the City Corporation, to the Developers and a new lease from the Developers to Plaisterers Hall Limited allowing occupation of our Livery accommodation and offices for 150 years at a peppercorn rent. The effect of this agreement was that the Company would no longer be supported by income from the office development, as it had been since 1972.

During this time Livery functions were held in different Livery Halls around the City. Liverymen were very fortunate in being able to visit many Halls during this period including the Mansion House, which was used for the Annual Banquets.

The Livery returned to Number One London Wall on 15 March 2004. The Annual Banquet in May of that year was held in the Great Hall amid much celebration.

Bursaries from the Charitable Trust

Harry Humber Bursary

Following the death of Harry Humber in 1993, a Bursary was set up at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, in recognition of his love of music and his enormous contribution to the Livery over more than forty years. In 1994, the first bursary for £1,000 was given to Julian Milford, a post graduate student on an advanced Solo Studies Course. Since then many young musicians have greatly benefited from the Humber Bursary.

Since 2016, the Humber Bursary supports the work of Voces Cantabiles Music.

Henry Mott Bursary

The death of Henry Mott in 1999, only four years after his retirement from the Clerk's duties at the age of 91, allowed the Company to fund a further Bursary. The Mott Bursary commenced in 2000 and sponsors a chorister at Peterborough Cathedral. The award of a Bursary to Peterborough Cathedral reflected the great pleasure provided by the Peterborough Choir at their annual visit to the Livery Carol Service.

500th Anniversary Bursary

In 2001, as a result of a special request to all members of the Livery, on behalf of the Charitable Trust, the 500th Anniversary Bursary was set up.

The Bursary sponsors the education of a chorister at St Paul's Cathedral who is presented with a ribbon and special medallion carrying the Company Crest.



THE MASTER (2000-2001), PETER COOK, PROUDLY HOLDS THE RE-PRESENTED CHARTER BY KING HENRY VII, SOME 500 YEARS AFTER THE ORIGINAL VERSION WAS GRANTED.



The Company in the Third Millennium

Female Liverymen

Past Master Ralph Vickers took over the mantle of Clerk in July 1995. During his tenure perhaps one of the most radical moves was in April 1999, to allow women to become Liverymen in their own right for the first time since the 18th Century.

The first women to be elected to the Livery were robed in July 2002 and by July 2018 the number of female Liverymen has risen to nineteen, with eight female Freemen.

Industry Committee

In 1997 the Court approved the setting up of an Industry Committee with the aim of promoting effective support of the plastering industry. In the first year of the Committee's existence, the Chairman, Past Master Paddy Wettern, discussed with colleges specialising in plastering courses and how the Company might encourage expertise with prizes to students and colleges.

Register of Associates

In 1997, Past Master Peter Cook, as part of the Industry Committee, directed the Company in setting up a new register of Master Plasterers. A register of Certified Plasterers had been set up by the Company in 1929 but became defunct.

The idea was well received in the Industry and the first Register of Associates containing sixty members

who had been elected Associates of the Company was available in 1999.

In November 2000 the first printed Register of Associates was issued to some 6,000 Architects, Developers, Contractors and Specifiers and contained almost 100 names. The Company is currently examining further ways in which this initiative can be developed.

Awards for Student Achievement

October 1999 also saw the first presentation to colleges of awards for student achievement in plastering qualifications, with the reintroduction of the Harmer, Crombie and Clanrye Trophies and the Regency Vase.

The ceremony now encompasses awards to commercial training providers and to the top ACA students in the country for both solid and fibrous plastering. A Lifetime Contribution to Training is recognised with a silver salver given by Past Master David Holliday. The Sword of Excellence, presented by Past Master Michael Hall, is awarded to the plastering Company showing most commitment to training. In 2017 an 'Apprentice of the Year' Award was introduced.

Website

Near the end of 2000, the Company's website went online.

www.plastererslivery.co.uk

The Livery really was in the 21st Century and just about to celebrate its Quincentenary.

Governance of the Livery 1501

In 1501 the Company received its first Royal Charter from Henry VII, allowing the creation of a Guild with legal status, governed by the Master and Wardens, to manage the trade and includes an interesting reference to **'the Master and Wardens and brethren and sisters of the Guild'**.

1765

The Company's current Rules, Orders, Constitutions and Ordinances (ROCOs) were approved by the Chancellor and two Chief Justices.

There are some 13,750 words of rather old fashioned English in the ROCOs and significant parts have become outdated but they remain a fascinating historical document.

2001

A Strategic Plan was presented to the Court which suggested that the Company should embark upon governance by objectives.

A Committee structure was drawn up to address and report on matters which affected the progress of the Livery towards achievement of its objectives. This was approved by the Court and resulted in Committees being set up to concentrate on Public Relations, Membership and Functions to work alongside existing Committees of Industry, Investment and Finance and the Company's Charitable Trust.

2003

The Company re-introduced Common Hall calling all members together to discuss matters of interest to the Livery. Rising from the original medieval Guild assemblies, the Plaisterers' Common Hall is now an annual event held prior to the Robing Ceremony in July.

The Company has five Royal Charters of which the second and fourth have been lost.

The first allowing the creation of a Guild with legal status to manage the trade.

The third, granted by Elizabeth I requires that the Rules and Ordinances shall be approved by the 'Chancellor and two Chief Justices'.

The fifth Charter, granted by Charles II restates the previous authorities, distinguishes various trades and extends the jurisdiction of the Company.



2004

- The Court agreed to the re-introduction of Quarterage, starting from 1 January 2004. Quarterage had been charged to all Liverymen until January 1865 when the minutes of the Court Meeting stated that the Court will 'remit charges until further notice'.
- The Court agreed that the minimum age for election to the Livery be reduced from 30 to 25, and the minimum age for admission to the Freedom was set at 21.

2006

The Strategic Plan was reviewed by the Court for the five year period 2006-2011 and has the following Mission Statement:

To ensure the positive development of the ancient values of the Company in a modern environment and create a vibrant, sustainable future for the Livery and its membership.

To make a difference in our support of the industry we represent, the charities we assist, our affiliations, the Lord Mayor and the City of London.

2008

Following the Court's decision that the ROCOs should be reviewed new Rules and Procedures (RaPs) have been written. At 2,680 words The RaPs are rather shorter than the ROCOs, largely because the new document is deliberately more general. There is very little new in the RaPs – they simply reflect the operation of the Livery in 2008 and provide an understandable set of Rules and Procedures.

2011

- The Court embarked on the preparation

of a 5-year Strategic Plan for 2011-2016. The Clerk sent a Questionnaire to all Members in February 2011 and the responses were used to identify relevant membership and other issues needing to be addressed in the Plan.

- The Master Plasterer Certificate was introduced for the first time.
- De Bradshaw was elected Renter Warden, the first recorded Lady Liveryman to hold the post.

2012

- A new 5-year Strategic Plan was adopted in October 2011 and important issues relating to membership, finance and the growth of the Charity were addressed.
- The Company held its first 'Open Day' in June 2012 as part of the "Celebrate the City" weekend linked to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the London 2012 Olympic Games.

2013

- The Company's first Lady Master, Ms De Bradshaw, took office on 16th July 2013.

2014

- First Apprentice "Bound" since 1840.

2015

- Her Royal Highness, the Duchess of Cornwall, Honorary Liveryman, visits Plaisterers' Hall for the first time.

2016

- A new 5-year Strategic Plan was approved by the Court in October 2016

2017

- After the flood on Good Friday 2016 the Hall reopens in November 2016

The Clerk and the Beadle

1996

The retirement of Henry Mott, ending the family's 147 years of dedicated and unbroken service to the office of Clerk made way for Past Master Ralph Vickers to become Clerk. Holding office till 2002 Ralph's term of office included the reintroduction of female members and ended with the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the first Charter.

2002

Hilary Machtus was elected to office as Clerk having served as Assistant to both the previous Clerks. Her Clerkship saw the Company 'itinerant' during the reconstruction of the offices above the Hall and the substantial review of the governance of the Livery.

2003

Michael Coyle our Beadle retired in July 2003. Michael joined the Livery staff as Hall Keeper and Beadle in 1972 when the Hall opened, retiring from Hall Manager's duties in 1995. During this time he served 31 Masters and three Clerks.

Following his retirement Michael was invited to become a Liveryman of the Company and was subsequently robed in July 2004. The Beadle's duties were taken over by Jamie Wallis who has acted as Toastmaster for a number of years.

2010

Hilary Machtus retired as Clerk and was appointed Clerk Emeritus. The new Clerk, Nigel Bamping, a Past Master of the Worshipful Company of Solicitors of the City of London took office at the Robing Ceremony on 20 July 2010.

How did the 'i' get in?

The original Charter of 1501 is written in Latin. However, the Charter granted by Elizabeth I about 1596 is in English, and the Company's name is spelled 'Plaisterers' and the word 'maister' is spelt with an 'i'. Then in the Charter granted by Charles II in 1667, the Company is referred to as the 'Guild or Fraternity of the Blessed Mary of Plaisterers London', and the word 'master' is spelled without the 'i'.

The next reference appears in the engraving on the Loving Cup presented to the Company by Past Master Thomas Kelly on his election to the office of Lord Mayor in 1836, here the name is spelled without the 'i'. The letter written by the Under Secretary of State, War Office, dated 30 August 1901, thanking the Company for their contributions towards the campaign against the Boers, spells it without the 'i'. It would seem, therefore, that from at least 1667 the pronouncing of the name has been a reflection of the origins of the Company – Plasterers.

The Clerks since 1848 have used that pronunciation when admitting Freeman to the Company. However, in the 1950s more members were themselves plasterers or closely involved in the industry and preferred to distinguish themselves from other members of the trade by saying they were members of the Plaisterers' Company that is, pronounced with the 'i'.

In 1960, the Court resolved that the pronunciation would be left to each member to decide which he/she preferred.



The City of London

Local Government

The Constitution of the City of London Corporation differs from that of other municipalities in a number of ways. The voting rights of the Liverymen of the City Companies is perhaps the most striking example.

Outside the City of London, councillors are elected by the local government electors, whilst the Mayor, who serves for one year, and Aldermen, who serve for four years, are elected by the Council. Sheriffs are appointed by the Crown. By custom they retire at 70, the retirement age of Magistrates (Aldermen were previously all JPs).

However, in the City of London, local government is exercised by the Court of Common Council, consisting of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Common Councilmen. Aldermen and Common Councilmen are chosen by the electors of the twenty-five Wards of the City. This includes residents, partnerships and sole traders as well as corporate and other organisations.

Although Aldermen are appointed to hold office for life, subject to surrender or disqualification, they now offer themselves for re-election every six years. By custom they retire at the age of 70, in line with the retirement age of Magistrates (Aldermen were previously all JPs). Common Councilmen face Ward elections every four years with the next being in March 2021.

The Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, and certain officers, however, are chosen each year by another electoral body, consisting of the liverymen of the City's Livery Companies, known as Common Hall. There are 110 Livery Companies having some 30,000 liverymen, making this the largest gathering of citizens for any municipal purpose.

Such an assembly places the election of the Lord Mayor on a far wider basis than the usual appointment by a Council.

The custom whereby the liverymen in Common Hall select two persons for submission to the Court of Aldermen for the final choice of one of them as Lord Mayor was firmly established in 1406.

Before a citizen can attain to the office of Lord Mayor, he or she must submit him or herself to election on three occasions and finally to scrutiny by the Court of Aldermen.

Firstly

The voters of the Ward for which they are a candidate for the office of Aldermen.

Secondly

The Liverymen in Common Hall assembled, on election as Sheriff.

Thirdly

The Liverymen in Common Hall, on nomination for Lord Mayor.

Finally

The Court of Aldermen, select one of the two persons nominated by the Livery.



As many Aldermen serve their apprenticeship on the Common Council, an earlier election by Ward voters can usually be inserted at the head of this list. The Elections of both the Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs require the approval of the Sovereign.

In the City, the Lord Mayor has precedence over every subject and takes his or her place immediately after the Sovereign. Traditionally, when the

Sovereign enters the City, the Lord Mayor awaits at the City boundary. On ceremonial occasions the Lord Mayor surrenders the City Sword point downwards and on receiving it back bears it erect in procession before the Sovereign. This ceremony is now only occasionally performed.

Outside the City, the Lord Mayor takes position next below Privy Councillors.

Freedom of the City of London

For centuries the Freedom was essential to every man who desired to exercise a trade or handicraft within the City.

Among the privileges were immunity from toll at all markets and fairs throughout England, freedom from impressment into the armed forces, exclusive right to trade both by wholesale and retail within the City, and the right to vote at Ward and Parliamentary elections.

As long ago as 1275 Andrew Horn, a City Chamberlain, wrote,

'It should be known that there are three methods by which a man acquires the Freedom of the City; first that he be a man born in the City lawfully from his father, secondly, that he be an apprentice with a freeman for seven years and not less, and thirdly that a man may compound the Chamberlain for his freedom before the Mayor and other Aldermen'.

These three methods, known as Patrimony, Servitude and Nomination, still apply today:

By Patrimony

For children of Freemen – provided one parent was a Freeman prior to the applicant's birth.

By Servitude

For apprentices who have served a full apprenticeship to a Freeman.

By Nomination

Persons of any nationality may apply for the Freedom by nomination of two sponsors who will be Common Councilmen of the City of London, Aldermen or members of a Livery Company.

Applicants may also be presented by a Livery Company. In addition, there is another specialised category open to those people who wish to stand for election to the Court of Common Council and who do not have ready access to the Nominators outlined (ie the Lord Mayor, Sheriff, Aldermen, Common Councilmen of the City of London or Liverymen).

In such a case an applicant can be supported by any two electors registered in the City or by two persons eligible to sign an application for a passport.

The Present Day Privileges Enjoyed by Freemen and their Dependants

Freemen of the City may take apprentices without the intervention of a livery company, according to the Custom of London, to serve a bona fide apprenticeship. Such apprentices must be bound before the Chamberlain and enrolled in his office, and at the expiration of their indentures will, on proof of faithful service, be entitled to the freedom of the City by servitude.

Freemen of the City in distressed circumstances are eligible, subject to certain conditions, for admission to one of the Corporation's Almshouses, which provide accommodation for married couples and single persons. The widow, widower or child of a deceased Freeman is, in certain circumstances, also eligible for admission.

The children of Freemen of the City are, as far as possible, given preference on a waiting list for admission to one of the Corporation's schools.

The orphan children of Freemen or Freewomen of the City are, subject to certain conditions, eligible for admission to the City of London Freemen's School, where they are maintained and educated. The small fees payable for admission to the Freedom of the City are devoted to the upkeep of this School.

Widows or widowers of Freemen of the City are eligible to receive small sums of money annually at Christmas time (on application).

There are certain charities administered by some of the Livery Companies and other trustees applicable generally to necessitous Freemen and their dependants.

The Freedom of a Company may entitle a person to privileges within that Company and confer rights in respect of its charitable funds. The Freedom both of the City and a Company is a prior requisite to the admission to the Livery of that Company.



Livery Companies of London

The Origins

Guilds were common all over Europe during the eleventh and twelfth centuries. They started as religious and social fraternities and the craft element grew almost accidentally, largely because people of the same craft tended to live in the same neighbourhood.

The first definitive mention of a London Guild was of the Weavers. Their dues to the Crown are recorded in the Exchequer Roll of 1130.

Having no meeting place, a Guild attached itself to a neighbouring church or hospital, whose patron saint it adopted. Legend has it that St. Bartholomew was adopted early in Christian history by the plasterers of Rome. His Saint's Day is 24 August.

The religious side of the fraternities influenced the character of the Guilds and in particular gave them their Liveries. These distinctive costumes were common in the higher grades of life in the Middle Ages. All great households provided their dependants with a livery.

Another aspect of the fraternities that was perpetuated in the Guilds was the encouragement of good fellowship and hospitality. Meetings of the fraternity for funerals or masses were followed by feasts that grew more elaborate until they

finally became the entertainments for which the Companies are famous today.

Survival

In 1835 the Common Council decided that membership of a Company was no longer necessary for the Freedom, or full citizenship, of the City of London causing fears that the end of these ancient corporate bodies was in sight.

These fears were groundless. Today over 30,000 people are entitled to wear the Livery of their respective companies, well over double the number in 1882 when the Royal Commission on the Livery Companies was held. However from 1842 to 1860 the number of Freemen in the Plaisterers Company fell from 140 to 67 and that the number of liverymen fell from 79 to 46.

Livery Companies have amalgamated or fallen by the wayside throughout the years, leaving 110 remaining today.

The Merchant Taylors and Skinners Companies take it in turns yearly to be sixth and seventh. The Parish Clerks, the Watermen and Lightermen's Companies are without Livery.

LIVERY COMPANIES IN ORDER OF PRECEDENCE

1	Mercers	41	Joiners & Ceilers	79	Solicitors
2	Grocers	42	Weavers	80	Farmers
3	Drapers	43	Woolmen	81	Air Pilots
4	Fishmongers	44	Scriveners	82	Tobacco Pipe Makers & Tobacco Blenders
5	Goldsmiths	45	Fruiterers	83	Furniture Makers
6/7	Merchant Taylors	46	Plaisterers	84	Scientific Instrument Makers
7/6	Skinners	47	Stationers & Newspaper Makers	85	Chartered Surveyors
8	Haberdashers	48	Broderers	86	Chartered Accountants
9	Salters	49	Upholders	87	Chartered Secretaries
10	Ironmongers	50	Musicians	88	Builders Merchants
11	Vintners	51	Turners	89	Launderers
12	Clothworkers	52	Basketmakers	90	Marketors
13	Dyers	53	Glaziers	91	Actuaries
14	Brewers	54	Horners	92	Insurers
15	Leathersellers	55	Farriers	93	Arbitrators
16	Pewterers	56	Paviors	94	Engineers
17	Barbers	57	Loriners	95	Fuellers
18	Cutlers	58	Apothecaries	96	Lightmongers
19	Bakers	59	Shipwrights	97	Environmental Cleaners
20	Wax Chandlers	60	Spectacle Makers	98	Chartered Architects
21	Tallow Chandlers	61	Clockmakers	99	Constructors
22	Armourers & Brasiers	62	Glovers	100	Information Technologists
23	Girdlers	63	Feltmakers	101	World Traders
24	Butchers	64	Framework Knitters	102	Water Conservators
25	Saddlers	65	Needlemakers	103	Firefighters
26	Carpenters	66	Gardeners	104	Hackney Carriage Drivers
27	Cordwainers	67	Tin Plate Workers	105	Management Consultants
28	Painter-Stainers	68	Wheelwrights	106	International Bankers
29	Curriers	69	Distillers	107	Tax Advisers
30	Masons	70	Pattenmakers	108	Security Professionals
31	Plumbers	71	Glass Sellers	109	Educators
32	Innholders	72	Coachmakers	110	Arts Scholars
33	Founders	73	Gunmakers		
34	Poulters	74	Gold & Silver Wyre Drawers		
35	Cooks	75	Makers of Playing Cards		
36	Coopers	76	Fanmakers		
37	Tylers & Bricklayers	77	Carmen		
38	Bowyers	78	Master Mariners		
39	Fletchers				
40	Blacksmiths				



Calendar & Events

2018-2019





2018	Sept	Mon 03	Charity Trustees @ 1.00pm
		Tues 04	Membership Committee @ 12 noon
		Weds 05	Finance Committee @ 11.30am
		Weds 05	Industry Committee @ 3.00pm
		Mon 10	Marketing & Communications Committee @ 1.00pm
	Oct	Mon 01	Election of Lord Mayor & Informal Lunch
		Tues 02	October Court and Autumn Livery Dinner
	Nov	Tues 06	Past Masters' Meeting & Lunch @ 11.30am
		Sat 10	Lord Mayor's Show & Luncheon
		Tues 20	Training Awards Presentation Lunch
		Weds 21	Finance Committee @ 11.30am
		Weds 21	Industry Committee @ 3.00pm
		Mon 26	Marketing & Communications Committee @ 1.00pm
		Tues 27	Membership Committee @ 12 noon
	Dec	Weds 05	Carol Service & Christmas Supper
		Thurs 06	Investment Committee @ 12 noon (joint with Charity Trustees)
		Thurs 06	Charity Trustees @ 1.30pm
	2019 Jan	Tues 08	January Quarterly Court & New Year Dinner for Masters & Clerks
	March	Mon 04	Charity Trustees @ 1.00pm
		Weds 06	Marketing & Communications Committee @ 1.00pm
		Thurs 07	Membership Committee @ 12 noon
		Tues 12	Finance Committee @ 11.30am
		Tues 12	Industry Committee @ 3.00pm
		Fri 29	United Guilds Service & Lunch
	April	Tues 02	April Quarterly Court & Spring Livery Dinner
		Fri 19	Good Friday
		Mon 22	Easter Monday
	May	TBA	Inter-Livery Clay Pigeon Shoot
		Tues 21	Annual Banquet
	June	Mon 03	Investment Committee @ 12 noon (joint with Charity Trustees)
		Mon 03	Charity Trustees @ 1.30pm

		Thurs 06	Membership Committee @ 12 noon
		Weds 12	Marketing & Communications Committee @ 1.00pm
		Thurs 13	Finance Committee @ 11.30am
		Thurs 13	Industry Committee @ 3.00pm
		Mon 24	Election of Sheriffs & Informal Lunch
	July	Mon 01	Quarterly Court & Court Dinner
		Sun 07	Annual Kelly Service
		Tues 16	Common Hall, Robing, Service & Dinner
	Sept	Mon 02	Charity Trustees @ 1.00pm
		Tues 03	Membership Committee @ 12 noon
		Weds 04	Finance Committee @ 11.30am
		Weds 04	Industry Committee @ 3.00pm
		Mon 09	Marketing & Communications Committee @ 1.00pm
	Oct	Tues 01	October Court and Autumn Livery Dinner
		Weds 02	Election of Lord Mayor & Informal Lunch
	Nov	TBA	Training Awards Presentation Lunch
		Sat 09	Lord Mayor's Show & Luncheon
		Tues 12	Past Masters' Meeting & Lunch @ 11.30am (TBC)
		Weds 20	Finance Committee @ 11.30am
		Weds 20	Industry Committee @ 3.00pm
		Mon 25	Marketing & Communications Committee @ 1.00pm
	Dec	Tues 26	Membership Committee @ 12 noon
		Mon 02	Carol Service & Christmas Supper (TBC)
		Thurs 05	Investment Committee @ 12 noon (joint with Charity Trustees)
	2020 Jan	Thurs 05	Charity Trustees @ 1.30pm
		Tues 14	January Quarterly Court & New Year Dinner for Masters & Clerks
	March	TBA	United Guilds Service & Lunch
	April	Tues 07	April Quarterly Court & Spring Livery Dinner
		Fri 10	Good Friday
		Mon 12	Easter Monday



Inter livery sport, social and other events

There are an increasing number of annual (or sometimes occasional) inter-livery sporting contests, or other activities, exhibitions etc. They are usually organised by one Livery Company, but open to all others (though this may not always be the case).

Some examples are below.



Art Exhibitions organised by the Painter-Stainers' Company



Sheep Drive organised by the Woolmen's Company (occasional)



Bridge organised by the Makers of Playing Cards Company (first Monday in March)



Shooting (clays) organised by the Environmental Cleaners' Company (May)



Golf organised by the Coachmakers' Company (May, the 'Prince Arthur'). Other golf competitions are also arranged.



Shooting (rifle) organised by the Bakers' Company



Skiing organised by the Ironmongers' Company (January)



Pancake Races organised by the Poulterers' Company (Shrove Tuesday)



Tacitus Lecture organised by the World Traders' Company (fourth Thursday in February)



Pewter Live Exhibition organised by the Pewterers' Company (June)



Tennis organised by the Feltmakers' Company (September)



Sailing organised by the City Livery YC (offshore)



Wizadry in Wood Exhibition organised by the Turners' Company

The above are, more often than not, advertised in the Clerk's Newsletter. If you are interested in receiving more information about any of the events listed, please contact the Clerk's Office.

City Briefings

These are aimed particularly at new Liverymen and Freemen; partners are also welcome, as are Court Assistants and Liverymen of longer standing, who have not previously been to a Briefing, who are also encouraged to attend.

They give a short introduction to the work of the Corporation, especially the relationship with the livery companies. The presentation is given by an Assistant Town Clerk and a member of the Livery Committee. There is opportunity to ask questions of the speakers and the Briefing is followed by a light finger buffet, which provides the chance to mix with other Liverymen and Freemen.

Location

Livery Hall
71 Basinghall Street
Guildhall
London EC2V 5DH

Cost

There is a non-refundable charge of £20 per person for the course.

Dates

Monday 8th October 2018

Tuesday 20th November 2018

Tuesday 5th February 2019

Wednesday 15th May 2019

Monday 21st October 2019

Tuesday 19th November 2019

Bookings

www.liverycommitteecourse.org/city-briefings.php

Wardens and Court Assistants City Course

Learn how the Civic and financial City works. This all day course is intended for Senior or Upper Wardens due to take the chair over the coming 12 months. Their spouses, partners and consorts are also very welcome to attend.

The course covers how the City Corporation and key office holders operate and interact, the working of the City and financial services and the role of Master. There is a special session for Consorts.

Location

Guildhall
71 Basinghall Street
London EC2V 7HH

Cost

The course costs £75.



Plasterers' Lodge

FOUNDED IN 1955

The Plasterers Lodge was founded in 1955 by several Past Masters and Liverymen of the Worshipful Company of Plasterers. It celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2005 with an open meeting to dedicate a new banner.

There are some fifty Liverymen who are members of the Plasterers' Lodge including twelve Past Masters of the Livery, and who meet, by kind permission of the Master, Wardens and Court of Assistants of the Worshipful Company, in Plasterers' Hall four times each year. Some 20 or more Sister Livery Lodges meet in the City and regular inter-visiting takes place between them, especially by the Worshipful Master during his year in Office, which fosters good relations between the Sister City Livery Lodges.

Freemasonry is one of the oldest and largest secular fraternal societies. It is a society concerned with moral, social and spiritual values, and its members are taught through a series of dramas using the tools of a stonemason in a symbolical or allegorical way.

During the 18th Century, a period known as the Age of Enlightenment, a great many scientists and other notable men became Freemasons including Sir Isaac Newton, Benjamin Franklin, William Hogarth, George Washington and Sir John Sloane. Among those of the 20th Century who were Freemasons were HM King George VI, Sir Winston Churchill, Sir Ernest Shackleton, Captain Scott, Archbishop Geoffrey Fisher, Rudyard Kipling, Duke Ellington and Clive Lloyd.

Freemasonry expects from its members a respect for the law. Its principles do not in any way conflict with its members' duties as citizens. Indeed it should strengthen them in carrying out their public and private responsibilities.

Freemasons undertake to follow three grand principles in their lives, which are expressed (in 18th Century language) as:

Brotherly Love

Showing tolerance and respect for the opinions of others and behaving with the same kindness and understanding towards others as they would wish to be treated themselves.

Relief

Practising charity and caring for those less fortunate than ourselves, not only our own members and families, but also for the community as a whole, both by charitable giving, and by voluntary service.

Truth

Developing high moral standards of truth and honesty, which we aim to achieve in our own lives.



Freemasonry is also a lot of fun and in the Plasterers' Lodge we enjoy evenings together with the opportunity to get to know other members of the Livery and entertain masonic guests in the wonderful surroundings of the Plasterers' Hall.

For further information please contact the Lodge Secretary, Past Master Nick Carr.

The dates for meetings this year are as follows:

Monday 10th September 2018

Monday 12th November 2018

Monday 11th March 2019

Monday 10th June 2019

Monday 9th September 2019

Monday 11th November 2019

Masters
since 1570

1570-1571	Simon Bedaugh	1630-1631	John Allen	1698-1699	Henry Cromwell	1761-1762	John Pratt	1822-1823	Olive Hall	1888-1889	Henry Urquhart	1961-1962	Richard Kersey
1571-1572	Cornelys Hand	1631-1632	William Wichnore	1699-1700	Edward Martin	1762-1763	John Meelery	1823-1824	Peter Mitchell	1889-1890	Samuel Messiter	1962-1963	Harold Cadman
1572-1573	Raffe Bettess	1632-1633	Edmond Lake	1700-1701	Henry Doegood	1763-1764	John Laban	1824-1825	Benjamin Willats	1890-1891	Robert Taylor	1963-1964	Walter Horrocks
1573-1574	Thomas Kelley	1633-1634	Edmond Waite	1701-1702	John Combes	1764-1765	James North	1825-1826	John Allnatt	1891-1892	William Stoner	1964-1965	Frederick Turner
1574-1575	Cornelys Hand	1634-1635	Martyn Eastbrand	1702-1704	John Tooley	1765-1766	(James Wise	1826-1827	Thomas Palmer	1892-1893	Rufus Workman	1965-1966	Walter Forrest
1575-1576	Raffe Bettess	1635-1636	William Whiting	1704-1705	John Edmondson		(Jabez Reed	1827-1828	Thomas Pritchard	1893-1894	William Connell	1966-1967	Harold Cowan
1576-1577	Thomas Kelley	1636-1637	Edmond Lake	1705-1706	Thomas Walker	1766-1767	Walter Scott	1828-1829	John Pirie	1894-1895	Arthur Hammack	1967-1968	William Wylie Harris
1577-1578	(John Bettess	1637-1638	Williant Walters	1706-1707	Robert Powell	1767-1768	William Willat	1829-1830	John Spurling	1895-1896	George Mee	1968-1969	Evan Jenkins
1578-1579	Simon Bedaugh	1638-1639	George Eatchell	1707-1708	James Tucker	1768-1769	Thomas Palmer	1830-1831	William Willats	1896-1897	Henry Wild	1969-1970	John Jeffree
1579-1580	Thomas Kelley	1639-1640	John Taylor	1708-1709	Richard Flye	1769-1770	John Baker	1831-1832	Thomas Kelly	1897-1898	Aubrey Spurling	1970-1972	William Bell
1580-1581	Cornelys Hand	1640-1641	William Willingham	1709-1710	Francis Handley	1770-1771	George Wellings	1832-1833	John Williams	1898-1899	Samuel Stacey	1972-1973	Alfred Telling
1581-1582	Thomas Warbishe	(Raffe Bettess	1641-1642	Robert Langley	1710-1711	Robert Shann	James Palmer	1833-1834	John Stayner	1899-1900	Samuel Walker	1973-1974	Albert Powley
1582-1583	Raffe Bettess	1642-1643	Edward Lucas	1711-1712	John Cordey	1771-1772	Humphrey Wilmott	1834-1835	William Little	1900-1901	Llewellyn Hammack	1974-1975	Jack Godfrey Gilbert
1583-1584	Thomas Warbishe	1643-1644	William Betaugh	1712-1713	Nicholas Roberts	1773-1774	Thomas Brooks	1835-1836	Thomas Skinner	1901-1902	Arthur Spurling	1975-1976	Andrew Roberts
1584-1585	Simon Bedaugh	1644-1645	John Hubberd	1713-1714	John Grinsell	1774-1775	Euclid Harrison	1836-1837	John Tanner	1902-1903	Wesley Marshall	1976-1977	Peter Schryver
1585-1586	John Laycock	1645-1646	John Walters	1714-1715	William Hayes	1775-1776	Joseph Rose	1837-1838	James Hoole	1903-1904	Frederick Capron	1977-1978	John Fleming
1586-1587	Raffe Bettess	1646-1647	George Ubancke	1715-1716	John Crouch	1776-1777	Joseph Cooper	1838-1839	John Cooper	1904-1905	Edward Nisbet	1978-1979	Alfred Castell
1587-1588	Thomas Kelley	1647-1648	William Shute	1716-1717	Robert Mabbs	1777-1778	John Cloudes	1839-1840	John Charrington	1905-1906	Cuthbert Spurling	1979-1980	David Mott
1588-1589	Thomas Warbishe	1648-1649	John Smith	1717-1718	Henry Beale	1778-1779	John Cheek	1840-1841	Grantham Gace	1906-1907	Henry Holt	1980-1981	Gordon Infield
1589-1590	Richard Barfeild	1649-1650	Bartholomew Clarke	1718-1719	John Bunce	1779-1780	Francis Edwin	1841-1842	Richard Mott	1907-1908	Arthur Fox	1981-1982	Patrick Wettern
1590-1591	Raffe Bettess	1650-1651	Edmund Perwich	1719-1720	Thomas Combes	1780-1781	Euclid Harrison,Jnr	1842-1843	William Tozer	1908-1909	Richard Johns	1982-1983	Ralph Vickers
1591-1592	William Bottom	1651-1652	Martyn Eastborne	1720-1721	William Pope	1781-1782	John Davis	1843-1844	Alexander Thomson	1909-1910	Henry Phillippss	1983-1984	Douglas Tribe
1592-1593	Edmund Essex	1652-1653	Henry Chippine	1721-1722	John Winterburne	1782-1783	Thomas Cogan	1844-1845	Michael Hall	1910-1911	Frank Griffith	1984-1985	Ronald Hills
1593-1594	Robert Burton	1653-1654	Charles Daves	1722-1723	Robert Greene	1783-1784	William Wamsley	1845-1846	William Butterfield	1911-1912	Waiter Payne	1985-1986	Derek Robinson
1594-1595	Henry Willis	1654-1655	Miles Steede	1723-1724	Chrisostome Wilkins	1784-1785	John Simmons	1846-1847	William Shott	1912-1913	Arthur Lacey	1986-1987	Norman Goldwater
1595-1596	Richard Barfeild	1655-1656	Joseph Kinsman	1724-1725	(John Silver	1785-1786	William Green	1847-1848	Edward Lacey	1913-1914	Herbert Walker	1987-1988	Trevor Spicer
1596-1597	John Jackson	1656-1657	Edward Goodenough		(Nathaniell Hunton	1786-1787	William Sydenham	1848-1849	Daniel Norton	1914-1916	Frederick Costello	1988-1989	Roy Beavis
1597-1598	John Jackson	1657-1659	Abraham Stanyon	1725-1726	Richard Peak	1787-1788	Edward Stroud	1849-1850	Henry Walmsley	1916-1918	Frederic Hudson	1989-1990	Philip Gidle
1598-1599	Robert Button	1659-1660	Thomas Lycense	1726-1727	James Ellis	1788-1789	Thomas Cope	1850-1851	James Smallbone	1918-1920	Percy Mott	1990-1991	Julian Dalrymple
1599-1600	Henry Willis	1660-1661	William Hollins	1727-1728	Richard West	1789-1790	William Roberts	1851-1852	Thomas Evans	1920-1921	Francis Goldsmith	1991-1992	Horace Warrell
1600-1601	Hugh Cappe	1661-1662	Edmund Perwich	1728-1729	Randal Stanley	1790-1791	Joseph Pope	1852-1854	Joseph Stayner	1921-1922	Edwin Clark	1992-1993	Ronald Jordan
1601-1602	Richard Dongan	1662-1663	Arthur Toogood	1729-1730	Richard Burgiss	1791-1792	John Brown	1854-1855	William Hopkinson	1922-1923	John Roper	1993-1994	George Grover
1602-1603	Jackson Guest	1663-1664	William Musgrove	1730-1731	William Clarke	1792-1793	Thomas Clarke	1855-1856	John Furze	1923-1924	William Stearns	1994-1995	Hugh Kersey
1603-1604	Hugh Cappe	1664-1665	John Smith	1731-1732	John Gregory	1793-1794	Richard Delannoy	1856-1857	James Hoole	1924-1925	Frank Bishop	1995-1996	Raymond Wakeham
1604-1605	Richard Dongan	1665-1666	Robert Doegood	1732-1733	John Withers	1794-1795	(John Vincy	1857-1858	Samuel Little	1925-1926	Charles Brown	1996-1997	Bryan Lincoln
1605-1606	Edward Essex	1666-1667	Daniell Morris	1733-1734	William Tooley		(James Palmer	1858-1859	Arthur Longley	1926-1927	Frank Griffith	1997-1998	Robert Faulkner
1606-1607	Richard Dongan	1667-1668	John Martyn	1734-1735	William Lord	1795-1796	John Wilmot	1859-1860	Thomas Brewer	1927-1928	William Watson	1998-1999	Ernest Pilgrim
1607-1608	Richard Ratcliffe	1668-1670	Henry Strode	1735-1736	Thomas Wise	1796-1797	Thomas Willats	1860-1861	Henry Hammack	1928-1929	Arthur Harrison	1999-2000	Christopher Towlson
1608-1609	Richard Browne	1670-1671	John Blunt	1736-1737	William Smith	1797-1798	Edward Rogers	1861-1862	George Roffey	1929-1930	Arthur Pinney	2000-2001	Peter Cook
1609-1610	Raphe Guest	1671-1672	Richard Watle	1737-1738	Joseph Turner	1798-1799	William Dyer	1862-1863	Samuel Hubert	1930-1931	Percy Edwards	2001-2002	Alan Turner
1610-1611	Henry Standly	1672-1673	Stephen Clay	1738-1739	William Bayly	1799-1800	John Jackson	1863-1864	Percival Spurling	1931-1932	William Costello	2002-2003	Robin Doran
1611-1612	Hugh Cappe	1673-1674		1739-1740	John Simons	1800-1801	John Dawson	1864-1865	James Vining	1932-1933	William Hepden	2003-2004	Michael Lepper
1612-1613	Richard Browne	1674-1675	Daniel Morris	1740-1741	Thomas Bridge	1801-1802	Thomas Palmer	1865-1866	John Walker	1933-1934	Stanley Palmer	2004-2005	David Holliday
1613-1614	(Raphe Guest	1675-1676	Thomas Griffith	1741-1742	Thomas Baker	1802-1803	John George	1866-1867	Arthur Cawthorn	1934-1935	George Ells	2005-2006	Michael Hall
1614-1615	Henry Stanley	1676-1677	John Stevenson	1742-1743	William Willats	1803-1804	William Bickerton	1867-1868	Henry Phillipps	1935-1936	Geoffrey Mott	2006-2008	Nicholas Carr
1615-1616	Richard Terrey	1677-1678	Edward Langley	1743-1744	Richard Scarr	1804-1805	William Bates	1868-1869	Christopher Ellerby	1936-1937	William Symmons	2008-2009	Reginald Denby
1616-1617	Randall Clarkson	1678-1679	William Floyder	1744-1745	Andrew Eales	1805-1806	Samuel Bostock	1869-1870	William Hagell	1937-1938	Adam Brown	2009-2010	Robert Dalrymple
1617-1618	Ellis Piggin	1679-1680	Stephen Clay	1745-1746	Edward Holloway	1806-1807	William Roberts,Jnr	1870-1871	Edward Bacon	1938-1939	Walter Pollock	2010-2011	Hubert Lacey
1618-1619	John Longforth	1680-1681	Henry Gardiner	1746-1747	Edward Jones	1807-1808	Edward Halsey	1871-1872	James Hammack	1939-1940	John Bellman	2011-2012	Peter Baker
1619-1620	John Allen	1681-1682	Henry Hodsdon	1747-1748	Joseph Lister		Bockett	1872-1873	William Alexander	1940-1945	Percy Mott	2012-2013	Gary Morley
1620-1621	Henrie Briggs	1682-1683	John Dolphen	1748-1749	Thomas Meekes	1808-1809	Ralph Hall	1873-1874	Joseph Surr	1945-1946	Henry Mott	2013-2014	Deidre Bradshaw
1621-1622	Thomas Atkinson	1683-1684	Christopher Tompson	1749-1750	Henry Gartrup	1809-1810	Thomas Creser	1874-1875	Henry Wild	1946-1947	Rudolph Brunner	2014-2015	Michael Jones
1622-1623	Richard Browne	1684-1685	Samuel Smith	1750-1751	(Edward Everard	1810-1811	John Brotherton	1875-1876	Charles Wild	1947-1948	Cuthbert Spurling	2015-2016	Bill Mahony
1623-1624	John Allen	1685-1686	Thomas Townerow		(William Harrison	1811-1812	Henry Flower	1876-1877	Frederick Carritt	1948-1949	Ernest Millwood	2016-2017	Terence Wright
1624-1625	Richard Fisher	1686-1687	John Combes	1751-1752	Benjamin Glanvill	1812-1813	John Wyett	1877-1878	William Brook	1949-1950	Ashe Lincoln	2017-2018	Richard Hanney
1625-1626	Thomas Widmore	1687-1688	Andrew Hatt	1752-1753	Thomas Cogan	1813-1814	James Mayor	1878-1879	George Summers	1950-1951	Horace Palmer	2018-	Timothy Cooke
1626-1627	Robert Whiting	1688-1689	John Stevenson	1753-1754	Arthur Stanley	1814-1815	Richard Delannoy,Jnr	1879-1880	Frederic Hall	1951-1952	Aubrey Ells		
1627-1628	Edward White	1689-1690	Thomas Newburn	1754-1755	Thomas Fletcher	1815-1816	Thomas Jackson	1880-1881	Thomas Burrowes	1952-1953	John de Savary		
1628-1629	Thomas Atkinson	1690-1691	Stephen Cowford	1755-1756	Thomas Seagood	1816-1817	George Dowse	1881-1882	James Howes	1953-1954	Douglas Abbott		
1629-1630	Richard Rawlidge	1691-1692	Andrew Hatt	1756-1757	William Cutter	1817-1818	John Watts	1882-1883	Robert Ransom	1954-1955	Terriss Bowler		
		1694-1695	Henry Gardiner	1757-1758	Charles Rogers	1818-1819	(John Bell	1883-1884	Percy Spurling	1955-1956	Archibald Lightman		
		1695-1696	(Edward Hollingshead	1758-1759	Richard Wingfield		(Francis Bernascom	1884-1885	Robert Durham	1956-1957	William Warne		
		1696-1697	(Thomas Buttler	1759-1760	(Thomas Wise	1819-1820	James Johnson	1885-1886	James Harrison	1957-1958	John Harmer		
		1697-1698	John Willeye		(Thomas Chooke	1820-1821	Samuel Hough	1886-1887	John Billinghurst	1958-1960	Harry Humber		
			Abraham Crisp	1760-1761	George Fewkes	1821-1822	Thomas Daplyn	1887-1888	George Pepler	1960-1961	Thomas Taylor		



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Cover image: The 'Where's Wally?' 10k Fun Run Team with the Master