



# THE SALAMANDER

SERVICE | FELLOWSHIP | HARMONY | HONOUR

AUGUST 2016

## NEW MASTER FOR FIREFIGHTERS COMPANY





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Cover picture is the New Master 2016-17 Bruce Hoad with Janice, the Mistress Firefighter. Bruce is an author of the WCoFF new publication "The Great Fire of London 1666" which is due to be published as you receive this Newsletter.

## FROM THE MASTER



This August issue of the Salamander comes at a time of some significance in the cementing of the relationship of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters with

the City of London. This September marks the 350th anniversary of the Great Fire of London in 1666, which devastated almost two thirds of the City and the impact on the many livery companies, churches and City of London institutions at that time was considerable. It can be argued that the event was the prime instigation of, firstly, the Fire Insurance industry and, secondly, the formation of more formal and improved fire fighting methods, leading eventually to the creation of the London Fire Brigade, this year celebrating its 150th anniversary.

Although in itself a young 28 year organisation by City standards, the Worshipful Company of Firefighters has, over the past few years, proved itself as a valuable contributor to the continuing resilience of the City. Its promotion of fire safety issues via its annual City fire lecture, communication through its annual City fire dinner and, in espousing relationships with the UK wide fire industry via its annual Fire Industry Charity Ball, which helps fund its charitable activities such as the encouragement of the fire cadet movement within the London boroughs are snapshots of some of the ways our Company now gets positively involved within the City.

Although 350 years ago seems a long time ago, most of us can still relate to the impact such a City fire would have had on the ordinary lives of people living in the city. There are a large number of events happening across the City to commemorate the 350th anniversary from a special exhibition at the London Museum, displays and talks at the Guildhall Art Gallery

and Library, City of London Heritage Gallery and Library, as well as special services of commemoration in St. Paul's and St. Mary-at-Hill. On the anniversary of the fire itself (2-4th September), you can climb the Monument for free, there will be a light display event beamed onto the dome of St. Paul's church and a large scale representation of the 17th century London skyline will be floated on the River Thames. The City of London has also provided a self-guided walking tour of the key parts of the City affected by the fire - the WCoFF have been involved in this project, said to be one of the most popular guides the City has published.

To commemorate the event, the WCoFF has been very active in its own right as well. Not only has this year's Fire lecture been focussed on the 1666 fire, but the Company has set about publishing its own forensic analysis, undertaken by Dr Peter Mansi, a livery member of the Company, wrapped up in a commemorative book which also provides good information on earlier London fires, the impact of the fire on churches, livery halls and the formation of the insurance industry - it is definitely a book you should buy. There are also prints to purchase of the famous Holler view of the City in 1666, a special plate depicting one of the amazing paintings of the fire and a set of commemorative stamps, signed by your Master and dated on the anniversary - a real investment opportunity for you.

I hope you enjoy this issue of news about our Company and the stories presented on the Great Fire of London. Please pick up a leaflet on the Great Fire 350 ([visitlondon.com/greatfire350](http://visitlondon.com/greatfire350)) or get one on the Great Fire of London trail - our future lies in better appreciation of our past and our commitment to the present. Your involvement in the life of the Company is important.

**Bruce Hoad**  
Master.

Worshipful Company of Firefighters



Master, Wardens and Officers of our Company 2016-17

The Company's Common Hall ceremony was held at the Insurance Hall on Friday, 01 July 2016, and was followed by a Service of Rededication at the Company's spiritual home, the Church of St Mary-le-Bow in Cheapside. Both events were well attended by Company officers, members and guests.

Common Hall is effectively the Company's Annual General Meeting and therefore included the presentation of reports from the outgoing Master, the Finance Committee and the Company Clerk. Company members were afforded the opportunity to ask questions of the outgoing Master and other Company officers.

Although all Company appointments for 2016/17 were agreed at the Election Court in June, they became effective at Common Hall. In a well-rehearsed formal ceremony, under the watchful guidance of Past Master Colin Livett and Company Beadle, John Norris, the outgoing Master, Ronald Murray, handed over the Master's Robe and Chain of Office to the New Master, Bruce Hoad, who was formally installed. Subsequently John Mansfield was installed as Upper Warden, Andrew Mayes as Renter Warden, Frances Blois as Under Warden, whilst Court Assistant Graham Maltby moved to become Under Warden-in-Waiting. The New Master presented Immediate Past

Master Murray with a Past Master's Badge, whilst Mrs Janice Hoad was presented with the Mistress Firefighter's Badge.

Past Master Murray made several personal presentations following the delivery of his report, including a Past Mistress's Badge to his wife, Jenny.

Other new Company appointments included the installation of Past Master Peter Cowland as Honorary Almoner, Liverymen David Holt as Court Assistant and Kenneth Williams as Sentinel. The post of Standard Bearer was formally added to the list of Company Officers and this position remains held by Liveryman John Kempton.

After Common Hall the Company processed to St Mary-le-Bow Church, escorted by a guard of exceptionally well turned out cadets from our affiliated Air Training Corps unit, 2433 (Ramsgate and Manston) Squadron.

The Service of Rededication was presided over by the Company's Honorary Chaplain, the Reverend George Bush, who delivered a most thoughtful and challenging sermon. The service was followed by a glass of wine and a buffet supper.

Common Hall 2017 will be held on Friday, 07 July.



## NEW MEMBERS



### Tim Hailes

Tim Hailes is Alderman for the Ward of Bassishaw and is also a liveryman of the Worshipful Companies of Solicitors, International Bankers and Pewterers.

He will become Sheriff in the City of London in 2017. He is also a magistrate on the Central London bench, a member of Chattam House and a churchwarden at St Lawrence Jewry.

Tim graduated in history from King's College but later qualified as a solicitor in 1995. He has enjoyed good experience in both the political arena as well as forging a career in banking and law working within leading companies such as J.P. Morgan and Union Bank of Switzerland. He is currently co-head of the Global Equities Practice Group of the Corporate and Investment Bank legal department.



### Simon Petts

Simon began his service career with the Fleet Air Arm of the Royal Navy in 1985. He spent nine years in the service covering risks ranging from the flightdeck

of HMS Illustrious to most of the Navy's air stations.

Simon left the Navy in 1994 and joined Gatwick Airports Fire Service. He has been involved in the training side of Gatwick's operation since 1997 and has delivered many courses as an instructor and course director.

Currently Simon holds the position of Chairman for the Airports Fire Officers Association (AFOA), whose membership includes over 90% of the UK's aviation based fire and rescue services, promoting inter agency knowledge sharing.

Members who swore their Freedom in the year were:

### April 2016

Mark Rist

### November 2015

Simon Petts, Michael Akers, Douglas Vaughan and Ron Dobson

### September 2015

Ken Williams - Ken has also become a Sentinel in the Company

Members taking livery in the year were:

### June 2016

Alderman Tim Hailes and Andrew Cutbill

### November 2015

Ron Dobson and David Holt

### September 2015

Jeanne Brinton

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS



Past Master Geoff Morgan with the coveted Firefighters' trophy 2015

On September 4th, a posse of WCoFF golfers, led by Past Master Jeremy Beech, defended the honour of the Company at the autumn livery company golf tournament at the Wildernesse Golf course in Kent. The match with the Painter Stainers is now extended to include one or two other Liveries. This makes for a very happy day with plenty of banter and friendly rivalry in wonderful surroundings and some real friendships are formed. The event was Jeremy's last as Golf Secretary, a post he is relinquishing after 15 years! So we are looking for a golfer to take over the job, which entails not much more than being the point of contact with other Livery Companies. Anyone wishing to take over should contact Jeremy.

It is always sad to report the passing of members of the Company - their presence at our meetings will be sorely missed.

This year we saw the passing of:

### **Sir Reginald Doyle CBE QSFM**

Sir Reginald Doyle was CFOA President 1983-1984 and former HM Chief Inspector of Fire Services and former Chief Fire Officer of Kent FRS (1977 to 1984).

### **Paul St. John Byles**

Paul was ex-constable of the WCoFF. Paul served in the LFB and following his retirement became the Membership Secretary of the LFB RMA. On his retirement from this position he was made a Life Vice President of the Association for his work on their behalf.

He was also a member of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters and served on the Board of Trustees for the Fire Fighters Memorial Charitable Trust before ill health took over and he emigrated to the USA. He returned to Scotland where he sadly passed away.

### **Donald Bond**

Donald Bond was Court Assistant and Sentinel of the WCoFF. He joined the Company in 1992 after retirement from a career in Newspapers and with General Electric where he was in charge of PR and overseas exhibitions. He also took an active interest in children's care activity supporting his wife Rose who worked at the St. Leonard's Children's home in Hornchurch, organising sports for them and taking them on holiday. He was a strong family man, very proud of his own children and latterly, his five grandchildren. His love of London also drew him also work as a volunteer on the staff of St. Paul's Cathedral and to be a member of the Tower Ward club. He will be sorely missed by his many friends he made in the City.

### **Daniel Cornwell**

Danny Cornwell was a fireman & aircraft handler aboard the Royal Navy aircraft carrier HMS Eagle. Danny was mad on cars and, as a member of Wickford Auto club, his enthusiasm could be seen in all sorts of organisation roles as well as in rallies, go-karting and autocross events and his garage at home was said to be an Aladdin's cave of motor parts. A man always ready to help others, he was a true gentleman who will be hugely missed.

### **Geoffrey Ord**

Geoffrey served with South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue, Kent Fire and Rescue and was ex-HM Inspector of Fire. He also was Executive Director and Head of human resources at AssetCo which runs multi year contracts with the many Middle East and UK re and rescue authorities, providing for all their vehicles and equipment needs.

He joined the AssetCo team in 2007 and played a key role in the establishment of the company's United Arab Emirates (UAE) branch in 2010. He was a giant of a man, innovator and well respected throughout the Fire Authorities. He will be sorely missed by family and colleagues.

### **Terry Baldwin**

Terry Baldwin was the Company's Almoner for many years and his cheerful presence will be sorely missed, not only by those he helped but by all the Company - his smile and warm embrace accompanied him in all his meetings.

Terry was one of the founding directors of Baldwin Boxall - a company started in the shed at the bottom of his garden in 1982. He and Dave Boxall were great enthusiasts for communication devices and their unique range of products for the fire industry saw the company grow to one of the most revered of its type in the UK. Their mantra was customer care and both Terry and Dave exemplified this attitude throughout the growth of their business and also in the care of staff.

## A LOOK BACK



A look back at what's happened over the past 12 months from Immediate Past Master Ron Murray

By the time you are reading this I will be the Immediate Past Master and certainly my year has gone so quickly - what a year it has been - with many highs and only a few lows.

Throughout my year I have attended so many wonderful lectures, events, luncheons and banquets and it has been an honour to represent our company.

The saddest part of my year were the deaths of our honorary Almoner Terry Baldwin, Liveryman Donald Bond, Liveryman Danny Cornwell, and then Liveryman Paul St John Byles - may they all rest in peace.

The St Florian & Massey Shaw banquets were both a great success, and were fully subscribed and with a waiting list, which has not happened for a long time. During the year I also had the honour to present the certificate of affiliation to 2433 R.A.F Squadron Air Cadets based at Manston to their Officer Commanding - Flt. Lt. Geoff Hobbs-East. Our Company's 1st affiliation, I am sure that in time there will be others.

The Queen's garden party, also her 90th Birthday, was another unforgettable event, and even the rain could not spoil the day with the Queen carrying out her duties regardless - God bless her. In this year's Queen's Honours list, John Kempton, our Liveryman & Standard bearer received the M.B.E. - congratulations John.

I also wish to thank Jenny for organising several Ladies events during our year, and from which Jenny received many letters saying how much the lady members enjoyed their day.

In June I held the Master's reception at the City Livery Club and this was attended by 32 guests, enabling me to thank all the other livery Masters, Clerks and distinguished guests for their hospitality during my year as Master.

In handing over to Bruce, our new Master, at Common Hall, I know that the Company is in a safe pair of hands. I hope that both Bruce and Janice have as good a year as Jenny and I did, and with your help and commitment - I am sure he will.

Finally I wish to say thank you to all members for allowing me to represent our Company as your Master and Ambassador - it has been a privilege.



Immediate Past Master Ron Murray with wife Jenny and son Darren



## FIRE INDUSTRY BALL 2015



Guests enjoying the reception drinks and wine prior to the Fire Industry Charity Ball

Many members and guests enjoyed going to the Fire Industry Charity Ball on 12th September 2015. The event was held at the Radisson Blue (SAS) Portman Hotel and included dinner, a charity auction and dancing to Nicole and her Big Band. It was a fun packed evening and important in fund raising for our Charitable Trust.

*To book your place for The Fire Industry Charity Ball 2016 please see the back page of this issue for more information.*



Master (2015-16) Ronald Murray  
and Mistress Jenny

Dancing till late with Nicole and her Big Band



# ST. FLORIAN'S INSTALLATION BANQUET 2015



Master Ron Murray, Left: Upper Warden Bruce Hoad & Right: Renter Warden John Mansfield

Over 150 members and guests enjoyed a lovely evening at the Vintners' Hall on Friday 16th October at the St. Florian's Installation banquet.

Following a champagne reception when there was an opportunity to view the wonderful collection of wine glasses and silverware, we were called to the glorious dining room. A fitting grace was "poemed" by the Reverend George Bush and during the meal, musical entertainment was provided by pianist Mark Risi. Upper Warden Bruce Hoad proposed the toast to the guests and it was a pleasure to hear one of the principal guests, Mark Smith, curator of the Royal Artillery museum at Woolwich Arsenal, give a delightful talk on his collection (over 6000) of war-time medals.

Mark also explained the origin of the Victoria Cross as a medal and he illustrated his talk with some stories of the bravery of men who had won it. He then proposed a toast to the Worshipful Company of Firefighters. Our new Master, Ron Murray, responded on behalf of the Company, thanking his family and friends for supporting him for the year ahead.

Finally, as a surprise, Rose Clarkson, wife of the

Father of the Company Gerald Clarkson, also proposed a toast to the Firefighters, wishing Ron and his team success in the year ahead.



The loving cup ceremony

## THE HISTORY

The Ceremony of the loving cup, which is traditional with all livery companies, is said to date back to Saxon times before the Norman Conquest of 1066, and to derive from the assassination, by command of Elfrida, of King Edward whilst drinking.



The Master and the Chair of the Trustees Frank David presenting Burns Camp cheque

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This was held on 11th November at the Caitlin Group UK HQ. Following on from the success of our 2014 dinner where we raised over £20,000 for youth causes, the focus of our 2015 City Dinner was again on the work undertaken by Fire Brigades across the country with regard to youth education, training and support.

The WCoFF City Dinner was hailed by the organising team to be the most successful to date with over £30,000 raised for our Charitable Trust YETI scheme.

With an impressive array of guests which included three "Sirs", a Dame, the City Police Commissioner Adrian Leppard and LFB Commissioner Ron Dobson, the evening was hosted by The Governments Chief Fire & Rescue Advisor Peter Holland CBE QFSM FIFireE.

Making a surprise appearance was Scottish rugby International Craig Chalmers who conducted the auction with Past Master Bryan Spearman. Following on from the success of previous dinners, The Master and the Chair of the Trustees Frank David were able to present cheques totalling £30,000 to representatives from LFB Cadets, The Burns Camp and Essex

Fire-Break Scheme.

Particularly moving was a tribute to the work of the Essex Brigade from Mrs. Dee Anderson whose daughter Katy attended a Firebreak Course along with other children from the Haven Hospice. Sadly Katy died not long after she completed the Course but Dee wanted to let the WCoFF and our guests know that the money raised at the City Dinner and donated by our Trustees brings boundless happiness and opportunities to many young people like Katy from so many different backgrounds.



Cheque being presented to Fire-Break.

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See page 18 of this issue for coverage of the Fire-Break passing-out parade.





Members and Guests at The Armourers Hall enjoying the evening

The Massey Shaw Annual Dinner is held in honour of Sir Eyre Massey Shaw, who was the first Chief Fire Officer of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. This year, the dinner was held in the amazing Armourers Hall on Wednesday 9th March. The Armourers have had a hall on their site in Coleman Street since 1346 and the Hall's striking interior features 16th and 17th Century armour, weapons and paintings. The Hall was one of the very few to escape destruction in the Great Fire of 1666, which was checked a few yards short of it. The Company is much indebted to an unknown fireman who, during the blitz of 1940, seeing the curtains of the Court Room ablaze, broke into the Hall and extinguished the flames. Although his identity may never be known, his quick thinking undoubtedly saved the Hall. The venue was a superb, historic and unique location.

Invited guests included CFOA President for 2015/6, Paul Hancock of Cheshire FRS and Master of the Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers Colin Evans. The guest speaker was Mr. Vincent Hayes, the Owner of the Brick Lane Old Time Music Hall, who brought his wonderful eclectic style of entertainment to great use in his talk, highlighting the efforts made by his Music Hall charity to bring cheer

to disadvantaged communities throughout the East End of London.

Upper Warden Bruce Hoad introduced the principal guests and set the scene for the Company's annual award recognising endeavour and expertise in the world of firefighting. CFOA recommended this year that the award should be made to Evan Morris, MBE, former head at Community Safety with Cheshire FRS, for his pioneering work in enabling all English FR Services to better target safety interventions towards elderly people. In this work he has worked closely with the NHS and Age UK.



Sir Eyre Massey Shaw  
(1830-1908)



## THE LORD MAYOR'S SHOW 2015



Jeff Gilbert / Alamy Stock Photo

### Firefighters participate in the Lord Mayor's Show 2015

Master Firefighter Ronald Murray took his rightful place in the "Number One" seat of a beautifully restored fire engine at the Lord Mayor's Show on 14 November 2015.

The fire engine, a 1956 Kommer Carrier Water Tender, which for many years protected the village of Crowborough in East Sussex, is the property of Upper Warden Bruce Hoad who brought it into London especially for the event.

The Master was accompanied by the Wardens and a number of his Liverymen during the show, all waving enthusiastically to the thousands of stoic people who lined the 3 mile route to watch the parade and welcome in the new Lord Mayor.

### THE HISTORY

In 1215 the King was persuaded to issue a Royal Charter that allowed the City of London to elect its own Mayor. We presume that he gave his blessing to the commune in order to keep the City on his side, but there was an important condition. Every year the newly elected Mayor must leave the safety of the City, travel upriver to the small town of Westminster and swear loyalty to the Crown. The Lord Mayor has

now made that journey for 800 years, despite plagues and fires and countless wars, and pledged his (and her) loyalty to 34 kings and queens of England.



Past Master Peter Cowland with his daughter Abigail who is wearing her grandfather's fire kit.

The Lord Mayor's Show 2016 will be held on Saturday 12th November starting at 11am.

More information is available at:  
<https://lordmayorsshow.london/history/>



# 1940 BLITZ REMEMBERED



Worshipful Company of Firefighters with a 1937 Leyland Metz 100 ft TTL in the background

On Tuesday 29th December, the Fire Service Preservation Group held an event to mark the 75th anniversary of the biggest Blitz raid on London. Two fire appliances were on show outside St. Paul's. There were also events at Dowgate Fire Station on Lower Thames Street. At 18:15, the siren sounded and the appliances went on a circuit of the City "on the bell".

December 29, 2015 was the 75th anniversary of an air raid on London that led to a fire later described as the Second Great Fire of London. Within the first hour of the raid 10,000 incendiary devices had been dropped by German bombers and at least a further 10,000 followed over the next few hours.

There was widespread destruction of property across the City. Strenuous efforts were made to protect St Paul's Cathedral which, at one point, had an incendiary device lodged in the dome.

Members of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters, including PM Peter Cowland, were amongst a group who paid tribute to the firefighters who fought those fires, at a series of ceremonies around the City on the day of the anniversary.

The Fire Service Preservation Group, together with some private owners, brought together a number of pre-war fire appliances, several of which had served in London during the Second World War. They were displayed on the forecourt of Dowgate fire station and outside St Paul's, arousing considerable interest amongst the tourists in the City that day.

At midday, members of the Preservation Group laid a wreath at the memorial to one of the firefighters killed on the night of 29/30 December, 1940, Auxiliary Fireman Sydney Alfred Holder, in Shoe Lane. Fireman Holder was killed when a wall collapsed on him. Later in the day there was a display by the fireboat Massey Shaw which was joined on the Thames by one of the current LFB fireboats, Fire Dart.

At 18:05 a hand-operated air-raid siren was sounded at Dowgate fire station and all the old appliances, together with Dowgate's Pump Ladder, made a short circuit of the City before assembling for a service at the Firefighters Memorial, opposite St Paul's.

*Picture left to right: Graham Woodhouse, Peter Cowland, Bruce Hoad, Mike Cotton (LFB), Mike Hebard, Graham Maltby and David Holt*

## MEET THE FIREFIGHTERS 2016



Members & invited guests attended "Meet the Firefighters" at the Insurance Hall

Meet the Firefighters is an annual event where we open our doors to invited guest to explain to them what Livery Company's are and more importantly what they are not.

Throughout the year, the Company organises many events for members, their partners and families, members of other Livery Companies and from the Fire Fighting community. Currently we hold two formal dinners each year, the Massey-Shaw annual dinner (named after the first Chief Officer of the London Fire Brigade) and the St Florian's Installation Banquet, in memory of the Patron Saint of Firefighters where we greet the recently elected Master of the Company. Partners, Family and Guests are warmly welcomed at both dinners when we have the opportunity to display the Company silver and plate. There are other less formal dinners and lunches including those intended especially for New Members and Liverymen.

The Events committee organise a number of events and outings such as visits to the Tower of London (to witness the Ceremony of the Keys), also visits to HMS Belfast, HQS Wellington and HMS Victory have also been organised. There have also been river trips,

visits to fire stations and informal lunches for members and ladies, who have also organised trips to establishments such as Mansion House and the Bank of England. We take part in the Lord Mayor's show, inter-livery golf matches and also provide a team for the Livery Pancake Race at the Guildhall Yard on Shrove Tuesday. Our most glittering social event is the Annual Fire Industry Charity Ball held at a London venue in September of each year.

The more serious side of the Livery Company is not neglected with the annual 'Fire' Lecture attended by representatives from Industry, Fire and Safety Organisations together with Individuals. The Company's Carol Service takes place in St. Mary-le-bow Church (of Dick Whittington and Bow Bell's fame) where we also hold our Re-Dedication Service following Common Hall each July.

The Company is always represented at the annual Firefighters' Memorial Service. The City Dinner has become the annual dinner for raising funds for the Charitable Trust and this is supported and held at Catlin's International headquarters in the City.





Master Ron Murray (2015-16) Jailed & Bailed for "impersonating a fireman"

Wednesday 29 June 2016 saw many brave livery masters take part in the annual "Jailed and Bailed" event for the British Red Cross.

else to turn to. This year, millions of people will depend on the Red Cross and your support means that they can be there when it counts.

After being arrested in the wonderful surroundings of Mansion House the Masters, including our own, were read their charges and arrested by members of the City Of London police force.

They were then marched to the Tower of London, where they were served 'bread and water', and posted their bail.

The event raised £37,348 – and every pound will make a real and vital difference to the work of the British Red Cross.

The British Red Cross City of London Sector could not exist without the unstinting support and friendship the charity enjoys from so many people within the Square Mile. The Jailed & Bailed event is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate this with both old and new friends and supporters.

The money raised then enables the British Red Cross to help people in crisis, both here in the UK and around the world, when there is no one



Master Ron Murray off to jail.

2016 was the thirteenth "Jailed & Bailed" event which to date has seen 203 normally upstanding members of the City Of London arrested for heinous crimes. These have included falsely impersonating Robin Hood, concealing 3ft pokers and even our own Master, being denounced as impersonating a Fireman!



Paul Bryant, Roger Gentle, Frank David, Nicole Hoffmann, Simon Petts, David Holt & Ken Williams

On May 20th a group from the Worshipful Company of Firefighters visited Gatwick Airport for a behind the scenes tour of the South Terminal and the Gatwick Airport Fire Station. We were hosted by two WCoFF members, Roger Gentle, Fire Safety Manager at Gatwick Airport and Simon Petts, Station Manager, Gatwick Airport Fire & Rescue Service.

The visit started with a talk by Roger Gentle on the fire safety and evacuation procedures in place in the terminal buildings, emphasising the particular hazards encountered when catering for the safety of several million passengers each year in such a potentially hazardous environment. Next the group were driven to an area close to the North Terminal to witness a rare event, a water arch pumped by two of the crash tenders to celebrate the first flight by Air Canada on an inaugural route.

After this, there was a tour of the fire station and a detailed description of one of the Rosenbauer Panther crash tenders, followed by a visit to the fire training ground where engine and cabin fires were simulated in the training rig, skilfully dealt with by one of the firefighters operating the bumper and roof-mounted monitors on one of

the Panthers. Whilst the rig was still warm from the simulated fires, the group were then able to enter it to see the complex internal design used to train firefighters in both extinguishing fires on board an aircraft and search and rescue techniques.

It was a wonderfully informative and entertaining day and the group were all very proud that two of our members were so closely involved in delivering such an essential service to the travelling public.



#### About the Author:

This article was submitted by Liveryman Prof. David Holt. David is a member of the PR & Marketing Committee and is the custodian of the memorabilia items for sale at company dinners and events.



# TOWER OF LONDON VISIT



Firefighters Company members have a unique private tour of the tower of London

On the 21st May 2015, members and guests had a wonderful evening privately touring the famous Tower of London to see the ceremony of the Keys.

public records office, and the home of the Crown Jewels of England.

## THE HISTORY

The Tower of London, officially Her Majesty's Royal Palace and Fortress of the Tower of London, is a historic castle located on the north bank of the River Thames in central London. It lies within the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, separated from the eastern edge of the square mile of the City of London by the open space known as Tower Hill. It was founded towards the end of 1066 as part of the Norman Conquest of England. The White Tower, which gives the entire castle its name, was built by William the Conqueror in 1078, and was a resented symbol of oppression, inflicted upon London by the new ruling elite.

The Tower of London has played a prominent role in English history. It was besieged several times, and controlling it has been important to controlling the country. The Tower has served variously as an armoury, a treasury, a menagerie, the home of the Royal Mint, a



A Yeoman Warder in ceremonial dress

The Yeomen Warders of Her Majesty's Royal Palace and Fortress the Tower of London, and Members of the Sovereign's Body Guard of the Yeoman Guard Extraordinary, popularly known as the Beefeaters, are ceremonial guardians of the Tower of London.



**Fire-Break presentation at Malden Fire Station**

On Thursday 7th April, Master Ron Murray attended the passing-out parade at Maldon Fire Station in Essex of the latest Fire-Break squad to be trained there, all youngsters being supported by the Downs Syndrome Association. An exciting drill and fire fighting display showed what the youngsters had learned on their course, much to the delight of parents and helpers.

The WCoFF supports the work being done by the Essex Firebreak team, aimed at giving students confidence to develop vital life skills, while experiencing the techniques used by fire-fighters in their working lives. The scheme is incredibly diverse, and has been successfully used for those on the gifted and talented register, as well as a confidence-building tool for those with a history of youth offending, school exclusion, or associated disruptive behaviour or backgrounds.

This unique scheme has seen outstanding results in successfully engaging with children and young people throughout Essex.

*More information can be found at:*  
[www.firefighterscompany.org/firebreak](http://www.firefighterscompany.org/firebreak)



**FIREX WCoFF Stand 2016**

As in previous years the Worshipful Company of Firefighters had a stand at FIREX International which was held at Excel London 21-23 June 2016.

FIREX International connects the global fire and security markets, and gives fire and security professionals access to the very latest technology from suppliers across the world, plus the cutting-edge solutions and essential knowledge you need to ensure life safety.

During this three day event we networked with our friends within the fire industry and informed visitors and delegates not only about our Livery Company but promoted the Livery movement as a whole. Information was exchanged between a number of interested people with further information being forwarded on to them.

Company Volunteers manned the stand and we would like to thank all of these members for taking the time to assist the Company and a special thank you to UBM for giving us the ability to do so.

*More information can be found at:*  
[www.firex.co.uk](http://www.firex.co.uk)



# THE FIRE LECTURE 2016



The Fire Lecture 2016 remembered the Great Fire of London 1666

The 6th Annual Fire Lecture was held at the Insurance Hall during the evening of the 7th July. Samuel Pepys, Christopher Wren, John Evelyn, Nicholas Barbon, Robert Hubert and Thomas Farynor, cleverly portrayed by artists of Spectrum Drama, enthusiastically entertained an almost capacity audience, reliving the life and times of 1666.

James Dalton, a Director of the Association of British Insurers, captured the plight of London in those times, to describe how the emergence of fire insurance and the development of firefighting had influenced the growth, strength and resilience of the City today. Dr Christine Rigden, Sheriff of the City of London, brought the lecture to a close with an address which reinforced the value of insurance and appropriate regulation to safeguard the City and briefly described the City Corporation's initiatives to celebrate this 350th anniversary.

The Master and Wardens hosted a splendid buffet reception afterwards for guests and delegates who enjoyed a memorable occasion.

Photographs by: Kieran Hancock  
kieranhancockphoto@gmail.com



Non Aldermanic Sheriff Dr Christine Rigden and Bruce Hoad, Master Worshipful Company of Firefighters enjoying the play.



An audience from a great number of sectors within the fire industry enjoying the presentation of the play.



## LONDON FIRE BRIGADE CADET AWARDS

Sara Perez, the Youth Engagement Manager with the London Fire Brigade says “The ongoing support of the WCoFF is extremely important to the London Fire Brigade, and the Brigade’s Fire Cadet programme were extremely honoured to have the attendance of the WCoFF at nearly all of their 10 pass-out ceremonies this year. One young person from each cadet unit was voted for by their peers for making significant progress during the year, and awarded with a ‘Certificate of Achievement’ by the nominated representative of the Company, as well as being given a very generous gift voucher for the Cadet to spend on themselves”.



Kirsty Marie Harvey  
Hackney Fire Cadets



Rosie Jarvis  
Bexley Fire Cadets



Freddie Wholey  
Greenwich Fire Cadets



Austeja Meskauskaite  
Tower Hamlets Fire Cadets



Peter Reynolds  
Newham Fire Cadets



Richard River-Simpson  
Lewisham Fire Cadets



Tony Noel  
Croydon Fire Cadets



Natalia Velasquez  
Haringey Fire Cadets



Nikhil Suri  
Brent Fire Cadets



Hollie Marie Lucas  
Havering Fire Cadets

Fire Cadets is a free, nationally recognised programme offering young people, between the ages of 14 and 17, the opportunity to gain a credible qualification as well as develop their personal skills. In 2016, there will be schemes running in Barking and Dagenham, Bexley, Brent, Croydon, Hackney, Haringey, Havering, Lewisham, Merton, Newham, Tower Hamlets and Westminster.

<http://www.london-fire.gov.uk/FireCadets.asp>



# THE GREAT FIRE OF LONDON 1666

A commemorative view marking the 350th anniversary of the Great Fire

image courtesy of London Fire Brigade

World renowned fire investigator Liveryman Peter Mansi decided to research the fire and in particular, the way in which it was investigated at the time. The following is an extract from the books introduction.

The Great Fire of 1666 was one of the most notable events within the history of the City of London. Although not involving major loss of life, it devastated the fabric of the city. The fire had a tremendous impact on churches and livery halls in particular, with many losing not only their establishments, but also precious records dating back to antiquity. There was great angst within both Royal and Government circles as to the reason for the fire and the poor response to dealing with the outbreak – the political and diplomatic drama surrounding the fire came close to initiating war and causing Government bankruptcy.

However, slowly, a new city was to arise from the smouldering embers of the fire. City and parliamentary authorities determined that such an event should never happen again.

the founding of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, the first insurance companies were born in the years after the fire, and these soon developed means to take effective action against those fires that did occur. Fine new churches were built by some of the greatest architects of the time, and many livery companies dusted off the soot and picked up their activities in new premises, once again building up the City as the key economic powerhouse for the country.

Fortunately, from the historian's perspective, the Great Fire of 1666 was one of the first events to have its progress well recorded in diaries such as those of Samuel Pepys, and within the minutes of livery companies and parish church records. The fire was also well depicted by artists living at the time. There was a comprehensive parliamentary report written on the origins and consequences of the fire and this was published the following year.

Although it would be another 200 years before

Prompted by a simple question, 'Why would anybody confess to starting a fire that they hadn't, and allow themselves to be hanged as a consequence?' world renowned fire investigator Liveryman Peter Mansi decided to research the fire and in particular, the way in which it was investigated at the time. He used current methodologies to conduct a cold-case review and his work has highlighted some serious shortcomings in the original investigation and the documentation of it. In places his conclusions are at variance with those of the parliamentary report. It was this piece of investigative work that was the catalyst for the production of this book.

companies, churches and on society generally. It brought about a realisation that fire safety and fire precautions needed to be enhanced, and in so doing, stimulated the development of both fire insurance and organised firefighting arrangements.

We have dedicated our work to the generations of firefighters who have for so long protected our City and its citizens from the scourge of fire and disaster, and who continue to do so today.

**Bruce Hoad**

**Master Worshipful Company of Firefighters**



All this, the fire time-line from a forensic perspective, the history of the fire's impact on livery companies and churches and its impact on the City and its society thereafter, is presented in this commemorative book. The Worshipful Company of Firefighters has also included a suggested 'Great Fire Walk' which will take the reader around many of the places mentioned in the book.

This book is a commemorative view marking the 350th anniversary of the Great Fire of London of 1666. The book has been authored by the Worshipful Company of Firefighters to provide, from a 21st century perspective, an educational appreciation of why and how this fire progressed. It also sets out the impact that the fire had within the City of London, on livery

"The Great Fire of 1666 is one of the most widely researched topics in world history and, I believe, the most famous event in British history overseas. So much has been written about it in the past that it would be difficult to produce a commemorative work that is significantly different from previously published histories, and yet that is exactly what the Worshipful Company of Firefighters has managed to do. In undertaking a forensic review of all the evidence available, and by applying the latest fire investigation methodologies to this work, they have managed to produce a report into the fire that is both informative and challenging in its conclusions."

**Alderman the Lord Mountevans**

**The Rt Hon the Lord Mayor of London**





RESVRGAM: "We will rise again" The engraving above the doors to St Pauls Cathedral

A number of sources have been referenced throughout the report and the content of this report is limited by the availability of information. A number of witnesses who provided evidence to a committee established by Parliament after the fire described the fire originating at a bakery in Pudding Lane in the City of London. The fire spread to multiple structures over a four-day period. It destroyed 80% of the City of London including 373 acres within the City Walls and 63 acres outside them. The property destruction included 87 out of 109 churches, six chapels, 13,200 houses, three City gates and 44 livery halls .

Some 100,000 people were made homeless and six people were reported to have died in the fire, although the number of fatalities may not be accurate considering the speed at which the fire spread and the time of night at the beginning of the fire.

The spread of the fire was due to the dry conditions following a drought in 1666; the low tide and lack of water for fire fighting as the

fire developed; the building materials used in the City of London at that time and the strong easterly winds.

The "Great Fire of London 1666" is a Crisis Response Journal publication and is available from the Worshipful Company of Firefighters website [www.firefighterscompany.org](http://www.firefighterscompany.org)

Paperback - £9.99 + P&P

Hardback - £24.99 + P&P

Leatherbound - £166.60 + P&P

All profits from its sale will be donated to the Worshipful Company of Firefighters Charitable Trust.

For further information:

Email: [gfol@firefighterscompany.org](mailto:gfol@firefighterscompany.org)

Other sites of interest:

- [www.museumoflondon.org.uk](http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk)
- [www.visitlondon.com/greatfire350](http://www.visitlondon.com/greatfire350)
- [www.crisis-response.com](http://www.crisis-response.com)

## BRIGADE ROUND UP

### Hampshire Fire & Rescue



Live burns and extrications draw crowd to fundraising open day

Live burns, tower rescues and hose games were among the fire-related activities that attracted thousands to a fire station open day.

The event at Rushmoor also featured a firefighter dunking station, an extrication display and an engine simulation ride.

There were a dozen vehicles on display, including specialist and vintage models, and the public got the chance to meet representatives from all blue light services and the heroic yet cute fire dogs.

The event was held between 10am and 4pm on Saturday 30th May and marked 26 years of the station being open as well as raising about £1,000 for The Fire Fighters Charity.

Children enjoyed using the hose to 'put out'

flames on a colourful cut out, sitting in an engine, dressing up as a firefighter and simulating rope rescues.

One of the organisers Watch Manager Ian Crawley said: "It has been incredible. We have had huge crowds through the door and it is hard to point to any one part that was most popular.

"Everyone has worked very hard to make sure it was a great day and we have highlighted safety messages too.

"It is great to engage with the community like this and to see them come out to support us."

There were areas where the over-65s could try out the STEER programme or where people could learn how to save a life.

The station was filled with photos, information and videos showing what the service is all about as well as a mangled car to reinforce the Project Pictogram road safety campaign.

There was also a smoke machine, face-painting, a Fireman Sam mascot, music, a barbecue and tea and cake.



Youngsters being shown how to use the Fire Brigade equipment

Photo's by: Alison Jepp  
[www.alisonjeppphotography.co.uk](http://www.alisonjeppphotography.co.uk)





### 8" Coupe Plate

Plate depicting a scene of the Great Fire looking towards St Paul's from beneath London Bridge. The image is a coloured aquatint after a painting by Philippe-Jacques De Loutherbourg (1740 -1812)

The plates are limited to an edition of 100 with an authentication certificate signed by The Master

£55 Including P&P

### Great Fire of London Book

Paperback - £9.99 + P&P

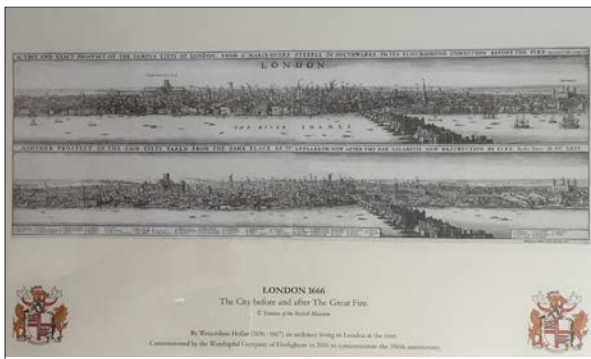
Hardback - £24.99 + P&P

Leatherbound - £166.60 + P&P

All profits from its sale will be donated to the Worshipful Company of Firefighters Charitable Trust.

Pre-order contact

Email: [gfol@firefighterscompany.org](mailto:gfol@firefighterscompany.org)



### Wenceslaus Hollar Print

As part of our contribution to the commemoration of the 350th Anniversary of the Great Fire of London, Liveryman Jeanne Brinton has commissioned a limited edition print showing two views of the City of London, before and after the Great Fire. The views were drawn by the Czech artist Wenceslaus Hollar (1607 - 1677) and the original is held by the British Museum.

£19.50 Including P&P

### First Day Cover Stamps

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters First Day Cover of Great Fire stamps postmarked with a specially commissioned hand stamp which is exclusive to the Worshipful Company of Firefighters.

The covers are limited to an edition of 350 and signed by The Master. Numbers 1-50 only display a full set of six stamps. The remainder will display the two First Class stamps of the set. The first day of issue will be 2nd September 2016 and may be pre-ordered

6 stamp set: £30 + £4 P&P

2 stamp set: £10 + £4 P&P

Pre-order contact

[gfol@firefighterscompany.org](mailto:gfol@firefighterscompany.org)



**All the items above are available to purchase or pre-order on our website  
[www.firefighterscompany.org](http://www.firefighterscompany.org)**

FROM THE CLERKS DESK



Dear Members All,

It gives me great pleasure to be able to write to you all as your Clerk, in this, the first of the revamped Salamander's, in what is a very special year for the Company, where we are involved not only in the City, but also the 350th anniversary of the Great Fire of London and the 150th anniversary of the London Fire Brigade.

Thanks to the hard work and effort of Robert Farquhar and Colin Simpson, this bumper issue has a lot of information and comments within its pages, and I do hope that you all enjoy this edition.

As most of you who attended Common Hall over the last 2 years are aware, one of the tasks that I was set was that of creating an updated version of the database of the Company's members. This is now at a stage where I must ask for your assistance, as there are some gaps in the information on the existing database, the

major one being the date when some of the membership took their Freedom of the City of London, I and others need this information to help in ensuring that our members are given the opportunity to advance from a Freeman to a Liveryman and further in good order. All I ask is that you send me a brief email with the date that you took your Freedom of the City.

During the last 2 years, it has been a great pleasure for me to attend, as an ambassador for the Company, along with the Master, many fantastic events from lectures, lunches, church services and dinners in some wonderful buildings. I must therefore record my thanks to the Past Masters, Master, Wardens and the Company for their continued support.

Looking forward, I note that the Company will continue to be active in holding various events both formal and informal. After the success of last years' banquet at the Vintners', we are holding our Installation Dinner at the Insurance Hall in October, so please book early.

Other events include the Charity Ball, City Dinner, Carol Service, Massey Shaw dinner, and a lot more. Please see the events listing at the back of this edition to get a flavour.

To repeat myself from a previous Common Hall, it has been my pleasure to be of **SERVICE** to you all. Thank you for the **FELLOWSHIP** that you all have shown me during my time as your Clerk, and I hope that you feel the office is trying to maintain the **HARMONY** that my predecessor had with you all. It will continue be an **HONOUR** to serve as your Clerk for the foreseeable future.

Yours Sincerely

**Steve Tamcken**  
Clerk.

Worshipful Company of Firefighters



THE FOLLOWING EVENTS ARE OPEN TO ALL  
FREEMEN AND LIVERYMEN OF THE WC<sub>o</sub>FF.  
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL THERE

**Tue Aug 23 15:00**

Visit to St. Brides, City of London Gin Distillery and Dinner at the Cheshire Cheese - St. Brides

**Fri Sep 2 08:00**

Combined Golf Day - Painters & Stainers - Wildernesse Golf Club - Seal - Sevenoaks - Kent

**Sat Sep 10 18:30**

Fire Industry Charity Ball - Portman Hotel - Portman Square - London

**Sun Sep 11 12:30**

Annual UK Firefighters Memorial Service - St. Sepulchre-Without-Newgate

**Fri Sep 16 12:30**

Members Informal Luncheon - Old Doctor Butlers

**Fri Sep 16 11:00**

Meet the Firefighters 2 - Insurance Hall

**Sun Sep 25 10:00**

Sheep Drive across London bridge - London Bridge

**Wed Sep 28 12:00**

Installation of Sheriffs - Guildhall

**Thu Sep 29 12:00**

Election of Lord Mayor - Guildhall

**Wed Oct 12 19:00**

St. Florian's Installation Banquet - Insurance Hall

**Sat Oct 22 18:30**

LFB Retired Members Association. Annual Dinner & Dance - Amba Hotel

**Mon Nov 7 10:00**

Garden of Remembrance - St Paul's Churchyard

**Wed Nov 9 18:00**

City Dinner - Caitlin Insurance - **Sold Out**

**Fri Nov 11 12:00**

Silent Ceremony - Guildhall

**Sat Nov 12 11:00**

Lord Mayors Show - City Wide

**Fri Dec 9 12:30**

Members Informal Luncheon - Old Doctor Butlers

**Fri Dec 16 18:00**

Carol Service - St May-le-Bow

# The Worshipful Company of Firefighters

Charitable Trust No 1000562

*Flammis Oppugnantes Fidimus Deo*

*Fighting Fire, Our Trust in God*



## 350th Anniversary of The Great Fire of London Fire Industry Charity Ball 2016

Portman Hotel, Portman Square, London  
10th September

A great evening of high drama, dining &  
dancing while supporting charity

Featuring;

“the Great Fire Remembered” (an evening with Samuel Pepys)  
and dancing until late with Nicole and her Big Band!

Cost per head - £120 incl reception drinks and wine  
the dinner dance, entertainment, & Great Fire commemorative gifts  
*Corporate and block booking packages available*

6.00 pm - Reception in the Bryanston/Seymour Suites

7.00 pm - Dinner, Entertainment, Auction and Raffle in the Ballroom

Dress Code; mess dress / dinner jacket/evening wear, miniature medals

To book visit [www.firefighterscompany.org](http://www.firefighterscompany.org)  
For corporate packages please email Viv Jones [vtj@vimpex.co.uk](mailto:vtj@vimpex.co.uk)