



THE SALAMANDER

SERVICE | FELLOWSHIP | HARMONY | HONOUR

MAY 2003 - JUNE 2016





BLAZE

MAY 2003

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **The Masters** - the corporate way forward.. The internet.. our web-site, our plans for the future
- **The Market**— A new piece of legislation.. 'Company Directors (Health & Safety) Bill'

EVERYTHING CHANGES!!

Yes, a new newsletter to celebrate a whole raft of changes that are coming our way.

This new style will include import from a range of sources, members, committees, past Masters and even the clerk herself!!

Our objective here is to have a range of short columns on specific headings, which will give members a different view on the workings of the company.

So what are we in store for??

The Market— a column that outlines issues which effect our everyday business... legislation, Hr matters, management theories, all can be part of this column and whilst the editor will have an

input we hope - nay, we look to some feed back from you!!

The Arm Chair— Information from past Masters on the terms and procedures of the company.. How many of you know the origins of a loving cup? Why is it used in company dinners?. Well only past Masters can tell us that—we hope!

Clerk's Desk From that illustrious place where we all get our information – by post! And often wonder what to do with it!! We will seek to obtain from Margaret news on current and future events.

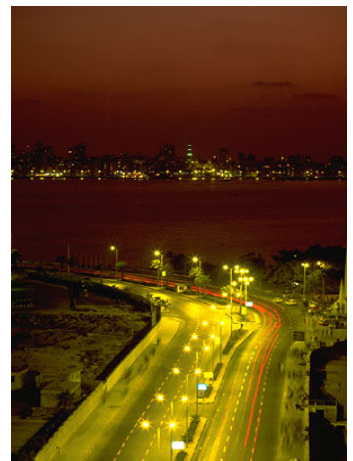
Open forum—Okay, you have a better name?, Then tell us! But this is going to be the place where you can have your say, raise a question!! Expect an

answer!

The masters—no not the golf society!!

More where the master of the company can advise us on the corporate issues and the way forward.

Environmental issues



Environmentalists are concerned about the effects of street lighting on our view of the stars and heavens!!
Does this concern you?

THE MASTERS

Much has happened over the last months and we are continuing to develop the Company for the 21st century. This news letter is an example.

Over the coming months we aim to develop a web site, providing full information

on the Company as well as a bulletin board and hopefully, this newsletter also produced electronically.

To continue with our development and to improve our communications we also

plan to have a formal e-mail address so that contact with the clerk can be easier.

I hope to advise members of some of the issues facing us and inform you how we intend to deal with them.

THE MARKET—COMPANY (HEALTH AND SAFETY) BILL

Over the last 12 months or so the government has tried to introduce Involuntary Manslaughter through a parliamentary legislative process

The net result is somewhat of an impasse, with government lawyers saying how difficult it would be to introduce, various pressure groups saying how impractical, it is unlikely to be seen (yet again) on the statute books much before next year. In fact it may (sadly) take another disaster to re energize it!!

In the meantime a **Private Members Bill -Company (Health and Safety) Bill** has had its second reading This will require companies to appoint a director as a health and safety director; and to impose duties on this director and on other directors of the companies in relation to health and safety. It will require an amendment to the companies act 1985 and directors will have specific duties under the legislation to:

- Discharge their duties in respect of health and safety of its employees and others

effected by its operations.

- To take effective steps to ensure that the company acts in accordance with the obligations imposed on it by any applicable law relating to health and safety.

- Monitor Health and Safety on a regular basis

- Ensure current health and safety statements reflect the boards view.

..and much more.

Watch this space in future!!

Open Forum

THE ARMCHAIR

The loving cup....

A peculiar and pleasing feature of Banquets and Dinners of the Livery Companies is that of the Loving Cup. This cup is generally of gold, silver, or silver-gilt, and filled with what has been called from time immemorial "Sack", another name for spiced wine.

At the conclusion of the dinner, and immediately after grace has been sung or said, the Cup is passed round the table, the toastmaster announcing "The Prime Warden bids you all a hearty welcome, and drinks to

you in a Loving Cup."

The Prime Warden drinks first and each guest in turn, applying his napkin to the rim of the Cup after having sipped the wine and before handing it over to his neighbour.

Those not wishing to drink may pass the cup on with a short bow.

The practice is for the person who pledges the Loving Cup to stand up and bow to his neighbour who, also standing, removes the cover with his right

hand and holds it while the other drinks, a custom said to have originated in the necessary precaution of keeping the right hand or "dagger" hand employed, so that the person who drinks may be assured of no treachery like that practised by Elfrida on the unsuspecting King Edward the Martyr at Corfe Castle, who was slain while drinking. This is why the Loving Cup possesses a cover.

Next Month:

What is common Hall?

CLERKS DESK

City Livery Club

With effect from the 1st February Freeman and Liverymen of the Livery companies will be able to have use of the function room. All that is required is for a booking to be made by 12:00pm the previous day:

Telephone: 020 7814 0200

Fax: 020 7814 0201

Examples of meals range from a 3 course @ £21.50 to a 2 course @ £17.50 incl VAT

Forthcoming Events

- **4 July 2003**
Common Hall
- **12 July 2003**
Salamander Ball

Brevity is the soul of wit
—Shakespeare

Closing date for items for the next issue of Blaze is:

Friday 25 July 2003



THE SALAMANDER

OCTOBER 2003

NEWSLETTER OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FIREFIGHTERS

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **The Master's Pen** - the corporate way forward.

- **The Fire-fighters Memorial**

"How often misused words generate misleading thoughts" - Herbert Spencer.

Society of Young Freemen

What do you know of them?

More in next issue..

THE MASTER'S PEN



I am pleased to report that progress is being made on many fronts.

Thanks to our Editor and judging by the comments of many of our members, the first issue of our news letter 'The Salamander' has been well received. An article, a comment or just a word of support will go a long way in building team spirit. Let Peter know your views!

May I thank those members who have taken up my offer to raise matters directly with me. I have listened with interest to some very useful and encouraging suggestions. With all honesty, the views expressed have been very supportive of the efforts being made for our way forward. Although there is still much to achieve, your committees are working with tremendous enthusiasm.

It is my intention to seek ways to make the important decisions taken by the Company, together with financial reports, more readily available to our members. More on this later.

Upon receiving Worshipful status, the Aldermanic Court set us an upper limit of 250 Liverymen. For those Freemen of the Company who have not yet applied for their right to become a Liveryman, now is the time. A revised procedure has removed the two year time constraint before advancement from Freeman to Liveryman. We are expecting an increase in applications for new membership to shortly take place. Successful applicants will also be able to advance to Liveryman without the previous two year wait. Naturally, it is our wish that existing Freemen should be given the first opportunity to apply for advancement to Liveryman. Please do not miss your opportunity for progression as this privilege will be made available to all future new members.

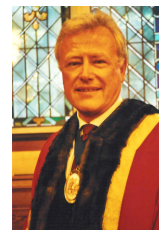
Since my election, I have endeavored to accept and attend every invitation we have received. Of course, a Buckingham Place garden party and Livery diners are splendid occasions. However, it is the numerous talks, presentations, exhibitions and charitable events that have given me a far greater insight into the Livery, its work and most importantly the opportunity for future involvement for your Company.

Fellowship, a feeling of belonging and involvement, is the team spirit that I wish to promote for all our members. It does of course take time and effort to organise such events that underpin this direction. But it is already happening. The atmosphere at 'The Pudding and Pie' luncheon was extremely uplifting, with many of our members asking for more of the same. How wonderful it was to have seen some members who have been off the scene for a while. I sincerely hope we see more of you and others in the future. A warm welcome awaits you!

All members will, in the near future, receive a questionnaire. It is our aim to develop your Company by taking into account your wishes and expectations. PLEASE make time to complete and return your questionnaire and help us further prepare your 'Worshipful Company of Firefighters' for its future.

Yours,

Colin J Livett



Colin J Livett

VIMPEX
Shaping Alarm Technology

Thank you

For your support in printing
& distributing this
newsletter

OUT AND ABOUT

Christmas Carols!



David Rhodes.

The Master, Colin Livett and his wife Patricia, hosted the festival and made especially welcome a group of children from the Barbican Play Group invited to share with us the joy of Christmas. Following the Service the children tucked into a veritable feast of drinks and good things to eat, then gave a rousing greeting to Father Christmas who stopped by to meet them during his busy schedule and give presents. Fortunately, the children left some tasty treats for the grown-ups to enjoy to-

During early evening on Thursday 11th December 2003, St Lawrence Jewry Next Guildhall welcomed Liverymen and Freemen the Worshipful Company, their families, friends and especially children, to a festival of carols conducted by our Honorary Chaplain, The Reverend

gether with wine set aside for them by Past Master and purveyor of fine wines, David Cartwright.



Despite over-cast skies and dampness in the air everyone enjoyed the relaxed and happy atmosphere of the festival which instilled the Spirit of Christmas in their hearts. A special thanks go to The Master and his Lady whom, with a band of willing helpers, provided the catering and ensured everyone enjoyed themselves.



FIREFIIGHTERS MEMORIAL TRUST

The Master, Wardens, Clerk, many Liverymen and Freemen of the Worshipful Company, accompanied by their partners, attended a Service of Remembrance and Dedication of the United Kingdom Firefighters National Memorial at St Paul's Cathedral on Tuesday 16 September 2003, in the presence of Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal. The Princess Royal is patron of The Firefighters Memorial Charitable Trust and our Founding Master, Gerry Clarkson is Chairman of its Trustees. The Master read a Lesson and later laid a wreath at the Memorial on behalf of the Worshipful Company.

Following the Service, Members of the Worshipful Company, Trustees of The Firefighters Memorial Charitable Trust and guests enjoyed a 'Pudding & Pie Luncheon' at The Living Room restaurant in West Smithfield.

It is hoped this inaugural luncheon may become a permanent event in the calendar of both The Worshipful Company and The Firefighters Memorial Charitable Trust, to honour the firefighters who gave their lives during war and peace and the anniversary of "The Great Fire of London".



THE ARMCHAIR

The Loving Cup

The *Loving Cup*. Usually a silver chalice with two handles and a cover.

The ceremony of the Loving Cup is a tradition at banquets and dinners in all Livery Companies which dates back to before the Norman Conquest of 1066

The tradition derives from the assassination of King Edward, who was killed whilst he was drinking, by Elfrida's command. It was the custom of our Anglo-Saxon forefathers to pass round a large drinking cup, from which each person drank in turn to some of the company. As the person drinking stood up and lifted the cup with both hands he was completely exposed and defenceless, giving an enemy the opportunity to strike and murder him.



To prevent such murders, the following plan was devised. When one of the company stood up to drink, he required the companion who sat next to him or someone of the party, to be his pledge. The consenting companion would also stand and raise his drawn sword to defend the exposed bearer of the cup as he drank from it.

Nowadays, the cup passes around the table at an appropriate time towards the end of a banquet or dinner, normally to the left and each person in turn pledges their neighbour. Only three people should be standing at a time, the bearer (the person holding the cup); the neighbour on their immediate right who drank last and handed them the cup, who remains standing with their back to the bearer to protect them; and the person pledging, on the bearer's immediate left, who stands facing the bearer and removes and holds the cover whilst he or she drinks from the cup. Thus when a person receives the Loving Cup from

the person on their immediate right, who has just drunk from the cup, he or she turns to face their neighbour on their immediate left and they bow to each other. The latter removes the Cup's cover and holds it whilst the bearer of the cup drinks and then wipes the rim with the napkin provided. The cover is then replaced, the two bow to each other again and the cup changes hands. Each person who has drunk from the cup and passes it to the neighbour on their left, remains standing with their back to the bearer now drinking from the cup until the cup is passed on, when they resume their seats. The same procedure continues round the table until everyone has drunk from the cup.

If anyone does not wish to drink from the Loving Cup, they may simply bow to their neighbour and pass the cup along in the usual way. In practice it is often usual to have more than one Loving Cup passing among guests in the prescribed manner for the sake of expediency.

Salamander Ball

OPEN FORUM

In the next issue of SALAMANDER

- ◇ A small competition putting a humorous phrase to an odd picture...With a prize for the winner.
- ◇ Role of the Beadle!
- ◇ What is a Freeman?

And much, much more!!!

THE CLERK'S DESK

8th November is The Lord Mayor's Show

If you can't attend, watch it on TV, but do it early as the Company is in the first section of the Parade.

The West Midlands Band will be leading The Modern Companies, where the Master Colin Livett and Under Warden Martin Coffey and two of the Company will be walking with members from 9 other Companies, formed since 1930.

At the rear is the horse drawn Fire Steamer.

5pm Fireworks on the Thames, best viewing spots, Southwark Bridge and along the Embankment

11th December The Firefighters' Carol Service at 5pm at St: Lawrence Jewry

Unless otherwise suggested please contact

The Clerk:

Margaret Holland Prior
Tel: 020 7600 1666
Email:



clerk@firefighters.demon.co.uk

Closing date for items for the next issue of

The Salamander

is:

Friday,

25 March 2004

Email your comment to: me!!

Peter Hopkins at:
Ph@safetyco.co.uk



DECEMBER 2003

Merry Xmas! From Salamander Team

NEWSLETTER OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FIREFIGHTERS
THE MASTER'S PEN

Inside this issue:

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The City of London Remembrance Service Monday 3rd November, 2003
Opening of The Garden of Remembrance, St Paul's Cathedral

Under a grey, hurrying sky, with occasional shots of blue and sunshine, a large party assembled in the Garden of Remembrance at the east end of St. Paul's Cathedral. Right on time, The Minden Band, The Queen's Division, followed by The London Ambulance Service NHS Trust Ceremonial Drill Squad, marched into their position.

The Royal British Legion Standard bearers formed a Guard of Honour around the oval grass lawn of The Garden of Remembrance. The guests of honour sat or stood with their backs to the Cathedral. The Lord Mayor took his place centre stage, The Aldermanic Sheriff and The Alderman for Castle Baynard, in whose Ward St Paul's is situated, flanked the Lord Mayor, standing, looking east. Beside the Civic Party was The Very Reverend Dr John Moses, The Dean of St. Paul's, who conducted the service. On his left was Past Master Ken Knight, Commissioner, The London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority, resplendent in his uniform and decorations, with the Assistant Commissioner of The City of London Police and a representative for The London Ambulance Service, NHS Trust. Making up the bulk of the party were The Prime Warden and the Masters of The Several Livery Companies, as the 103 Livery Companies are referred to.

After an interlude of playing those familiar, sombre Remembrance Day tunes, the Civic Party were ushered into their position, and the service commenced with the comforting hymns we have sung for ever and a day, "Oh God our help in ages past" and then, after the prayers, "O Valiant Hearts". The Last Post was sounded and all the old Servicemen present stood ramrod straight as we all remembered those who had died for their Country.

Following Reveille, Alderman Gavin Arthur, The Lord Mayor, led the assembly in the planting of the crosses. Slowly the crosses were carried forward. Ken Knight was flanked by the two representatives of the other emergency services and then the Chairmen of the different branches of the Royal British Legion pressed their small wooden crosses firmly into the lawn before the giant wreath of poppies.

The Head Boy and The Head Girl of the City of London Schools came next and then, six abreast, followed the Livery Company Prime Warden and Masters, in correct order of the seniority of their Companies.. The emotional Prayer, known as The Kohima Prayer was spoken by The President of the Royal British Legion, City of London, Chairman of the National Poppy Appeal:

When you go home, tell them of us and say,

"For your tomorrow, we gave our today".

Then we all sang the National Anthem in full voice.

The Lord Mayor addressed us, reminding us that we hold this, The City's Service of Remembrance, amidst the noise and bustle of London, for which normality so many young men and women gave their lives in two World Wars, and in more recent conflicts, so that we could live in relative peace in a forever turbulent world.

With those words the Service ended and The Lord Mayor departed, the Dean and Chapter returned to The Chapter House, and the Band, Standards and Guard of Honour marched off.

We were then able to go and stand for a moment of reflection in front of the newly planted crosses. And so, The Master, Colin Livett, BEM, stood before this carpet of crosses and the wreath of poppies, with Captain Paddy Vincent, CBE, RN, Chairman of the Burma Star Association, with whom, in, he had worked in comradeship to raise millions for The Wishing Well Appeal for Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children. departed, the Dean and Chapter returned to The Chapter House, and the Band, Standards and Guard of Honour marched off.

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SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- The Master's Pen - Garden of Remembrance
- What was said?— A small competition

*No man thinks there is much ado
about nothing when the ado is
about himself - Trollope*

Thank you

VIMPEX
Shaping More Technology

For your support in
printing & distributing
this
newsletter

What was Said?

This picture taken at the recent Salamander Ball poses a question. What were these two great masters saying?

So here is the challenge to all. Send me a quotation – humorous of course!!

It will be judged by Gerry Clarkson and Bertie Gillings - the winner receives a small prize! E-mail the editor!!



THE ARMCHAIR

The Lord Mayor's Show

It didn't start off this big but over 800 years the Lord Mayor's Show has grown in size and stature.

This year the procession stretched more than three miles in length and took over an hour to pass the Mansion House where the Lord Mayor took the salute.

The first procession took place in 1215 and its roots lie with King John and the oath of allegiance. Recognising the importance of the City, the King granted the people the right to choose their own Lord Mayor. However, the person chosen still had to appear before him for royal approval and to swear loyalty to the Crown. In practice this involved the Lord Mayor and his supporters travelling from the City to the Palace of Westminster to swear the oath of allegiance.

Since that time, the scope of the Show has changed considerably. Even though the oath of allegiance is still sworn (although these days it is done at the Royal Courts of Justice),

today the show is just as much a celebration of the City's energy, diversity and unique nature.

Alongside the more traditional and historic elements, including the Lord Mayor's coach and the pike men, are floats representing the City's neighbouring communities, arts organisations, businesses and other organisations that keep the City running.

This year the Worshipful Company of Firefighters took part with ten other companies under the title of "The Modern Companies". The group of worshipful companies was led by the West Midlands Fire Brigade Band and the final part of our entry was a 1890 horse drawn steam fire appliance on which rode our Master, Colin Livett, in his full Masters regalia and in the capacity of the officer in charge of the steam whistle.

Other members of our company taking part in the procession were Court Assistant Neil Botten, Liveryman Patrick Sheen, and Freeman John Sewell and Under Warden Martin Coffey.

The Silent Ceremony

On Friday 7th November The Master, Wardens and two of the Company's newest Freeman attended the Silent Ceremony at the Guildhall. This was to witness the swearing in of the Lord Mayor Elect as he officially became the 676th Lord Mayor of London. This is a very ancient ceremony and as its name implies is conducted nearly completely in total silence. The outgoing Lord Mayor and the incoming Lord Mayor are attended by the Court of Alderman and Court Officials and the main purpose of the ceremony is for the handing over of the articles of office. These articles are the Sceptre, the Seal of Office, the Purse, the Sword and the Mace.

Once the incoming Lord Mayor has sworn the Declaration and the articles of office have been transferred the incoming Lord Mayor and the outgoing Lord Mayor together with Alderman, Recorder, Sheriffs, Officers and the Livery Companies walk out of the Guildhall to a rousing fanfare of trumpets.

THE CLERK'S DESK – WHAT IS A LIVERYMAN?



Margaret Holland-Prior

Any Freeman can become a Liveryman of the Company.

To be Clothed in the Livery is a privilege and once Clothed, having the Livery gown put on one in a special ceremony in

Court, that person can then be elected to Court of the Worshipful Company, if been a Freeman for three years.

The first step is to take one's Oath of a Freeman of the Company. There are a few

members who still are not. Once Free, then go to the Chamberlain's Office and start the process of becoming a Freeman of the City. Having Sworn that Oath in the Chamberlain's Court then the individual can ask to be Clothed.

The cost is £500 and all Company debts must be paid and in good order. Quaterage and Charity remain the same amounts as a Freeman pays. The £500 is a one off payment.

Once a Liveryman, one enters a different position in the City. There are some 23,000 Liverymen. Today the Livery gathered to elect the next Lord Mayor, Robert Finch, who takes office on Friday 7th November in The

Silent Ceremony, when the outgoing LM hands over to the incoming LM without a word being spoken

Saturday that follows is The Lord Mayor's Show and fireworks in the evening.

Today's Luncheon followed in Painters' Hall and eleven Liverymen joined the Master to enjoy lunch with about 120 other Liverymen from 10 other Companies. A very good feeling of fellowship prevailed. It is fun and it is very special.

Liverymen also gather at Common Hall in Guildhall to vote for the Sheriffs.

Open Forum

Society of Young Freemen

The Society was founded by the Corporation of London to "promote an interest in and the interests of the City of London"

Contact:

Nigel Andrew Hall
nigel@techie.com
Tel: 020 7581 3232 (W)
020 8780 2878 (H)

Forthcoming Events

Friday 13th February, 2004, at 1830hrs. The Foundation Evening at Winchester House.

Tuesday 30th March, 2004, at 1845hrs. The Massey Shaw Dinner at The Insurance Hall. (This dinner was formerly known as The Annual Dinner.)

The Clerk

Margaret Holland-Prior JP
Tel: 020 7600 1666
Email: clerk@firefighters.demon.co.uk

The Editor

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23 January 2004

E-mail your comment to: me!!

Peter Hopkins at:
Ph@safetyco.co.uk



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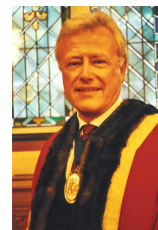
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Colin J Livett

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Shaping Alarm Technology

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OUT AND ABOUT

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THE ARMCHAIR

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To prevent such murders, the following plan was devised. When one of the company stood up to drink, he required the companion who sat next to him or someone of the party, to be his pledge. The consenting companion would also stand and raise his drawn sword to defend the exposed bearer of the cup as he drank from it.

Nowadays, the cup passes around the table at an appropriate time towards the end of a banquet or dinner, normally to the left and each person in turn pledges their neighbour. Only three people should be standing at a time, the bearer (the person holding the cup); the neighbour on their immediate right who drank last and handed them the cup, who remains standing with their back to the bearer to protect them; and the person pledging, on the bearer's immediate left, who stands facing the bearer and removes and holds the cover whilst he or she drinks from the cup. Thus when a person receives the Loving Cup from

the person on their immediate right, who has just drunk from the cup, he or she turns to face their neighbour on their immediate left and they bow to each other. The latter removes the Cup's cover and holds it whilst the bearer of the cup drinks and then wipes the rim with the napkin provided. The cover is then replaced, the two bow to each other again and the cup changes hands. Each person who has drunk from the cup and passes it to the neighbour on their left, remains standing with their back to the bearer now drinking from the cup until the cup is passed on, when they resume their seats. The same procedure continues round the table until everyone has drunk from the cup.

If anyone does not wish to drink from the Loving Cup, they may simply bow to their neighbour and pass the cup along in the usual way. In practice it is often usual to have more than one Loving Cup passing among guests in the prescribed manner for the sake of expediency.

Salamander Ball

OPEN FORUM

In the next issue of SALAMANDER

- ◇ A small competition putting a humorous phrase to an odd picture...With a prize for the winner.
- ◇ Role of the Beadle!
- ◇ What is a Freeman?

And much, much more!!!

THE CLERK'S DESK

8th November is The Lord Mayor's Show

If you can't attend, watch it on TV, but do it early as the Company is in the first section of the Parade.

The West Midlands Band will be leading The Modern Companies, where the Master Colin Livett and Under Warden Martin Coffey and two of the Company will be walking with members from 9 other Companies, formed since 1930.

At the rear is the horse drawn Fire Steamer.

5pm Fireworks on the Thames, best viewing spots, Southwark Bridge and along the Embankment

11th December The Firefighters' Carol Service at 5pm at St: Lawrence Jewry

Unless otherwise suggested please contact

The Clerk:

Margaret Holland Prior
Tel: 020 7600 1666
Email:



clerk@firefighters.demon.co.uk

Closing date for items for the next issue of

The Salamander

is:

Friday,

25 March 2004

Email your comment to: me!!

Peter Hopkins at:
Ph@safetyco.co.uk



THE SALAMANDER

DECEMBER 2003

NEWSLETTER OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FIREFIGHTERS

THE MASTER'S PEN



THE MASTER'S PEN 1

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OPEN FORUM 2

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **The Master's Pen** - Garden of Remembrance
- **What was said?**— A small competition

No man thinks there is much ado about nothing when the ado is about himself - Trollope

As you will have noticed, this issue of 'The Salamander' has a new presentation. My sincere appreciation to our Editor Peter Hopkins and Court Assistant elect Vivian Jones and his company Vimtex for their continuing sponsorship

This will be my last opportunity to write to you as 'The Master.' Since issue number one I have tried to focus upon future opportunities and goals to achieve, rather than report on the splendid invites I had been privileged to attend. Due to the enthusiastic support I have received we have made significant advances on all the targets I set myself at the commencement of my year, as well as some set me by others!

With the approval of Court, I have this week secured agreement with The Sea Cadet movement on a framework to establish a Fire Education Programme incorporating Health and Safety. Ken Knight, London's Fire Commissioner, has offered his personal support for this important youth program.

The main objective of my year was to create an atmosphere which would allow the benefits of teamwork to be harnessed. I chose four words to form the criteria by which I would make my judgements. They were SERVICE, FELLOWSHIP, HARMONY and HONOUR, old fashioned yes, but still effective, if believed in.

The number of applications for Company membership is now increasing. However, much work remains to be done on this the most important subject for our Company's future progress. Have you played your part? Sadly, three loyal members and supporters have past away, John Richardson-Hill, Ron Bentley and Gerry Harsant. I together with others were proud to represent our Firefighters Company at their funerals. It is intended to establish an association by which we can actively remain in contact with their loved ones. I think it would be a fitting memorial to them all and not forgetting Peter Derbyshire and Norman Roundel.

Patricia and I will cherish the wonderful memories of 2003/2004 and the support so freely given by the Court of Assistants the Clerk and our Officers. In closing, may I sincerely express my appreciation to you all for giving me the honour of serving as 'The Master' of The Worshipful Company of Firefighters

Yours ever,

Colin Livett

Master



THE ARMCHAIR—SILVER FIRE HELMET PRESENTATION

As Master and as a friend, I received a request to visit Court Assistant Ron Bentley as he wished to make a presentation to our Firefighters Company. Patricia and I visited Ron and Helen at their home in East Sussex on the 16th April. Ron had been diagnosed with motor neurone disease. With the love and support of his devoted wife Helen, he fought against its effects with great courage and dignity. Yes, Ron did look rather frail sitting in his motorised wheelchair and communicating via his electronic speech box. I was determined that my visit should be a happy occasion for us all. I quickly updated Ron on events within our Company, putting a humorous angle whenever I could. Within a few minutes Ron was not only smiling but laughing and giving me humorous responses via his electronic speech box. If I am honest, we both had glazed eyes but I am convinced it was due to recalling memories and experiences we both had shared over the last forty years.



Helen produced a large cardboard box containing the gift that Ron wished me to personally receive as 'The Master' of The Worshipful Company of Firefighters' on behalf of our members. I carefully removed the layers of protective wrapping to reveal Ron's beautiful gift, my eyes glazed for a second time, it was a superbly restored Victorian silver fire helmet. The original crest had been replaced with the Coat of Arms of The Firefighters Company. I promised Ron that his gift would always have a place of honour at future Firefighters functions. We then spent a little time in Ron's garden where tea was served and photographs were taken to record this very memorable but above all happy day! Ron's energy was now fading and it was time to say farewell. A kiss from Helen, one of the perks of being Master, an embrace with Ron and that extra little squeeze in our handshake and it was time to go.

One week later, I formally presented Ron's gift at our Court Meeting and ensured it had pride of place at the Court Luncheon which followed. I telephoned Ron and Helen the next day to tell them just how well the gift had been received, not only by the members of Court but by all our visitors who attended luncheon that day. Sadly, Ron passed away at home on Sunday 16th May. I represented The Firefighters Company with others at Ron's funeral. Ron had been actively involved in many organisations and it was a testament to his memory that the church was overflowing. Helen spoke about her life with Ron. The insight she gave us was most moving, the eloquent, dignified and loving manner in which she addressed us would have been exactly what Ron would have expected and he could not have asked for more.



Open Forum

The Clerk's Desk — The Lord Mayor's Show

Grand Stand Seat Application

Saturday, 13th November, 2004



This year The Worshipful Company is joining with a group of eighteen Modern Companies to welcome the new Lord Mayor and to take part in The Lord Mayor's Show. I will be applying for a block of seats in the Grand Stands at St: Paul's Cathedral. The ticket price is £22.00 per person and this includes a copy of the official programme. All seats must be occupied by 10.45am. Please remember to allow enough time to reach your seats, bearing in mind the route closures and the size of the crowd. St: Paul's Underground station (Central Line) is close by.

A buffet luncheon will be held in The Insurance Hall from 12.30pm. The other Companies taking part will also be inviting their members and guests to come along to the buffet lunch, and as numbers are limited, please do book quickly so not to be disappointed! The price of the lunch is £19.00, not including wine, which will be £14.00 per bottle (£7.00 per half). Lunch for children under 12 years, will be £12.00. **Please your requests no later than Friday 17th September, 2004**

The Inaugural Massey Shaw Dinner

The portrait of Sir Eyre Massey Shaw, the father of modern firefighting, took centre stage when the Company held its annual dinner at The Insurance Hall on Tuesday 30th March. Massey Shaw was the first Chief Officer of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade from 1861 until 1891 and this was the first time the Company had held an event in his honour. This was a very special and historical evening as not only was it the inaugural Massey Shaw Dinner but also the Master and his family made a special presentation to the Company. This presentation was of a beautiful gold chain that had once been the chain of a Sheriff of the City of London. It was the Master's wish that this chain would be worn by future Masters of the Company.



Reproduced with kind permission of Ramsey Photographic

The principal guest was Senior Master Robert Turner, the Queen's Remembrancer, who's official duties include the annual supervising of the assay of coins of the Realm at a Court held at Goldsmiths' Hall. This duty was particularly relevant in the development of the Company's own traditions as, in front of the entire assembly, he was able to ensure that the presentation gift was good and true. This procedure will in future be undertaken every year when the outgoing Master hands over to the new incoming Master.

The Insurance Hall looked magnificent as all the Company's silver was proudly displayed in all its splendour and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the friendly and hospitable atmosphere.

Martin Coffey

INSIDE STORY HEADLINE



We welcome Terence Foskett on becoming a **Freeman** of the Company

We congratulate Trevor Barnwell and Tony Ludlow on becoming **Liverymen** of the Company



The New Master is:

Robert Dunley.

Wardens now are -

Alan Wells Upper Warden,

Martin Coffey Renter Warden,



FROM THE TREASURER

With effect from April 2004, it is possible for any individual who completes a self assessment tax return to request that the Inland Revenue places any resulting refund of tax paid that may then become due over to a registered charity. If you are in a position where you anticipate receiving a small refund of tax, and are contemplating donating that refund to charity, you may wish to know that The Worshipful Company of Firefighters' own Charitable

Trust is a possible recipient of such donations. The Trust already has the Inland Revenue pre-approval code number of XAL08AG in place.

Further details of how the scheme operates can be found on The Inland Revenue's own website should you require it.
(www.inlandrevenue.gov.uk)

This scheme is entirely separate from The Gift Aid Scheme that most members have already signed for in

context of that portion of their annual fees paid to the Company, which are then automatically allocated to The Firefighters' Charitable Trust on your behalf. No action in that regard is therefore necessary as the arrangements you have already consented to will remain unaltered.

John Mansfield

Honorary Treasurer

Ron Bentley's Memorial Service

The Memorial Service will take place at 12 noon on Thursday 14th October, 2004, at St: Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, SW1. All are welcome and those wishing to attend are requested to apply for tickets to: The Assistant Receiver

General (Protocol), Room 14, The Chapter house, 20 Dean's Yard, Westminster Abbey, London SW1P 3PA, enclosing a stamped addressed envelope (first class). Tickets will be despatched about ten days before the Service.

Over these last 12 months there have been a range of friends and colleagues whom have passed on.

At a recent friends funeral Liveryman Graham Maltby read the following

PASSING OF THE WAY

I thank you God, sincerely

For the friends that are here today

And All that they have done for me

To help me on the way

I thank you that I met them

In fellowship and Cheer,

And that in time of need and stress

They have always been near.

I thank you for my faithful Friends,

In places near and far

Whose kindly deeds have made my days,

As fruitful as they are!

Whose happy songs have done so much,

To make my dreams come true,

And who, by their example Lord

Have drawn me close to you

Amen

"Members and their partners gather for luncheon at Corvino's"



The Master, Wardens, and many Liverymen and Freemen of the Worshipful Company enjoyed an informal luncheon of Italian fare at Corvino's Restaurant close by 'Petticoat Lane' in the City, on Friday 18th June. The occasion was to honour our partners and thank them for their ster-

The new Master was installed at Common Hall on the 2 July 2004



The Salamander

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters

Service, Fellowship, Harmony and Honour

Issue 6, December 2005

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Events

2005

9 December

Company Carol Service,
St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside

2006

23 January

Lloyds of London Dinner, Lloyds

14 February

City Briefing, Guildhall

7 March

The Massey Shaw Dinner,
Insurance Hall

31 March

United Guilds Service, St. Paul's

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters

The Clerk: Martin Bonham

The Insurance Hall

20 Aldermanbury

London EC2V 7HY

T: 0207 600 1666

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E: new email address to be advised

Contributions to the Salamander and the
Company Website should be sent to
neilwallington@aol.com.

Salamander Editor: Neil Wallington
Deputy Editor: Colin Livett

FROM THE MASTER'S PEN

In anticipation of a busy term in office as Master from July, planning started early in the year and ran in tandem with preparations for the Blitz Exhibition planned for September, as part of an initiative to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the End of World War II. But, nothing prepared me for what was to follow!

Common Hall and my Installation set for the 8th July, was postponed because of the bombings in London. Nevertheless, the Salamander Ball at the Royal Lancaster Hotel went ahead successfully on the 10th. Court, Common Hall and the Thanksgiving Service were re-scheduled for August, but could not be accommodated on the same day. My Wardens and I are most grateful to those of you who managed to accommodate the changes and share this important occasion. For those unable to attend Common Hall on the 23rd August, the address I gave that day as the incoming Master will be dispatched by the Clerk in due course.

During this busy and disrupted period, our Clerk, Margaret Holland-Prior, departed for pastures new and Martin Bonham was appointed to succeed her. Martin has the credentials and experience to fulfil the role, but is new to the City. Consequently, it is a steep learning curve for him and I am most grateful to Upper Warden, Martin Coffey, who shouldered the introductory period for Martin Bonham whilst I was engaged with preparations for the Blitz Exhibition.

The Blitz Exhibition, planned and managed by a small team from the Worshipful Company was held in the Great Hall at Guildhall from the 12th to 14th September. One evening the Upper Warden, Clerk and I, hosted a dinner for the Modern Livery Companies (78-107) in Guildhall Crypts and guests enjoyed a viewing of the exhibition. The exhibition and related events, was a great success and received praise from many people. The whole initiative raised the



profile of the Worshipful Company within the City and is more fully described on page 6. Looking forward, December 9th offers an opportunity to celebrate Christmas together with family and friends at St Mary-le-Bow Church, Cheapside, and I am pleased to announce that this year there will be no charge upon members for the carol service. This concession is to thank all of you for supporting Company activities and helping in various ways to promote friendship, enjoyment, instill harmony and make our Company successful.

The new team of Wardens and I, together with the Court of Assistants, look forward to furthering the aims and objectives of the Worshipful Company and serving you to the best of our abilities with vigour and enthusiasm. We are always receptive to your views and welcome contributions intended to further the Company's interests and make membership worthwhile, satisfying and rewarding.

Master Alan Wells

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY CENOTAPH PARADE

13 November 2005

The Company was represented by Past Master Colin Livett. The Master accepted an invitation to attend; Court Assistants Alan Mabbutt and Ronald Brown were also in attendance.

WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FIREFIGHTERS

COMMON HALL 2005

Common Hall this year was due to take place on Friday 8th July but had to be postponed following the terrorist bomb outrage on the London Underground the day before. Common Hall finally took place at 4.00pm on the rearranged date, Tuesday 23rd August, at the Insurance Hall.

A fair gathering of members and guests were present to hear the Master, Upper Warden and Clerk present their reports for the previous year. These all showed that the Company had continued to make steady progress and was also gradually enhancing its reputation amongst the other Livery Companies and institutions in the City.

The Master's chain was weighed and found to be of the correct weight and was then placed upon the New Master's shoulders. The New Master, Alan Wells, duly made his declaration and was invested with the Master's chain and gown.

Martin Coffey, the new Upper Warden and Viv Jones, the new Renter Warden also made their declarations and received their badges of office. Unfortunately James Blott, the new Under Warden was unable to attend the re-arranged Common Hall and subsequently made his declaration at the Dedication Service held at St. Lawrence Jewry-Next-Guildhall on Monday 5th September.

New Freemen

The following were admitted as Freemen of the Company: Paul Settle, Tony Skinner, Ian Tarran, Kelly Fairman and Douglas Vaday.

Livery

The following were clothed in the Livery of the Company: Patrick Hanifan, Paul Rose and Derek Thurlow.

New Court Assistants

The Company welcomes the following new Court Assistants: Alan Mabbutt, Ronald Brown, Harry Paviour and Beryl Jeffery

Common Hall was also the last official event conducted by Margaret Holland Prior, the outgoing Company Clerk. The Company thanked Margaret and extended their very best wishes to her for the future.

Following Common Hall members enjoyed a mouth watering buffet, fine wines and an opportunity to mix informally.

Martin Coffey

PROFILES OF THE MASTER AND THE NEW WARDENS

Master Alan Wells, QFSM, FIFireE

Alan was born in Twyford, Hampshire in 1940. Following early career starts in patent agency, office equipment and furniture restoration he joined the Fire Service in Hampshire as a part time firefighter in 1962 and became a professional firefighter in 1964. Alan moved as an instructor to the Fire Service College in Gloucestershire from 1974-76 before secondment to the Home Office in 1976 where he assisted the research and development of firefighting equipment, extinguishing agents and tactics. Some of that work included the development of thermal imaging cameras for fire service use.

In 1988 Alan transferred to the Kent Fire Brigade where he served as a principal officer. During that period he was involved with the design and future operation of the Channel Tunnel as a member of a UK Delegation responsible for the Rescue and Public Safety parameters of the Tunnel. For part of that work Alan was chairman of a Sub-Group responsible for the safety of people with limited mobility.

In 1992 Alan was seconded to the then Fire and Emergency Planning Department of the Home Office and appointed one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Fire Services with a responsibility for training throughout fire brigades in England and Wales. He retired from local authority employment in 1995, but continued in his role with HM Fire Service Inspectorate upon re-appointment as a civil servant, until his retirement in 2000. During his time with the Fire Inspectorate Alan was responsible for the production of firefighting training publications and initiatives to develop National Standards of Competence for the firefighting profession and the development of facilities and safe systems of work to enable firefighters to undertake meaningful, real or simulated fire-fighting training.

Alan was awarded The Queen's Fire Service Medal in 1993, is a holder of the Fire Service Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and a Fellow of the Institution of Fire Engineers.

The sea has always held a fascination for Alan, probably instilled by his Father who served in HM Submarines throughout WWII. Though Alan had little actual sea-going experience, within a few weeks of leaving the Fire Service, he set sail crewing a boat in The Times Clipper 2000



The Master and his Wardens during the Common Hall 2005.



Round-the-World Yacht Race during which he travelled some 37,000 nautical miles, visited 17 countries in what amounted to a life-changing experience. His boat took third place out of seven competing in the race.

Today, Alan retains his passion for sailing, and enjoys walking, trekking, glider flying and DIY, especially working with wood. He mentors children in Kent schools and assists students at Preparation-for-Work workshops through a local Business and Education Partnership Enterprise. He also raises funds for the National Deaf Children's Society, mainly by giving talks to groups and clubs about his sailing and trekking experiences.

Since his association with the Guild of Firefighters some twelve years ago, Alan was admitted to the Freedom of the Company of Firefighters in 1995, elected to the Court of Assistants in 1996, admitted to the Freedom of the City in 1998, clothed in the Livery of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters in 2001, elected Under Warden in 2002 and Master in 2005.

Alan has a daughter Johanna, a son David, is divorced and partnered by Christine.

Martin Coffey, OBE, Upper Warden 2005/6

Martin Coffey was born in 1948, and served as a professional firefighter in the London Fire Brigade for over 30 years, working in many parts of the Greater London area. For the last five years of his career he served as the Deputy Chief Fire Officer and Director of Operations. During his career he attended and took charge of many major incidents including IRA terrorist bombings, fires and rail disasters.

As a result of his operational experience he was invited to a number of countries to give lectures on planning for major incidents dealing especially with issues concerning command and control. In 1999 he was awarded the OBE for his work on the subject of health and safety in the fire service and retired from the London Fire Brigade in 2000.

Vivian T. Jones, Renter Warden 2005/6

Vivian T. Jones has been a member of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters since its inception and has been active in the Fire Industry for 40 years.

He is Managing Director of Vimpex Ltd, a company he founded 11 years ago. Viv is also a member of the British Fire Protection Systems Association sitting on their Fire Detection and Alarms Executive Committee.

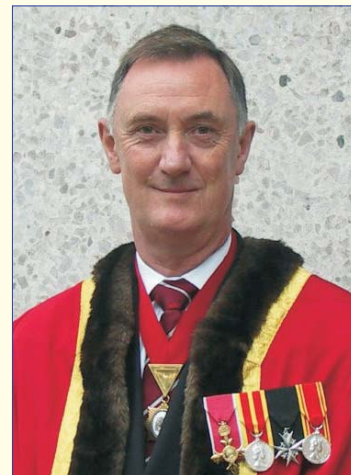
James Blott, Under Warden 2005/6

James was born in 1951 in Essex. He studied Modern Languages and subsequently spent a year as a VSO volunteer in French West Africa. Following an early career with the Bank of London and South America, which gave him his first experience with the City of London, James joined Helmets Ltd in 1973 and this was when he came into contact with the fire service.

Over the next few years, he rose to Sales Director of Helmets Ltd and subsequently Sales and Marketing Director of Siebe Gorman and Co Ltd. During these years James travelled extensively and conducted business negotiations in more than 40 countries. He was subsequently promoted to run two companies within Siebe plc (now Invensys), and later served as Managing Director and Divisional Managing Director within Westland and Vosper Thornycroft, before leading the Management Buy-In of a group of engineering companies. In 2001, he fulfilled a lifelong ambition to move to the voluntary sector, and has been the Director of the Historic Churches Preservation Trust since then.

James became a freeman of the Leathersellers' Company in 1973, and a liveryman in 1976. He served as Fourth Warden of that Company in 1997/98 and joins their Court in December this year. James was a founder member of the Firefighters' Company, and joined the Court in 2002. He is a Trustee of the Firefighters Memorial Charitable Trust, a governor of Prendergast School in Lewisham and is heavily involved with his local church.

James remarried in 1995, and now lives with his wife Janie and daughter Katie, aged 5, in Hampshire. He also has two sons, Jonathan and Marcus, aged 23 and 20. His interests include sailing, skiing and reading and at the end of this year, he will be retiring from full time employment in order to focus more energy on his growing range of charitable activities, including his involvement with the Firefighters' Company.



Martin Coffey, OBE, Upper Warden



Vivian T. Jones, Renter Warden



James Blott, Under Warden

PROFILE OF THE NEW COMPANY CLERK

MARTIN BONHAM

I am delighted to be given the opportunity to introduce myself to you following my appointment as your Clerk in September of this year.

My career began with Calor Gas Ltd where I joined as a Management Trainee. I worked in various functions - sales, marketing, retail, distribution and on secondment to a partner company in West Africa. I was then sponsored to do a Business Administration Programme at Aston University. My career developed in Sales and Marketing with my final appointment being Dealer Sales Manager for the South East. I then joined a firm of energy consultants in Kent in a business development role where I built my own client base from zero to 100 major clients within three years.

In 1996 I joined The Industrial Society, a registered business charity with a membership of 3,500 organisations. The Society works with its members to provide influencing, policy and advocacy on all employment related issues and to promote best practice in the workplace through its Learning & Development business and range of services to its members. In the role of Business Development Consultant I was responsible for preparing proposals that designed, delivered and evaluated solutions for all people related issues. These were usually in the areas of management, leadership, communications, personnel and HR management.

In 2002 the business arm of The Industrial Society was sold to Capita Group and the organisation renamed itself, The Work Foundation. In 2004 I decided to pursue a personal interest and qualify as a Microsoft Office Specialist which was a very useful preparation for the Company's office IT environment!

On a more personal note I have four children. My eldest son is a banker with Merry Lynch, my eldest daughter is training to be an educational psychologist, my second daughter is reading Anthropology at Durham and my youngest daughter is applying to read biology at Oxford.

My own interests are principally sailing, where I am on the Management Committee of my sailing club in the Isle of Wight, tennis where I am a member of my club in London, skiing and golf. I also enjoy reading and taking a lively interest in

current affairs. My favourite books tend to be biographies and autobiographies. My undoubted favourite is Winston Churchill's six volume history of the Second World War and if I were to be consigned to a desert island that is what I would take with me!

ELECTION OF THE LORD MAYOR - 2005

On Thursday 29th September a number of Liverymen from the Worshipful Company of Firefighters attended Common Hall for the election of the new Lord Mayor. In this ancient and colourful ceremony at Guildhall the City Livery Companies elected David Brewer as the 678th Lord Mayor of the City of London.

David Brewer's appeal for his Mayoralty will be the Centenary Appeal of the Treloar Trust in Hampshire founded by fellow Cornishman Lord Mayor Treloar in 1906. The Trust has been providing first-class education, therapy, medical support and training in independence for young people with physical disabilities ever since

With the status of a cabinet minister when travelling overseas, the Lord Mayor of the City of London is the ambassador, both at home and abroad for the City, the world's leading international financial centre. In addition the Lord Mayor is head of the Corporation of London, which provides local authority services for London's Square Mile, Chief Magistrate of the City of London, Admiral of the Port of London and President of the City of London Reserve Forces and Cadets Associations.

The Lord Mayor Elect, as he is known after the election, did not take office until the Silent Ceremony, which was held in Great Hall, Guildhall on Friday 12th November at 3pm, the day preceding the Lord Mayor's Show.

Following the election ceremony at Common Hall the liverymen from the Worshipful Company of Firefighters attended luncheon with many other City Livery Companies at the Painter-Stainers Hall in Little Trinity Lane.



Martin Bonham, Company Clerk



AN APPRECIATION OF JOHN RICHARDSON-HILL

The sudden death of Liveryman John Richardson-Hill was a great tragedy and in this brief article, Past Master David Cartwright pays tribute to JRH, as he was fondly known and remembered.

JRH joined the Firefighters in the early 1990's and was fiercely proud of his connection with his beloved City of London and also the emergency service that he admired immensely. In anything he became involved with, from his work, through his leisure activities, to his charitable activities, he always played a full part. His character would not allow him to merely sit back and allow things to happen, he had to be there organising and "doing it better"!

Originally a merchant banker in the City, JRH decided upon a career change some 20 years ago when he set up his own corporate hospitality business, combining his love of fine food and wines with his incredible organisational skills and eye for detail. Ably assisted by his business partner Barbara, of whom he thought the world, he created, devised and ran events ranging across the whole sporting and cultural spectrum. Salmon fishing in Scotland, dinner in the Temperate House at Kew Gardens with the Royal Marines "Beating Retreat", and a sell-out concert, filling St. Paul's Cathedral were among the events of which he was most proud.

As a member of the then Guild of Firefighters, and during my year as Master, he agreed to run two special "gourmet lunches" to raise money for our selected charities. The first was a real coup! He arranged for us to take over the whole of Gordon Ramsay's restaurant, "The Aubergine" in Fulham, the week before he received his first Michelin Star. Not only that, but the great chef himself personally created and prepared a special menu for us. Gordon Ramsay then joined the assembled company to describe how he prepared the dishes and matched the wines with the food.

The second event took place in the fine wine cellars of the Café Royal where another Michelin Star chef, Herbert Berger, created a superb luncheon for us and again it was an incredible experience.

Subsequently, John arranged another special luncheon for Company members in a private room at the world famous Rules restaurant in Covent Garden. Here, the renowned chef, David Chambers also created a speciality meal as a personal favour to his friend JRH.

JRH's membership of the Firefighters brought him into contact with one of our chosen charities, RAFT (the Burns and Reconstructive Surgery Charity). As a "friend" of RAFT John has supported and raised a considerable amount of money for them. Before he died, JRH had made it known that RAFT was to benefit from any collection made following his funeral.

John's funeral was an incredibly moving occasion. The church of Saint Giles, Cripplegate was packed to overflowing with those whose lives had been touched in some way by the man himself. It was a joyful celebration of his life, touched only with sadness for Sheila, his lady, Clare, his daughter and Barbara his close friend and business partner. The service was taken by our own Chaplain, David Rhodes, whose inimitable style added a personal warmth to the whole proceedings. If JRH were watching (which I am sure he was!), he would have been very proud and impressed by all the arrangements and the feeling of love and support to those he left behind.

What more can I say about John? He was a proud father, a loving attentive partner, a hardworking businessman, a charitable and generous person, a man with zest and enthusiasm, boundless energy and good humour, always laughing, a man to whom manners and courtesy were non-negotiable and, of course a loyal and caring friend.

I am proud and honoured to have known him and to be able to call him my friend. I shall miss him.



John Richardson-Hill

HOME FRONT RECALL

LONDON FIREFIGHTERS REMEMBERED

END OF WORLD WAR II

Earlier in the year, The Worshipful Company of Firefighters joined together with The United Kingdom Firefighters Memorial Charitable Trust, The London Fire Brigade Retired Members Association and the London Fire Brigade to plan and organise a major event entitled the Home Front Recall: London Firefighters Remembered: End of World War II at the Guildhall in the City of London. Its aim was to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the end of World War II and the significant contribution made by London firefighters to the defence of London during those dramatic and difficult times.

The Home Front Recall consisted of a number of connected events, the first of which was a Church Service at St. Lawrence Jewry on Sunday 11th September. This was followed by a parade led by fire service bands to the United Kingdom Firefighters Memorial where wreaths were laid. It is a clear reminder of the dangers and risks of modern day firefighting that five new names have been added to the Memorial in the past twelve months.

The next event of Home Front Recall was a three day Exhibition opened on Monday 12th September 2005 in the Great Hall of the Guildhall. The Blitz exhibition was opened by Sir Michael Oliver, the Locum Tenens for the Lord Mayor. Many varied exhibits included a photographic and map display, Blitz paintings, memorabilia and a profusion of personnel dressed in wartime fire service, police and civil defence uniforms. There were also civilian costumes of that period and a continuous film showing of wartime London newsreel footage. Those attending the opening ceremony were able to see the various vintage fire service pumps and other wartime vehicles and their crews and many other exhibits assembled in Guildhall Yard. Guests and visitors were also able to listen to and enjoy the songs of that era sung live by the 'Forces Sweetheart' Kim Jackson.

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, as Patron of the United Kingdom Firefighters Memorial Charitable Trust, visited the exhibition on Monday 12 September and then attended a Royal Reception hosted by the Corporation held in the New Art Gallery at the Guildhall.

HRH The Princess Royal with the Master, Alan Wells, accompanied by the Conducting Officer, Past Master Colin Livett. (Photograph credit Nick Clarkson)



Other events held during this week included a Dinner in the Guildhall Crypt hosted by the Worshipful Company of Firefighters for other Modern Companies; the launch of the new book *In Case of Fire*, detailing the history and modern role of the London Fire Brigade; and a Reception for the London Fire Brigade Retired Members Association.



A number of Company members were involved in the organization and work in the staging of the Home Front Recall week and these included:

Co-ordinating and Approvals Committee

Chairman Founder Master Gerry Clarkson, Vice Chairman Past Master Colin Livett, Past Masters Albert Gillings and David Bland, and Liveryman Kelly Fairman.

Worshipful Company of Firefighters Committee

Master Alan Wells, Court Assistants Terry Baldwin, Alan Mabbutt and Geoff Morgan.

Firefighters Memorial Charitable Trust Committee

Court Assistant Peter Cowland, and Freeman Paul Settle.

In addition, invaluable support was given by Liverymen Michael Curtis and Freeman Tony Skinner.



Exhibition in the Great Hall of the Guildhall

(Photographs credit Dave Harn)

The closing event was a Blitz Ball held on Friday 16th September in the Old Guildhall Library as a finale to the week's activities. More than 200 people enjoyed an excellent meal and three hours of entertainment and dancing to the sounds of a 16 piece top flight Glenn Miller style big band.

Top of the bill was Steve Stevens, the Air Raid Warden & Compere, who appeared on The Stars in Your Eyes programme last February as George Formby. Supporting him was Tim Pope, an accomplished comedian providing cameos of Max Miller and Flanagan & Allen. The whole audience also joined in and sang along with Kim Jackson the 'Forces Sweetheart' as she entertained with many nostalgic songs from the shelters 60 years ago.



Blitz Ball in the Old Guildhall Library

ANNUAL ST. FLORIAN'S BANQUET

The Annual St. Florian's Banquet was held at the Vintner's Hall on 2 November 2005 and was supported by the following companies:

Apollo Fire Detectors Ltd



Smoke and heat detectors for conventional and intelligent fire systems - Protecting lives and property worldwide. Apollo Fire Detectors Ltd is based five miles from Nelson's flagship HMS Victory in historic Portsmouth. The company is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year and is Europe's largest manufacturer of industrial and commercial smoke detectors exporting to over 85 countries.

www.apollo-fire.co.uk

Chubb Fire



180 years of history and innovation have made Chubb a global leader in security and fire protection. The name Chubb is synonymous with fire and security. Chubb Fire's approach to fire safety is: Prevent, Detect, Contain and ensure Escape from Fire.

www.chubb.co.uk

Kidde Fire Protection



The company has set the benchmark for fire safety, detection, prevention and protection. Kidde are dedicated to protecting people and assets from every day hazards and danger - from fire and safety systems to explosion suppression.

www.kfp.co.uk

Vimpex



The company is renowned for its innovative Fire-Cryer® voice enhanced sounder. It is the sounder that can be both heard and understood. Following an attention seeking signal, the sounder produces a clear unambiguous voice message thus eliminating the potential confusion on hearing an alarm. Vimpex also acts as the European distributor for the 'Ogura' lightweight, portable and highly efficient rescue tools.

www.vimpex.co.uk

Past Master Colin Livett wishes to express his appreciation to the following for their help and expertise in producing both the redesigned Salamander Newsletter and the Company Web-Site:

Neil Wallington: Editor of the Salamander Newsletter

Liveryman Nick Clarkson: Web-site Manager

Graham Scott: (The Marketing Partnership, www.marketp.co.uk): Salamander Design

Renter Warden Viv Jones (Vimpex, www.vimpex.co.uk): Salamander Sponsorship and Distribution

Having established the new design of Salamander, consideration will now be given to establish the regular feature sections contained in future issues.



The Salamander

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters

Service, Fellowship, Harmony and Honour

Issue 7, April 2006

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Events

2006

20 May
St Paul's Guided Tour

7 June
Partners Luncheon

21 June
Master's Reception

8 July
Salamander Ball

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters
The Clerk: Martin Bonham
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20 Aldermanbury
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Contributions to the Salamander and the Company Website should be sent to neilwallington@aol.com.

Salamander Editor: Neil Wallington
Deputy Editor: Colin Livett

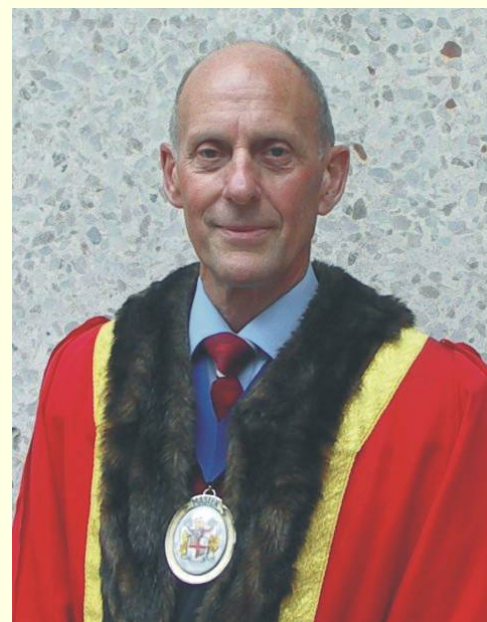
FROM THE MASTER'S PEN

Congratulations! The Salamander continues to look better and brighter than ever. My sincere thanks go to the Editorial Team for a superb job – well done. It is now incumbent upon all of us to ensure contributions keep coming in to maintain interest and quality.

The Company Carol Service at St. Mary-le-Bow Church on Cheapside brought a cheery close to 2005 with a full congregation and wonderful accompaniment from Bromley Ladies Barber Shop Singers – Velvet Harmony. Among the friends of the Company were a few Masters of Modern Livery Companies and everyone enjoyed the occasion which was festive, light-hearted and fun.

Martin Bonham, our new Clerk, is getting to grips with the role admirably. He survived his first meeting of Court Assistants in November and had an introduction to the social side of the Company at the St. Florian's Banquet.

My term as Master has just passed its halfway point and it is proving to be an interesting and rewarding, though often demanding, experience. It is a unique opportunity offering a variety of people to meet and places to visit. Whenever it is appropriate and acceptable I wear mess kit to functions and it goes without saying that 'I stand out in a crowd', which is good because it gets us noticed and raises the Company's profile. It is particularly pleasing that Company events like the Ceremony of the Keys at the Tower, the Livery Dinner at the East India Club and the Dinner at Lloyd's are proving so successful. I appreciate it is demanding upon a Member's commitment to the Company whilst our numbers are relatively small, but the different experiences and opportunities for social interchange are pleasurable and rewarding. Thank you for your support.



I encourage those of you who are Freemen of the Company to consider becoming Freemen of the City of London, by application via the Clerk and a formal ceremony conducted at the Chamberlain's Court in Guildhall, which family are able to witness. This step is a precursor to being clothed with the Livery of the Firefighters' Company at a ceremony before the Court of Assistants. Once clothed, a Liveryman is eligible to participate more fully in the affairs of both the Company and the City.

The Wardens and I constantly strive to ensure Company business runs coherently and meets expectations properly and efficiently. Sound, useful and good work is being generated within committees in an endeavour to manage and develop the Company, fulfil our charitable obligations, and to sustain interest and attract new members.

The United Guilds' Service was held on 31st March whilst April brings the Election Court and a 'Meet the Firefighters' reception and presentations to an invited audience of prospective members at Winchester House.

Master Alan Wells

AN UPDATE FROM THE HONORARY TREASURER ON TAX RELIEF FOR MEMBERS

Members will be aware that £50 of their subscriptions is directly paid over to The Worshipful Company of Firefighters Charitable Trust, and where members sign a Gift Aid declaration this has historically allowed the Trust to reclaim a further 22% tax relief on that amount.

The Inland Revenue have recently agreed that the whole of members' subscriptions, rather than just £50 as hitherto, will now be eligible for tax relief where a Gift Aid Declaration has been made. This concession is now worth £55 to the Charitable Trust on top of the direct donation of £50 members make.

Members may wish to be aware that if they are higher rate taxpayers they can in turn now reclaim 18% of their subscription of £250 back from the Inland Revenue when completing their annual tax return. This represents the difference between the 22% relief the Charity already receives and the 40% higher rate threshold for personal tax payers.

The ability to reclaim this amount effectively now reduces the cost of membership for higher rate taxpayers by £45 to £205, of which £50 will continue to be paid over to the Charity as before.

**Honorary Treasurer
John Mansfield**



The Choirmaster and Velvet Harmony - the Bromley Ladies Barber Shop Singers pose with the Master and Wardens of the Company at the Carol Concert.



This fine picture was taken outside Redcross Street fire station, near the Guildhall, EC 1, and shows a typical horse drawn 50 ft wheeled escape unit of the London Fire Brigade, c 1905. Manned by a crew of four firemen and a coachman, the majority of London's fire stations of this time ran one of these escape ladders alongside a horse drawn steam pump. Note the station officer alongside with the fire station dog. Quickly slipped off and manually wound up, these robust wooden wheeled escape ladders survived well into the motor age until being finally phased out in the late 1970's in favour of alloy extending ladders. Redcross Street fire station was in the front line of the London Blitz throughout 1940 -41 and was finally closed in 1960. (Editor's collection)

NEW MEMBERS OF THE COMPANY

The Court extended membership of the Company to the following at the Court Meeting on Friday 17th February 2006

Geoff Turpin

Geoff is a partner in A&G Building Services who provide Building Maintenance Services principally within the Bus Industry. A&G install and maintain fire alarm and sprinkler systems and the company has been established for ten years.

Alan Woods

Alan is with Securicor in a senior management capacity and is acquainted with fire prevention. He is Secretary of the City of London Freemans Association of Sussex.

Andrew Rhodes

Andrew is currently a Lieutenant at NATO communications in Northwood. He runs half marathons in a Navy Team for a naval charity and is a keen golfer. He has also fought a fire at sea! Andrew's father is Court Assistant David Rhodes, our Honorary Company Chaplain.

Peter Stewart

Peter is a member of the London Fire Brigade serving at Wembley. He is also a member of the Honorable Artillery Company where he holds the rank of CSM and will shortly be commissioned.

Neil Wallington

Neil was Chief Fire Officer of South Wales Fire Service and then Devon Fire & Rescue Service and is now a respected International Fire Consultant and Conference Organiser. He is also a successful author having had fourteen books published and is the Editor of Salamander and the Deputy Editor of the Company Website.



Liverymen Bryan Spearman and Tony Skinner with the Master

CAPTION CORNER

Readers are invited to suggest just what this brass helmeted London fireman might be thinking as he surveys the Southwark rooftops from his swaying 100ft vantage point in this 1937 photograph showing the upper section of a turntable ladder at work during a training exercise. Please let the Editor have your suggestions, the best of which will be published in the next edition of Salamander.



DINNER AT LLOYD'S OF LONDON

60 Freeman, Liverymen and guests met on Monday 23rd January to attend the first Company Dinner of 2006 which was held at Lloyd's of London

Formed in 1668, Lloyd's is the world's leading insurance market which is now housed in an award-winning building designed by Lord Richard Rodgers and opened in 1986 at No 1, Lime Street in the City of London. However, the origins of Lloyd's lie in the more modest surroundings of Mr Edward Lloyd's 17th century coffee house in Tower Street.

Little is known about Edward Lloyd or his coffee house. Coffee houses in those days before newspapers, were places where people met and exchanged the latest gossip. Lloyd's Coffee House, over and above its rivals, gained an enviable reputation for trustworthy shipping news where merchants and seafarers were to be found and it became the recognised place to obtain marine insurance. It is understood that Edward Lloyd took no part in underwriting, but merely ran the coffee house until his death in 1713. His bequest to posterity was to give his name to the insurance market now renowned throughout the world.

Members and their guests were taken on tours of the building to see the Nelson Collection, a unique collection of naval artefacts dating back more than 200 years to Admiral Lord Nelson's famous victories at Trafalgar, Copenhagen and the Nile. The groups visited the Adam Room, which was originally the dining room of Bowood House in Wiltshire, built in 1763 by the Scottish architect Robert Adam. The whole room was taken apart, transported to London and put together again piece by piece to form the Council Chamber in the former Lloyd's Building opened in 1958. When the current Lloyd's Building was constructed in 1986 on the opposite side of Lime Street, the room was taken apart again and reformed on the 11th floor – a classical antique in a post-modern building.

The tours ended in "The Room", the trading floor where underwriting is carried out. Brokers meet the specialist underwriters here at their "boxes", a reflection back to the booths of the original Lloyd's Coffee House. If the underwriter agrees to accept the particular insurance risk, he stamps the slip with his mark, states the percentage he is accepting and signs under, hence the term "underwriter". Cover normally starts immediately.

Also in "The Room" is situated the famous Lutine Bell. Originally a French frigate, La Lutine was commandeered in 1793 by British forces. Renamed HMS Lutine she sank carrying a cargo of gold and silver bullion off the Dutch coast. The cargo valued at £1m, a fabulous amount in those days, was insured at Lloyd's who paid the claim in full and then set about salvaging the wreck. The ship's bell was recovered and hung in the Underwriting Room where, traditionally, it was rung to herald important announcements to brokers and underwriters – once for sorrow, twice for joy. It is now only used on ceremonial occasions.

Dinner was champagne pate and toasted brioche, followed by poached supreme of salmon on crushed artichokes, baby spinach and broad beans with a chocolate and pistachio parfait dessert. It was served in the Old Library which is lined with the original oak panels from the 1928 Lloyd's Building incorporating hand-carvings of 17th and 18th century sailing ships and contains splendid oil paintings of naval scenes.

The Master, Alan Wells welcomed members and guests to the Company's Special Dinner and thanked Court Assistant Geoff Morgan for making it possible to visit such an interesting City landmark and the Clerk, Martin Bonham for organising the event so successfully.

Geoff Morgan



Captain Sir Eyre Massey Shaw, KCB, first Chief Officer of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, 1866 - 1891, pictured in his silver fire helmet. The MFB was re-titled the London Fire Brigade in 1904. (Editor's collection)

MASSEY SHAW DINNER

The Company held a very successful 3rd Massey Shaw Dinner at the Insurance Hall on Tuesday 7th March. The principal guest, Vice Admiral Sir Neville Purvis, KCB, gave a very humorous speech recounting many incidents during his career in the Royal Navy.

During the Dinner, the Master, Alan Wells, presented the company with a magnificent bronze statue of Captain Sir Eyre Massey Shaw, KCB, who succeeded the late James Braidwood as the Superintendent of the London Fire Engine Establishment in 1861 before being appointed the first Chief Officer of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade in January 1866. Massey Shaw served in this post until his retirement in 1891 and over this period became the most famous protagonist of fire safety and the efficient organization of fire brigades of Victorian times.

The Massey Shaw Dinner was jointly sponsored by Baldwin Boxall Communications, Kidde Fire Protection, PSV Transport Systems, and Vimpex.

Upper Warden Martin Coffey, OBE



The Master admires the statue of Captain Sir Eyre Massey Shaw

A NOTE FROM THE DEPUTY EDITOR

In our last issue I said it was our intention to identify sections that would be the basis of regular features in all future issues of your 'Salamander' newsletter. I'm pleased to say that this issue has been published under the chosen headings. I hope it meets with your approval.

May I thank all those who have written and e-mailed me with kind words of support in respect of the new style and quality of Salamander. The production of the newsletter really has been a team effort and I believe it clearly demonstrates what can be achieved when like minded people work together in the interests of our Company and its members.

Similar work is also being undertaken in respect of our Company Web-Site, special thanks on this go to Nick Clarkson. Regardless of the featured headings there will always be room for any articles submitted by yourselves, as it is those which we believe are the most important contributions. So please support us and put pen to paper today. YOUR NEWSLETTER NEEDS YOU!

PM Colin Livett, Deputy Editor

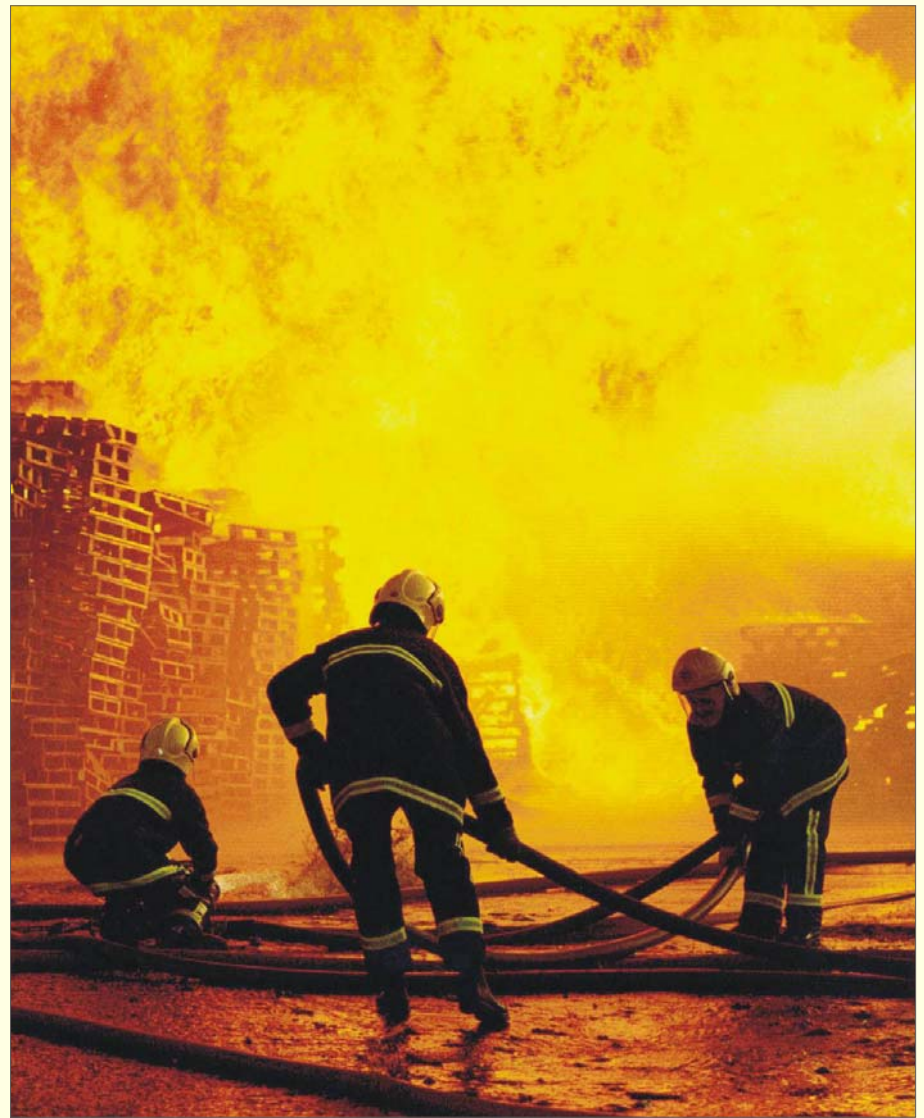
NEWS FROM THE INDUSTRY

One of the ongoing changes to the national fire safety scene in recent times has been the exercise to radically reform the provision of fire safety in England and Wales. This is now embraced in the implications of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005, which will come into effect this year on a date to be announced shortly.

The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (RRFSO 2005) will have a far-reaching impact and particularly so on the enforcement processes that will be employed in future. It is intended to simplify the enforcement and regulation of fire safety and to shift the emphasis from an “enforcer’s tell you” regime, to a “you decide the appropriate measures and manage them” system. Naturally, the enforcement will still devolve to the Fire & Rescue Service and a handful of other agencies, including the HSE and local authorities.

The new Order repeals a raft of previous fire safety legislation. The powers of inspectors and the powers to make requirements and prohibit the use of part or all of a building are all transferred to the RRFSO 2005. However, the key element is that the requirement for a fire certificate for specific uses of premises is gone. When the new Order comes into force, every workplace will fall under the new regime, one which places the onus upon the occupier, or the person who has the control of the premises, to ensure that the arrangements for fire safety are suitable and sufficient to the risk presented.

In essence, this change moves the responsibility for safety in the event of fire away from the Fire & Rescue Service inspector who, perhaps, issued the fire certificate to the owner of the premises. Ownership of the fire safety solution passes to the occupier and their workforce.



West Yorkshire firefighters endure some very high levels of radiated heat as they get hose lines to work in this graphic image of a major fire in 2005 at a large woodyard. The ferocity of uncontrolled and rapid fire spread is dramatically captured in this photograph taken by Brian Saville of West Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service to whom Salamander is indebted.

Inspectors have power to inspect and, where necessary, to insist on improvements, or in extreme cases to prosecute. Naturally, where there has been a failure to implement appropriate measures, or to maintain them, and someone is injured or dies in the resulting fire, the mechanism is there for the responsible person to be prosecuted.

(In the preparation of this brief article, the Editor acknowledges the help of Company Freeman Patrick Cox, Senior Tutor (Uniformed) at the Fire Service College, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire).



LIVERYMAN HARRY ERRINGTON, GC

Issue No 5 of Salamander carried the obituary of former London wartime auxiliary fireman Harry Errington, the only member of the British Fire Service to be awarded the George Cross.

Harry, who died on 17 December 2004, won the George Cross for the rescue of two fellow firefighters following a direct bombing hit on Rathbone Street AFS sub station in London's Soho district on 17 September 1940. Harry was a proud Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters and it was therefore a pleasure to learn that Harry's memory was being commemorated by a special display that opened in January 2006 at the Jewish Museum, Albert Street, London, NW1. At the opening ceremony, Harry's medals were presented to the Museum by his cousin Robert Errington.

(The Editor acknowledges material included in this report that was provided by Freeman Michael Leaver)



London Auxiliary Fireman Harry Errington wearing his George Cross.
(London Fire Brigade)

This dramatic scene of firefighting operations in Queen Victoria Street, EC 4, on the night of 10 May 1941 graphically illustrate the conditions under which the London Fire Service operated during the concentrated Blitz period on the capital. From September to November 1940, regular and auxiliary crews faced a fiery period that included 57 nights of unbroken enemy high explosive and incendiary attacks.
(London Fire Brigade)



A REPORT ON OUR CHARITIES

In forthcoming issues of Salamander, Deputy Editor Colin Livett will be providing information on the wide ranging work of the charities that the Worshipful Company of Firefighters support. The first feature of this series focuses on RAFT.

RAFT

RAFT is a critically needed medical research charity aiming to provide practical outcomes in the fields of reconstructive plastic surgery and burn injury treatment.

The popular image of plastic surgery is one which emphasises its cosmetic aspects. There is so much in the media on the 'Nip & Tuck' theme these days. However RAFT's research aims to offer the chance not only of survival but of a quality of life worth living to patients disfigured by trauma, congenital conditions or the effects of disease.



A Flavour of RAFT's research

Burns Scarring

As readers will know, the effects of fire can be devastating. How can you convey the distressing nature of the lifetime scars that can result?

These scars affect not only the appearance of the burnt area but also how it functions. RAFT is studying how to overcome these distressing outcomes and is also developing an artificial skin to provide life-saving essential wound cover when the body cannot do so itself.

Skin Cancer

Our love of the sun and exotic holidays has fuelled a startling rise in the incidence of skin cancer. By research into prevention, education, early diagnosis and investigation of specific cancers, RAFT is striving to come up with a solution to help fight against them.

RAFT's other research projects include Wound Healing, Hand Surgery (Tendon Repair, Dupuytren's Contracture, Rheumatoid Arthritis) and Facial Palsy.

If you would like to know more about RAFT please contact:

Mrs Hilary Bailey, Director (Admin & Appeals)
RAFT, The Leopold Muller Building
Mount Vernon Hospital
Northwood
Middlesex HA6 2RN

Tel: 01923 835815
Email: charity@raft.ac.uk
Website: www.raft.ac.uk

Registered Charity No: 299811

Neil Wallington: Editor of the Salamander Newsletter

Liveryman Nick Clarkson: Web-site Manager

Graham Scott: (The Marketing Partnership, www.marketp.co.uk): Salamander Design

Renter Warden Viv Jones (Vimpex, www.vimpex.co.uk): Salamander Sponsorship and Distribution



The Salamander

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters

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Issue 8, November 2006

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Events

2006 - 28 November

Dinner for Liverymen,
East India Club

1 December

The Court of Assistants

15 December

Carol Service, St Mary-le-Bow

2007 - 16 January

Master's Continuity Group

Events Committee

Membership Committee

Admissions Panel

23 January

Finance & General Purposes

Committee, Charitable Trust

Privileges Committee

12 February

The Fire Sermon,

St. Magnus the Martyr

13 February

City of London Briefings,

Innholders Hall

6 March

The Massey Shaw Dinner,

Insurance Hall

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters

The Clerk: Martin Bonham

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London EC2V 7HY

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E: clerk@firefighterscompany.org

Contributions to the Salamander and the

Company Website should be sent to

neilwallington@aol.com.

Salamander Editor: Neil Wallington

Deputy Editor: Colin Livett

FROM THE MASTER'S PEN

It was a privilege to personally welcome Members to Common Hall on 7th July and thank them for coming to support me on one of the very special days of my life. It is a huge honour to be selected to become the Master of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters and I sincerely hope that I am able to meet your expectations in respect of the trust you have placed on me to represent the Company for the ensuing year.

In October our Company will reach its fifth anniversary since being granted livery status and becoming known as the Worshipful Company of Firefighters. During that time our Company has grown in stature and has become increasingly involved in the life and the ceremonials of the City. I think we can all be proud of what our Company has achieved in that time and also for the growing recognition given to us by the City and the other livery companies.

I hope in my year as Master to continue this successful trend and also make further progress in developing our educational responsibilities. To support this process the Company is reviewing its strategic plan so that for the next five years and beyond we can continue to have a clear idea of what we wish to achieve.

For many of our members being a member of this Worshipful Company and being involved in the ceremonials and functions of both the Company and the City is very enjoyable. To that end, the Events Committee will be organising a number of interesting events and functions during the coming year. I would like to strongly encourage all members to come along and support these events and bring their family and friends as well.



As a Company we can only succeed and prosper by increasing the level of support at our charitable events and more crucially by continuing to increase our membership. As we prosper so will our nominated charities and those new charities with whom we would like to develop stronger contacts, especially in the area of education.

I would like to thank in advance my three Wardens, as I believe I have got an experienced and hard working team supporting me. I would also like to thank our committee members for the time and effort they will contribute during the next year to build on the Company's achievements.

Mary and I look forward to a wonderful year ahead of us and to many more wonderful years ahead for the Company.

Master Martin Coffey

COMMON HALL 2006

Common Hall this year took place on Friday 7th July at the Wax Chandlers' Hall. A fair gathering of members and guests were present to hear the Master, Upper Warden and Clerk present their reports for the previous year. These all showed that the Company had continued to make steady progress and was also gradually enhancing its reputation amongst the other Livery Companies and institutions in the City.

The New Master, Martin Coffey, duly made his declaration and was invested with the Master's Jewel and gown. The Master's Chain was weighed and found to be of the correct weight and was placed on the New Master's shoulders.

Viv Jones, the new Upper Warden, James Blott, the new Renter Warden and Geoff Morgan, the new Under Warden, made their declarations and received their badges of office.

Following Common Hall, the Master, Wardens, members and guests processed from Wax Chandlers' Hall to the church of St Mary-le-Bow in Cheapside for the service of Re-dedication. At the end of the service everyone was invited to enjoy a buffet and a few glasses of wine and an opportunity to mix informally.



The Master, Wardens, Honorary Beadle and Clerk about to enter the church of St Mary-le-Bow for the service of Re-dedication following Common Hall



The Court extended membership of the Company to Andrew Rhodes, Neil Wallington and Alan Woods at the Court Meeting held on 28 April 2006.

Pictured after the ceremony are: (left to right):

The Reverend David Rhodes, Honorary Chaplain to the Company; Alan and Irene Woods; Master Alan Wells; Andrew Rhodes; and Susie and Neil Wallington.

NEW MEMBERS OF THE COMPANY

At the Court Meeting on Friday 7th July 2006, the Court extended membership to the following:

Dr Peter Moore

Dr Moore is Director of Technology for Kidde Plc and is also Chairman of the BFPSA (British Fire Protection Systems Association). He is Physical Sciences graduate from the University of Surrey where he was awarded a PhD for his work on the propagation and suppression of gas and dust explosions.

Paul Bryant

Paul is Chief Executive Officer of Kingfell which he formed in 1995. Kingfell provides its clients with a comprehensive concept to commissioning range of fire safety services. Paul has been Chairman of the British Standard Committee, Actuation of Fire Protection and was the author of BS 7974, Detection of Fire and Activation of Fire Protection Systems.

2006 PARTNERS LUNCHEON

The 2006 Partners Luncheon was held at Le Saint Julien Restaurant in Long Lane, ECI, on Wednesday 7th June. Some 20 members and their partners enjoyed an excellent menu, good company and conversation. Thanks go to Liveryman Trevor Barnwell for organising this annual event.



At the Court meeting on Friday 7th July 2006 Geoff Turpin received the Freedom of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters. Geoff can be seen here with the Master and Wardens.

CAPTION CORNER

The Caption Corner Competition in Salamander No 7 brought in a good number of entries and after due consideration, the Editor and Deputy Editor decided that the clear winner was Court Assistant Neil Botten whose entry was:

"Teacher said I would go to the top of the ladder one day but I didn't quite expect this!"



Please let the Editor have your suggestions for the dramatic Caption Corner image in this edition of Salamander. The photograph has been kindly provided by Liveryman Martin Lloyd-Elliott.



OBITUARY

Liveryman P.A.D. (Paddy) Sheen, 1933 - 2006. Eur.Ing, BSc, CEng, FIEE, FIFireE, FAE, FRSA

Patrick lost a bravely fought battle with cancer and passed away on the 28th July 2006.

He was a former member of Peterborough's 'Volunteer' Fire Brigade, which is still a true 'volunteer' fire station run as a charitable trust within the local authority; a Member of the Institute of Electrical Engineers and a Past International President of the Institution of Fire Engineers, 1990-91.

Patrick's academic career reached its peak in the late 1970's when he was appointed the Principal of Peterborough Regional College. Following this period, he devoted much of his working life as a consulting forensic engineer specialising in fire related matters. He was admitted to the Livery of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters in 2002.

During Patrick's lifetime work, he assembled a unique, much-loved and enthusiastically cherished library of books, magazines and articles about fire engineering, fire insurance and fire brigades. Patrick bequeathed this collection to the Firefighters' Company with a request that it be placed on loan into the care of London Fire Brigade's Museum at Southwark where it will be a valuable national research resource. This collection of several hundred books and other written material is currently being catalogued and prepared for library display by the museum's staff assisted by Liveryman and Court Assistant John Lowndes and our Honorary Archivist Martin Lloyd-Elliott.

A memorial service for Patrick was held at Richmond, North Yorkshire on the 4th August, when many local people and friends joined his widow Kathleen and family at the church. Among those giving thanks for Patrick's life were three members of the Peterborough Volunteer Fire Brigade and Bill Cox, the recently-installed International President of the IFE. Immediate Past Master Alan Wells attended the funeral to represent the Company. Following the service, Patrick's widow Kathleen and family accompanied Patrick to nearby Darlington for a private cremation.

Past Master Bertie Gillings

It was with great sadness that the Company received news of the death of Bertie Gillings, Founder Member, Past Master and Officer of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters.

Bertie's funeral took place at St Edmunds Church, Larkwood Road, Chingford, Essex on 9th August.

A Service of Thanksgiving for Bertie's life was held at The Church of St. Lawrence Jewry, Gresham Street, London, EC2 on Thursday 16th November 2006.

A full tribute to Bertie Gillings and his contribution to the Company will appear in Edition No 9 of Salamander.

MODERN COMPANIES DINNERS

The Master, Martin Coffey and Upper Warden Viv Jones attended the Modern Companies Dinner on Monday 11th September 2006.



The occasion provides the opportunity for Masters and Senior Wardens from the Modern Companies to get to know one another. There is also a guest speaker who on this occasion was Murray Craig, Clerk of the Chamberlain's Court.

A 'Modern Company' is one formed since the 'Long Gap' which ended with the formation of the Master Mariners in 1926. The Master and Upper Warden are invited to these Dinners and their organisation rotates around the various companies. The Firefighters hosted the 2005 dinner and will be hosting the next dinner in Autumn 2018. The Modern Companies are good at forward planning!

THE CITY COMES TO CORNWALL

The Lord Mayor, Alderman David Brewer, a Cornishman, sought to develop a link between the City of London and Cornwall at The Royal Cornwall Show held near Wadebridge during June 2006.

In support were 66 Livery Companies with some 50 Masters and their partners among them, including the former Master Alan Wells and Christine, former Renter Warden Viv Jones and Judith, and Liveryman Harry Paviour and Doreen. The City guests were welcomed at a dinner hosted by The Lady Mary Holborrow, JP, Lord-Lieutenant of Cornwall, held in a transparent marquee on the floodlit lawns at Cabilla Manor overlooking Bodmin Moor, the home of Robin and Louella Hanbury-Tennison (High Sheriff Elect of Cornwall).

At the Show Ground the next day, a few Livery Companies set out stalls of their trade, among them the Pewterers and the Ironmongers. The Lord Mayor in a Britzka horse-drawn carriage led a show-ring parade of Livery Companies, which included the Drapers' Barge.

Later the same month, 19 Cornish trades-people attended a Day in the City at Leadenhall Market to promote Cornwall. The Helston Brass Band entertained the crowds as the Lord Mayor accompanied by HRH The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall toured the market and greeted guests. The Day in the City closed with a reception given by the Lord Mayor at the Mansion House for the visitors and supporting Livery.

Past Master Alan Wells



A long-gone fire service training routine from before the days of health & safety and risk assessments. Jumping sheets were carried by most city fire brigades up to the Second World War and weekly drill in their use was a regular feature. Here a London Fire Brigade crew demonstrate the correct technique with a jumping sheet as an LFB fireman acts as the 'jumper' from the third floor of the drill tower at Southwark, c1931. (London Fire Brigade)

THE 2006 IRONBRIDGE GORGE LIVERY WEEKEND

The then Master, Alan Wells accompanied by Christine, joined about 188 Masters and their partners for the annual Livery Weekend at Ironbridge, Nr Telford in Shropshire, from the 16th to 18th June 2006.

Based at the Holiday Inn hotel, the weekend started with a Livery Dinner at one of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum buildings at Coalbrookdale. The following day coaches and guides took everyone on a tour of the Gorge to visit the Coalport China Museum, Blists Hill Victorian Town where many traditional trades are worked in replicated period surroundings, the Jackfield Tile Museum and finally the Coalbrookdale Museum of Iron where Abraham Darby helped spark the Industrial Revolution by developing coke smelting to replace charcoal with coal to refine iron in 1709. The restored Quaker homes of the Darbys' can be visited nearby. The weekend concluded with the President's Ball held in The Engine Shop at Coalbrookdale.

The Firefighters' Company, along with 13 or so other Companies, presented a shield depicting our Coat of Arms to the Ironbridge Gorge Museum to add to their present collection of 41 Livery shields.

Links between the Livery and the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Development Trust have been established for many years and a few companies have assisted, through a City based Ironbridge Livery Committee, with the development of some of the heritage preservation work in the Gorge. More information about the link between the City Livery and the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust is promised.

Past Master Alan Wells

COURT ASSISTANT PETER COWLAND

This summer saw Court Assistant Peter Cowland stand down from the important role as principal organiser of the Company's Salamander Ball, a task he has undertaken very successfully since 2001.

Peter followed his father's footsteps into the fire service where he served for 32 years, retiring as the Senior Fire Safety Officer of Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue Service in the rank of Divisional Officer Grade I.

He joined the Company in 1999, was admitted to the Freedom of the Company the same year, gained Livery in 2002 and has served on the Court of Assistants for some four years. Peter says he was press ganged to take over the running of the Salamander Ball (then known as the Worshipful Company of Firefighters Ball) by Colin Livett as part of his 'development' – what a pal!

Apart from masterminding six successive Salamander Balls, Peter has also been involved on the Company entry in the Lord Mayor's Show, acted as Charity Officer of the Firefighters Memorial Trust and was very involved in the team led by Senior Past Master Gerry Clarkson that staged the Home Front Recall events in September 2005.

Over the past six years or so, Peter has been aided by his wife, Lesley, who has also put in much time and effort on various aspects of the organisation of the annual Salamander Ball and other events. All members will applaud both Peter and Lesley for their hard work over past years on behalf of the Company.

Peter will remain a member of the Events Sub Committee and will assist Liveryman Bryan Spearman with the organisation of the 2007 Salamander Ball.



Peter and Lesley Cowland

THE ROLE OF THE BEADLE

The office of Beadle is probably the oldest of all 'Civic' offices. In ancient Rome, 'Bedellus' marched in front of the legions, carrying the standards, banners and trophies of the conquered nation, as the victorious army entered Rome.

In peacetime their role became that of City policemen, carrying a bundle of sticks and an axe, collectively known as the 'fasces', which were used to punish miscreants under the direction of the consul or magistrate. In this alternative role they were known as 'Lictor' and the fasces became a symbol of the magistrate's powers. Later on in the 20th century, the symbol was adopted for the fascist movement, which is where the name fascist is derived from.

Before Peelers and Bow Street Runners came about, Beadles acted as parish policemen under the instructions of magistrates and were responsible for the arrest of felons, placing them in the stocks or delivering them to the magistrates. The most well-known Beadle is, of course, the fictitious Mr Bumble, created by Charles Dickens for the novel *Oliver Twist* and famously portrayed in the 1970's film by Harry Secombe of 'Goon' fame.

Our own Beadle, John Norris, has a purely ceremonial role, with an eye to ensuring that members, Freemen and Liverymen of the Company are kept in order. He has requested a set of stocks for use at our more rumbustious gatherings, but to date, the Court has not been minded to authorise the purchase of a set, although it is understood that they may be considering the purchase of a bundle of sticks providing John brings his firemen's axe out of retirement!

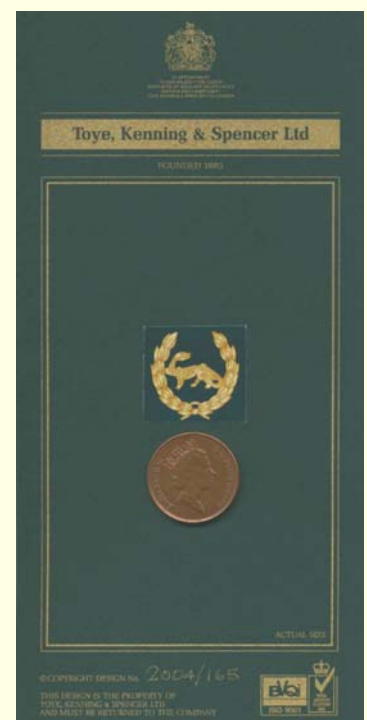
John was the Founding Beadle when the Guild was formed in 1988 and he officiated and acted as Master of Ceremonies at Court meetings, and assisting the Clerk and Assistant Clerk in the organisation and delivery of the functions. He was aided in those early days by a Constable (another Member – Paul St. J Byles) and a band of Stewards. All were suitably attired with neck and wrist ruffles of lace on the more formal occasions. The Constable and Stewards were dispensed with in the early 1990's and John relinquished his position to jobbing beadles in order that he could enjoy functions as a Member.

However, Past Master Colin Livett, using his well-known enthusiasm, persuaded John to re-assume his role as Honorary Beadle to take us through the Grant of Livery in 2001, a position that John still occupies today. John is unique in being the only beadle of a Livery Company in office who is both a founding Beadle and a founding Member, a fact that John is rightly very proud of.

John obviously enjoys the role of Beadle very much and it is one that we sincerely hope that he will long continue in. He is a member of the City of London Beadles Group, to which the majority of City Beadles belong.

SALAMANDER LAPEL PIN

A second edition of the Company's highly successful Salamander Lapel Pin is now available to members of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters. Made of solid silver gilt these attractive lapel pins can be purchased from the Clerk for £80.



A REPORT ON OUR CHARITIES

Deputy Editor Colin Livett continues the series of information on the wide ranging work of the charities supported by the Worshipful Company of Firefighters. In this edition of Salamander Colin looks at the Firefighters Memorial Charitable Trust whose Patron is HRH The Princess Royal.

Firefighters Memorial Charitable Trust

The Founding Master of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters, Gerry Clarkson, CBE, OStJ, QFSM, is also the Founder Chairman of the Firefighters Memorial Charitable Trust who have the responsibility for commemorating all the United Kingdom Firefighters who sadly lose their lives in the course of their operational firefighting duties.

The Trust own and are responsible for the very moving United Kingdom National Memorial, which stands proudly by St Paul's Cathedral and was unveiled in 1991 by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother.

The Memorial initially recorded the 997 names, cast in bronze, of those Firefighters who sadly lost their lives during the Blitz on our Nation in the last war. Since then the Memorial has been raised and rededicated by the Trust's Patron, HRH The Princess Royal, to accommodate the names, cast in bronze, of over 1,100 Firefighters killed in peacetime operations.

An Annual Service of Remembrance is held every September, which sadly coincides with the devastating events of 9/11. In the last year or so, it has been necessary to add five names of UK Firefighters who were tragically killed on active firefighting duties. These brave Firefighters can give no more than their lives whilst they are endeavouring to protect & rescue members of the public and their property. The very least families and loved ones can expect is that their sacrifice is formally recognised and recorded.

The Trust is also responsible for the United Kingdom Fire Services participation in the National Service of Remembrance held at the Cenotaph in London each year and for their involvement at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire, which covers an area of some 150 acres with over 40,000 trees planted since 1997. The Trustees are also responsible for the commemorative aspects of the UK Fire Service Chapel at the Fire Service College, Moreton in Marsh, Gloucestershire.

In addition, the Board of Trustees work closely with Government and other fire related organisations, especially the Fire Services National Benevolent Fund, whose Patron is Her Majesty The Queen.



Firefighters Memorial Charitable Trust -
www.firefightersmemorial.co.uk

Neil Wallington: Editor of the Salamander Newsletter

Past Master Colin Livett: Deputy Editor

Liveryman Nick Clarkson: Web-site Manager

Graham Scott: (The Marketing Partnership, www.marketp.co.uk): Salamander Design

Upper Warden Viv Jones (Vimpex, www.vimpex.co.uk): Salamander Sponsorship and Distribution



The Salamander

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters

Service, Fellowship, Harmony and Honour

Issue 9, May 2007

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Events

2007

7 June

Partners Luncheon

8 June

Court of Assistants

20 June

Master's Reception

25 June

Election of the Sheriffs

6 July

Common Hall

9 September

Annual UK Firefighters Memorial Service

14 September

Court of Assistants

22 September

Fire Industry Charity Ball

1 October

Election of the Lord Mayor

10 October

St Florian's Installation Dinner

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters

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Salamander Editor: Neil Wallington

Deputy Editor: Colin Livett

FROM THE MASTER'S PEN

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters has taken a distinct leading role in co-ordinating the Modern Livery Companies entry for the annual Lord Mayor's Show. The Modern Livery Companies, so named for being founded after the cessation of the Second World War, first entered the Parade as a group following an initiative by the Worshipful Company of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators in 2003.

Many of the Modern Companies simply could not afford the entry fee and costs of a float, which can easily exceed £6000. The group initiative was successful and eleven Modern Companies paraded. To add colour and dimension, the Firefighters arranged for the West Midlands Fire Brigade Band to lead a horse drawn steam powered fire pump. This proved to be a great success with the thousands of spectators lining the route. The Modern Livery Companies then decided to enter the Lord Mayor's Show on a regular basis and the Firefighters volunteered to take over the organisation on behalf of the Modern Companies.

Such has been the success and influence of the Firefighters that, under their direction and guidance, participation has increased to twenty-two of the currently twenty-nine Modern Livery Companies. The entry in the November 2006 Show was particularly successful and innovative. Innes Southard, a member of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters loaned and drove a Dodge G16 Carmichael DL30U 100ft Magirus turntable ladder fire appliance. This was followed by a 1964 Southdown bus, owned by Eric Stobart, a Past Master of the Worshipful Company of World Traders, complete with a traditional New Orleans style jazz band. Following behind and bringing an entirely new



dimension to the City streets, was a combine harvester, loaned by Farmcare Ltd, which is used as part of their *Education for Schools* programme.

Last November the parade had 70 floats, 24 military and civilian bands, 6169 participants and was well over three miles in length, taking 1 hour, 8 minutes and 39 seconds to pass the Lord Mayor at Mansion House. From when the BBC went live on air at 10.45am, the first 20 minutes of the show differentiated by less than one second from the timing schedule produced by the Pageant Master. I am sure you will agree that taking into account the fly past, the two minutes silence and the Remembrance Day poppy drop from the Lancaster bomber of the RAF Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, this was an amazing piece of logistics planning. The Lord Mayor's Show is the largest parade of its kind in the world and last November, 49 of the 107 Livery Companies were involved.

The growing influence and importance of the Modern Companies involvement in the Lord Mayor's Show has bought considerable recognition to the Company of Firefighters within the City of London. The 2006 entry was a great success and all the twenty-two companies involved, together with some of the remaining seven, have indicated their wish to participate in our 2007 entry.

Master Martin Coffey

FROM THE CLERK

I get a number of calls from Freemen of the Company enquiring about becoming Liverymen and what this involves. This issue of Salamander gives me an ideal opportunity to describe the process.

In order to progress to Livery it is necessary to be not only a Freeman of the Company but also a Freeman of the City of London. This can be achieved in one of two ways: either by approaching the Chamberlain's Court in Guildhall (details available from the Clerk) or registration by proxy (details and form also available from the Clerk). Once registered, it is necessary to attend the Chamberlain's Court (usually a month or so later) to declare your Freedom of the City.

Once Freedom of the City has been declared the Chamberlain's Court will provide confirmation to the Clerk. The Clerk will then be in position to invite you to be clothed in the Livery of the Company. Clothings take place four times a year at the time of Court Meetings in December, March, June and September. There is a one-off Livery Fine to be paid of £500 and Quarterage remains the same.

Becoming a Liveryman of one of the City of London's Livery Companies is a great privilege and honour. Being a Liveryman gives you the right to attend Common Hall and vote in the elections for the Sheriffs and Lord Mayor. The Lord Mayor, Sheriffs and Aldermen are drawn from the ranks of the Livery. If you are interested in moving to Livery Status please call the Clerk on 0207 600 1666.

Martin Bonham



Innes Southard's former London Fire Brigade Dodge G16/Magirus 100ft turntable ladder ready for the parade.



Court Assistants Alan Mabbutt and Ronald Murray, Master Martin Coffey and Court Assistant Trevor Barnwell pictured in front of Innes Southard's ex - London Fire Brigade Dodge/Magirus turntable ladder before the commencement of the 2006 Lord Mayor's Parade.

OBITUARIES

Liveryman Tom Wilmot and Court Assistant Ronald Brown

It was with very great sadness that the Master, Wardens and members of the Company received news of the death of Liveryman Tom Wilmot on 15 February 2007 and that of Court Assistant Ronald Brown on 19 March 2007.

The Company was represented at both funerals and subsequent Memorial Services.



PARTNERS LUNCH

"Le St Julien"

62/63 Long Lane, London EC1

12.30pm Thursday 7 June 2007

Following last year's successful lunch at Le St Julien, our Master and Wardens have decided to repeat the function again this year. Those who attended in 2006 will recall the fine, French inspired food and the very friendly staff, all providing a very convivial atmosphere.

Le Saint Julien's has a reputation as a cosy spot that delivers the traditional French thing with charm and warmth. It pulls out all the brasserie stops - mirrors, gilt finishes, elegant period lighting, traditional wooden bar and French waiters all smartly dressed in black aprons. This is an opportunity to invite our partners to an informal event with time to mingle prior to lunch and, indeed, après.

Our Master will be inviting those widows who have lost their partners in previous years and they will be our guests for the lunch. With this in mind, the charge, inclusive of a half bottle of wine per person and a three course menu, will be £40. Other drinks will be available at the cash bar. We hope to attract sufficient numbers in order to exclusively reserve the restaurant. Dress code will be suits/jackets and ties and the equivalent form of dress for partners.

A booking form has already been circulated and I would be grateful if you could return the same, along with your menu choice and a cheque (£40 per person) made payable to 'The Worshipful Company of Firefighters' to me by Monday 21 May 2007.

Martin Bonham

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMPANY

During the last two Court Meetings, membership of the Company was warmly extended to:

1 December 2006:

Liverymen: Frances Blois, Alan Woods, Robert Farquhar, Michael Docherty, Ted Pearn and Geoff Turpin

Freemen: Paul Bryant, Peter Moore

23 March 2007:

Liveryman: Kelly Fairman

Freemen: Karen Eves, Richard Squire, Philip Crisford, Elwyn Harker, Ian Brown, Jon Hall and Anthony Ireland.



CAPTION CORNER

After due consideration of the entries for the Caption Corner Competition that appeared in Salamander No 8, it was decided that the winning entry was from John Norris, the Company Beadle, whose short and succinct entry was:

"Yes, petrol does make it go better!"



Please let the Editor have your suggestions for the Caption Corner image in this edition of Salamander. The photograph has been kindly provided by courtesy of the London Fire Brigade.



EULOGY: ALBERT LESLIE GILLINGS, JP

1 September 1930 to 1 August 2006

It was with great sadness that the Worshipful Company of Firefighters learned of the death, on the 1st August 2006, of our Past Master & Assistant Clerk Finance, Bertie Gillings. Bertie, a founder of the Company and a Past Master, was much loved by everyone. He was a real gentleman, a true professional and one who devoted his entire life to others in so many ways.

Albert Leslie Gillings was born in September 1930, within the Borough of Hackney. It was not until much later in life that he came to be known as Bertie and in 1948 he was called up for National Service and joined the Royal Marines. It was there that the importance of self discipline and supportive teamwork were instilled in him and stayed with him throughout life. During this time he began what would become a lifetime interest in military history.

In 1950 Bertie joined the London Fire Brigade. That single decision set him on the path of serving the community and helping others - a golden thread throughout his working life and beyond. Even in his early years in the Brigade, Bertie was involved with a charity which encouraged young boys to take up boxing to get them off the streets and away from bad company. His distinguished fire service career spanned over 34 years and during this period he forged strong friendships and proved himself a caring leader and working hard for his family. There was no greater life-long friendship than that formed by two young instructors at the London Fire Brigade Training School at Southwark in 1965. That friendship between Station Officer Albert Gillings and our Founder Master, then Station Officer Gerald Clarkson was to last over 40 years and never waiver.



For the last 15 years, Bertie was almost as well known in Charing, Kent where Gerry and Rose live, as he was in Chingford. So much so, that Bertie was very involved with the activities of the village, serving on a number of committees and indeed was even appointed as President of one of Charing's associations. The Annual Duck Regatta and the Annual Garden Parties always sported 'Bertie's Bar'.

Bertie's career in the London Fire Brigade progressed well. Always respected as a hardworking, thoroughly reliable officer with the utmost integrity, he rose through the ranks to become a Deputy Assistant Chief Fire Officer in command of the challenging large area of North East of London.

During his career in the Fire Service Bertie joined the Masonic Order and served in three Lodges. Bertie gave long and dedicated service in both the organisation and its considerable fund raising and within the Masonic Movement, where Bertie once again reached high office and was greatly respected.



Bertie understood that the end of a selfless career in the Fire Service was not the end of his working life and that he still had much to offer. Within a year of leaving the Brigade in 1984 he was appointed a Magistrate for North East London serving at Waltham Forest and Snaresbrook Crown Court. He went on to become the Chairman of the Family Proceedings Panel, where he was well recognised and much valued in this important and extremely sensitive role. At the same time Bertie became involved as a Committee Member of the Chingford and Waltham Forest Branch of the Royal British Legion and within a year was appointed the President of the Royal British Legion Club at Chingford. In 1988 Bertie was appointed President of the Royal Naval Association for Chingford and Waltham Forest.

As if this were not enough, Bertie was appointed the Commissioner for St John Ambulance London District where he served with distinction for the next eight years. In his role as Commissioner he was responsible for all the St John Ambulance public duties across the capital. These included Trooping the Colour, London Marathons, Royal Garden Parties, VE and VJ celebrations and numerous marches and demonstrations. Bertie was honoured by being made a Commander of the Order. Bertie continued to serve London District as a member of Council and at the same time served National Headquarters on the Honours & Awards Committee. Bertie served for over 17 years and was honoured and proud when he was awarded the Service Medal and Bar for his service to mankind.

In 1988 Bertie was active in founding the Guild of Firefighters, now the Worshipful Company of Firefighters and was one of our early Masters, subsequently holding the positions of Trustee and Assistant Clerk (Finance), an appointment he held for the past ten years. During his term in office as Assistant Clerk (Finance) he ensured that the prompt payment of fines & quarterage was achieved in the most pleasant manner. His stewardship of the Livery Fund enabled the Company to have one of the finest functions at the Mansion House, with the Lord Mayor present, following the Grant of Letters Patent in January 2002.

Bertie's continuing enthusiasm led him to be a founder Trustee of the Firefighters' Memorial Charitable Trust. This culminated in the bronze War Memorial outside St Paul's Cathedral being unveiled by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother in May 1991. On the base of the memorial Bertie's name as a Founder Trustee is proudly inscribed. With Bertie's continuing support as a Founder Trustee the same Memorial was elevated, some ten years later, to accommodate all the names cast in bronze of all the firefighters who have died in peacetime service. Bertie, as a Founder Trustee always

spoke of the great honour and pride he felt in being presented to the dedicated and hard working Patron of the Memorial Charitable Trust - Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal.

Bertie was also an active and well-respected member of the Honourable Artillery Company where he dined almost on a weekly basis. Nothing pleased Bertie more than to entertain his friends, family and colleagues to lunch at Armoury House in the City of London and always attended the Members Monthly Luncheon.

When one realises that many have never achieved what Bertie did in his lifetime, it is difficult to comprehend that he would often remark that he had not done much in life. The reality is that Bertie led a full and active life, filled with kindness and care for others. This unassuming man from the East End of London achieved so much in his lifetime that he is to be very much admired and greatly respected.

Bertie was so very proud of his wife Veronica who nursed him throughout his long period of ill health and her tremendous energy and support in everything he did. He commented on many occasions during the last few years about the fact that Veronica has been a tower of strength and a great comfort during very difficult times.

He was proud of his son David and his wife Carmel and their three children; his daughter Kay and her husband Bob. Bertie was a man who embraced life's opportunities to the full, leaving an enormous legacy of goodwill, love and understanding. In life and in illness, Bertie Gillings continued to be a cheerful example to us all and will always be fondly remembered. For a great many in the Worshipful Company of Firefighters and in other organisations it will have been a real privilege to have shared life with Bertie Gillings, a true and compassionate friend. He will be long remembered and greatly missed.

FIRE INDUSTRY CHARITY BALL 2007

Following the Company's previous successful events we are now embarking on another great evening of dining, dancing and raising charitable support, this time at the Grosvenor House, London.

Format of the evening:

6.30 pm

Reception in the Ballroom Foyer

7.30 pm

Dinner, Auction and Raffle in the Ballroom,
Dancing to the "Big Man and his Band"

12.30 am

Carriages

The cost per head is £98 and is inclusive of the Dinner Dance, reception drink and ½ bottle of wine.

To reserve your place please send your name and address and a deposit of £25 per head to:

Bryan Spearman,
11 Meadway Rustington BN16 2DD.
Cheques payable to "The Worshipful Company of Firefighters". Tables of 10 or individuals all welcome.

For sponsorship detail or other information please call Bryan Spearman on 07860 188 030 or Email: brandy.promotions@virgin.net.

Web site for rooms:
www.grosvenor-house.co.uk

Grand Prize Draw

Members and their friends are invited to take part in our Charitable Trust's draw for **two tickets and accommodation** at the Fire Industry Charity Ball. Tickets are priced at £2 each or £10 for a book of five. The tickets will be on sale at the Fire & Rescue show organised by CMP Information Limited to be held at the NEC, Birmingham on 21-24 May. We plan to draw the winning ticket at the Insurance Hall on 6 July 2007.

If you wish to assist the fund raising effort by selling tickets please contact our Upper Warden, Viv Jones on either 01702 216999 or 07770 878571 alternatively e-mail vtj@vimpex.co.uk.

We sincerely wish to thank **CMP Information Limited** for their generous sponsorship of the Big Man and his Band.



*The
Worshipful
Company of
Firefighters*

Service, Fellowship, Harmony and Honour

Fire Industry Charity Ball 2007



The Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London
Saturday 22 September

Dinner, Auction, Raffle
and Dancing to the
'Big Man and his Band'



Restoring Lives
THROUGH RECONSTRUCTIVE
PLASTIC SURGERY RESEARCH

Our aim is to support the chosen Charities of the Firefighters' Livery Company, and this year RAFT in particular. RAFT is a medical research charity supporting research and education in the fields of reconstructive surgery and burn injury treatment. Funds are needed to push ahead with vital research for patients whose lives have been devastated by burns, accidents, trauma, cancers and birth defects.



Trinity Hospice
Living every moment

FSNBF
FIRE SERVICES NATIONAL BENEVOLENT FUND

LORD MAYOR'S APPEAL

www.firefighterscompany.org

THE ROYAL NAVY'S FIREFIGHTING TRAINING SCHOOL AT HMS EXCELLENT, WHALE ISLAND, PORTSMOUTH

Members will be aware that many Livery Companies have relationships with one or more branches of the armed forces. Both parties benefit by such an arrangement, particularly if there is a reason for the relationship connected with the origins of the particular Company.

The connection between the Worshipful Company of Firefighters and the Royal Navy's Firefighting Training School is not only an obvious one, but also helps to remind us that the modern Fire Service had its origins in the Royal Navy. It was for these reasons that we made contact with HMS Excellent on Whale Island, Portsmouth early this year, and in March the Commanding Officer, Commander Steve Layland, RN, attended as an official guest at our Massey Shaw Dinner.

HMS Excellent houses part of the overall "Damage Control and Firefighting Training School", and everyone who serves on any ship in the Navy must pass through there at least once during their career (more often for officers). They also train other members of the Armed Services, as well as cadets and visitors from many overseas countries. In addition to shipboard firefighting, students are taught how to keep ships afloat following structural/hull damage whether caused by grounding or inflicted in battle. This training employs a special hydraulic platform that can simulate the list of a ship, whilst the trainees inside have to fight to stem the roar of incoming water. They also learn about nuclear, biological and chemical defence and decontamination.

The Royal Navy's Firefighting School is managed and operated by Flagship Training Ltd and was commissioned in 2001. The School's firefighting training scenarios are fired by propane gas and were designed and built by Process Combustion of Harrogate, North Yorkshire, and installed inside eight separate three-deck steel warship units. The simulated fires range from a small waste bin through to a full-scale engine room fire and with the ability to smoke log all the various compartment complexes through various levels down to nil-visibility, the entire facility provides some very realistic yet safe and repeatable training. All the fires, smoke, and lighting are computer controlled and the units have a very high degree of safety features built into the control system. Each training unit is equipped with a catalytic oxidiser to minimise atmospheric pollution and the Firefighting School has a current throughput of over 10,000 students per annum.

Members will be aware that we have an important existing initiative with the Sea Cadets, so at this stage the precise nature of our ongoing relationship with HMS Excellent is still to be established. However, we hope to see representatives of the School at some of our functions, and in the future it may be possible to arrange a visit to the School as part of our social programme, acknowledging that there are some members who have expressed an interest in more visits of a "firefighting" nature.

James Blott, Renter Warden



Picture courtesy of Flagship Training Limited.



LIVERYMAN HARRY PAVIOUR

It is with pleasure that all members of the Company will join in congratulations to Liveryman Harry Paviour on his recent election as a Councillor with Cotswold District Council. However, apart from his distinguished fire service background, Harry is a pretty active person in a range of other disciplines.

Harry joined East Sussex Fire Brigade in 1962, subsequently serving through the ranks in London, Kent, at the Fire Service College, in North Wales and as a regional Staff Officer for the whole of the Principality. After 'retiring' in 1992, Harry became involved in various Fire Safety, Emergency Planning and Safety & Health appointments before returning to the Fire Service College in 2001 as a Fire Risk Assessor and Uniformed Instructor.

At that time his interest in the risk assessment world took him into various commercial organizations, particularly the equine world, where he was appointed Fire Advisor to the British Horse Society.

Harry is the author of the recently published British Horse Society's technical reference book, *Guidelines for Fire Safety Standards for Equine and Agricultural Establishments* which was published and launched at the National Equine event held at the National Agricultural College, Warwickshire. To demonstrate the book's standing in the equine world, the Foreword was written and signed by Her Royal Highness, the Princess Royal.

Harry's current project is writing the draft *Guide for Fire Risk Assessment for Equine Premises*, for the Government's risk assessment based fire safety legislation which came into effect on 1 October 2006. He is also in the process of writing a book in layman's terms on the understanding and application of the new fire safety order for the equine industry.

The next edition of *Salamander* will feature a review of Harry's new book which has been extremely well received throughout the British equine establishment.



THE MASSEY SHAW & MARINE VESSELS PRESERVATION SOCIETY



The Massey Shaw & Marine Vessels Preservation Society is a charity that has in its care the historic former London Fire Brigade fireboat *Massey Shaw*.

Named after the Brigade's long-serving Victorian Chief Officer, the *Massey Shaw* was built in 1935 and entered service in the River Thames Division of the London Fire Brigade. She became famous as one of the 'Little Ships' that went to Dunkirk in May 1940 when the London fireboat made three round trips to successfully evacuate over 160 troops from the beaches. *Massey Shaw* was finally taken out of service in 1971.

The next edition of *Salamander* will feature the work of the Preservation Society and its particular role with *Massey Shaw*.



London Fireboat *Massey Shaw* passes the Palace of Westminster on its way back to its Lambeth base. 8 August 1949. Picture courtesy of London Fire Brigade.

Neil Wallington: Editor of the *Salamander* Newsletter

Past Master Colin Livett: Deputy Editor

Liveryman Nick Clarkson: Web-site Manager

Graham Scott: (The Marketing Partnership, www.marketp.co.uk): *Salamander* Design

Upper Warden Viv Jones (Vimpex, www.vimpex.co.uk): *Salamander* Sponsorship and Distribution



The Salamander

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters

Service, Fellowship, Harmony and Honour



Viv Jones
Master - Firefighters' Company

FROM THE MASTER'S PEN

By way of this communication, I wish to introduce you to the Firefighters' Company.

Our official title of "The Worshipful Company of Firefighters" was granted after receiving our letters patent following 14 years as the Guild of Firefighters. The Guild was the creation of Gerry Clarkson, the then Chief of London Fire Brigade, who, together with a number of loyal colleagues, had questioned why it was that many trades had Guilds and Livery Companies formed in their name, but not the Firefighters. They were looking at the historic City of London Livery Companies, some of which go back over 800 years and decided the City had waited long enough for the Firefighters!

The mission of the Firefighters' Company is the development and advancement of the science, art and practice of firefighting and fire protection. Of course this could not be achieved with Fire Service members alone. Although vitally important, they are but one sector of the Fire Industry. It was decided at the outset that interest from all sectors of our Industry should be encouraged and we now have members from the Fire Services, vehicle manufacturers, scientific research institutes, test houses, manufacturers of detection and alarm products, rescue equipment, extinguishers and a host of other products used by the fire services, industry, government and the general public.

Before being honoured as the 103rd (there are now 107) livery company in 2001, we were required to demonstrate our commitment, capability and resilience to comply with the traditions of the City of London and its Livery movement, by swearing allegiance to the Lord Mayor of the City of London and Her Majesty's government. But additionally, and most vitally, we had to have accumulated sufficient charity reserves to be able to distribute aid on a regular basis, in line with our Charitable Trust's responsibilities. It is fund raising for charities (and in our case Fire related charities) that is the motivation of many of those who now join the Firefighters. It's not without fun, networking, friendship or indeed professional opportunities but it is charity and the opportunity to put something back into one's industry or

communities which is the bedrock of the modern Livery Companies. In addition, we take part in the government, pageantry and customs of the greatest city in the world.

The Firefighters' Company is responsible for the Fire Industry Charity Ball. This year, it will be held on 28 June 2008, at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, London.

It's a great fun night. Following a reception we have a magnificent dinner, followed by entertainment and dancing. We hold a raffle where all the excellent prizes have been donated either by members or the corporate sector. But the main fund raiser is the auction. This is the time when individuals might bid for a personal tour of St. Paul's or the Tower of London, buy football memorabilia, book a ski holiday or bid to drive a Ferrari. The corporate bidders may seek out unique works of art, or grand wines for their guests. Last year, the total raised was over £25,000 and everyone had a fantastic evening.



Martin Harvey, FIA Chairman, at their inaugural AGM presents the Master with the FIA donation in support of fundraising for the 2008 Fire Industry Charity Ball

"It is reassuring and pleasing to see the Fire Industry Charity Ball continue to grow and FIA is proud to be supportive both in spirit and finance. Contributing to Fire related Charities is important and in its first year as an association FIA has adopted the Firefighters Company's Charitable Trust as its main Charity and are proud to be alongside the Firefighters Company as co-sponsors of the Ball. Attending the Ball is a fun way to help Fire Charities and we are particularly delighted to be able help the Fire Service National Benevolent Fund who will be the main beneficiary of the 2008 event."

Martin Harvey
FIA Chairman

"The Fire Services National Benevolent Fund is delighted to accept the Firefighters' Company's invitation for the FSNBF to become one of the official charities for the prestigious Fire Industry Charity Ball. Their support is outstanding and by using both our organisations' expertise, and drawing on the additional support of the joint promoters FIA, we will work together to ensure that fire related worthy causes are better supported than ever before."

Roy Lawrenson
FSNBF Chief Executive

Our 2008 event is expected to be our best yet and we are delighted to be joined by the FIA as joint promoters and we have already received offers of sponsorship from the corporate sector. Sponsorship through our 'Corporate table plan' is a way for business to entertain customers, thank their staff or suppliers, and treat their families, as well as ensuring that a donation goes directly to a most worthy cause

Please join me, my fellow Firefighters and your industry colleagues and friends at the 2008 Fire Industry Charity Ball and have fun whilst showing how we all care for those less fortunate than ourselves!



Fire Industry Charity Ball 2008

The premier social and charitable event for the Fire Industry

The Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, London
Saturday 28 June, 2008

Dinner, Auction, Raffle and Dancing
to the 'Big Man and his Band'



For further information or tickets please contact:

Mr Bryan Spearman
Tel: 07860 188 030

E-mail: brandy.promotions@virgin.net

The Ball is organised by The Worshipful Company of Firefighters with the FIA as joint promoters. We are pleased to support the following charities:



LORD MAYOR'S APPEAL



SPONSORSHIP - 2008 BALL

Sponsorship makes a vital contribution to the success of The Fire Industry Charity Ball. Listed below are some of the sponsorship opportunities that exist.

- Band - Generously sponsored by Apollo Fire Detectors
- Reception Drinks
- Table Wines
- Menus and Table Decorations



Interested parties for all sponsorship opportunities please contact Viv Jones on 01702 216999 or email vtj@vimpey.co.uk.

Corporate Table Sponsorship

An important element this year is "Corporate Table Sponsorship" where applications are invited from Companies who in return for a single payment will ensure a donation to the Charitable fund and a table for ten guests.

Current Corporate Table Sponsors:



The Worshipful Company of Firefighters
The Clerk: Martin Bonham
The Insurance Hall, 20 Aldermanbury,
London EC2V 7GF
Tel/Fax: 0207 600 1666
Email: clerk@firefighterscompany.org



The Worshipful Company of Firefighters

Service, Fellowship, Harmony and Honour

Coming of Age

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters was first registered at Guildhall as a Guild in June 1988. In celebrating our first 21 years, our Master Geoff Morgan reflects on our progress.

As one of the modern companies we haven't quite yet achieved the ancient history of some Livery Companies which trace their origins back to the 12th or 13th centuries. However our *profession* dates back to Roman times, when Vigiles carried out the critical role of fire watching, so vital for a city built of wooden structures.

Having attained the age of 21 both with and without Livery, and as we consider the future of our Company, I, as Master, would like to share with you on what I would like to achieve during my year of office.

I would like to see the enjoyment, which is associated with celebrations, inherent in everything we do; in our social events, at our formal occasions, in our business matters and in all our interactions. Let the underlying sentiment of everything we do be of enjoyment, satisfaction, fulfilment and fellowship.

How will we achieve this? - We have a new and exciting structure for the next phase of our post-21 development which I am very enthusiastic about. The Court will remain as it is, acting as the governing body for the Company, but we are bringing into being a new Management Board. It includes the Wardens, some Past Masters as well as the Honorary Treasurer and Chair of Trustees. The Clerk will officiate at meetings and will take a pivotal role akin to a General Manager for the Company. Three Standing Committees and three Working groups will be directly responsible to the Management Board and I am delighted to report that four Past Masters, including the Founder Master, will also serve on the Board. In addition nine people who Chair or Vice Chair other committees or working groups will be involved. It's a good start with an excellent mix of experience and knowledge. Our work begins immediately.

As for the future, I would like to see us focus on expanding our membership; increasing our involvement with livery and the City of London and ensuring that we are a financially strong and stable Company.

To do this, we will continue to promote our profile in a positive fashion; we will widen our media exposure and, as is said nowadays, build "our brand". We have many good things to offer and we will do this with enthusiasm and conviction. We will strive to share our ideals with other like minded people in the wider world of fire fighting who have similar interests, experience and expertise.

In pursuit of our charitable activities, the welfare of people and communities has been a core feature of Livery Companies for centuries. This is also at the heart of the Fire and Rescue Service and of the people who work in it. Education and training are priorities; these are fundamentals for any livery company and I would like to see us build on our recent initiatives by extending our activities into new and beneficial areas. By doing so, the character and nature of our Company will really show through at our events - whether they are informal or formal. Let them be happy, social, interesting, rewarding and most of all, demonstrate the strength and warmth of our fellowship.

Throughout my year of office, I will wear the Master's chain with pride and, as I swore at my installation, it will be in Service, Fellowship, Harmony and Honour. I look forward to sharing a wonderful year with you all.

Geoff Morgan, Master



The Master of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters.
Geoff Morgan

Visit our website at: www.firefighterscompany.org

2009 Events Diary

Sunday, 13th September—Annual Firefighters Service of Remembrance, Church of St Bartholomew the Great

Friday, 18th September – Court Meeting

Saturday, 19th September
Fire Industry Charity Ball, Portman Hotel

Saturday & Sunday 19th / 20th September
Open House

Tuesday 29th September, Guildhall
Election of Lord Mayor

Wednesday, 7th October
St Florian's Installation Banquet,
Armourers and Brasiers' Hall.

Friday, 13th November, Guildhall
Installation of new Lord Mayor (Silent Ceremony)

Saturday, 14th November - Lord Mayor's Show

Tuesday 24th November - Dinner for Liverymen

Friday, 27th November – Court Meeting

Friday, 11th December – Carol Service,
St Mary - le-Bow

Message from our Sponsoring Alderman

Congratulations to the Worshipful Company on coming of age! This is a time to congratulate especially, Gerry Clarkson, the founding genius, whose initiative to set up a Firefighters' Guild, represented a substantial contribution to the life of the City and the Nation. It was Gerry's vision and quiet determination, which ensured that the Guild survived its preteen years and sometimes boisterous teenage years, achieving Livery Company recognition in 2001. The Company continues to make a fine contribution to the well being of the firefighting services, not least in its charitable giving.

The Court of Aldermen is responsible for the recognition process of a Guild, its subsequent progression to a City Company and finally to a Livery Company. This is normally a fourteen year process, seven to Company and a further seven to Livery Company. As part of that process, I was fortunate to be charged, in 1988, with special interest in the development of the Guild. With first hand knowledge of the courage of the London Firefighters during the Blitz, I needed no persuasion. Anyway, it was pointed out that there was synergy with my military background! I do recall seeing a small fire-fighting device in a shed at our regiment in Farnborough. I think it was horse drawn, or more likely soldier drawn! However, since the aldermen retire at seventy, I was no longer an alderman in 2001, that glorious year when Livery Company status was achieved.

Sir Clive Martin
Honorary Liveryman



2009 Lord Mayor's Show

Watch out for the Worshipful Company of Fire Fighters entry into the Lord Mayor's Show in November .

Our Vehicle entry consists of a Shand Mason Horse Drawn Steamer fire engine (supplied by Freeman Tony Drewitt). This was used by the Hythe fire brigade in Victorian times and is in a magnificent restored condition.

If you would like to view the show from one of the VIP Stands, please contact our Clerk for full details. **Email to: clerk@firefighterscompany.org**



Editor. I wonder if this is the device Sir Clive was referring to!!

I never knew that!

The Unknown Fireman 1940

"During the Blitz an Auxiliary Fireman was making his way home after fighting fires in the city. Passing the Armourer's Hall he noticed that curtains at a window were alight. He broke into the building, doused the flames and then went on this way. His prompt action undoubtedly saved the building."

To this day his identity remains unknown.

If you're going to attend our St. Florians Banquet in October at Armourer's Hall, look out for the plaque to the unknown Fireman and drink a toast to him.

The plaque was erected to give thanks for his valiant efforts and can be seen adorning the ceiling frieze of the dining room in the Armourer's Hall.



2009 Court Wardens



David Bland— Upper Warden

David became a Warden of the Company for a second time in the sad aftermath of the death of the Rev David Rhodes.

For 25 years he taught Economics and Economic History at Sheffield University, where he met our Master, Geoff Morgan and rose to be Dean of Social Sciences and finally Pro-Vice-Chancellor.

David was first introduced to the Firefighters, when, as Director-General of the Chartered Insurance Institute, he was invited as a guest to our 1989 Carol Service. Upon learning that the Guild were about to lose their office at Aldersgate Street, he agreed to find an office for the Clerk in the Insurance Hall; thus beginning a relationship that has continued for almost two decades. He was later to join the Court of the Guild of Firefighters and to subsequently rise to the rank of Master [of the Company, then without Livery] for the millennium period.

David left the CII in 2000 to return to academic life as Dean of East London Business School. Since leaving the School, he has had a portfolio of directorships and is a member of several charitable trusts. He served as Master of the Worshipful Company of Insurers in 2006-7, and is an Assistant in Cripplegate Ward Club.



Peter Cowland—Renter Warden

Peter joined the Middlesex Fire Brigade in 1964, following his father into the fire service.

Progressing through the ranks to Divisional Officer in the London Fire Brigade, he transferred to Hertfordshire in 1988 where he served in the roles of both Divisional Commander and County Senior Fire Safety Officer.

Retiring in 1996 after over 32 years service he took up employment with the Fire Protection Association (FPA) initially as the Senior Training Officer and afterwards as their National Fire Safety Co-ordinator. During this time he was also seconded under contract to British Airways at Heathrow Airport where he trained flight and cabin crew in fire fighting techniques on commercial aircraft. In 2001 he left the FPA in order to develop his own fire consultancy.

Peter joined the Company of Firefighters in 1997, became a Freeman of the City in 1999 and a Liveryman in 2002. For six years he organised the Fire Industry Charity Ball (formerly "The Salamander Ball") and, after serving on Court for a number of years, Peter became Under Warden in 2008.

He is currently serving as Renter Warden.



Michael Harper—Under Warden

Born in Barrow-in-Furness and educated at the local Grammar School and London University, Michael's early career was with Vickers Plc.

For the past 20 years, Michael has been involved in the supply of fire protection and safety equipment to the international market – latterly as Chief Executive of Kidde Plc.

Since retiring, he has been appointed Chairman of BBA Aviation Plc (Flight Support and Systems for Business and General Aviation) and Vitec Plc (Equipment for the Broadcast and Photographic market).

Michael also serves on the Boards of Ricardo Plc (Automotive Engineering Consultants) and Catlin Plc (Property and Casualty Insurer).

Michael became a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters in 2002 and a Liveryman in 2004. He was appointed as a Court Assistant in 2004 and became Under Warden July 2009.

Michael is married with 5 children and lists his hobbies as "most sports, Opera and Ballet."

In the name of Charity **Ken Barnes, Chair of the Trustees**



I am delighted to have this opportunity to update you with the current activities of our Charitable Trust and hope that the reintroduction of this newsletter will provide a means of regularly communicating with our entire membership.

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters is committed to raising funds so that donations can be given to worthy causes and to individuals who are underprivileged or deserving of assistance. Hitherto, the principal charities we have supported have been The Fire Fighters Charity (previously The Fire Service Benevolent Fund), The Firefighters Memorial Trust, RAFT (Restoration of Function and Appearance Trust), the Lord Mayor's Appeal and the Massey Shaw & Marine Vessels Preservation Society.

We have given generously since the Trust was formed some 20 years ago and in the last 5 years alone £61,222 has been donated to these and other beneficiaries including Trinity Hospice, St. Johns Ambulance (in memory of our much loved founder member and Past Master Bertie Gillings), Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery, the Children's Holiday Fund, Children's Fire and Burns Trust and 3H Handicapped Children.

I think this also illustrates that we have tried to give favourable consideration to requests from worthy causes where a small donation, perhaps of only a few hundred pounds, would be significant to the recipient organisation. In addition, we are in the process of establishing a fund to support apprenticeships, scholarships, bursaries and other educational initiatives relating to fire fighting and fire safety.

Our charity funds are raised mainly by donations which are freely given by liverymen and freemen each year and by fundraising events, principally the Fire Industry Charity Ball and the Massey Shaw Dinner. Our charitable endeavours are a vital part of our being and our Livery Company and you, its members, can be justifiably proud of what we have achieved for the benefit of those less fortunate than ourselves. So, thank you for your support and please continue to give generously to The Charitable Trust so that we can in turn continue to give something back to the fire profession and, in particular, those in need.

“Over £61,000 has been donated by our Worshipful Company to many deserving causes in the last 5 years”

A Voice in the City **Steve Neville**



I was delighted to be asked to Chair the newly formed PR & Marketing Group especially in this our 21st Anniversary year.

The work of promoting our Worshipful Company has been previously undertaken by several individuals who have worked tirelessly to produce our newsletters and to raise funds at the many different and exciting events organised on behalf of our Charitable Trust Fund. We acknowledge and thank them for all their efforts for without them, we would not be enjoying the sponsorship and support we receive today.

Livery Companies have been in existence for a thousand years and have evolved for the betterment and advancement of their professions and personal skills. Each new century has brought changes in working practices and only those Liveries who have adapted and risen to those changes have survived with their original principals intact. The fire fighting profession has adapted with new technology, new sciences and new attitudes that influence design and change legislation. We need to ensure that our Livery Company continues to embrace and promote all new worthy changes that ultimately benefit people, property and safety.

I hope that through this newsletters and through forthcoming events, we will continue to promote change and keep you updated of the working of our Court, our committees and the many individuals and charities who ultimately benefit through your generosity. We will also strive to attract more innovative and like minded senior people to enjoy a unique City networking experience, whilst upholding the truly great traditions of our heritage.

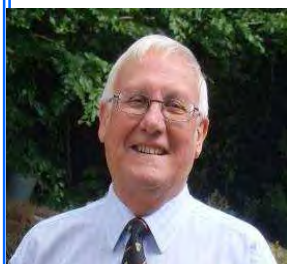
We don't have the funds available to us like many of the established City Companies but we are rich with true characters and individuals who will be regularly appearing in these columns.

I hope that you enjoy this newsletter and if you have something you want to publicise please contact me at :

Steve-Neville@ntlworld.com

Events Committee

Terry Baldwin



As you might expect, it's a cheery group of members who make up The Events Committee.

Members are chosen for their experience or ability to deliver interesting functions on time and within budget. Some of them are actually volunteers!

It's the task of the Events Committee to provide additional social benefits to members by way of dinners, City walks, unusual visits such as Lambeth Palace, Lloyds of London or perhaps the crypt of St. Pauls. Whatever we do, we try to recover our costs and if at all possible ensure there is a surplus amount which goes towards our chosen charities.

One thing we endeavour to do and that is to make many of our functions affordable. So many dinners are "evening dress" and somehow that automatically seems to blunt the pencils of caterers! Every June for example, we hold a Partners lunch in The City, open to all members and (surprise, surprise) their partners. This is an all inclusive lunch at around £45.00 and proves extremely popular.

Some of the more unusual events we have in mind for the next 12 months are:

Visit to the Firearms division of City of London Police. Live participation included.

Swan Upping along the Thames—non swimmers invited!

A visit and dinner at The Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

Visit to The Whitechapel Bell Foundry

Some of our events are "Open to all Liverymen, Freemen and Members" and some are restricted to Liverymen only. Our exclusive "Liverymen's Dinners" are very well attended and we always try to find prestigious locations. Recent dinners were at the prestigious East India Club and on board HMS Belfast..

Finance Committee

Michael Harper



Under our new structure the Finance Committee is responsible to the Court and, as Chairman, I serve on the Management Board. The Committee has ten members and is supported by the Clerk and usually attended by the Master.

A key member is our honorary treasurer – presently John Mansfield – who draws up the annual budget for approval, keeps the accounts and forecasts of the annual out-turn and generally supervises our financial affairs with the very able support of Assistant Clerk (Finance) – Michael Leaver – who banks the cheques, chases the delinquents and generally manages the financial affairs of the Clerk's office.

As you would expect the principal work of the Committee is in preparation and approval of budgets for the Company, monitoring of performances throughout the year, followed by the finalisation of the accounts in conjunction with our auditor. Advice to the Master and Officers on financial matters of the Company and as required to the Trustees, who have the statutory responsibility for the Charitable Trust (quite separate from the Company).

All banking arrangements come within the remit of the Committee, together with the responsibility for the Company assets – principally our silverware.

Management of key issues such as HMRC claims, VAT registration, review of Quarterage and fines have been recent important matters for the Committee.

Whilst the objectives of the Company and the Trust are charitable and educational, we need a strong financial base to operate from successfully. The keys to a successful future are increased membership, good control of the varied programme of fundraising and social events and a judicious use of sponsorship and other fundraising activities - all to help us promote our key charitable aims.

4th December 1927 – 18th April 2009

Remembering Ron Miller

From Colin Livett, Past Master



Chief Staff Officer Ronald J H Miller
QFSM. Third Officer
London Fire Brigade.

Ron Miller was a Freeman of the Company and a Freeman of the City of London.

Enter into almost any building in the UK and its Fire Prevention Protection would have been based upon the principles established by Ron Miller. Ron was a quite man, well read and a staunch believer in education. He headed the London Fire Brigade Operations, Technical and Fire Prevention Departments.

It was in Fire Prevention that Ron excelled. He represented both the London Fire Brigade and the British Fire Service on Home Office and National Committees. Much of the National Regulations were formulated from Ron's recommendations. We will never know how many lives may have been lost in fire if not for his work. He had a photographic recall for detail and a first class personal historical administrative archive. Ron was particularly proud of his involvement with the Widows and Orphans Fund.

Ron served in the Royal Navy receiving an award for his actions during hazardous mine sweeping operations. He was a talented sportsman and trained with Charlton Athletic Football Club and played rugby for both Charlton Park Rugby Club and the London Fire Brigade. He captained Cambridge Harriers and won the Kent County Championships.

Ron was a man of principle and I learned much from his example, in particular the principles upon which to try to live my life. You know when you have real principles when it costs you money, pain or opportunity to stand by them. I was Ron's personal Staff Officer for four years and it was my privilege to have known him and an honour to have served him.

Ron leaves his wife Sue, five children and five grandchildren.

St Florian – Patron Saint of Firefighters

In several countries, St Florian is considered to be the Patron Saint of firefighting. He is usually depicted as a Roman soldier pouring water from a jug over a burning house.

St Florian's reputation arose from his refusal to persecute Christians and his consequent condemnation to death by fire by the Roman Emperor Diocletian and his 'enforcer' Aguilinus, in the late 3rd century AD. As St Florian was about to burn, he challenged the Roman soldiers to light the fire under him, prophesying, "If you do, I shall climb to Heaven on the flames". Instead he was



**Fire and flames are in our house
Only Florian and Firefighters souse
The flames and when they're out
Florian and Firefighters are forgot
Without a doubt put to rout**

Did you know?.....



The Insurance Hall has a small museum mainly concerned with the history of fire fighting and has a unique collection of Fire Marks.

After the *Great Fire* in 1666 that devastated one third of London it was realised that there was a need for Insurance as a provision of compensation. As few streets were named and buildings not numbered, some form of identification was necessary, and the birth of the fire mark came about. The first examples were made of lead, and some hundred years later followed by copper, tinned iron, zinc, brass and ceramic. They bore the logo of the insurance company, in many cases in the form of the county's coat of arms. Greek mythology played an important part in many designs, typically that of *The Fire Office's* emblem.

The emblems that were attached to buildings by the insurance company's employee were called *Fire Marks*; to mark the building indicating that they insured it and/or the contents, for *fire* risks. This practice carried on for two hundred and fifty years.

There were approximately two hundred insurance companies that issued over nine hundred fire marks, some only one and others as many as forty-odd different variants.



Formation of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters

by Gerry Clarkson, Founder Master

In 1969 a young Station Officer took command of Cannon Street Fire Station in the City of London. That Command experience exposed him to the architecture and daily life of the City. He was very influenced by the magical history, customs and pagentry of the City of London. He marvelled that the craft or art of firefighting, which had been closely entwined with the historical development of the City of London since the Roman times, had not been recognised. And, given the very graphic part that fire has played over the years in the City of London, he was amazed that there was no Guild or Livery Company representing the Firefighters.

Over the ensuing years that Station Officer rose through all the ranks, until in 1987 he became the Chief Fire Officer of London. In his first year of office he took the first steps to enquire how to set about forming such an association with the City of London. In 1988 at a meeting held in the Court Room of Winchester House a resolution was passed unanimously forming a Guild of Firefighters, being representative of the Fire Service and the wider Fire Industry.

After the required interval of time, the Guild petitioned the Court of Mayor and Aldermen of the Corporation of London to be admitted to the status of Company without Livery. This was approved on 13th. June 1995. On the 22nd October 1997 – three hundred and thirty one years after the Great Fire of London – the York Herald presented the Company with its new Coat of Arms. Following further progress, on 23rd October 2001, in response to a Petition for Livery from the Company of Firefighters, the Aldermanic Court of the City of London approved the granting of Livery status. Thus the 103rd Livery Company in the City of London was established.

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters formally received The Letters Patent confirming the Grant of Livery from the Lord Mayor of London at the Mansion House on the 17 January 2002. This important event was immediately following by a Grand Luncheon in The Egyptian Hall at the Mansion House when the then youngest Livery Company hosted the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, Sheriffs, and many friends amongst the other Livery Companies.

The Origins of Livery Companies

The Livery Companies of the City of London can trace unbroken descent from mediaeval Trade Guilds. The term “Guild” is said to derive from the Saxon word “gild”, meaning a payment, as members paid towards the cost of fellowship.

Guilds were craft or trade societies. They protected consumers and employers against incompetence or fraud by training sufficient apprentices to provide an adequate supply of skilled craftsmen, selling goods of true quality and weight. They helped workers by preventing unlimited competition and ensuring reasonable wages and conditions. They searched out inferior work and punished the offenders. They settled trade and domestic disputes by arbitration, whilst their Halls served as centres for meetings and recreation.

Members paid contributions as to a benefit society, and then received relief when ill, infirm or old, and had their burial expenses paid. There was a strong religious element in the Guilds, each adopting a patron Saint and being attached to a local monastery or church.

The wearing of a livery arose from a practice of wearing a distinctive form of dress on solemn or festive occasions.

Visit to Globe Theatre - Bryan Spearman

“On a very bright sunny day, the 1st of July to be precise, many members and guests of the Company availed themselves of an opportunity to visit Shakespeare's Globe theatre on the South Bank of the Thames.

For those of you having not seen or experienced this venue, it boasts, because of fire restrictions to be the only Thatched building to have been given planning in London for many years.

The construction of the current theatre in the round began in 1987 and was completed in 1997. Even this would not have been possible but for Sam Wanamaker the American Actor and Director who first visited in 1947 to find no lasting memorial to Shakespeare and his theatre. In 1970 he formed the Shakespeare Trust.

Our visit began with a guided tour giving everyone an opportunity to appreciate the history and background of Shakespeare and his theatre. This was enhanced by a visit to the Exhibition centre which by the way is a focal point for students, teachers and academics throughout the world.

The tour was concluded with a most pleasant lunch in the Globe Brasserie before taking our seats, (not forgetting our cushions)) to watch a splendid performance of “As you like It”



Martin Bonham

Clerk to the Worshipful Company of Firefighters



Martin was appointed Clerk to the Company in September 2005.

Previously he had worked with The Industrial Society (now renamed The Work Foundation) in Marketing and Business Development roles. Prior to that, Martin worked with an Energy Consultancy following a twenty five year career with Calor Gas Ltd in the UK and overseas.

As Clerk to the Company, Martin's work is wide and varied. He is actively engaged as Clerk to the Court, the Management Board and Finance Committee with responsibility for minutes, agendas and document circulation. In addition, he manages the process of membership nominations, admissions, company appointments, the Master's Diary and Engagements and accompanying him when invited.

Managing the Company's information systems via its Access database is a full time role as is responding to requests for donations on behalf of our Trustees and arranging disbursements.

First day cover Royal Mail Firefighters Stamps—issue date 1st September



The Worshipful Company of
FIREFIGHTERS
Service Fellowship, Harmony and Honour



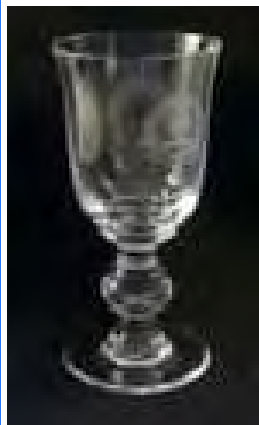
These Special Stamps graphically illustrate six of the demanding and often high risk situations the Fire and Rescue Service have to face. The Royal Mail First Day Cover also gives an insight into the working lives of firefighters. The Company has separately arranged for special First Day cover designs from the Worshipful Company and from the Charity.

The Founder Master is having some of the covers signed by eminent people; these could become collectors' items.

These specialist first day covers can be bought through the Company and sold onto friends, hopefully enabling a useful sum to be achieved for the Company and Charity. Details on purchasing from John Lowndes at:

john@lowdesconsult.com

21st Anniversary Commemorative Crystal Glass Goblet



In celebration of 21 years since the formation of The Guild of Firefighters, we proudly offer this truly unique crystal glass to all our Liverymen, Freemen and Members to purchase and keep as a future family heirloom. Only a limited number of goblets will be produced and to ensure that one is reserved for you, please contact Brian Eves without delay.

The Commemorative goblet is priced at £10.00 inclusive of Vat. Please add £2.50 for postage and packing. All enquiries to Brian Eves at: brian84.eves@virgin.net

This printed issue kindly sponsored by Angus Fire





The Worshipful Company of Firefighters

Service, Fellowship, Harmony and Honour



**A Happy Christmas and
Prosperous New Year to
All**



Firefighters Annual Carol Service

Members of the Company, their family, friends and guests attended the annual Festival of Christmas Carols at the church of St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, London EC2 on Friday 11th December.

The Service was a time for all members with their family and friends to celebrate the advent of Christmas together with familiar carols, music and readings. Highlights of the service were solos from the American opera singer Lauren Goldsmith.

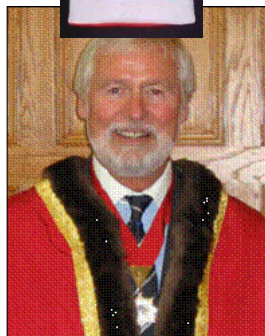
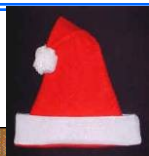
Following the Carol Service, members of the congregation were invited to remain in the church to share light refreshment and good company.



The Master and soloist accompanied by colleagues and members of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters attend the annual carol service at St Mary-le-Bow



The church of St Mary-le-Bow was completely destroyed in the Great Fire of London in 1666. Its successor was built by Wren between 1670 and 1683. At almost £15,645 it was then the most expensive but also the most important Wren church after St Paul's Cathedral. Bow bells are probably the most famous in the world and for many hundreds of years have been woven into the folklore of the City of London. In 1392 Dick Whittington heard Bow bells call him back to London to become Lord Mayor; to be born within the sound of Bow bells was the sign of a true Londoner or Cockney; and Bow bell's authority ends the medieval nursery rhyme Oranges and Lemons, 'I do not know says the Great Bell of Bow'.



A Message from Our Master - Geoff Morgan

To all Freemen and Liverymen

**On behalf of the Wardens and Court of
The Worshipful Company of Firefighters, I would very
much like to wish you and your family a peaceful, happy
and healthy Christmas and New Year**

Visit our website at: www.firefighterscompany.org

2010 Events Diary

February 17th	City of London Briefings Innholders Hall
March 2nd	Massey Shaw Dinner Apothecaries Hall
March 12th	Meet the Firefighters Winchester House (An opportunity to introduce new members to the Company)
May 4th	City of London Briefings Innholders Hall
July 2nd	Common Hall Insurance Hall Service of Re-Dedication St Mary-le-Bow
Sept. 2nd	Combined Golf Day
Sept 25th	Fire Industry Charity Ball

Firefighters win Golf day and “whitewash” Painters



This year the annual fixture against the Worshipful Company of Painter Stainers was held at the prestigious Wildernesse Club, near Sevenoaks in Kent. It was a beautiful sunny day and the course was in perfect condition with very fast greens.

I am delighted to report that once again the Firefighters were victorious, winning the match by one point, making three wins in the last three years. The champion Firefighter was our Master, Geoff Morgan, who recorded his second win in our annual competition. After the match, we all enjoyed a fine carvery lunch, at which we were joined by Terry Baldwin who was unable to play this year but was waiting for us in the club house and characteristically enlivened proceedings.

I can confirm that we were able to secure the Wildernesse again as our venue for next year's match, which will be held on Thursday 2nd September 2010.



Did You Know - The old Rickmansworth Fire Station?

Michael Leaver, one of our members noted this plaque in High Street Rickmansworth and wondered about its history. The Editor replies:

Rickmansworth voluntary Fire Brigade was formed in 1870 with Thomas Fellowes as its captain. He was also a brewery manager at Salter's (it ceased production in 1924). The Fire Station in the High Street was built at the expense of Dr Roderick William Henderson, a local JP of Basing House. Dr Henderson was instrumental in setting up this local fire brigade and establishing the town's first fire station at the west end of the High Street. In 1925, Rickmansworth Fire Brigade was taken over by Rickmansworth District Council and the rest, as they say, is history.



Ron Murray - Constable to the Worshipful Company of Firefighters

One of the first Liveryman that many of our guests and new members meet is our Constable, Ron Murray. Ron's duties are to assist the Master & Beadle at all our official functions and to meet and greet all our guests and new members and families. He also supervises our Sentinels as Ushers at our Church services.

Ron began his service life with the LFB at Southwark training school in 1964 and was posted to Kingsland Road fire station in Hackney. He soon encountered his first major fire at Bishopsgate Goods Depot and in 1966 was instrumental in rescuing three people trapped in a blaze.

He later became a Ministry of Defence fireman hoping for a post in either Hong Kong, Belize or Singapore. Unfortunately he was posted to Middle Wallop Army Air Corp! He was promoted to Leading Fireman in 1968. Ron went on to join the Essex Brigade as a retained Fireman for 15 years before running his own successful building company. He joined our Company in April 1999 and in that year became a Freeman of the City of London. In 2002 he became a Liveryman and joined our membership committee before becoming a Court Assistant in 2006.



Remembering

UK FIREFIGHTERS ANNUAL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE



On Sunday 13 September 2009, in St Bartholomew the Great Church in the City of London, over 400 people attended the Firefighters Memorial Trust Annual Service of Remembrance.

Organised by Pete Cowland, one of the Trust's Executive Members, the event attracted firefighters and their families from all over the UK. Paramount amongst these were the immediate families of two UK firefighters who had lost their lives on duty in the past year. They were Brian Dean, West Midlands Fire Service and Ewan Williamson, Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service. We also thought of Paul Fletcher, of Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service who died on duty in August last.

Over the past year the Trust has also been able, through research, to identify the names of a further four firefighters who still needed to be commemorated. They were William Jupe, Southampton Fire Brigade (1936) Kenneth Taylor, West Riding Fire Service (1970), Raymond Edwards, London Fire Brigade (1976) and Alexander (Sandy) Drummond, Strathclyde Fire Brigade (1978).

After a very moving service in the church, conducted by the Rev Canon Peter Mortimer, a Freeman of our Company and Chaplain to the Suffolk Fire & Rescue Service, a parade was formed and processed to the National Memorial, near St Pauls Cathedral, for a wreath laying ceremony. At the head of the parade was the Avon Fire and Rescue Service Band supported by musicians from other fire and rescue bands, including pipers from the Tyne & Wear Fire and Rescue Service. Their rendition of the Lament and "Highland Cathedral" brought a tear to many an eye. The Principle Colours were paraded, together with 30 fire brigade standards, after which all received a blessing at the Memorial.



To add colour and reality to the event a number of vintage fire appliances were included in the parade. They included a rather special wartime Austin Heavy Pumping Unit restored to its former glory by Frank Sommerville of "Firemen Remembered", this in remembrance of his father and his crew who served so gallantly during the London Blitz in 1941.

This annual service is a key event for the Trust and it is for the relatives, colleagues and friends of fallen firefighters that we arrange the commemoration. It is a sombre but memorable occasion when we can remind those bereaved that the fire service is a "family" and they still have a very valued place within it. This year we again had some very prominent guests in the persons of Sheriff Roger Gifford representing the City of London, Shahid Malik MP the Government Minister for Justice, Shona Dunn, Director of Fire and Resilience at the Department for Communities and Local Government and Councillor Brian Coleman, AM FRSA, who attended as Chairman of London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority.

If you would like to learn more about the Trust and it's work, why not have a look at the website www.firefightersmemorial.co.uk where soon, there should be some more up to date photographs of the event. In the meantime, why not consider signing yourself up as a member of the Trust, it's easy ... just follow the instructions on their website.

Pete Cowland (Renter Warden)

Firefighters at Work and Play

Fire Industry Charity Ball September 2009



More than 260 people had a wonderful time at the "Fire Industry Charity Ball" at the Portman Hotel in London dancing to "X Factor" star Nichole and the Big Man's Band. Many guests described it as "the best ever" Ball - which raised a record £34,000.

50% of the proceeds will go to "The Fire Fighters Charity", 25% to the "Firefighters Memorial Charitable Trust" and the remaining 25% is for our own WCoFF Charitable Trust.

Our grateful thanks go to the organising team, particularly to Ball Organiser, Liveryman Bryan Spearman and to Past Master Viv Jones for securing industry sponsorship for the event.



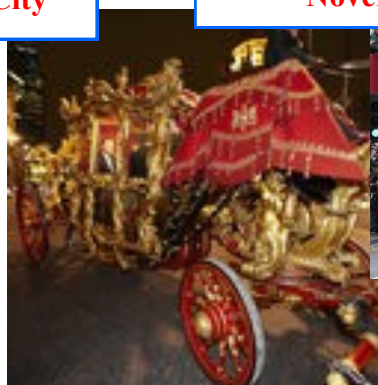
St. Florian's Banquet October 2009

**Court lunch and Freedom
Ceremony September 2009**
Nicol McCallum and Howard Myers
were given Freedom of the City

**Firefighters also participated
in the Lord Mayor's Show in
November 2009**



**The Master with Sheriff
Peter Cook November
2009**



**Attending the Ceremony of the
Keys at the Tower of London,
November 2009**





The Worshipful Company of Firefighters

Service, Fellowship, Harmony and Honour

Spring 2010

Firefighters honoured for saving City Treasures

"...Eight fire engines and around 40 firefighters currently are tackling a blaze at a six storey office building on Queen Victoria Street in the City. "Parts of the third and fourth floor are currently alight"....."Fire crews from Dowgate, Islington, Clerkenwell, Soho and Euston are attending the incident."



The lovely interior of the College of Arms Library



Firefighters attending the Fire at the Royal College of Arms building in February 2009.

They not only saved the building but rescued all the precious records of Arms pertaining to the City Livery companies as well as the important pedigrees and designations of many families across the UK.

Other Reports in this Issue

- Master's and Court News
- Firefighters in New Years Honours
- In Memoriam - Richard Scriven CBE
- Massey Shaw Dinner
- One Man and his Dog
- Meet the Beadle

And much more.....

Visit our website at: www.firefighterscompany.org

From the Master's Pen



I believe that our members and guests have enjoyed 2 outstanding dinners at 2 wonderful livery halls – the St Florian's Installation Banquet at the Armourers and Brasiers and the Massey Shaw Charity Dinner at the Apothecaries' Hall. The annual Carol Service at St Mary-le-Bow was special and well attended and the Fire Industry Charity Ball was the most successful ever raising a record £34,000 for our charities.

We have also had a number of enjoyable social events organised by the Events Committee and more are planned for the future. I am pleased that City officials and a Master have joined us at livery dinners and Court lunches or are scheduled to attend.

I have been proud to represent the Company at more than 50 events so far including at Buckingham Palace, House of Lords, Guildhall, The Mansion House, livery halls, City churches and universities. I have had an exceptional and varied time.

I feel that the Company of Firefighters has an excellent reputation in the City and with other livery companies and we are made most welcome at events.

I have been pleased to induct new Freeman and clothe new Liverymen during my year and encourage you to introduce more prospective members or opt to become a Liveryman if you have not already taken this step.

Geoff Morgan



Court News



- The Management Board, established in July at the beginning of our Livery year, is working effectively to develop and progress the business of the Company and report to Court.
- Court has appointed 6 new Trustees to the Board of the Charitable Trust replacing the Past Masters who recently retired after extensive service and valuable contributions. 17 members of the Company, with a wide range of backgrounds and experience, applied for the vacancies. After careful consideration, the Management Board recommended and Court ratified the appointment of Freeman Andy Goves, Chief Fire Officer of Wiltshire, as Chair of the Trust and Liveryman Frances Blois, a former Westminster councillor, as Vice Chair.
- Applications have been made to set up Direct Debit arrangements for members to pay Company Quarterage and donations to the Trust. New arrangements should be in place for donations before the end of this financial year and for Quarterage payments for 2010 / 11.
- The role of Sentinel has been in place for the last three years and has proved immensely valuable to the Company. We would like to appoint another 2 Sentinels and if you would be interested in applying, please contact The Clerk for the Terms of Reference.



Role of Honour

Firefighters recognised in New Year's Honours



Kelly Fairman, a Liveryman of our Company, was honoured with an MBE for her work with the Fire Service.

Seen here in the centre pictured with James Shannon, President of NFPA and Sir Ken Knight, Kelly joined London Fire Brigade in 1989 and recently received a 20 year service award. Her career has seen her work in the Brigade personnel and public relations departments. She also spent three years as staff officer to the Brigade's then Commissioner Sir Ken Knight. In January she returned to London Fire Brigade after a two year secondment as Senior Fire and Rescue Advisor within the Government's Fire and Rescue Advisors team.



Kelly upon hearing the news said: "I'm absolutely delighted to have received this award and it has been an honour to have supported the work of the fire and rescue service over the last 20 years – as well as the work of the wider fire family including the fire industry and fire charities.



Peter French, a recent new member of the WCoFF was awarded an MBE in the New Years Honours List for many years of work in supporting UK and Global Police Law Enforcement Agencies and for his charitable work with Security Professionals.

Peter is the Chairman of SSR Personnel - a leading global consultancy engaged in the permanent recruitment and contract hire of personnel in the security, fire, IT and Health and Safety sectors. His company is one of only 120 UK organisations to have been recognised by the Department of Trade and Industry as being "world class" in stature and service delivery.

Although new to the WCoFF, Peter is a Past Master and a Principle-Founder and Trustee of The Worshipful Company of Security Professionals. He is also Chairman of Here4U, a sub-committee that supports those in the security risk environment who have fallen on difficult times. An excellent organiser who has assisted in raising over £500,000 for numerous and worthy charitable causes, we congratulate Peter on his well deserved Honour.

Other firefighters given honours included a CBE for Peter Holland QFSM, Chief Fire Officer for Lancashire, for his services to Local Government .

In Memoriam

Gordon Scriven
C.B.E., C.St.J, J.P., F.R.S.A., M.I.Ex
6th June 1928 - 1st December 2009

Richard Gordon Scriven, Past Master of the WCoFF, passed away at the end of 2009. He was one of life's great characters, well known for his knowledge of good wines and immense affability to all.

Richard went to school at Winchester where he excelled at rowing. He undertook military service with the Scot's Guards and then gravitated to the City to work with various financial institutions and merchant banks before retiring in 1984.

He maintained a strong interest in his local community affairs, eventually becoming Mayor of East Grinstead and a Governor on several notable schools. He also became a magistrate on the Mid-Sussex Bench in 1964.

In keeping with his corporate and civic responsibilities, Richard joined a number of City Livery Companies achieving the double distinction of becoming Master of the Salter's and the Leather Sellers and the Company of Firefighters. He rose in the City Corporation, becoming Chairman of Policy and Resources and Chief Commoner and a Member for the Ward of Candlewick (1984 -2003) . He contributed on many City committees and was awarded the CBE for his services in 1998.

Amongst Richard's many other interests and achievements, he was Chairman of the Board of Talking Newspapers for the blind in 2005; was a Fellow of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures & Commerce; a Member of the Institute of Export and served on the Trustee Board of St Bartholomew's and the Royal London Charitable Foundation.



Worshipful Company of Firefighters honours LFB Heroes

National Treasures saved from Fire

Our City and our nation came very close to losing much of our heritage when fire threatened to destroy the College of Arms in the City of London last year.

The College, which was built 1671-88, is located in Queen Victoria Street, London on land bequeathed to the Heralds by Queen Mary Tudor in 1555. The original building was destroyed in the Great Fire of London.



in

Coats of arms have been and still are granted by Letters Patent from the senior heralds, the Kings of Arms. A right to arms can only be established by the registration in the official records of the College of Arms of a pedigree showing direct male line descent from an ancestor already appearing therein as entitled to arms, or by making application through the College of Arms for a grant of arms. Grants are made to corporations as well as to individuals.



The site is the official repository for Coats of Arms and the pedigrees of English, Welsh, Northern Irish and Commonwealth families. It also contains the records of the Coats of Arms for all our City Livery Companies. The library contains a diverse collection of resources both old and new, including parchment manuscripts, ancient seals, books and periodicals. As Trustees and custodians of our nation's rich heritage, conservation of these artefacts and materials is an important but costly part of the College's work.

These most precious of records were threatened when a fire was discovered on the 4th floor and which quickly spread to the roof. Following an alarm, fire crews from Southwark and Dowgate fire stations were quickly on the scene led by Incident Commander, Steve Smith.

In realising the significance of the building and its contents, Steve decided on a coordinated approach using BA crews to tackle the fire from within, whilst minimal water jets,

applied externally from aerial appliances, kept water damage to a minimum. Working with the College curator to try to preserve the historical manuscripts, Steve and his team established a functional damage control centre, identifying and prioritising the most valuable items before moving them to safety. Simultaneously, the support crews focused on stopping the fire from spreading and protecting the lower parts of the building.



In acknowledging the professionalism of the fire team, the Garter King of Arms confirmed that the treasures of the City and of our Livery Companies had undoubtedly been saved due to their promptness and efficiency.

Fire, which had once ravaged and destroyed our City, had this time been defeated from robbing us once again of the records of our heritage. In acknowledging the immeasurable debt of gratitude that was owed to Steve and his Crew, the Worshipful Company of Firefighters decided that such actions should not go overlooked or unrecorded. On behalf of all the Livery Companies, we agreed to present Deputy Assistant Commissioner Steve Smith with a special Commendation and Citation, which he duly agreed to accept on behalf of the attendant crews and the London Fire Brigade. The occasion for the presentation was to be the prestigious Massey Shaw Dinner.

Massey Shaw Dinner



The Worshipful Company of Firefighters held their annual Charity dinner in the majestic and historic setting of Apothecaries' Hall. The guest of honour for the occasion was Sir David Brewer CMG, Lord Lieutenant of Greater London and former Lord Mayor of the City of London.

Other principal guests included Ron Dobson QFSM, Commissioner London Fire Brigade and David Johnson, Chief Fire Officer & Chief Executive of Essex County Fire and Rescue Service.

Following dinner, approximately 120 members and guests were treated to a musical interlude featuring excerpts from Gilbert and Sullivan and Flanders and Swan songs which added to the cordiality of the dinner

In welcoming Sir David and guests to the Apothecaries' Hall, the Master Geoff Morgan commented that the Hall, in addition to being one of the oldest Halls, was of special significance to him personally, as this was where he had been Clothed in the Livery of the Firefighters Company



The Massey Shaw Dinner is an opportunity to raise funds for the WCoFF Charitable Trust and this year £3000 was raised. It was also an opportunity for the Firefighters to thank our many generous sponsors and benefactors for their support at last year's Fire Industry Ball, which had raised over £34,000 for our Charitable Trust Fund. Presentations of certificates of thanks were given to representatives from the FIA, Apollo, Tyco, Vimpex and Fire Fighting Enterprises. The Master is shown with a few of the awardees.

The occasion was also used to recognise and acknowledge the huge debt owed to the bravery and professionalism displayed by the LFB in tackling the fire at the College of Arms.

In presenting the Commendation and Citation, Sir David thanked Deputy Assistant Commissioner Steve Smith and the LFB on behalf of the City and City Livery Companies for their prompt and decisive action in saving thousands of irreplaceable records and artefacts dating back to the 14th Century.



"All too often the work of our Emergency Services are taken for granted, as is the dedication and concern that is shown by our firefighters, for life and property".

Although the fire had been widely reported, few people realised just how close we had come to losing one of most significant and visited City buildings along with our nations history.

FireFighter Focus



On Your Bike

Representatives from the London Fire Brigade Community Cycle Project recently received a commendation from City of London Sheriff David Wootton for their work in the community. The focus of the project is to identify potential fire hazards and report them to other agencies for action, thus reducing risk in the community.

Their primary objective is a reduction of deliberate and secondary fires and the establishment of a multi agency methodology that enables the identification and removal of potential fire hazards from public areas. The secondary objective is the reduction of the impact on the environment caused by fire and other work involving the fire service, establishing contact with members of the public during public events and engagement with the public in areas where access has been previously restricted due to the size and weight of fire appliances. Combined the effect is a heightened public awareness of the role of the London Fire Brigade.

The project started in 2007 as a local initiative in the London Borough of Hounslow. During the 3 months that it was in existence, deliberate fires were reduced from 256 in 2006 to 131 for the same period, (a reduction of just over 48%). Cyclists patrolled open land and tow paths and talked to people they met. The following year the project was extended to twelve Boroughs and in 2009 twenty-six London Boroughs participated. The areas to be patrolled were selected according to risk ranking using historical data and local officer knowledge. The project is staffed by sixty-four firefighters organised into eight teams of eight riders, providing two teams for each area. The riders carry out their role on the days they are scheduled for day duties and return to their base stations on their night shift.



Our Hidden Heroes

When you next come to the City and to Insurance Hall, go and visit the small green public space called "Postman's Park" which is located between King Edward Street, Little Britain and Angel Street, near St Bartholomew's Hospital, to the north of St Paul's Cathedral.

Under the sheltered area is a wall commemorating ordinary people who lost their lives trying to save others. This was the idea of the painter G.F. Watts (1817-1904), who disliked the upper classes and this was his gesture of defiance in providing a public memorial celebrating people who would perhaps otherwise have been forgotten.

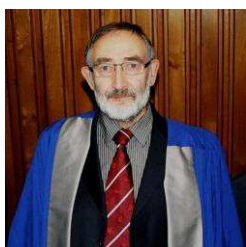
Of particular importance and interest to us are the plaques to fireman George Lee who, whilst attending a fire in Clerkenwell in July 1876, carried an unconscious girl to safety, falling six times. He sadly died of his injuries.

Also look for the plaque to Joseph Andrew Ford aged 30 of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. In October 1871 Joseph saved six persons from a fire in Gray's Inn Road but in his last heroic act, he was scorched to death.



Members Forum

We welcome our new Liverymen
Clothed at the November 27th Court



Bernard Laluevein



Leslie Dodd



Les Parris

We welcome our new Freemen
Admitted at the 27th November Court



Peter Mansi



Ken Day

Steve Neville looks at the Origins of the Livery Companies



Livery companies as we know them today probably evolved from the Guilds or Mysteries that flourished throughout Britain and Europe for many centuries. The earliest reliable historical record in England is probably the Royal Charter granted to the Weavers' Company in 1155 but many historians believe that Guilds were flourishing prior to 1066.

These early Guilds - derived from the Saxon word "gildan", meaning "to pay" - controlled the manufacturing and selling of goods and food amongst their members in major Cities throughout Europe.

Trade and domestic disputes were settled by arbitration at designated Halls, which also served as a meeting place for traders. Fines and penalties were imposed for selling bad food or shoddy materials and regulations introduced to limit competition and to keep standards high. Continued examples of poor quality products would result in expulsion from the Guild along with the loss of livelihood and reputation.

The word "Livery" was derived from medieval times and was originally the term used for the clothing, food and drink provided by the Bishops, Barons and great landowners of those days. It was later adapted to describe the distinctive clothing and badges individual Guilds or Companies chose to wear as outward symbols of their privilege and trade protection. Hence the title **Livery Company** and the custom that prevails to this day of the Master and Officers wearing distinctive robes on official occasions. As they became more wealthy and influential, Guilds and Companies established links with a specific church or monastery, where regular services would be held for sick and departed members. They also adopted their own Patron Saints - the Patron Saint of the Firefighters being St. Florian.

In future issues, Steve will examine the current and future roles of the Livery Companies

A welcome volunteer to your PR & Marketing team is **Howard Myers**

(Editor—that's Howard pictured on the right with his working partner, Kylie!)

After 20 years living and working in the United States Howard Myers has returned home to Canterbury with Kylie, a six-year old black Labrador who has been trained to detect accelerants and hydrocarbons (petrol and many by-products) that may have been used to start a fire.

Kylie is capable of detecting twenty-one different gasoline products such as diesel, kerosene/paraffin, brake fluid, acetone, isopropyl alcohol and many more. During her continuation training she is quite capable of "sniffing out" domestic terrorist explosives, fireworks and firearms.



Howard spent twenty-two years in the fire service in England starting with the Kent Fire Brigade before a transfer to London. He relocated to the USA in early 1990 and worked his way to become the Fire Marshal for the City of Port Orange Fire Rescue. He was recruited by a national private fire investigation company and moved to Dallas, Texas. Promotion quickly followed and Howard travelled extensively relocating to Atlanta, Indianapolis (Indiana), Las Vegas (Nevada) and finally back to Orlando (Florida) area in November of 2007.

In September 2009 Howard became Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Fire Fighters and we are delighted to welcome him (and Kylie) to our PR team.

2010 Events Diary

Wednesday April 28th—City Livery Walk

Tuesday May 4th - City of London Briefings, Innholders Hall.

Tuesday May 11th -Sons of Clergy—St Paul's

Tuesday May 18th -Charterhouse Musical Tour

Wednesday June 2nd -Partners Lunch

Friday July 2nd -Common Hall, Insurance Hall, followed by a Service of Re-dedication at St. Mary-le-Bow Church.

Thursday September 2nd -Combined Golf Day

Sunday Sept. 12th -Firefighters Memorial service

Saturday 25th September -Fire Industry Charity Ball

Pleased to Meet You The Beadle



**John Norris -
Beadle to the Worshipful
Company of Firefighters**

Arguably the most visually striking Liverymen is our Beadle, resplendent in his tasselled gown representing flame on a smoke background.

John has served the Firefighters through Guild, Company and Worshipful Company.

In his early days he acted as Usher to Court Meetings, Toastmaster and MC at lunches and dinners. Today, his role is mainly restricted to ceremonial.

John joined the London Fire Brigade as a Junior Fireman in 1965 and was posted to Soho fire station in 1966, subsequently to Paddington, Kensington, Cannon Street & Knightsbridge before becoming a recruit instructor at Southwark in 1974.

As a senior officer he served in central London before finding his forte as a Public Relations and Press Liaison Officer in the largest PR Department in any authority outside of Greater London. His last position before premature retirement in 1991 as a Divisional Officer Grade I, was Staff Officer to then Chief Fire Officer, a fitting end to an eventful career.

The 2010 Fire Industry Charity Ball Saturday 25th September 2010



£110 per head inclusive of the dinner dance, entertainment, sparkling wine reception and 1/2 bottle of wine



In support of
The Worshipful Company of Firefighters Charitable Trust
Contact Bryan Spearman on brandy.promotions@virgin.net or 01903 783344

Commemoratives and Ties

In celebration of 21 years since the formation of The Guild of Firefighters, a unique crystal glass to keep as a future family heirloom is available for purchase.

The goblet is priced at £10.00 inclusive of Vat. Please add £2.50 for postage and packing. All enquiries to Brian Eves at: brian84.eves@virgin.net.

Brian also has WCOFF ties in blue and red available for purchase at £25 each





The Worshipful Company of Firefighters

Service, Fellowship, Harmony and Honour

Summer 2010



HRH The Princess Royal receives a cheque from the (then) Master, Geoff Morgan on behalf of The Worshipful Company of Firefighters for the Firefighters Memorial Charitable Trust.

Visit our website at: www.firefighterscompany.org

Court In Motion



Introducing our new Master — Professor David Bland OBE



Our new Master, Prof. David Bland, whilst delighted to be accepting the honour and privilege of being elected Master of the WCoFF is conscious that it is also by default.

2010 was to have been the year of Mastership of our beloved late Chaplain, The Rev David Rhodes whose tragic and shockingly rapid death by liver cancer, devastated our Company last year. Court decided to fill the vacancy with a Past-Master and David was selected.

After an academic career at the University of Sheffield, David was head-hunted to run the Chartered Insurance Institute in 1999. He was introduced to our Company as a guest at our inaugural Carol Service and learnt of the impending demolition of our original office in Aldersgate Street. Through his invaluable help and support we were able to establish our new office at Insurance Hall where David was CEO.

Thereafter, David joined our early Guild and became an active member of Court and was elected to become our Millennium Master. He has also served as a member of the Firefighters Memorial Trust.

David is currently Chair of the Consumer Council for Water, London and SE England and Chair of a couple of small companies. He is also a very active member of City Livery and has been Master of the Worshipful Company of Insurers and is currently the Master of Cripplegate Ward Club.

Outside of work, David, who lives in Wapping, has a retreat in central Slovakia, is a Blackburn Rovers supporter and is a Churchwarden of St. Michael's-in-Cornhill. We wish him a very successful and happy year of office.

On Reflection - IPM Geoff Morgan reviews his year



This has been the 21st year since the Firefighters were first formed as a Guild and I have been privileged to be the 21st Master. I have enjoyed it enormously. During the year I have represented the Company or attended meetings on 110 occasions. So what have been the highlights?

The Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace; hosting the St Florian's Banquet and Massey Shaw Charity Dinner; the most successful Fire Industry Charity Ball; weekend visit to the Ironbridge Gorge Museums with 80 other Masters and partners; the trip to Portsmouth to "HMS Phoenix" the Navy's fire training school, then dinner on board "HMS Victory"; presenting our donation to the Firefighters Memorial Trust to The Princess Royal on "HMS Belfast"; attending white-tie Lord Mayor dinners at the Mansion House; installing 23 new Freemen and Liverymen. It has been wonderful to visit so many Livery Halls and to take part in the processions at the Guildhall and St Paul's, proudly dressed in the Master's gown and chain.

So what have we achieved on reaching the age of majority? The Management Board has been introduced and has been effective. Our formal and informal events have been splendid. Our membership has risen to 161, including 100 liverymen and 61 freemen. We have registered for VAT, arranged for payments by Direct Debit and our finances are improving. We are poised to support suitable education programmes in fire and firefighting. A largely new Board of Trustees has taken over from its diligent predecessors. A new initiative was launched with the successful PR and Marketing Working Group formed (responsible for this excellent newsletter).

At the beginning of the year I wanted to see celebration, enjoyment and fellowship. I want to thank the Wardens, Clerk, Chairs of Committees, Officers, members of the inaugural Management Board and the Court for all their contributions and for making it so enjoyable. The mood has been positive and constructive and I detect a renewed sense of purpose and direction. Thank you to all members and I wish the new Master and the Wardens every success for the future.

Geoff Morgan
Immediate Past Master



Court News

All in a Knight's work. Sir Martin Bonham

It is with great pleasure that we can report that our Clerk has been elevated to the Bonham Baronetcy. It is a title in the Baronetage of the United Kingdom going back to 1852 created for George Bonham, the Governor of Hong Kong. We offer Martin our best wishes and sincere congratulations from all our Company.



Peter Cowland elected Upper Warden

Peter joined the Middlesex Brigade in 1964, following his father into the Service. He progressed through the ranks to Divisional Officer in the London Fire Brigade before transferring to Hertfordshire in 1988 where he served in the roles of both Divisional Commander and County Senior Fire Safety Officer. He retired after 32 years service in 1996.

Never one to rest for too long, Peter became the Senior Training Officer for the Fire Protection Association (FPA) and then their National Fire Safety Co-ordinator. During that period, he was seconded to British Airways at Heathrow Airport where he trained Flight and Cabin Crew in fire fighting techniques.

Peter joined the WCoFF in 1997; became a Freeman of the City in 1999 and a Liveryman in 2002. He has been married to Lesley for over 40 years and they have 2 daughters and 2 grandchildren

Michael Harper elected Renter Warden

Born in Barrow-in-Furness and educated at London University, Michael commenced his early career with Vickers Plc.

For over 20 years, Michael was involved in the supply of fire protection and safety equipment to the international market – latterly as Chief Executive of Kidde Plc.

Since retiring, Michael was appointed Chairman of BBA Aviation Plc (Flight Support and Systems for Business and General Aviation) and Vitec Plc (Equipment for the Broadcast and Photographic market). He also serves on the Boards of Ricardo Plc (Automotive Engineering Consultants) and Catlin Plc (Property and Casualty Insurer).



Michael became a Freeman of the WCoFF in 2002, a Liveryman in 2004 and has served on Court since that time. He is married with 5 children and his hobbies include most sports, opera and the ballet.

Beryl Jeffries elected Under Warden



Beryl studied architecture and was a senior architect with London based practice T.P. Bennett for over 20 years. She was elected a councillor for the London Borough of Wandsworth in 1990 where she served as deputy chairman of the Planning Committee and was appointed one of Wandsworth's representatives on the London Fire and Civil Defence Authority. She was also a local government member on the London Arts Board.

Beryl was Mayor of Wandsworth during the year 1994/95. She retired from the council in 2002, but is still a trustee for a number of local charities. After joining the Company of Firefighters, Beryl became our "First Lady" liveryman in 2002 and subsequently served on the Court of Assistants, becoming Under Warden in Waiting in 2009.

Beryl is a widow with two sons and four grandchildren and, as well as enjoying her family, likes travelling, gardening and the theatre.

The World of Firefighters

A terrible fire tragedy

Lets never forget just how dangerous our profession can be. Since our last newsletter ,we have lost firefighters James Shears, 35, and Alan Bannon, 38, whilst tackling a blaze in Southampton at a high-rise block of flats. Both men were full-time firefighters at St. Mary's Station in Southampton. All the residents were rescued.

10 firefighters have died on duty in England between 1997 and the start of 2007, the worst case being in November 2007 when four members of Warwickshire Fire Service died at a burning vegetable packing plant at Atherstone-on-Stour.

Peter Holland, vice president of the Chief Fire Officers' Association said that the deaths in Southampton served as a tragic reminder that fire fighting remains a difficult and dangerous job. "Fire fighting in high-rise buildings particular challenges to fire and rescue services who work closely with housing authorities to help them provide adequate fire precautionary measures. After every serious incident it is imperative that lessons are learned to avoid similar tragedies in the future".



James Shears and Alan Bannon

James leaves two young sons.

Alan leaves a young daughter

"Losing a colleague is something that touches everyone and something firefighters never get over" Matt Wrack general secretary of the Fire Brigades Union

Annual Memorial Service



The Master, Geoff Morgan, Renter Warden Peter Cowland and Beadle John Norris were among a number of Company Members who attended the Firefighter's Memorial Charitable Trust Service of Thanksgiving at their Monument at the National Arboretum in Alwras, Staffordshire.

This annual service, which is attended by representatives from UK Fire and Rescue Services, fire authorities, and the wider Fire Service community, is held to honour the work which UK firefighters undertake in the protection of the community on a daily basis.

The Band of the West Midlands Fire Service opened proceedings by marching to the Monument, followed shortly by a Pipe Band, Standard Bearers and Ceremonial Squads. The Chaplain of the Trust, the Reverend Canon Peter Mortimer MBE, who is also a Freeman of our Company, led the Service. He was supported by Nicholas Rutter, Secretary of the National Fire and Rescue Chaplains Association as well as a number of fire brigade Chaplains from the local area. Ron Singer of AJEX led the Jewish Prayers to help mark the multi-faith role in which firefighters have always served.

Fire and natural disaster do not observe national boundaries and so this year the Trust also recognized the international role played by firefighters. International Search and Rescue Teams (ISAR) from a number of UK Fire and Rescue Services had formed part of the urgent response to the earthquake in Haiti, which had resulted in the deaths of some 250, 000 people. Therefore members of the West Midlands ISAR team, some of whom had helped at the disaster, attended the service and as a special mark of respect 'La Dessalinienne,' the National Anthem of Haiti, was played in addition to our own. After the service floral tributes were laid whilst pipers played the lament "Flowers of the Forest". Coming so soon after the fire in Southampton, at which two firefighters had tragically lost their lives, this was a particularly poignant moment.

Next years service will be held on Sunday 8th May.

Appeal from Ian Shakespeare running the North Run for Charity

I am a WCoFF Liveryman, aged 60 and am participating in the Great North Half Marathon Run in September. My goal is to raise money for both CLIC and RAFT. My wife is a nurse and we have both witnessed the results of people disfigured by fire.



My sister's eldest daughter was diagnosed with cancer in the mid 90's and CLIC (Malcolm Sargent cancer fund for children as they were formerly known) were absolutely wonderful in their care for the whole family. I always promised that one day I would try to raise some money for them and for RAFT, one of the WCoFF charities. Despite a dodgy knee and ankle, I am determined to complete this event.

May I ask for your support and sponsorship please. As the money raised will be split 50 / 50 between the charities. My fundraising site is:

www.virginmoneygiving.com/IanShakespeare

Celebrating and Remembering our Firefighters

Former fireman revisits his old station for his 100th birthday



Charlie Harwood, who served as a firefighter in Tooting during World War Two, recently visited Tooting Fire Station to celebrate his 100th birthday with firefighters from the station's green watch. Charlie was presented with a commemorative firefighter's axe by green watch's youngest firefighter, Mark Whittall, whilst excerpts from his war-time memoirs were read out. Also present in the picture is Station Manager John Day.

Charlie was born in Vauxhall and spent his early life in Balham. He enlisted with the Auxiliary Fire Service in 1939. "I went home from work, had my tea, said goodbye to my wife and reported to Tooting Fire Station".

Charlie spent the war years fighting fires in London, attending many of the major blazes and incidents, including those during the Blitz. Being a firefighter during the War was a tough job, Charlie said: "We worked 120 hours a week and our wages were £3 a week". Of his fire station visit, Charlie said: "I was surprised and delighted to be invited back to Tooting Fire Station, it was wonderful. It was good to meet old friends and present day firefighters and it

brought back many memories. "The gift of the firefighter's axe is very special and is something I had always wanted. I don't consider myself a hero. During the war I was just doing my job".

When asked about the secret of living to 100, Charlie said: "Just being happy".

The Massey Shaw Fireboat Restoration Project



The Massey Shaw is one of London's un-sung heroes on the Thames. Built in 1935, the fireboat served the London Fire Brigade for many years and also took part in the WWII 'Operation Dynamo' to rescue soldiers from the beaches at Dunkirk. It ferried 500 men to the warships and brought over 100 men back to England.

The boat was named after Sir Eyre Massey Shaw, founder of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. It was built in 1935 on the Isle of Wight, and the powerful pumps were made in Greenwich. One of her last major jobs was the Tate & Lyle factory fire in Silvertown.

The Massey Shaw was designed to navigate all of the bridges along the Thames at any state of the tide. Her powerful pumps allowed her to pump 11 tonnes of water per hour straight from the river and is said to be the only surviving fireboat of her type in Europe.

David Rogers is the director of the Massey Shaw & Marine Preservation Society, a group of enthusiasts who now own and look after the vessel, currently moored at Deptford Creek in south east London. He is keen that the fire fighting community know about the project and although they have been given lottery funding for the restoration, volunteers and funding are always sought. This is one of the charities that the Worshipful Company Charitable Trust supports.

In the early 1900s, the River Thames was served by a fleet of approximately 40 steam fireboats, which were able to pump water directly from the river to fight a blaze. Fireboats were particularly useful for the large fires that broke out in the warehouses and factories along the Thames.

Today, the London Fire Brigade has just two working fireboats.



You can find more information about The Massey Shaw Fireboat by logging onto www.masseyshaw.org.uk



Out & about with the Firefighters

Tour of City Livery Halls

A very enjoyable afternoon in pleasant London sunshine saw a group of Firefighters and their friends tour some of the streets in the City, learning about the history and key events in their life and the development of City Livery Companies.

The highlight of our tour was the visit to the Painter-Stainers, where the Beadle invited our Group into their Hall and everyone was given a chance to see the glorious Painted Chamber and the fine works of art, silverware and ancient charters adorning the walls of the Great Hall.

The Beadle was very informative about Livery Companies generally as well as his knowledge on the history and foundation of the Painter-Stainers. We learnt that some of the most famous artists belonged to the company. He also revealed that one time he, inadvertently, mixed up replica silverware (for show) with the real ones and put the replicas into the bank - a fact not noticed for many months!

After departing from Painter-Stainers we were in the excellent hands of City of London Guide, Yasha Beresinger, who proceeded to point out a number of the other Livery Halls and some of the many interesting aspects of the City and its connections with Livery.

The evening was concluded with a supper at the Dr Butlers Head where we dined on Pan Fried Pork Fillet followed by Chef's Crumble, together with the odd glass or two! A most entertaining evening was had by all and it was felt that a repeat walk would be well worthwhile. The pictures above show the group outside the Mercers' Hall and in the Painter-Stainers Hall.



Visits to HMS Phoenix and HMS Victory



The Company enjoyed a wonderful visit to the Portsmouth area on June 18th, with visits to the fire training establishment at HMS Phoenix and then to a dinner evening on board HMS Victory itself. Organised by Event Chairman Terry Baldwin, Past Master James Blott and Liveryman Karen Eves, who is a Warrant Officer in the Royal Navy, it was a day and a night to remember for those lucky enough to attend.

Our pictures show the group visiting Phoenix and Victory with the Master making presentations of a Company shield of the coat of arms as a thank-you to the key hosts.



Activities

Cover Story - The Master presents cheque to HR The Princess Royal



Geoff Morgan, The Master and a number of other members represented the Company of Firefighters at a Royal Reception on board "HMS Belfast" to celebrate the granting of a Royal Charter to the Firefighters Memorial Charitable Trust.

The Trust was founded 20 years ago by its Chairman, Gerry Clarkson, Founder Master of the WCoFF and Colin Livett, Past Master of the WCoFF, is the Deputy Chairman. There is a close association between the Company of Firefighters and the Memorial Trust as a further 7 members of the Company are also Trustees and many liverymen and freemen have become individual members of the Trust. A number were introduced to HRH The Princess Royal during the Reception.

Pictured is The Master presenting a cheque on behalf of the Company to HRH The Princess Royal who is the Patron of the Firefighters Memorial Trust. The donation was from the proceeds of the 2009 Fire Industry Charity Ball organised by Assistant, Bryan Spearman, Past Master, Viv Jones and the Ball Working Group.

Interschutz 2010



Upper Warden Peter Cowland, acted on behalf of the Fire Industries Association (FIA) in the support of a number of UK exhibitors attending Interschutz 2010 in Leipzig this year. Interschutz has become the world's largest international fire trade show and is held only every five years. The 2010 show was the largest yet, with over 1350 exhibitors on site, making it the world's fire brigade capital for the week.

New innovations were on show to demonstrate the future "intervention" capabilities of fire brigades, as well as examples of equipment designed to increase the safety of firefighters and their communities.



The picture on the left shows Upper Warden Peter Cowland meeting Martin Jones of Vimpey who helped sponsor the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service "Extraction Competition Team" who are currently the European and North American Champions.

Dates for your diary

2nd September—Combined Golf Day

12th September - Firefighters Memorial Service , St. Bartholomew the Great

25th September—WCoFF Fire Industry Charity Ball

6th October—St. Florian's Installation Banquet

13th November—Lord Mayor's Show.

23rd November—WCoFF Liverymen Dinner.

10th December—Carol Service at St. Mary Le Bow.

Firex South

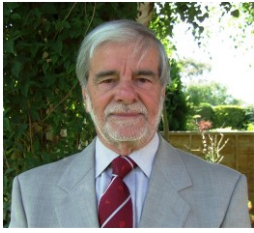


Brian Eves represented the WCoFF at the recent Firex South exhibition in March where he manned a stand promoting the activities and values of the Company.

Thanks to the organisers UBM, a sum of £370 was also raised for the Charitable Trust at a Quiz night.

Pleased to Meet You

Bryan Spearman - Under Warden in Waiting



Bryan was born in an Essex village called Pitsea, before it became swallowed up by Basildon New Town, and was educated at Municipal College Southend and Wimbledon Technical College.

Bryan started a career in electrical engineering with the Royal Dutch Shell Company and then into Electronics in the fields of Development, Applications Research, Product Marketing and Sales Management with Philips Electronics. The Company being a major supplier to the Fire, Safety and Communications Industries.

Over the past 20 years he has built and run a Conference Organiser and Event Management Company, operating both in the UK and world-wide. He was made a Freeman in 2004 and Liveryman in 2005. The Events Committee soon enlisted his expertise and he runs a number of events for the Company in particular the Annual Charity Ball, now in its 4th year under his stewardship.

Much of Bryan's time is now spent doing charity work including the Trout and Salmon Fishing Charity in Sussex which takes mentally and physically disabled children fly-fishing. Travel, sea and fly fishing, listening to classical music and cooking almost fill the spare time.

A letter floods in!

Dear Mr Bonham –

Our Clerk, Colonel Mike Dudding, has circulated your recent newsletter to the Court of the Worshipful Company of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators. As someone who, until relatively recently, lived near to Southwark Fire Station and who has been involved with the Livery for a number of years, may I just say how impressed I was with the report of the action of the LFB crews at the fire at the College of Heralds last year. I hadn't realised, until I read the report, how much consideration had to go into the decision to stop the flames or to minimise the water (and presumably, smoke) damage.

I'm grateful, (with due modesty, on behalf of all Livery Companies) for the work the LFB did that evening but also to the Firefighters' Company for recognising it through the presentation to Deputy Assistant Commissioner Steve Smith later in the year. It really is good to see the benefit the Livery Companies do, and not just in the straight charitable (cash) contributions they make to the City and the world. Please pass on my thanks to your Court.

With best wishes,

Ian Richardson, LL.B, FCIS, Junior Warden, The Worshipful Company of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators

The 2010 Fire Industry Charity Ball

Saturday 25th September 2010



**£110 per head inclusive of the dinner dance, entertainment, sparkling wine
reception and 1/2 bottle of wine**

For a table of 10 persons, and payment made before end of June, the total table cost will be £1000 instead of £1100.

In support of
The Worshipful Company of Firefighters Charitable Trust

Contact Bryan Spearman on brandy.promotions@virgin.net or 01903 783344

Hotel room rates for overnight accommodation inclusive of breakfast have been negotiated at £145 for a standard double and £175 for an executive double
The booking reference for rooms is 100924FIRE

I hope as many of you will come and support the Company's biggest fund raising event for our Charitable Trust.

The Ball is co-promoted by the FIA and FIRESA; media partner and sponsor is info4fire.com



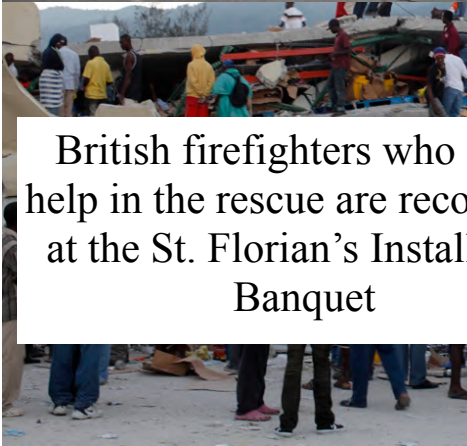
The Worshipful Company of Firefighters

Service, Fellowship, Harmony and Honour

November 2010

Award made at St Florian's Installation Banquet

Earthquake disaster hits Haiti



British firefighters who go to help in the rescue are recognised at the St. Florian's Installation Banquet



At the annual St. Florian's Installation Banquet, Professor David Bland, Master, presented an award to the International Search and Rescue team that was deployed to Haiti after it had been ravaged by earthquakes in January this year.

The award was received by Neil Fritzsche from Lincolnshire Fire Service on behalf of all the Search and Rescue teams from 7 different fire services that took part in the arduous and often grim tasks of searching and trying to recover people buried under the rubble. Full story and pictures on page 5.

Visit our website at: www.firefighterscompany.org

From the Master's Pen



Due to the very sad death of the Rev David Rhodes, I find myself in the unusual situation of serving as Master of this Company for a second time, just ten years after I had my turn. We were then, of course, a Company without Livery and our sponsoring Alderman Sir Clive Martin was the Millennium Lord Mayor.

In those ten years the Company has gained Livery status and members, and has acquired huge prestige among the modern livery for our management of the Modern Companies' entries to the Lord Mayor's Show; and among all Livery Masters for our annual entertainment of other companies at Winchester House. We could do with more members still, but our events are well supported and popular.

It is a privilege to have been for almost twenty years a Trustee of the Firefighters Memorial Trust – which is shortly to receive its Royal Charter – and to help to maintain the close link between the Trust and the Company. It is wonderful to see how the annual Service and Parade has grown, and at this rate only Saint Paul's will be big enough to hold us all.

The Livery is about fellowship and charity: I have high hopes that a largely new body of Trustees will continue discriminatingly to give all that we can afford to suitable charities, especially fire-related; and repeat my deep gratitude to Bryan Spearman, Viv Jones and all those who made such a success again this year of the Charity Ball.



Member News

New members declaring their Freedom at the 17th September Court meeting were: Michael Hebard, Claire Purton and William Hackett.

Those clothed as Firefighters were: David Bywater, Colin Bailey and Ian Parlane (Honorary Treasurer).

Liveryman Bruce Hoad was installed as a Court Assistant. Barry Sargent and Alistair Milner were installed as Sentinels.

John Northey

It was with great sadness that we learned of the sudden death of John Northey, a Livery member for many years and a leading architect of many of the European standards in fire detection.

He was a research engineer at Graviner, formally deputy chief technical officer of the FPA and became editor of the Fire Safety Engineering magazine, which he transformed to be one of the leading magazines in the industry.

In retirement, he took courses in cricket umpiring (having played at just below county standard in Surrey for most of his life). He was a stalwart supporter of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters.



Annual Fire Industry Charity Ball

FANTASTIC! A truly fantastic night was enjoyed by the 198 guests at our annual Fire Industry Charity Ball.

Sponsors

 INTERNATIONAL FIRE RESCUE
16-19 May 2011 NEC Birmingham
info@fire.com
The Fire Industry Charity

Media Partner and Sponsor

Corporate Tables:

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WORLD CLASS FIRE SOLUTIONS

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The Way Your Water Flows

 **K**
Kantec Electronics Ltd.

Supported by:

 **FIA**
Fire Industry Association

 **FIRESA**
Fire & Rescue Suppliers Association

Donations

The Firefighters Company wishes to sincerely thank the corporate sponsors and all those who have so generously donated items for the auction and raffle prizes.

Ball organised by Brandy Promotions and The Company of Firefighters on behalf of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters Charitable Trust, Reg No 1000562.

 **BRANDY**
PROMOTIONS



Despite recession blues affecting much of the corporate sector, we are indebted to our loyal sponsors who once again gave us such great support. Thanks also to those who donated some great auction and raffle prizes and those who generously bid for the items.

The financial outcome has ensured a donation of £15,500 will be received by our Charitable Trust.

Bryan Spearman, our Underwarden-in-waiting and Ball organiser, succeeded in surprising everyone by introducing 33 young members of the Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts who entertained us with a musical extravaganza. It was a great experience for the youngsters, and their producer and director have already asked if they might perform for us at a future event.

Adiva, the new name for 'X factor' Nicole, and the Big Man's Band gave a sparkling performance and ensured a real swing to the evening.

Bryan Spearman, Ball organiser, and Past Master Viv Jones, Sponsorship Manager, thank everyone who made it such a wonderful fun evening and look forward to even greater support for the:

2011 FIRE INDUSTRY CHARITY BALL to be held on 24th September 2011.



City Events

New City of London Mayor Elected



The Liverymen in Common Hall assembled on September 25th in the Guildhall to elect the Lord Mayor for the coming year. Alderman Michael Bear was duly elected for the 2010/11 year. A trained civil engineer, he served as Sherriff of the City in 2007/8 and is a leading figure in the property and construction industries, with a long history of heading up regeneration of inner-city areas, such as Spitalfields.

Michael is MD of Balfour Beatty and a non-executive director of Arup. He was born in Nairobi, brought up and educated in Cyprus and UK and studied engineering at South Africa's Witwatersrand University before taking an MBA at Cranfield. The Lord Mayor's elected charities will be Corama and RedR, charities that train and provide engineers and other relief workers to respond to worldwide emergencies and charities that will be well appreciated by the firefighting community.

Lord Mayor's Show



On Saturday 13th November, the world's oldest civic procession will take place. The Lord Mayor's procession winds through nearly 800 years of London's history, marking everything from the Black Death to the London Blitz. The only time it was cancelled was for Wellington's funeral in 1832.

At the show, the new Lord Mayor makes his way to the Royal Courts of Justice to pledge allegiance to the Crown just as Dick Whittington did in 1387.

The modern procession is nearly 3 miles long and starts at 11 am after an RAF flypast, travelling from the Mansion House to the Courts of Justice - the procession returning to the Mansion House, leaving at about 1 pm, arriving about 2-30 pm. One of London's grandest fireworks displays then begins at about 5 pm

As usual, the Worshipful Company of Firefighters is co-ordinating the New Companies part of the parade, which will be led by a lovingly-restored World War II fire engine that saw action in the blitz.

Firefighters win Golf Match

Firefighters joined the Painter-Stainers for one of their golf days held at the Wilderness Golf Club at Sevenoaks in Surrey - the event includes a competition between the Companies as well as individual awards for the best players.

Once again, the Firefighter's team managed to gain the upper hand on the Painter-Stainers, but it was a close thing—nearly as dramatic as the Ryder Cup!!

Our thanks go to Jeremy Beech for organising the event with the Painter-Stainers and to Ivor Richards of the Painter-Stainers for the wonderful welcome and excellent lunch.



The picture shows the Painter-Stainers' captain presenting John Sherington with his magnificent trophy.

St Florian's Installation Banquet and Presentation of WCoFF's Award

Presentation of WCoFF's Award

The Master, Professor David Bland, presented the Worshipful Company of Firefighters' Award to the United Kingdom International Search and Rescue team that was deployed to Haiti after it had been ravaged by earthquakes in January this year. There were 61 people in the team, including firefighters from 7 different fire and rescue services together with 2 search dogs. They saved the lives of 4 people including Mia, a 2 year old toddler, and then moved on to the towns of Leogane and Petit Goave to help the local communities that had been cut off since the earthquakes.

The citation stated that the team operated under duress in extreme conditions, often working in buildings during aftershocks. The highly skilled and resourceful team displayed great fortitude, determination and courage in hazardous circumstances. Their actions and professionalism were a credit to the UK Fire and Rescue Service.

The WCoFF's Award was presented at the St Florian's Installation Banquet to Neil Fritzsche, Response Manager from Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service, who was representing all the members of the UKISAR team. The team had been recommended to receive the Award by the Chief Fire Officers' Association, and Peter Holland, President of CFOA, attended the Banquet to witness the presentation (seen in the picture alongside Sir Ken Knight and Neil Fritzsche). The award ceremony was kindly sponsored through Court Assistant, Steve Neville, by "Interserve Fire & Security".



This is the second time that the Worshipful Company of Firefighters has made the Award which aims to recognise and honour firefighters who have shown courage, initiative or professionalism or who have taken humanitarian actions for the benefit of mankind. Last year the Award went to the London Fire Brigade for the exceptional way they tackled the fire and saved the College of Arms, the loss of which could have been devastating for the City of London and the nation.

An evening to remember

Celebrating the installation of the new master in the beautiful Cutler's Hall with its stunning blend of fine paintings, stained glass windows, oak panelling, ancient swords and Arms of past Masters—it received its first Royal Charter from Henry V in 1416—was a delight to all who attended.



The Principle Guest at the dinner was Sir Alexander (Mike) Graham GBE, former sheriff (1986/7) and Lord Mayor 1990/1. He was first member of the Mercers' company to become Alderman for over 200 years.

Sir Alexander spoke of the interest he had in seeing a modern company such as the Firefighters, which in his opinion epitomised fellowship in action, grow in stature and profile within the City.



Other guests included Peter Holland, Chief Fire Officer of Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service and also current President of CFOA; Captain Graham Pepper, Master of the Honourable Company of Master Mariners



Past Master, Geoff Morgan, in conversation with Neil Fritzsche and Michael Harper

the
an

FireFighter Focus

Commissioner's Dinner - An evening with Sir Ken Knight CBE QFSM DL HM Government Chief Fire & Rescue Adviser

On 2nd November, the Worshipful Company of Firefighters was delighted to present an "Exclusive Dinner" with Sir Ken Knight in the prestigious Adam Room at the Lloyd's building.



This was an opportunity to enjoy some superb food and wine in a private dinner party atmosphere in a unique location, the Lloyd's Adam Room decorated with glorious paintings, ceilings and chandeliers.

The original room was designed by Robert Adam in 1763, but the room was transported to the 11th floor of the new Lloyd's building in the heart of the city in 1986.



Sir Ken gave an overview of various issues facing the firefighting community at the present time and then invited and answered some penetrating questions.

Present at the dinner as special guests were Lord and Lady Imbert, Lee Howell, Chief Fire Officer of Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue service, ex Lord Mayor Sir David Lewis, Andy Hickmott, Assistant Commissioner of the London Fire Brigade, Jonathan O'Neill, Managing Director of the Fire Protection Association and Kim Robinson, Head of the Fire Service College.

Renter Warden Michael Harper introduced and welcomed the special guests and outlined the evening's proceedings. At the end of the evening, the Master, Professor David Bland, thanked all the contributors for their presence and for the excellent discussion.

The occasion owes many thanks to the generosity and support of the CEO of Lloyd's, Richard Ward, the meal sponsors, Catlin Group, headed by their CEO Paul Jardine, and the excellent organization of WCoFF members Stuart McEwan and Steven Neville.



Renter Warden Michael Harper, Past Master Geoff Morgan, and Stuart McEwan in conversation outside the Adam Room

Success at the Great North Run



Firefighter Ian Shakespeare completed the Great North Run in 2 hours and 38 minutes. He said, although it was very painful, it was a very rewarding experience with the friendly crowd support and camaraderie between runners - just appreciating all the wonderful charitable reasons born out of personal connections why people run was "uplifting".

Ian has exceeded £1000 in his fund raising but any further contributions would be appreciated: [www.virginmoneygiving.com/Ian Shakespeare](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/Ian%20Shakespeare)

Members' Forum

Annual UK Firefighters Memorial Service

Sunday 12th September 2010:

Service of Remembrance & Wreath Laying at the National Memorial



The Service of Remembrance on Sunday 12th September was held again at the Church of St Bartholomew the Great, West Smithfield, City of London. The Master and Wardens of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters processed into the Church and took their places. Standards from Brigades across the U.K, together with the Union Flag and Standards from the Fire Service College, National Association of Retired Firefighters and the London Fire Brigade, were received.



The Service was attended by the Fire Minister Bob Neill MP, Communities and Local Government Department. He was accompanied by Sir Ken Knight, the

Government's Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser. They both joined the parade and went on to lay a wreath, on behalf of the Government, at the National Firefighters Memorial.



Following the service, the parade formed up with vintage fire and emergency vehicles, Standards, a marching band comprising players from the West Midlands and the Tyne and Wear Brigades and almost the entire congregation. The parade, from Cheapside to the United Kingdom Firefighters National

Memorial situated near to St Paul's Cathedral, was escorted by City of London Police foot patrols, motor cycle outriders and mounted branch officers.



At the Memorial a short but poignant wreath laying service was held, with those present observing a two-minute silence. The Last Post, Reveille and a Lament (by a lone piper) were played. The names of Firefighters who sadly made the ultimate sacrifice during the past twelve months were read out. Over fifty wreaths were laid, not only by loved ones but also by a wide cross-section of the Fire Service Community.



Twenty five Brigades were represented at the ceremony which was attended by about three hundred and fifty people and observed by many tourists.



The parade was dismissed after the final wreaths were laid and many people then approached the Memorial and stood in quiet contemplation. The Standard Bearers and Fire Service Bands are to be congratulated for providing such a stirring input to the whole of the Remembrance Event.

Diary

2010

13th November - Lord Mayor's Show

23rd November - Dinner for Liverymen - East India Club

14th December - Carol Service - St. Mary-le-Bow

2011

February - date to be confirmed - The Fire Sermon - St. Magnus the Martyr

2nd March - The Massey Shaw Dinner—Insurance Hall

1st April - United Guilds' Service - St. Paul's

17th May - Festival of the Sons of the Clergy - St. Paul's

1st July - Common Hall - Insurance Hall; followed by Annual Service of Re-Dedication at St. Mary-le-Bow

24th September - Fire Industry Charity Ball

Pleased to Meet You ?



George Bush was delighted when some years ago the Firefighters' Company alighted (no pun intended) upon St Mary-le-Bow for its church; this turned out to be especially appropriate since Watling Street – the site of the original Massey-Shaw Fire Station - is now in the parish.

He was even more pleased when asked to succeed David Rhodes as Chaplain and hopes that over time the members of the Company will feel confident in him, not only for Company celebrations and services but also for any other way in which he may be useful to individuals and family members.

George has been Rector of St Mary-le-Bow for eight years, after a ministry which since 1985 has taken him to inner city Leeds, Cambridge University and London's East End. George is much absorbed in St Mary-le-Bow's concern to promote a reasonable faith and dialogue between the church and the world and has lately become Chair of a charitable company – *Arcubus* - seeking to spread financial services to poor communities in Mozambique and Tanzania.

Commemoratives—ideal for Christmas?

In celebration of 21 years since the formation of The Guild of Firefighters, a unique crystal glass to keep as a future family heirloom is available for purchase. The goblet is priced at £10.00 inclusive of VAT. Please add £2.50 for postage and packing. There are only 7 left.

Brian also has WCOFF ties in blue and red available for purchase at £25 each.

Also available are crystal glass paperweights at £10 each, Salamander label pins at £80 each and cuff links at £10 each, all inclusive of VAT.

All enquiries to Brian Eves at: brian84.eves@virgin.net





The Worshipful Company of Firefighters

Service, Fellowship, Harmony and Honour



**A Happy Christmas and
Prosperous New Year to All**



Firefighters Annual Carol Concert - St. Mary-le-Bow

On Tuesday 14th December, the Master and members of the WCoFF attended the annual carol service at St Mary-le - Bow Church, Cheapside in the City of London. The service was conducted by the Revd George R. Bush; readings were given by Renter Warden Michael Harper, Under Warden Beryl Jeffery, Upper Warden Peter Cowland and the Master, David Bland. The soloist was Suzanne Wilson. After the service, members enjoyed some tasty refreshments and an opportunity to share in seasonal fellowship.



The church of St Mary-le-Bow was completely destroyed in the Great Fire of London in 1666. Its successor was built by Wren between 1670 and 1683. Bow bells are probably the most famous in the world and for many hundreds of years have been woven into the folklore of the City of London – to be born within the sound of Bow bells was the sign of a true Londoner.

A Message from Our Master - David Bland



**To all Freeman and Liverymen
On behalf of the Wardens and Court of
The Worshipful Company of Firefighters, I would
very much like to wish you and your family
a peaceful , happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.**



Visit our website at: www.firefighterscompany.org



2010 - A lively year in the life of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters



The Master, Geoff Morgan, Renter Warden Peter Cowland, and Beadle John Norris were among a number of Company Members who attended the Firefighter's Memorial Charitable Trust Service of Thanksgiving at their Monument at the National Arboretum in Alwras, Staffordshire.



A new Management Board is working effectively to develop and progress the business of the Company and report to Court.



Geoff Morgan represented the Worshipful Company of Firefighters at a Royal Reception on board "HMS Belfast" to celebrate the granting of a royal charter to the Firefighters Memorial Charitable Trust.



Kelly Fairman, a Liveryman of our Company, was honoured with an MBE for her work with the Fire Service. She is pictured here with James Shannon, President of NFPA, and Sir Ken Knight.



A Visit to the Painter-Stainers Hall during a Tour of City Livery Companies.



The Company enjoyed a wonderful visit to HMS Phoenix and HMS Victory for dinner.



The occasion of the Massey Shaw Dinner was used to recognise and acknowledge the huge debt owed to the bravery and tenacity displayed by the LFB in tackling the fire at the College of Arms. Sir David Brewer, former Lord Mayor, is seen here, alongside Master Geoff Morgan presenting the award to Assistant Deputy Commissioner Steve Smith.



On the occasion of the St. Florian's Installation Banquet, the Master, Professor David Bland, presented the Worshipful Company of Firefighters' Award to the United Kingdom International Search and Rescue team that was deployed to Haiti after it had been ravaged by earthquakes in January 2010.



The WCoFF's Award was presented to Neil Fritzsche, Response Manager from Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue Service, seen above with Sir Ken Knight and Peter Holland, President of CFOA, who had recommended the award to the team.

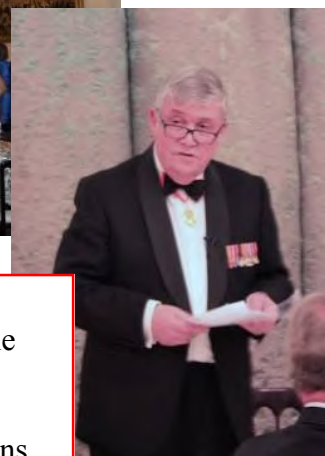
Once again, the Fire Industry Charity Ball was a great success with almost 200 people attending and the event raising over £15,000 for the Charitable Trust.



The annual golf day and match against the Painter-Stainers was greatly enjoyed - the Firefighters won the match and John Sherington, on the right, won the Firefighters trophy.



The Company led the modern Livery Companies taking part in the Lord Mayor's Show with a vintage World War II fire engine.



On 2nd November, the Worshipful Company of Firefighters was delighted to present an "Exclusive Dinner" with Sir Ken Knight in the prestigious Adam Room at the Lloyd's building. Sir Ken gave an overview of various issues facing the firefighting community at the present time and then invited and answered some penetrating questions.

Make 2011 another great year -
dates for your diary

Massey Shaw
Dinner
2nd March



Events -
Tower of London Visit
Partners' Lunch
Taking part in the Lord
Mayor's Show
Golf Day

Meet the Firefighters
Winchester House
Lunchtime
18th March

“Fire in the City” lecture
5th April - in the presence
of the Lord Mayor

Common Hall
1st July



Fire Industry Ball
24th September
Portman Hotel



* The Fire Sermon
* An evening with Sir Ken Knight
* and much more....

St. Florian's
Installation Banquet
October 12th

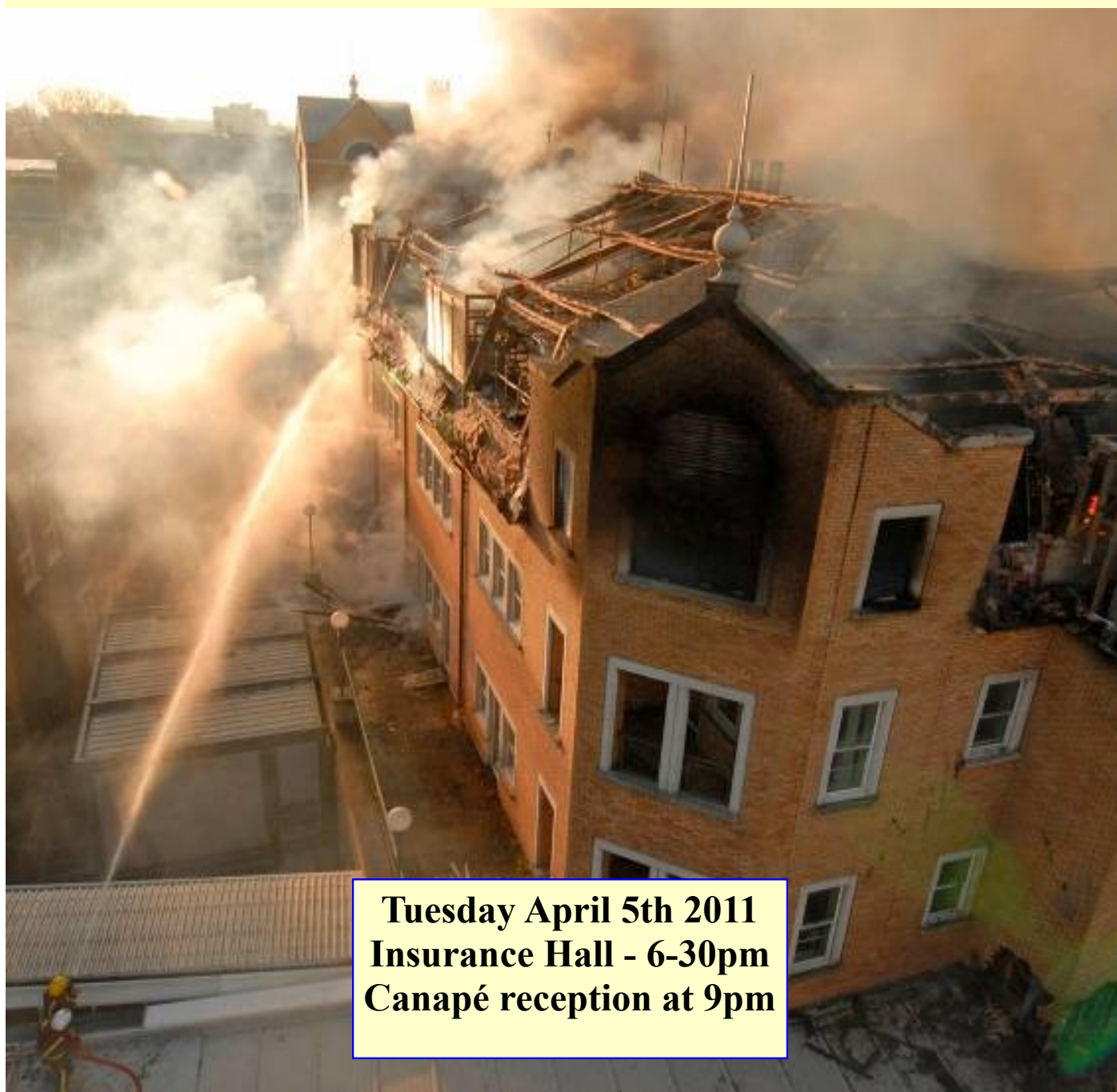


*The Worshipful Company
of Firefighters*

Service, Fellowship, Harmony and Honour

Fire in the City

**The Lord Mayor to Inaugurate WCoFF
City lecture**



**Tuesday April 5th 2011
Insurance Hall - 6-30pm
Canapé reception at 9pm**

Sponsored by



**Fire Protection
Association**

Visit our website at: www.firefighterscompany.org



Cover Story

Very few people are aware of the impact that the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 has had upon employers, owners and occupied buildings, especially here in the City of London. Even fewer are aware of the meaning, interpretation and likely consequences of the Order.

A successful prosecution for failure to maintain fire safety standards can result in a substantial fine and/or imprisonment. For example :--



of

New Look retail store fire, London 2007 - £536,000 fines & costs;
Tesco store London, fire safety breaches, April 2010 - £95,000 fines & costs
Shell International, London, fire safety breaches, June 2009 - £200,000 fines & costs
Residential (multi-occupancy) fire, Norwich April 2009 – 2.5 year prison sentence for the landlord plus £20,000 costs
Averard Hotel, London, fire safety breaches - £21,000 fines & costs.
The list goes on and on.

The WCoFF has engaged two nationally prominent specialists in fire law - **Ann Rosemarie Everton** LL.M PhD FIFire, Barrister-at-Law, Emeritus Professor of Fire Law at the Central University of Lancashire and **David Stotesbury** LL.B MA, specialist in fire law, practicing independent barrister in Lauderdale Chambers in the Barbican, to examine the **Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005** at an inaugural lecture to be held at the Insurance Hall during the evening of the 5th April 2011.

Alderman Michael Bear, Lord Mayor of the City of London will make the opening address and comment on the importance of the Order on City businesses. He will be joined by Past Master Sir Ken Knight CBE QFSM DL, HM Government Chief Fire & Rescue Adviser and Iain Cox, CFO of Royal Berkshire FRS and Head of the Prevention & Protection Directorate of the Chief Fire Officers' Association for question time. Parliamentary demands permitting, Robert Neill MP the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State responsible for Fire & Resilience will make the closing address.



The participation of such notably worthy and prominent people will make this a prestigious occasion for the Company. We are also indebted to the **Fire Protection Association** for their financial support for this, our inaugural City lecture.

Each delegate attending will receive a presentation folder containing a set of the speakers' notes. CPD credits will be available to delegates who are members of the Institution of Fire Engineers, the Emergency Planning Society, the Chartered Insurance Institute and the Institute of Risk Management.

The lecture will commence at 6.30pm and close by 9.00pm with a canapé reception. The price of a ticket for the lecture is £30 inc.VAT and a promotion notice and a booking form for the lecture can be found on the Company's website at

www.firefighterscompany.org.

The WCoFF Focus on BRE Global



BRE Global is part of the BRE Trust Group. Their mission is to protect people, property and the planet through its testing, approvals, research and consultancy services. These are carried out by recognised experts in world-class facilities, helping to ensure that fire, security, and environmental products and services provide the quality of performance and protection that their manufacturers claim.

On the main site at Garston, Watford, is the BRE Innovation Park. This features seven of the world's most sustainable houses (built to the Code for sustainable homes), a health centre of the future and over 300 different construction innovations and emerging technologies, as well as a state of the art community landscape design area.



The various projects demonstrate the BRE diverse and innovative approaches to sustainable design and construction. They each share the common goal of having a low impact on the environment but a high impact on the quality of life of building, community occupants and CO₂ emissions reduction.



Testing in enclosed car parks

Many of the innovations in building and material technologies can have major implications for the fire sector: in design (fire engineering), fire safety management, fire-fighting and fire investigation. The BRE Global Fire Safety Group are therefore monitoring these developments to identify and highlight potential areas of concern.

“An Invitation to our readers.....”

An evening event is being planned at the BRE, in the spring to give members a tour of their Innovation Park and an opportunity to visit their main fire research facilities. If anyone would like to attend, please contact Martin Shipp, at: shippm@bre.co.uk

BRE Global, BRE and FBE Management Ltd (the BRE Group) are wholly owned subsidiary companies of the BRE Trust, a registered charity. This ownership structure enables the BRE Group to be held as a national asset on behalf of the construction industry and its clients, independent of specific commercial interests. This protects BRE's impartiality and objectivity in research, testing, advice and certification. The profits from the BRE Group businesses are gift-aided to the BRE Trust, who in turn invest in research projects for the public benefit, other research partners and by a number of Universities across the UK where the Trust funds PhD studentships.

For information on the BRE Innovation Park, See: <http://www.bre.co.uk/innovationpark>

For the fire safety work of BRE Global, see: <http://www.bre.co.uk/fire>



Typical Fire Publication



Upcoming Events

Firefighters Memorial Trust

The Firefighters Memorial Trust is pleased to invite members of the WCoFF to their Annual Service of Thanksgiving at the Firefighters Monument 'Firefighters Serving Humanity' on Sunday 8th May 2011. This annual service is an act of thanksgiving and celebration for the work of the Fire Service and all who have served, are serving or will serve.

If you would like to attend please visit their website at www.firefightersmemorial.co.uk and click on 2011 Monument in the menu side bar. Deadline for reply is Thursday 31st March.

The Service will be conducted by the Revd. Canon Peter Mortimer (Chaplain to the Trust) and will commence at 12.00hrs, for a 40 minutes duration.

Pancake Race

The Company has entered a team to compete in the 7th Inter Livery Pancake Race in Guildhall Yard on Tuesday 8th March at 11.30am.

We aim to field a representative in the four race categories for Master, a Liveryman, a Lady and Novelty (dressed to associate with the Lord Mayor's Charity, 'Bear Necessities' in aid of the Charity, Co-ram).—Watch out for some great photographs in the next edition

International Firex

16th to 19th May 2011

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters will be attending the International Firex exhibition and conference at the NEC in Birmingham in May

This is the UK's largest dedicated fire safety event and over 150 exhibitors will be attending. Again this year, the organisers, UBM (info4fire.com) will be donating a free stand and some of the monies raised at its dinner to our Charitable Trust. If you would like to join the team at the show, please contact Bob Farquhar Robert.farquhar@btinternet.com

The Fire Industry Charity Ball

Come and celebrate
with friends and
colleagues at the
Fire Industry's
glittering
annual
event...



The Fire Industry Charity Ball 2011

Portman Hotel, Portman Square, London W1H 7BG
24th September 2011

Portman Hotel, Portman Square,
London W1H 7BG
24th September 2011

Join your friends and colleagues at the Fire Industry's glittering annual event.

6.30 pm: Reception in the Bryanston/Seymour Suites
7.30 pm: Dinner, Entertainment, Auction and Raffle in the Ballroom,
Entertainment by the "Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts"
Also returning by popular demand
"Nicole and her Big Band"
12.30 am: Carriages

The cost per head is £110 and is inclusive of the dinner dance, entertainment, reception drink and ½ bottle of wine at the table.

Dress code. dinner jacket, miniature medals and evening wear for the ladies

To reserve your places please send a deposit of £25 per head to,
Bryan Spearman, 11 Meadway, Rustington BN16 2DD
Cheques payable to "The Worshipful Company of Firefighters Charitable Trust"
Tables of 10 or individuals are all welcome.



City Fire Presentation

Come and meet the Firefighters

We are committed to attracting suitable new members to join the Worshipful Company of Firefighters and are looking for high quality people who have sound reputations, and who want to be active participants in a Livery Company, its affairs and events.

Our annual event dedicated to meeting and greeting potential new members, aptly called “ **Meet the Firefighters**”, has proven to be very successful and a good social function. We plan to repeat this event at lunchtime on Friday 18th March, 2011, when, thanks to the Commissioner of the London Fire Brigade, we will hold a reception at Winchester House, 94a, Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 0EG.

The occasion is designed specifically for people who are interested to learn about the WCoFF and Livery Companies. Presentations will be given in a relaxed and informal atmosphere to explain what our Company goals and objectives are; what we stand for and the advantages and privileges of membership. Drinks and lunch will be provided and there will be ample opportunities for prospective members to meet and chat with some Past Masters, Wardens and various other members of the Company.

This is an ideal opportunity for all members to become more actively involved with the Company. Please use your best endeavours to introduce your friends, colleagues, contacts and acquaintances who will really benefit from these meetings.

If you know of someone in the Fire Service or the Fire Industry who you think may be interested and would make a good member then, please send their details to **Ronald Murray, Constable**, who will extend a formal invitation to the next available reception. .

Memorabilia

In celebration of 21 years since the formation of The Guild of Firefighters, the WCoFF commissioned a unique crystal glass for members to keep as a future family heirloom. The goblet is priced at £10.00 plus £2.50 for postage and packing. Please note that there are only 7 of these unique glasses remaining and they will not be repeated.

We also have our WCoFF ties in blue and red available for purchase at £25 each along with our Salamander label pins at £80 each and Cuff links at £10 each.

Finally, we have just a few Crystal Glass paperweights remaining at £10 each,.

Please contact Brian Eves at: brian84.eves@virgin.net.



FireFighter News

Remembering the Great Blitz Fires of 1940/41

A wreath was been laid to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the bombing of Bank underground station's booking hall which killed 111 people. WCoFF members attended along with the Lord Mayor

Alderman Michael Bear, Lord Mayor of the City of London, led a minute's silence to pay tribute to the victims who died on 11 January 1941 during a bombing raid by German aircraft. Lord Mayor Bear laid a wreath at the Walbrook entrance to Bank underground station.



The blast travelled through the tunnels killing people sleeping on the escalators and platforms and throwing others in the path of incoming trains. People died underground and on the surface and, in the aftermath of the bombing, an emergency bridge was built over the huge crater to enable traffic to continue moving around the busy interchange in the heart of the Square Mile.

Lord Mayor Bear said: "The familiar black-and-white images of that crater, with wardens surveying the damage, have been part of London's memory since the Second World War. "More than 100 people lost their lives and, 70 years to the day, we pause to remember them and the families they left behind."

A City procession to mark the Blitz of 29th December 1940



Two weeks earlier, on the night of 29 December 1940, the German air force carried out a massed air attack on the City of London, which resulted in a firestorm that destroyed the Guildhall, many Livery Halls and eight churches built by Sir Christopher Wren. The destruction covered most of the ancient Square Mile. Some 160 people lost their lives and more than 500 people were injured. It was the second great fire of London.

To commemorate the 70th anniversary of the air attack, a convoy of five World War II fire engines was driven through the City of London leaving Dowgate fire station and passing the Tower of London on route to St Paul's. Wreaths were laid at London's firemen's memorial. There was a special wreath for St Mary Aldermanbury, a church which used to be situated in the Square Mile. This was bombed and finally dismantled after the war before being rebuilt in Fulton, in the American state of Missouri, as a memorial to the victims. The bombs narrowly missed St Paul's, with firefighters ordered to ensure the flames in nearby buildings did not reach the cathedral.

Neil Bloxham of the Fire Service Preservation Group, which organised the event, said it was in honour of the 16 crew members killed during the bombing "If it was not for those men and firemen like them, St Paul's might not have been here today. Being a firefighter was totally different from what it is today and I don't think we would ever get the amount of fires today in London that we did on that night."

Common Councillor Marianne Fredericks, who took part in the procession, said "It was a massive raid in the City of London and the London docks. Hitler thought that if he destroyed the cathedral, he would crumble the spirit of the nation. But St Paul's survived, and it became a beacon of pride for Londoners and the country."

Members Forum

WCoFF recognised in Blue Water



If you are not a keen shopper but happen to end up in the Bluewater Shopping Mall (near Gravesend, Kent) go and have a look at the tribute to Livery Companies high up in the eaves on the 2nd floor. Each Company is represented by a sculpture including the WCoFF—see picture.

Editor. Thanks to Howard Myers for sending this into us.

Massey Shaw Dinner

The dinner will be held on Wednesday 2nd March 2011, in The Insurance Hall, Aldermanbury, City of London. Members are invited to bring Wives, Partners, Family and Friends as we will be displaying the Company's fine collection of silver and gifts - including that donated by the now disbanded London Private Fire Brigade's Association and by the Occupational Fire Protection Association.

This promises to be another wonderfully entertaining evening as we are honoured to have the Guildhall School of Music and Drama as our musical feature. Our Principal Guest and Speaker at the Massey Shaw Annual Dinner will be former Lord Mayor, Sir Gavyn Arthur.

Sir Gavyn was educated at Harrow school and Christ Church, Oxford. He is a doctor of Civil Laws (City), a practising barrister (financial law) and Bencher of the Middle Temple. He was Lord Mayor of London in 2002/03 and as such, was spokesman and ambassador for financial services of London and UK with the rank of Cabinet Minister. He has led delegations for talks with the US Treasury, Federal Reserve and World Bank.

He was Master of the Worshipful Company of Gardeners in 2007 and is a Court Member of the Worshipful Company of Wax Chandlers. He is also a Founder Court Member and Sponsor of the Guild of Public Relations Practitioners. In 2007 he was appointed a Judge by HM the Queen."

Did you Know?

(Some trivia facts on the Great Fire of London)

The fire destroyed approximately 13,200 homes; 89 Churches and 52 Company Halls. Approximately 373 acres inside the City and 63 acres outside the City were also destroyed along with 400 streets and lanes. The fire burned out of control for 4 days feeding on the wooden buildings until it reached the stone city walls .

Although only 6 deaths were recorded, an estimated 100,000 were made homeless and gathered in the Moorfields and Finsbury Fields area. King Charles 11 sent them some Navy biscuits but they proved inedible as they were so hard and teeth were scarce! He then sent them bread to eat—, which is slightly ironic when you consider where the fire started.

On the plus side, the fire decimated the rat population that carried plague infested fleas. After the fire, the plague diminished.

2011 diary dates

2nd March - The Massey Shaw Dinner—Insurance Hall

18th March - meet the Firefighters - Winchester House - 11-30 am

April 1st—United Guild's Service—St. Paul's

April 5th - The City Fire Lecture - Insurance Hall - 6-30 pm

May 17th—Festival of the Sons of the Clergy—St. Paul's

July 1st - Common Hall - Insurance Hall; followed by Annual Service of Re-Dedication at St. Mary-le-Bow

September 24th Fire Industry Charity Ball

Pleased to Meet You



Michael Harper—Renter Warden

My first involvement with the world of fire protection came when I joined the Graviner company in 1985, famous for its aircraft and vehicle fire protection systems. Prior to that, I had trained as an engineer and worked for the Vickers company.

As part of Allegheny and then Pilgrim House, we grew our fire protection activities considerably over the next 10 to 15 years with acquisitions such as Detector Electronics, Pyrotector and the Kidde group. Under Williams, the group continued to grow and it was a great pleasure for me when, as Kidde plc, I was able to take the group onto the UK stock market as its Chief Executive.

After Kidde plc was acquired in 2004 and I moved on to become Chief Executive and Chairman of BBA Aviation and took directorships of several other companies, it was a great pleasure that I was able to retain my involvement with the fire protection and fire fighting world through the Worshipful Company.

I am hopeful that my industry experience will help the Company in this new stage of its development and hopefully I can get to know you all and you will always find me willing to chat about my love of cricket, rugby and Liverpool football club.

A Word of Thanks

St Mary-le-Bow Young Homeless Charity,
St Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, EC2 6AU

Dear Master

Thank you for allowing the collection from your Carol Service to be given to this small charity. We received £399.55, and as for many years now, we are very grateful to the Firefighters' Company for allowing this to be given.

This money will be used well – being so small a Charity, it is easy to make sure the work done is for the young people rather than for administration and so on.

Yours sincerely
Michael Kenny
Director

And finally, spotted in the fire report columns.....

United Kingdom - Arsonist killed 150 pigeons when they set fire to a timber Cree in Monkwearmouth, Sunderland.

The building went up in flames in the early hours of the morning, causing explosions of gas canisters used for heating. It took three fire crews from Fulwell and Sunderland to bring the blaze under control and stop it spreading to other lofts.

Members of the Pigeon Federation say their lofts are constantly being targeted by vandals, but many believe this is the worst attack to date. Chairman Jimmy Powell, 53, of Cornhill Homing Society, said: "It's a lifetime of work that has been destroyed. Keeping homing pigeons is a passion, it gets in your blood. "What have those pigeons done to anyone? Pigeons saved lives in the war. It's terrible as well when you think they were sitting on eggs."

Secretary Andrew Shepherd, 72, said: "I would sit and cry if it was mine. It's our whole lives, it's a 24-hour thing."

A spokesman for Fulwell Fire Station said: "It has been confirmed that it was malicious ignition. Whoever started it would have known it was occupied by pigeons."



The Salamander

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters

Service, Fellowship, Harmony and Honour

Dec 2011

Inside

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Diary

2011

7th December

Ceremony of Keys,
Tower of London

16th December

Carol Service, St. Mary-Le-Bow

2012

7th March

Massey Shaw Dinner, Insurance Hall

9th March

Meet the Firefighters,
Winchester House

30th March

Members' Informal Lunch,
Old Doctor Butlers

3rd June

Queen's Diamond Jubilee River
Pageant

15th September

Fire Industry Charity Ball

Date to be advised

2012 City Fire lecture

FIREFIGHTERS AT THE FOREFRONT

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters Awards

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters Awards, made in conjunction with CFA, were awarded to UK-ISAR teams that responded to the emergency in Japan and to the emergency in Christchurch New Zealand.

CFO Roy Wilsher accepted the award on behalf of the team he led to Japan and Station Manager Mark Coleman accepted the award on behalf of the New Zealand team.

The awards recognised the courage, initiative and professionalism that such teams put to humanitarian actions on behalf of the world-wide community, their presence being so important for the morale of local residents and fire fighters suffering devastation.



CFO Roy Wilsher (left) accepted the award on behalf of the team that was deployed to Japan, while Station Manager Mark Coleman (far right) received the award for the team that worked in New Zealand. Also pictured are the Master Peter Cowland (second from left) and Past Master Viv Jones the MD of Vimpey Ltd. the Sponsors.

City Dinner

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters held a City Dinner hosted by Sir Ken Knight CBE QFSM DL, head of UK Fire and Rescue policy within the Government. The dinner was sponsored by the insurance Group Caitlin and was in support of the Charitable Trust Fund of the Company of Firefighters.



The dinner was well attended and very much enjoyed by those attending who learned more about the background of policy-making within the Fire and Rescue arena.

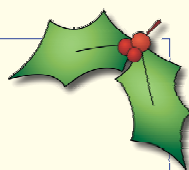
Lord Mayor's show

The Master and the Worshipful Company of Firefighters led the modern companies parade at the Lord Mayor's show. Master Peter Cowland was most prominent in the parade riding his beloved Harley.



The Worshipful Company of Firefighters
The Clerk: Martin Bonham
The Insurance Hall, 20 Aldermanbury
London EC2V 7GF
T: 0207 600 1666 F: 0207 600 1666
E: clerk@firefighterscompany.org

The Master and Wardens
wish all Members of the
Worshipful Company of
Firefighters and their friends
a very merry Christmas and
a happy New Year



www.firefighterscompany.org

FROM THE MASTER'S DESK

Two UK International Search and Rescue Teams receive the Worshipful Company of Firefighters Award of 2011.

The "Worshipful Company of Firefighters Award" (WCFF) was set up three years ago to recognise and honour any individual firefighter, firefighting team, company or organisation that has displayed courage, initiative, high professional standards or humanitarian actions for the good of the community, the country or for the benefit of mankind.

This simple but sincere award, consisting of a Commendation and Citation certificate, is presented at our Annual St. Florian's Dinner

In order to determine who the awards should go to, the WCFF seeks guidance from the Chief Fire Officer's Association who make a suitable recommendation. This year, Chief Fire Officer Lee Howell, President of CFOA, made those recommendations.

It is always difficult to select between one or more organisations, so this year we presented two awards, both of which recognized the service to humanity given by the UK's International Search and Rescue Teams.

UK-ISAR is a co-operative group of UK fire and rescue services and other organisations which respond primarily to overseas urban search and rescue emergencies on behalf of the UK government.

Readers will doubtless be aware of the two devastating natural disasters which occurred earlier this year, the Earthquake and Tsunami in Japan and the Earthquake in Christchurch, New Zealand. We are sure that none could even begin to imagine the conditions and circumstances which those rescuers found themselves in as they arrived to help.

Many, who served in the fire brigade many years ago, will remember that the level of equipment immediately available for use at non-fire incidents comprised little more than a fire appliance tool-kit, hacksaw and crow-bar. However, since those early days fire brigades, as they were known then, have developed into "Fire and Rescue" Services and widened their expertise to a level of competence that at one time we could only have ever dreamed of!

Both the UK ISAR Teams presented with the WCFF 2011 Award clearly represented their profession and country very well, but more



Master Firefighter, Peter Cowland presents the award to CFO Roy Wilsher.

importantly carried out humanitarian services in some very difficult and dangerous circumstances.

The first award went to UK the team which attended the emergency in Japan.

The earthquake struck at 1446 hours local time on Friday, 11th March 2011. The quake, together with the tsunami which followed, left a trail of devastation across a wide area of north-eastern Japan, in particular the towns of Ofunato and Kaimaishi where tens of thousands of people were reported to be missing.

Repeated quakes with a magnitude of 6.6 were experienced every 30 to 60 minutes, landslides occurred in several areas, roads, bridges and railways were destroyed over some 460 locations in the region. Despite an extensive search of both towns and their surrounding areas, Japanese rescuers had found no survivors. An additional hazard, relating to the stability of the Fukushima Nuclear plant some 120 km away, needed to be monitored and contended with.

The 63 strong UK-ISAR team sent to Japan comprised search and rescue personnel from across the UK, with two search and rescue dogs and some 11 tonnes of equipment.

Upon arrival they acted on a direct request from the Japanese authorities, spending three full days searching those particular towns. Using their specialist search equipment and rescue dogs, they worked quickly and tirelessly to search for any survivors.

Despite the very cold and harsh conditions the search for survivors in the utter devastation of the earthquake and tsunami continued. In doing this they provided much needed relief to Japan's own exhausted disaster teams.

The team sent to Japan was lead by CFO Roy Wilsher, of the Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue Service, and so he received the award on behalf of all those that helped at that emergency.

The second award went to the team which attended the emergency in the city of Christchurch when the South island of New Zealand was struck by an earthquake on 22nd February 2011. This happened at 1251 hours (local time), when of course the City was at its busiest. The quake, which was the second the city had experienced in five months, was at a magnitude of 6.3. Over 148 people died, 2500 were injured and more than 2000 displaced as an immediate affect of the emergency.

The 62 strong UK team arrived in New Zealand at 1000 hours (local time) on 25th February 2011. They were tasked and briefed on rescue operations and immediately committed to search and rescue operations.

They were met by a scene of total devastation and shocked to see a thriving community silenced by such a traumatic event. Classified as Heavy Rescue responders under UN guidelines, they assisted the existing teams already deployed continuing the vital search and rescue of people trapped under collapsed buildings.

During their time in New Zealand the team searched and cleared three complete city blocks. This included a 150 hour search and rescue operation at one particular office building which had earlier seen multiple rescues. Sadly they found no further survivors but were able to recover 13 bodies, thus helping a number of bereaved families to achieve closure at the loss of their loved ones.

The New Zealand UK ISAR team was represented by Station Manager Mark Coleman, Operational Research and Development Manager of Cheshire Fire & Rescue Service who received the award on their behalf,

We must acknowledge, with thanks, Vimpex Ltd for its sponsorship of this award. Vimpex is a major supplier of specialist rescue and personal protective equipment to fire and rescue services as well as a manufacturer of fire alarm systems

The 2011 awards were presented to the recipients by the Master Firefighter, Peter Cowland.



Master Firefighter, Peter Cowland presents the award to Station Manager Mark Coleman.

CAROL CONCERT

Members of the Company, Family, friends and guests are invited to attend A Festival of Christmas Carols.

The festival is at the:

Church of St. Mary-le-Bow

Cheapside, London EC2

Friday 16th December 2011, at 6.30 p.m.

Featuring Soprano, Suzanne Wilson.

Following the Carol Service, members of the congregation are invited to remain in the church to share light refreshment and good company. There will be no charge for Members of the Worshipful Company and their immediate family but Members are invited to make a donation in respect of other family members, friends and guests who accompany them, as a contribution towards essential costs.



Church of St. Mary-le-Bow

FIREFIGHTER MEMBERS NEWS

Obituary - Norman Rose QFSM

Norman Rose passed away quietly at St Barnabas Hospice Worthing on Tuesday 6th September 2011 after a long battle with cancer.

Norman was born in Croydon on 24th April 1925 and was one of seven children. When he left school he joined the Royal Navy serving in the latter years of the Second World War.

After the war he became a fireman on the railways then joined the London Fire Brigade, as it was known then, progressing steadily through the ranks, finally achieving the office of Assistant Chief at Lambeth Fire Station.

Towards the end of his service, Norman was awarded the Queens Fire Service Medal and shortly after, awarded another medal for bravery whilst attending a large fire at Mitcham in Surrey.

After 30 years service he retired to Rustington in Sussex. Ever active, he became a JP and served 10 years on the bench

Following the loss of his wife Doris in 1992, Norman filled much of his time being a very active Freemason. "Storming Norman" as many of us called him, was a wonderful raconteur, telling numerous stories often extensively embellished keeping us amused over many a year. A larger than life individual with a larger than life heart.

Norman was admitted as a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters on 12th February 2004, became a Freeman of the City of London on 11th May 2004 and a Liveryman on 2nd July the same year.

Norman leaves behind 5 children, 9 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. He will be sadly missed by all.

Obituary - Court Assistant Ronald Leslie Fisher

We were all deeply saddened to hear of the death of our dear friend and Court Assistant Ronald Fisher who passed away on 2nd October following a fairly long illness. Despite this he maintained his love and interest in the Company to the very last.

Ron served for over 30 years in the London Fire Brigade rising to the rank of Divisional Officer in their "B" Division. This saw him working in some of the most challenging parts of south London and taking control of many hazardous incidents. In addition to the Fire Brigades Long Service and Conduct Medal, during his career he also

received a Royal Humane Society Award for saving the life of a child. His firefighters liked the way that he led from the front. A formidable character, as "the Governor" he was known to be always firm but fair.

Ron Fisher supported our Company and its events from its very inception as a Guild in 1988, serving on our Court of Assistants for many years. He was at our Foundation Dinner at the Stationers' Hall on the 14th July 1989. He became a Member of The Guild in June 1989, received Freedom of the Company in July 1998 and, along with a number of others, become a Freeman of the City of London on 23rd October 2001. This was the date on which the Court of Aldermen of the City of London granted the Company Livery status. It has only been in the last year or so that with failing health he has been unable to attend as many events as he would usually do but in my role as Master I felt very honoured that he made a special effort to attend Common Hall in July.

His last outing with us was a luncheon trip in August when a number of his friends wheeled him to his local in New Malden for a "pint and a wad". It was a super and very memorable day. Ron has been a credit to this Company, an example to all, and will be sadly missed.

Peter Cowland, Master

Great South Run

This year on 30th October I took part in the Bupa Great South Run 2011 to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support and appreciate your support for that effort. As many of you know my father David Rhodes died of Cancer in 2008 and was a great supporter of the Macmillan Charity and their nurses provided great assistance to our family. This is not my first time running in the Great Run series. I have completed 4 Great North Runs raising £1500 for the Kevin Clough fund and twice in the Great South Run raising £600 for The Eve Appeal ovarian cancer charity in memory of my God daughter Hannah. The Great South Run is a 10 mile run that takes place in Portsmouth. I have raised £405 for the charity which I am really pleased with and I know that will greatly assist the charity. I would like to thank those members of the company who kindly contributed to this effort should anyone else wish to do so they can still place a donation on my Just Giving Page - see opposite.

I know many of you get numerous requests for charitable donations, rest assured that Just Giving sends your donation straight to Macmillan Cancer Support and automatically reclaims Gift Aid if you're a UK taxpayer, so your donation is worth even more. I hope you'll join me in supporting Macmillan Cancer Support.

Thank you so very much - **Andrew Rhodes**

Members of the company joined liveryman Donald Bond at the recent funeral of Rose Bond and learned of her selfless commitment as a house mother to so many under-privileged children.



It's still easy to donate online with a credit or debit card - just go to my Just Giving page at the link below even the smallest donation of just £1 will assist the charity in the work they do.

www.justgiving.com/Andrew-W-Rhodes

FIREFIGHTER EVENTS

Members of the Company were present at two significant events in the history of the Firefighters Memorial Trust.

Annual Memorial Service

The 2011 Memorial Service, held on 11th September at St. Paul's Cathedral, represented a landmark anniversary in two ways.

Firstly it offered an opportunity to recognise the 20th Anniversary of the formal formation of the original Firefighters Memorial Charitable Trust Fund, now renamed the Firefighters Memorial Trust following the grant of a Royal Charter in 2010. This Trust is now directly responsible for:

- The National Monument near St Paul's Cathedral in the City of London.
- The National Monument and garden at the National Memorial Arboretum
- The National Fire Service Chapel at the Fire Service College
- The National Book of Remembrance at the Fire Service Chapel
- The annual International Service of Remembrance in London in September and the associated annual wreath laying ceremony at the Memorial
- The annual Service of Thanksgiving at the National Monument in May

Secondly, it will be the tenth anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the Twin Towers in New York City. Some 330 firefighters were killed in the aftermath of this atrocity.

Mr Michael Harper, laid a wreath on behalf of the WCoFF.

Royal Charter

The Royal Charter was presented to the Firefighters Memorial Trust by Princess Anne on 17th July at a special reception at the Artillery Company.

Photographs of the day at the honourable Artillery Company can be viewed online at:

www.photoboxgallery.com/royalcharter2011

St Florian's Installation Banquet



On this, the 10th anniversary since becoming a Livery Company, the Company was very proud and honoured to be celebrating the installation of the New Master, Peter Cowland, at our St Florian's Installation Banquet in the magnificent surroundings of Trinity House.

Trinity House, with its wonderful view over the Thames onto the floodlit and haunting Tower of London, originated as the Charitable Guild of Mariners in 1514, later to become The Corporation of Trinity House. Today, it maintains 71 Lighthouses, 9 Light Vessels and more than 500 other aids to navigation. In addition, it is a deep sea pilotage authority and an influential charitable organisation, promoting the safety, welfare and training of mariners.

The guest speaker was Liveryman, Lt Cdr Andrew Rhodes CEng Mlet RN. Andrew joined the Royal Navy as an Artificer Apprentice in 1984. He has seen active service during the first Gulf War and the Bosnian crisis. He was promoted to Lt Cdr in 2007 and has recently served as Weapon Engineer Officer on HMS Cumberland recently involved in the Libyan evacuation. He is due to join the British Defence Staff in Washington DC next year.

The dinner was outstanding, the entertainment magnificent with good participation and waving of flags and the occasion was also an opportunity to make the WCoFF Firefighters Awards.

City Dinner

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters presented an "Exclusive Dinner" with Sir Ken Knight and sponsored by Catlin Group, the leading global specialty property / casualty insurer and reinsurance Group.

HM Government Chief Fire & Rescue Adviser, Sir Ken Knight CBE QFSM DL, was accompanied by a host of senior executives from the public and private sectors. Sir Ken gave a talk on the key issues being addressed in the Fire and Rescue area within Government and answered several questions. The dinner was held in support of the Charitable Trust of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters.

This was a unique opportunity to learn about key issues within the Firefighting and Rescue arena as well as enjoy some excellent company, some jovial banter good food and wine.



FIREFIGHTER FOCUS

Menin Gate

Fire & Rescue Services and Ypres Ceremony

In 1928, prominent citizens in Ypres decided that some way should be found to express the gratitude of the Belgian nation towards those who had died for its freedom and independence. This became the daily sounding of the Last Post; the privilege was given to buglers of the local volunteer Fire Brigade. The first sounding of Last Post took place on 1st July 1928

The Last Post Committee (now called the Last Post Association) was established in 1929 and four silver bugles were donated by the local Branches of the Royal British Legion. Since then with exceptions for the period of World War II it has been played every night irrespective of weather conditions. During the period of WWII the Last Post was played at Brookwood Military Cemetery where it continues today on the first Sunday of every month.

The visit by the British Fire Brigades to Ypres "Menin Gate" Memorial first began in about 1980 by a combined contingent from both Kent & Surrey Fire Brigades to attend the Remembrance Day Parade in YPRES. The reason for this initial interest was due to the Chief Fire Officer of Kent, Mr Reginald Doyle, mentioning to the Chief Fire Officer of Surrey, Mr Alfred Butler, that he was aware that the Firemen Buglers in YPRES Fire Station had been playing the "Last Post" every night of the week - almost since the end of the 1st World War. It was therefore decided that it would be a good idea for an honour guard and combined contingent from Surrey & Kent to take some buglers from the Grenadier Guards and give the men of YPRES a night off.

Such has been the mutual respect and close ties between the Belgian and British Fire-fighters, that this annual homage has continued ever since and indeed grown considerably. Not only do Kent & Surrey still go over every year, but so do many other UK Brigades including Wiltshire, Devon & Somerset, West Yorkshire, Tyne & Wear, West Midlands to name but a few. Some of the British Brigades who now go take Bands as well as their Standards.

Thanks to Gary Whitworth, former Kent CFO, for assisting in the production of this article.



COMPANY SUPPORTS QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Past Master Sir Ken Knight is chairing a working group of fire, industry and charity representatives, who are organising a fire service flotilla as part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee River Pageant - one of the largest collection of boats ever seen on the river Thames.

Led by London's historic fire boat, the Massey Shaw (pictured opposite), boats representing the fire and rescue service during the Queen's reign will join up to 1000 other vessels in the pageant on Saturday 3rd June 2012.

The Company is represented on the group by Past Master Vivian Jones and Liveryman Kelly Fairman. Sir Ken said; "the Pageant will be a spectacular event. I am delighted that members of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters have been given the opportunity to play such a vital part in showcasing the fire and rescue service in this way."

LONDON'S LIVERY COMPANIES

Their storied past and their living present, as told in a splendid book by Robert J Blackham of the Middle Temple and Gray's Inn, Barrister-at-Law, Citizen and Liveryman of the Needlemakers' Company and the Apothecaries' Society, Clerk and Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Glaziers. Published in London by Sampson Low, Marston & Co., Ltd. Printed by Furnell & Sons Paulton (Somerset) and London.

Written between the two World Wars it is now sadly out of print but worth scouring the antiquarian bookshops and libraries for a copy. It's a truly fascinating read and contains many illustrations.



GETTING TO KNOW YOU - COLIN SIMPSON

Colin Simpson is one of our new 2011 members and has been invited to join the PR & Marketing group due to his previous experience developing FireNet.

FireNet is a portal for all interested in Fire, from engineers to students and fire service to general interest. He is also Managing Director of Crisis Response Journal a global magazine that analyses past events to draw vital lessons for the future, while constantly scanning the horizon to identify and help mitigate new threats. Through this journal Colin has secured a regular article to help promote globally the WCOFF and the good works undertaken by the company.

Colin left the Royal Navy in 1974 and joined the Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service where he progressed through the ranks and completed his service as a flexible duty Station Officer in Fire Safety and Fire Investigation in 2004. In 2000 Colin and 4 others within the Aviation Fire Industry created the International Aviation Fire Protection Association (IAFPA), a not-for-profit association in which Colin is the current Chairman. IAFPA have international conferences that are aimed at spreading the knowledge through conference papers and networking, which are aimed at senior to principal officers. At each conference a local charity is chosen to receive a conference donation.

Colin has stated that he has learned a great deal from his time served in both the Royal Navy and Fire Service and would like to be able to give something back in gratitude to the fire industry.

For more information on the Crisis Response Journal please visit the web site at www.crisis-response.com.



Colin Simpson

FIREFIGHTERS v PAINTER STAINERS GOLF MATCH 2011

The annual match against the Painter Stainers was once again played at the magnificent Wildernesse Club in Kent.

This year the event was also attended by the Loriners Company and over twenty golfers took part. The weather was perfect, and the course was set up for a professional championship the next day. So our less than professional but enthusiastic and creative golfers had a course in perfect condition. The Champion on the day and worthy winner was our Upper Warden Mike Harper. Following the match which was an honourable draw for the first time, we enjoyed a very fine carvery and the best of company.

Jeremy Beech, Firefighters Golf Secretary

MEMORABILIA

In celebration of 21 years since the formation of The Guild of Firefighters, a unique crystal glass to keep as a future family heirloom is available for purchase. The goblet is priced at £10.00. Please add £2.50 for postage and packing. There are only 7 left.

WCoFF ties in blue and red are available for purchase at £25 each.

Also available are crystal glass paperweights at £10 each, Salamander label pins at £80 each and cuff links at £22.50 for a set.



All enquiries to Brian Eves at: brian84.eves@virgin.net.



CHARITABLE DONATIONS

The Trustees have, in recent months, agreed donations totalling £18,370 which represents 75% of its annual income and is in line with the Financial Model developed as part of the Charitable Trust's Reserves and Investments policy.

The Trustees continue to engage more closely with the core charities. On 12th July 2011 the Chairman visited the Massey Shaw undergoing its major restoration at Gloucester Docks and also the new Therapy Centre for the Firefighters Charity at Marine Court, Littlehampton on 22nd November 2011.

Donations have been made to the following charities and organisations and in each case there are defined and tangible outcomes of each grant, together with performance measures insisted upon as part of these donations.

The Firefighters Memorial Trust

A donation of £3410.40 has been made to the Firefighters Memorial Trust to assist volunteers refurbishing the wall coverings and carpets in the Memorial Chapel at the Fire Service College, which have not received any attention since the Chapel was formally opened in 1988.

The Firefighters Charity

An initial donation of £5000 has been made and Trustees have agreed to provide a total of £15,000 by 2013. This will ensure the complete refurbishment of the Residents' Lounge at the new Therapy Centre at Marine Court, Littlehampton and, crucially, provide a platform to permanently raise the profile of the Company and, with it, possibilities for future increased membership. On-going performance measures include progress reports on construction and visits by the Trustees. Opportunities for a ceremonial plaque and high profile ceremony exist in 2013 to formally "hand over" the refurbished lounge.

Restoration of Appearance and Function Trust (RAFT)

A donation of £5000 has been provided for a specific project to study the properties of Smart Matrix which accelerates the healing process in burns victims through an improved artificial skin graft process. A six monthly progress report will be submitted by RAFT to the Charitable Trust.

The Massey Shaw and Marine Vessels Preservation Society

A donation of £5000 to completely fund an educational project to be presented by professional actors to Key Stage 2 pupils in London schools studying World War II as part of their themed based curriculum. On 8th November, all Trustees were invited to view the inaugural "dress rehearsal" held at the London Fire Brigade Museum in Southwark.

Together with Viv Jones, Chair of the PR and Marketing Group, five Trustees attended this presentation. The importance of attending this inaugural production should not be understated - it provided the Charitable Trustees with an opportunity to offer feedback and constructive criticism on the performance, as well as clearly demonstrating engagement with a beneficiary and monitoring how the Charity's donation was being used for educational benefit.

It is intended that the performance will now be piloted among selected London schools after December 2011, with full evaluation completed by the end of the current school year. The finished production is planned to be ready for the start of the school year in September 2012.

Whilst this may seem some months away, the time frame allows for more extensive development of the production which will allow schools attending to tailor the depth of the production according to their individual teaching requirements.

This time frame also allows time for important discussions on how the Worshipful Company and Charitable Trust would wish to have appropriate branding on the information packs which have yet to be developed and will be sent out to schools in advance of their attendance. Again opportunities will be available for Trustees to see the production at these later stages with an audience of school children.

It is important to emphasise here that this professionally produced drama, scripted and enacted by Spectrum Drama, was produced to a very high standard and whose members are to be congratulated, along with David Rogers, on its process thus far.

Andy Goves, Chairman Charitable Trust

Of course, none of these donations to such deserving causes would have been possible without the generous support of all Company members. And in particular, those responsible for sponsoring and supporting the annual Fire Industry Charitable Ball need special mention here, due to the unprecedented amount raised this year in ever more challenging financial circumstances.

Fire Industry Charity Ball

The Fire Industry Charity Ball was a great night with a great result, with over **£23,172** raised for our Charitable Trust.

With special thanks to our co-promoters and sponsors:



Join us next year on 15th September 2012 at the Radisson Portman Hotel.



The Salamander

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters

Service, Fellowship, Harmony and Honour

April 2012

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Diary

25th April

Ladies visit to the Royal Opera House

4th May

St Florian's Day Partners Lunch

30th May

The Fire Lecture, Insurance Hall

3rd June

Jubilee River Pageant

6th July

Common Hall followed by Annual Service of Re-dedication, St Mary-le-Bow

18th July

Swan Upping, Henley upon Thames

6th September

Combined Golf Day, Painter-Stainers, Wilderness GC

9th September

Annual UK Firefighters Memorial Service, St Bartholomews

15th September

Fire Industry Charity Ball

10th October

St Florian's Installation Banquet, Girdler's Hall

13th November

2012 Exclusive City Dinner, hosted by Sir Ken Knight, CBE QFSM DL

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters

The Clerk: Martin Bonham

The Insurance Hall, 20 Aldermanbury London EC2V 7GF

T: 0207 600 1666 F: 0207 600 1666

E: clerk@firefighterscompany.org

FROM THE MASTER'S DESK



Dear Firefighters - Welcome to the spring 2012 edition of our newsletter. The year has been very active already with a good number of events for members of the Company to attend, the highlight being the Massey Shaw dinner, where we were able to recognise our sponsors at last year's Fire Industry Ball.

We also made a visit to the new Olympic Park, and in this Jubilee year, in addition to the Olympics, we have the prospect of a wonderful river pageant, where we hope, as a Company, to be able to enjoy a day by the river and watch, amongst other craft, a squadron of fireboats.

As you will note, I did my best, supported by my valiant team to maintain the reputation of the Company in the annual pancake race for the Lord Mayor's charity - it may not have broken Olympic records, but red faces spoke of great efforts!

As the summer fast approaches, I am mindful that my year as Master is coming to an end and find myself reflecting on what we have achieved. Clearly I will prepare a report for Common Hall but would just like to comment here on what a very happy year it has been. I am most grateful to all our team for their professionalism in supporting the Company so well.

We have had many highlights but above all I am particularly pleased to see that so many of you have introduced new members to the Company, a much needed life blood for the future.

As we go to press I am able to confirm that our new Company Standard is now being made and should be on display at the FMT Annual Service of Thanksgiving in May, on which occasion I hope that we can arrange to have it blessed.

There's lots more about our year inside as well some good information on our forthcoming new web-site and a new Brigades page. Enjoy.



Massey Shaw Dinner - Page 4



Pancake Race - Page 3



New Web Site - Page 4



The Jubilee River Pageant - Page 5

www.firefighterscompany.org

MEMBER'S NEWS

Steve Neville receives Honour

Steve Neville presented himself at Buckingham Palace to receive the OBE for services to Charity. He is pictured here outside the palace with his wife Linda.



William Hackett Esq. FSA Scot. gets a “Fire” coat of arms

William Hackett was presented with Letters Patent by Lord Lyon King granting him Scottish Arms by the Lyon Clerk, Snawdoun Herald Elizabeth Roads MVO at the Lyon Court in Edinburgh.

The coat is taken from an existing Irish coat but has been differenced with the livery being Vert and Argent and the Chief, to reflect his Fire Service in London, has two fireman's axes in saltire proper. The Crest has been differenced from his family in Ireland by showing the double headed eagle emerging from a flaming tower - this represents London Burning. This coat is probably quite unique in fire service history. It also grants William Esquire status and he can wear one Eagle feather in his bonnet. The Pennon has also been granted to him and the Motto in Gaelic “Dilseacht” translates to Loyalty.



Lord Mayor's Appeal Alan Wells, Past Master

Alan Wells has volunteered to abseil the Lloyd's Building on Tuesday 19th June at one of the official events in aid of The Lord Mayor's Appeal 2012 - www.lordmayorsappeal.org/events.

Alan is keen to raise as much money as possible by undertaking this death defying, heart stopping, exhilarating, some might say foolhardy, 289ft descent of the outside of the building and reckons it deserves 'sterling' support and some safe hands with a jump net on the day.

Charitable donations that will receive gift aid allowance and go directly to The Lord Mayor's Appeal 2012, can be made via Alan's 'Just Giving' account

www.justgiving.com/alanwells-lloydsabseil

Alternatively, please make a cheque payable to 'The Lord Mayor's Appeal 2012' and post it to his home address at 3 Northumberland Avenue, Kennington, Ashford, Kent TN24 9QG. Alan thanks you very much for any support you can give.



ANNUAL SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

The Company has an invitation from the General Secretary of the Firefighters Memorial Trust inviting members to their Annual Service of Thanksgiving. This will be held on Sunday 13th May beginning at 12 noon at the 'Firefighters Serving Humanity' Monument, National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, Staffordshire.

An open invitation is extended to Honorary, Individual, Corporate and other Members and Associates of the Trust, fire service representatives, including Standard Bearers and Ceremonial Squads and members of the wider Fire & Rescue Service community.

The Service of Thanksgiving will be conducted by the Reverend Canon Peter Mortimer MBE TD MA FRSA Chaplain to the Firefighters Memorial Trust.

For further information please contact the Event Director - Colin Bailey - Trustee
Email: bailey.wilco@ntlworld.com
Tel: 01642287772.



MEMBER'S EVENTS

Tower of London Visit

The Company enjoyed the hospitality of the wardens of the tower of London on a very cold evening in order to witness the wonderful ceremony of the keys. Those attending were given a good surprise when the salute to the keys was taken by Prince Edward, who was also attending a dinner in the Tower.



After the ceremony, the company enjoyed some good food and a warming drink in the Warder's bar.

New Members Evening

The Company was very pleased with the response and help from members in introducing possible new Members to the Company. Thirty prospective new members attended the 'Meet the Firefighters' event in March. This was held in Winchester House and was enjoyed by all who attended.



A Member's Informal Lunch was also held in the Old Doctor Butler's Head at the end of March and proved to be a very social occasion.

Olympic Park Visit

The Events Committee arranged a tour of the Olympic Park in March. Members met at the Westfield Shopping Centre and the tour provided wonderful views of the various Stadia. The guide provided a brief history of the area and the parks development. Following the tour a meal was enjoyed at Jamie Oliver's Italian Restaurant next to the park.



Pancake Race

Shrove Tuesday in February saw the annual Inter - Livery Pancake Race take place in Guildhall Yard. This event brings together a number of Livery Companies who compete in four categories: The Master's, Liverymen, Ladies and a Novelty category. The Company was represented by The Master, The Under Warden, Freeman Nicole Hoffman and Liveryman, Nicol McCallum. Terry Baldwin was the Team Manager.



Carol Concert

The annual carol concert held in December at St. Mary le Bow was well attended by members of the Company and their families. The sermon was given by Reverend George Bush and there were wonderful solos from Suzanne Wilson and Abigail Cowland, the Master's daughter. After the service, the Company enjoyed a feast of sandwiches and mince pies.



Church of St. Mary-le-Bow

ST FLORIAN'S

The St Florian's Installation Banquet shown as 'Trinity House' in the Company Diary is incorrect and reflected last year's entry. We have received confirmation from the Girdlers' Company that we have their permission to hold our Banquet in their Hall this year on Wednesday 10th October 2012. This is considerable recognition for the Company as the Girdlers' do not hire their Hall and we are there by special invitation of the Master, Wardens and their Court.

FIREX SOUTH

Brian Eves represented the Company at the recent Firex South show held at Sandown Park in March, where he was able to provide information on the company to the many visitors.



The stand at Firex South

MASSEY SHAW DINNER

This annual dinner to honour Captain Sir Eyre Massey Shaw, first chief officer of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade, was held at the Insurance Hall in March. The Father of the company, Gerald Clarkson CBE OStJ QFSM was present and the principle guests were Murray Craig, clerk of the Chamberlain's court and Edward Crossley, Master of the Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers.

Murray Craig gave an entertaining address on his role in giving the Freedom of the City to various celebrities. The Master presented him with a beautiful mounted Fireman's axe as a memento of his visit.

The Master took the opportunity to award certificates to the various companies who supported last year's Charity Ball. He also gave a framed photograph of the use of the hackney cabs commandeered during the war as fire fighting vehicles to Edward Crossley.

Overall, it was a very pleasant evening, with good food and jazz music provided by Silk Street Swing.



NEW WEB SITE

As members of the PR & Marketing Committee we were asked to look at the Worshipful Company of Firefighters web site and put together a plan for the refurbishment of the site. The site has to be simple to navigate and, above all, pleasing to view and informative.

We have put together the first draft of the new site using the original text but with a new "Fire Theme" as the masthead image. It was then a matter of putting together a navigational route that could be followed in a meaningful way. These common headers include The Company, History & Customs, Charities and Events. From these heading we can easily put in future pages and ensure the whole site can be updated with ease.

From an administration point of view, the membership could find it a benefit to look online for all notices, events and membership directory changes. We have a "Members login" from the public menu that will allow a member to login using a username and password. An online membership directory is among one of the new features that we have provided allowing instant updating of all members details. The member also has the ability to change their contact information and password if required.

The Future

Future work is to look at eCommerce allowing members to pay online for memorabilia and events. A number of options are available and the priority is to provide the Accountants and Auditors with exactly what they require.

A history of Fire Safety and Breathing Apparatus is shown on the website and it is hoped that members would be willing to add to these and maybe bring in more areas of history that our Worshipful Company cover making the website a source for history and learning.

At the last meeting of the PR & Marketing Committee it was agreed that a switch over and go live date would be the 3rd June 2012.

The website belongs to the membership so please get in touch with the PR & Marketing Committee should you have any ideas or suggestions for the site.

Colin Simpson
PR & Marketing Committee



JUBILEE RIVER PAGEANT

There will be a river pageant on the 3rd June, with flotillas and squadrons of boats traversing the Thames alongside the Queen's barge.

Fireboats will be a particular spectacle at the event. A special squadron has been assembled representing fireboats that have worked the rivers throughout the Queen's reign. They will be manned by representatives from across the Commonwealth and all the commonwealth flags will be flown. Expect to see some spectacular water cannon displays.

For many years now, one of the core charities supported by the WCoFF has been the restoration of the Massey Shaw Fireboat. The Massey Shaw is one of London's un-sung heroes on the Thames. The boat was named after the first chief officer of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade. Built in 1935, the fireboat served the London Fire Brigade for many years and also took part in the Dunkirk rescue.



The WCoFF will be holding a special reception on the day to celebrate this wonderful event.

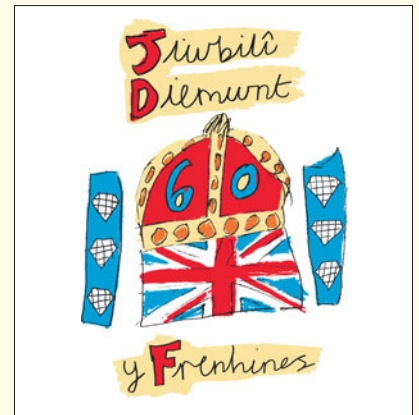
Fireboats continue to play a significant role in fire-fighting within London. The volume of incidents attended by the fireboat has remained relatively constant over the last three years. On average, the fireboat is mobilised to about 270 incidents each year, about one third of these being fire related events (36 being primary fires).

There has always been a strong historical relationship between the river and firefighting. After the Great Fire of 1666, insurance companies formed their own fire fighting teams, largely made up of riverside dockers, who had the muscle power to do remove valuables from affected buildings.



Later, in 1866, when the first Metropolitan fire brigade was formed under Captain Sir Eyre Massey Shaw, he would only recruit sailors as he believed a seaman's training would naturally provide men of discipline and strength.

So, if you want to celebrate a bit of history and enjoy the Queen's diamond jubilee year, make a note of the 3rd June in your diary and get down to the banks of the Thames in the heart of the City to see a wonderful display of river fireboats, the modern ones still today providing a key emergency support to our communities.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Royal Opera House Tour

Lesley Cowland, wife of our Master, has organised a Ladies Backstage Tour on Wednesday 25th April of the Royal Opera House. The tour takes about 1½ hours and covers the historic front of house, the huge backstage area, gives an insight into the colourful history of the theatre, the state of the art technology used to move scenery around and possibly the opportunity to see a production workshop in progress - it should prove to be a very interesting visit.

The 2nd City Fire Lecture

The Fire Lecture 2012 **FIRE: Cost & Consequence** will be held at the Insurance Hall in the City of London on Wednesday 30th May 2012 at 6.30pm.

The rising cost of commercial fire losses, challenges to building regulations, the perceived impact of health & safety regulation on firefighting & rescue operations, coupled with today's climate of economic austerity, is worrying and will undoubtedly interest many in the Company and outside. Representatives of the Association of British Insurers, BRE Global and the Chief Fire Officers' Association will express their opinion and invite you to air yours at an open forum.

FIRE BRIGADES

Just a short introduction to welcome all our readers to this new section, about our colleagues, friends and members within the local fire and rescue services across the UK, and others in Toronto, Canada, and Belgium. In this issue we have just taken a quick look at some of the work that is undertaken in support of others. I hope you will enjoy reading this and watch out for future issues, which will cover a range of aspects including the work of USAR the rescue service, fire brigades in 21st century and hopefully a 'Meet the Chief Officer'.

Devon and Somerset

Firefighter Nick Williams from Appledore fire station in Devon plans to run the London Marathon again this year despite promising 'never again' after last year's run. Nick explains: "Last year I ran my first marathon for the **Fire Fighters Charity**, the experience was amazing and painful in equal measures, although the pain probably more so! I had two objectives to raise a certain amount for the charity, and to beat the time my brother did many years ago.

"Well I exceeded the fundraising and collected just under £2,000, as for the sibling rivalry, my brother's still gloating. At about 18 miles severe cramp set in and I could do nothing but get round any way I could, my four hour target turned into five hours and 42 mins. If that wasn't bad enough Pingu the penguin overtook me on the finish line!

"Now having sworn I would never do it again the recurring nightmare of Pingu's fury flipper pushing me aside has become impossible to live with, so I plan to give it another try. "This year's training has gone really well, I am up to 18 miles now, with two more increases to 22 miles to achieve before the big day on the 22 April."

If you would like to support Nick in his dream to beat Pingu the penguin this year and raise funds for the Fire Fighters Charity, then please visit justgiving.com/nickbwilliams.



South Yorkshire

A South Yorkshire firefighter is heading to Ghana to help train the country's fire crews in road traffic collision (RTC) rescue.

Steve North, based at Dearne fire station, is part of a World Rescue Organisation (WRO) team spending two weeks working with firefighters in the West African country's capital, Accra.

Steve, one of the UK's leading specialists in RTC rescue, is an assessor for the United Kingdom Rescue Organisation (UKRO) and visited Ghana in 2008 to teach rescue techniques to firefighters.

The 50 year-old, who was also part of a South Yorkshire team named World Extrication Champions in 2004, said his previous visit to Ghana proved invaluable to crews there: "I regularly get emails from the firefighters in Ghana telling me how they've saved the life of a car crash victim so it's extremely rewarding to know that the skills we have taught them are making a difference.



"It was a real eye-opener when I first visited in 2008. I discovered that quite often their method of freeing someone trapped inside a vehicle was to chop off their limbs with a hatchet. Obviously things have improved since then thanks to our training programmes and some kit and equipment donations, so this trip will help them build on these improvements."

The training trip is part of the International Development Programme (IDP) and will see Steve and the WRO team teaching extrication techniques to training staff. The team fly out to Accra on 9th March.

THE FIRE FIGHTERS CHARITY

The Fire Fighters Charity offers support to all Fire Service personnel and their families during times of need, by providing services such as therapy and recuperation facilities.

Despite the best training, accidents and tragedies are sadly inevitable and the Fire Fighters Charity is here to support these brave men and women when things don't go according to plan. A firefighter can suffer from physical, psychological or emotional trauma.

The Fire Fighters Charities have two therapy and recuperation centres in the UK to provide physical and emotional rehabilitation to the firefighters. Today over 13,000 beneficiaries are supported annually by the Charity, which puts it in the top 10 most effective charities in the UK - www.firefighterscharity.org.uk.

NEWS & VIEWS

- Met with Shaun Bone - Knell of Kent FR&S - more next issue
- Proposed meetings with Devon, Essex and Wales



Identical Twin sweeps from Sheffield backed South Yorkshire F&RS 'safe and warm' drive - by encouraging homeowners to get their chimneys swept more regularly.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU - PETER MANSI

Peter is a Certified Fire Investigator with the International Association of Arson Investigators, Member of the Forensic Science Society and Graduate of the Institution of Fire Engineers.

He is familiar with courtroom techniques in Federal Law Enforcement and with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives in Washington, USA. Peter has developed a unique comprehensive fire investigation methodology, having designed a series of 23 Fire Investigation Route Maps (FIRMs) and associated guidance to enable the investigator to identify and analyse all available data relating to any incident ensuring thorough, rigorous and systematic approach to fire.

Peter has been involved, either directly or indirectly, with many of the most high profile fire investigations within the UK and Ireland over the last decade; Bethnal Green Road Fire Fighter fatalities; Stevenage Fire Fighter fatalities; Iron Mountain data storage warehouse fire; and the Cutty Sark fire among many others.

SINGAPORE CENTRAL FIRE SERVICE

When I visited Singapore recently, I was interested to discover that my hotel was near the Central Fire Station in Singapore. It is Singapore's oldest existing fire station and provides fire fighting, ambulance and rescue coverage for the central district. Alongside the fire station, the oldest part of the building has been converted into a Civil Defence Heritage Gallery, open to the public, tracing the history and advances in fire-fighting which have taken place during the 20th and 21st centuries.

The early history is similar in some ways to the development of the London fire Brigade by Captain Massey Shaw. Throughout the 19th century Singapore was plagued with frequent fire occurrences, which spread swiftly through the narrow crowded streets causing massive damage to property and loss of life. There were three fire stations, but they were ill equipped to deal with the situation.

At last, in 1905 Montague Pett was appointed as superintendent to reorganise the Singapore Fire Brigade and his first move was to construct a modern fire station, with garage space for the first motorised fire engines, staff quarters, many time saving devices and a watch tower. The Central Fire Station opened in 1909, leading to a substantial decrease in the number and scale of the fires.

I was shown round by W.O. Yunnos Shariff, retired after 42 year's service, and now an enthusiastic volunteer at the museum. For the hour or so I was there, I was pleasantly surprised at the number of school parties that went by, showing that the museum is an useful educational resource. As well as fire engines, dating through the years from 1911, there were other artefacts along the lines of the LFB museum at Winchester House and a section devoted to rescue assistance at disaster areas around the Pacific Basin.

Given the uncertain future of the museum at Winchester House, I hope a suitable home will be found where it too will be able to further its education services, particularly to young people, but also to a wider public.

Beryl Jeffrey



MEMORABILIA

In celebration of 21 years since the formation of The Guild of Firefighters, a unique crystal glass to keep as a future family heirloom is available for purchase. The goblet is priced at £10.00. Please add £2.50 for postage and packing. There are only 7 left.

WCoFF ties in blue and red are available for purchase at £25 each.

Also available are crystal glass paperweights at £10 each, Salamander label pins at £80 each and cuff links at £22.50 for a set.

All enquiries to Brian Eves at:
brian84.eves@virgin.net.



GREAT FIRE OF LONDON OF 1212 - 800 YEARS AGO

One of the great medieval fires of London, also known as "the Great Fire of Southwark" began on 10 July 1212 in Southwark, the borough directly to the south of London Bridge. The flames destroyed Our Lady of the Canons (Southwark Cathedral, also known as St Mary Overie) and strong southerly winds pushed them towards the bridge, which also caught fire. London Bridge had only just been rebuilt in stone, and the structure itself survived the blaze. However, King John had authorised the construction of houses on the bridge, the rents from which were supposed to pay for its maintenance, and it appears that these were lost to the flames.



The earliest account of the blaze appears in the Liber de Antiquis Legibus ("Book on Ancient Laws"), composed in 1274. According to later traditions, however, numerous casualties were incurred when a mass of citizens from London rushed onto the bridge at the first signs of fire, intending to cross the river to help extinguish the flames. High winds carried red-hot embers across the river and ignited buildings on the north side of the structure. This fire trapped a large number of people, many of whom died either in the blaze or while attempting to escape on overloaded boats that had come to their aid. However, no reliable evidence survives to allow an accurate estimate of the number of casualties caused by the great fire of 1212, but it is known that the damage done to London Bridge was such that the structure remained a ruin, only partially usable, for years afterwards.

WET 10 - CITY WATER DEBATE

The fourth annual City Water Debate, sponsored by the 'WET 10,' took place on Monday 5 March at Farmers' and Fletchers' Hall. The WET 10, who actually currently number 13, are a group of Livery Companies with a common interest in the health of the water environment. The WCoFF is one of these companies. The guest speakers were Professor Sir John Beddington, the Government's Chief Scientific Adviser and Lord Redesdale the Liberal Democrat peer.

Sir John presented a gripping and cogently argued overview of the serious water issues facing the world which are aggravated by climate change and the hugely expanding world population especially in Africa and Asia. Rupert Redesdale particularly highlighted the need for UK water consumers and providers, and the industry regulator OFWAT, fully to embrace sustainability. There was a wide range of questions from the various Livery Company representatives and their guests.

Commenting afterwards Colin Drummond, Chair of the WET 10 said, "The annual City Water Debate demonstrates the breadth of the Livery movement bringing together senior representatives from users and suppliers of water, from the Farmers and Gardeners through to the Plumbers and Water Conservators. We are an increasingly respected voice in the water and environment debate".

For further information, please contact: Colin Drummond, cdrummond@viridor.co.uk 01823 721435. Additional information is available on the WET 10 website www.wet10.co.uk.

FIRE INDUSTRY CHARITY BALL

Thank you to all those who contributed to this year's Ball either by your attendance and hence contribution to the raffle and auction, by Corporate Sponsorship or by donations. Your generosity enabled us to raise in excess of **£23,000** for our Charitable Trust.

Those of you who were able to attend, will recall a superb evening of good food, good company and entertainment. The date for the 2012 Ball is 15th September, so mark it in your diary. Booking details are available by calling **07860 188 030** or email brandy.promotions@virgin.net.

Bryan Spearman
Under Warden and Ball Organiser



Come and celebrate
with friends and
colleagues at the
Fire Industry's
glittering
annual
event...

The Fire Industry Charity Ball 2012

Radisson Blu (SAS) Portman Hotel, Portman Square, London W1H 7BG
15th September 2012



The Salamander

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters

Service, Fellowship, Harmony and Honour

August 2012

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Diary

6th September

Combined Golf Day, Painter-Stainers, Wildernesse GC

9th September

Annual UK Firefighters Memorial Service, St Bartholomews

15th September

Fire Industry Charity Ball

10th October

St Florian's Installation Banquet, Girdler's Hall

13th November

2012 Exclusive City Dinner, hosted by Sir Ken Knight, CBE QFSM DL

7th December

Members Informal Luncheon, Old Dr Butlers

14th December

Carol Service, Church of St Mary-le-Bow

29th January

Dinner for Liverymen, East India Club

6th March

Massey Shaw Dinner

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters

The Clerk: Martin Bonham

The Insurance Hall, 20 Aldermanbury London EC2V 7GF

T: 0207 600 1666 F: 0207 600 1666

E: clerk@firefighterscompany.org

DIAMOND JUBILEE RIVER PAGEANT



The WCoFF held a reception on the members' terrace at London County Hall to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and watch the Thames river pageant pass by with over 1000 craft including a special Fire and Rescue service flotilla. Despite the rain, it was a wonderful day, with jazz band and barbeque and great company, including partners and family of the fire service crew in the flotilla.

There were fire service representatives from across the Commonwealth on many of the fire boats. Many thanks go to the event organizers, Viv Jones, Bryan Spearman and Terry Baldwin as well as to the generosity of sponsors Gerda, Baldwin Boxhall and Vimpey.

A 4 page picture spread of the reception and pageant pictures is in the centre of the newsletter.



THE LORD MAYOR'S APPEAL 2012

Fit for the Future

Lord Mayor's Appeal - Page 2



New Standard - Page 3



Charlie's Day Out - Page 4



Visit to St Paul's - Page 11

MATTERS AND MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

Common Hall was held on 6th July at the Insurance Hall

Following a report by the Master, Peter Cowland, on his year in office and the announcement of all new Company appointments approved at the election court held on 1st June, the new Master and Wardens were installed. Michael Harper becomes the new Master, Beryl Jeffery is the new Upper Warden, Bryan Spearman is the new Renter Warden and Ronald Murray is the new Under Warden.

Michael Harper spoke of the four principles that bind the Company together; those of Service, Fellowship, Harmony and Honour. Honour must be given to those who have led this Company in the past to its current strength, and Michael wanted to acknowledge Past Master, Peter Cowland, as the latest in this long line of great contributors to the post - there were few aspects of the Company to which Peter had not got involved with his lively spirit and dedication. The new Master also thanked Peter's wife, Lesley, for her support to Peter and her contribution to introducing two new Ladies functions to the calendar.

In terms of his own Service for the year, Michael wanted to see the Company continue to grow and strengthen financially and in its activities, particular involvement for new members. Michael noted that charitable giving was a key service aspect of the Livery and this work needed to deepen and areas for youth education and training would be given special support.

Michael then highlighted that "fellowship" is enjoyment and that there are plenty of forthcoming events for members to enjoy the company of others - the Ball, the St Florian's dinner and the City dinner to name but a few. Finally harmony, perhaps the hardest aspect of a Company to foster through challenging and changing times for many. He noted that energy and precious resources can be wasted in defending entrenched positions rather than getting involved in constructive debate. He would then hope for a united support for our decisions when they are made.



Current Master and Wardens for the coming year 2012-2013.
From Left Bryan Spearman (Renter Warden), Michael Harper (Master), Beryl Jeffery (Upper Warden) and Ron Murray (Under Warden).

New Members' Event Meeting

A New Members' Event was held at Old Doctor Butler's Head in the heart of the City of London on Friday 15th June 2012. This event enables new members to meet existing members of the Company. Following the success of the first two of these meetings this was once again an enjoyable informal get-together.

Lord Mayor's Appeal

Past Master Alan Wells abseiled the Lloyds building on the 19th June in aid of The Lord Mayor's Appeal 2012.

The 19th June was day for the big drop, when Alan and many others, including the Lord Mayor's daughter, gathered on the rooftop of Lloyds in glorious sunshine and viewed the City from on high whilst waiting their turn to make the 289 ft descent to the ground.

Alan enjoyed the exhilarating experience and sincerely thanks everyone who donated, bringing the total he has raised to date to just over £1,600. He is delighted and so will be recipients of the Lord Mayor's Appeal.



Company Sentinels

A rare image of the Company Sentinels having time on their hands to pose for a photo shoot (image taken at "Meet the Firefighters" London Fire Brigade Museum March 2012).



NEW STANDARD

On the 29th June, at the Fire Service Chapel at Moreton-in-Marsh Gloucestershire, members of the Company attended a Service to mark the placing of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters' Standard in the Fire Service College Chapel.

With the words ...

"Reverend Sir, on behalf of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters we ask you to bid God's blessing on this Standard"

... the Master and Colonel the Rev Canon Peter Mortimer MBE, OStJ, TD, Chaplain to the Firefighters' Memorial Trust (FMT) began the Drumhead Ceremony to bless the new Worshipful Company of Firefighters' Standard. This was done at the FMT Annual Service of Thanksgiving at the National Memorial Arboretum on 13th May 2012.

The standard, manufactured for us by Flag makers of Chesham in Buckinghamshire, is one of a pair. The identical standards each have a special purpose. One will now be on permanent display at the Fire Service College following the service, whilst the other will be used at future ceremonial events. Following the service a guided tour was given of the Fire Service heritage collection and the main buildings of the college - this was followed by a buffet luncheon.

Our second Standard received its own blessing during our post Common Hall Service of Dedication on 6 July, something which our Chaplain Rev George Bush agreed to perform on our behalf.

We are grateful to the Band of the West Midlands Fire Service for setting up the Drumhead, to Rev Peter for bidding the blessing and to Alan Smith of the Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service Ceremonial Team for being our first ever Standard Bearer.

We were all very proud to see our new standard marched off at the head of the Parade once the FMT service had ended.

Family affair? .. of course it is... the Rev Peter Mortimer is also a Liveryman of our Company!



GIRDLETS HALL

In 1431 Andrew Hunt bequeathed the Company buildings and land which are substantially the site of the present Hall. Hunt's buildings became the Company's Hall, which was developed and improved over the years. In common with many other livery halls, this building was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666. The replacement, built in 1681 at a cost of some £1,500, was destroyed by enemy action in 1940, and rebuilt in 1961. In 2006, the Company decided to refurbish the Hall and to add a further floor. Work on this project started straight after Election Day 2007 and was completed in May 2008. The Hall contains a number of items precious to the Company, including the Bell Carpet, commissioned by Past Master Robert Bell (a prominent member of the East India Company) in 1630, woven in Lahore and presented in 1634.



If Members would like to see the Hall and the beautiful carpet, it is worth booking for the St. Florian's Installation banquet, which this year is to be held at The Girdlers's Hall on the 10th October.

Brigadier (Retired) I D O Rees, Clerk to the Girdlers' Company contacted our clerk Sir Martin Bonham, asking whether we, the WCoFF, could perhaps provide some advice on the fire protection of the wonderful Girdlers Hall and in particular its great treasure of the Bell carpet, we were only happy to oblige. They were looking at ways in which we might minimise the risk of fire damage to their 17th Century Carpet in particular (and the Hall in general), and had been impressed by a water mist system which the Fire Service had recommended to them. The only problem is that it was extremely expensive, and he wondered whether any members might be able to advise us on suitable alternative approaches. They were not really interested in standard sprinkler systems, owing to the collateral damage they can cause.

Both Robert Farquhar (ex Kidde Fire Protection) and Stuart Mc Ewan, Director of 4sight Risk Management, discussed the options available and Stuart visited the Hall to meet with Brigadier Rees to discuss the options. Stuart advised a formal Fire Risk Assessment (FRA) for the premises as a whole. This is currently being taken on board by the Worshipful Company of Girdlers.



CHARLIE'S DAY OUT!

On a very wet Saturday on 28 April, little Charlie Codling, son of Liveryman Karen Eves-Codling and Grandson of Liveryman Brian Eves, had a very special day out. He joined lots of other children on the annual Wessex Cancer Trust day out to Paulton Park, a children's theme park, in Hampshire, where they all had lots of fun.

What made this a bit more special is that the children are taken there on fire engines, provided courtesy of the Fire Service Preservation Group (FSPG). We are very grateful to our good friends Den and Lesley Osman who made arrangements for Charlie, Karen and Brian to travel in their 1975 Volvo Water Tender, an ex Hampshire fire engine.

On arrival at the park, all the fire engines mustered and then drove into the car park on "twos and blues" ... all very exciting for the children and other bemused visitors alike!

After fun at Paulton Park the children were transferred, again by fire engines, to Romsey Fire Station where the Hampshire Chief Fire Officer John Bonney welcomed them for tea, cakes and ice cream.

Accompanying them this year was a small group of "out rider" Harley Davidson motor cycles ridden by Master Fire-fighter Peter Cowland, Watch Commander Tony Smith of Garston Fire Station in Hertfordshire and Retained Firefighter Tim Norris of the East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service. Also joining in was our friend John Burbidge-King, Upper Warden of the Worshipful Company of World Traders (who happily took a bit of mickey-taking because he has a BMW motor cycle!).

Little Charlie Codling, who is under the care of the Wessex Cancer Trust, is a very brave boy who goes for almost daily hospital treatment. It was our very great pleasure to see him, his sister Freya, and Mum and Dad having such a good time! Keep up the good work Charlie!



WESSEX Children's Run 2012 CANCER TRUST



Everyone arrives at Paulton's Park

The event was organised by the Fire Service Preservation Group for the Wssex cancer trust, who should be thanked for their efforts and the picture is courtesy of their organisation

FIRE LECTURE

The Fire Lecture 2012
Fire: Cost & Consequence

This event was held at the Insurance Hall on Wednesday 30th May, in partnership with BRE Global Ltd, and was a resounding success for the Firefighters' Company.

Following a warm welcome by The Master, Peter Cowland, Alderman Sir Robert Finch, the Representative Lord Mayor, gave an opening address, followed by Past Master Jeremy Beech, who introduced the speakers – Carol Atkinson and Dr Debbie Smith for BRE, Nick Starling for ABI, Lee Howell for CFOA, James Landale, Deputy Political Editor at BBC News, who managed the presentations and the open forum; and guests.

An almost capacity audience enjoyed the presentations and posed challenging questions of the speakers and Sir Ken Knight, HM Government's Chief Fire & Rescue Adviser, who joined the speakers at an open forum which followed. Bob Neil MP, the Fire Minister at the Department of Communities & Local Government gave an enthusiastic closing address.

Following a presentation of gifts the Master invited the speakers, guests and members of the audience to join him and the Wardens for a buffet reception before the close.

There are links on our web-site to all the papers. Visit this website again later this year for an announcement about The Fire Lecture 2013. to be a very social occasion.



SWAN-UPPING

The photo below shows new Master, Michael Harper and his wife Judith at the recent Swan-Upping event held at Henley-on-Thames on 18th July. This was organised for the WCoFF members by Alan Wood. Although the ceremony of Swan-Upping, organised by two of the City Livery companies, had to be cancelled due to fast river rates, an enjoyable time was had by all anyway with a lovely trip on the river Thames."



ST FLORIAN'S DAY AND PARTNERS' LUNCH

The St Florian's Day and Partners' lunch was held on 4th May at Il Bordello's Italian restaurant in Wapping. The food was superb and the company jovial.

MEMBERS DECLARING THEIR FREEDOM

The photographs below (kindly identified by Ron Murray) relate to those who declared their freedom and were clothed in the Company's livery on the 16th July 2012 Court luncheon and Freedom and Clothing Ceremony.



Jeffrey Borsack



Roger Gentle



Stuart McEwan



Micheal Skilleter



Andrew Hentschel

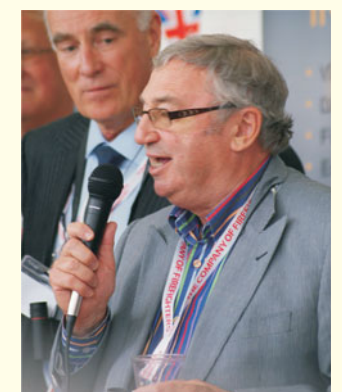
JUBILEE RIVER PAGEANT IN PICTURES

Over the next four pages, we have a wonderful melange of pictures taken by members of the company of the pageant event - we very much thank all those who contributed. Among the speakers at the reception were Sir Ken Knight, Bob Neil (Parliamentary Under Secretary for State in the Department of Communities and Local Government), Bryan Spearman, Master Peter Cowland and Viv Jones.









FIRE BRIGADES

Service leading the way in public risk management

Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service has received national recognition for its outstanding work in reducing community risk.

The Service won three of seven national awards and was highly commended in a fourth at the highly respected Association of Local Area Risk Management awards ceremony in Manchester.



Assistant Chief Fire Officer Trevor Stratford said: "This is a real success for the Service as it is unusual for an organisation to win more than one award.

"It is testament to all the hard work that has been carried out by those members of staff involved and they should be proud of their achievements."



The awards received by the Service were as follows:

- People Risk category: Phoenix Jobcentre Plus programme
- Strategic Risk: The Service's Strategic Review of Risk
- Risk Management Newcomer of the Year: David Church
- Operational Risk: Asset Accountability (highly commended).

Cllr Mark Healey, Chairman of the Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Authority, said:

"The hard work, determination and personal commitment of the recipients was above and beyond the normal call of duty and has truly been reflected in the outstanding success of the evening."

Pictures show the winning teams.



Thanks to Paul Slaven PR Officer Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service for briefing us on this.

A 50 Year Career at the Fire Service!

South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue's longest serving employee is saying goodbye after racking up an amazing FIFTY years of service.

Mick Mottram, 69, joined Sheffield Fire Brigade as a firefighter in 1962 serving on the frontline in the city until 1995 when he retired from operational duties to become SYFR's Equipment Officer.

Since that time Mick has been at the forefront of the service's technological modernisation, influencing a number of major improvements to firefighting kit and equipment which have enhanced operational effectiveness and firefighter safety.



The Mottram family will continue to be represented at SYFR with Mick's son Jonathan (right of pic) a firefighter with Mansfield Road Blue watch.

The story of the Isle of Man Fire Brigade

Courtesy of Steve Basnett & IOM FRS

The Brigade can be traced back to 20th October 1803, with the arrival of two fire engines from England. They belonged to the Sun Insurance Office and run by the Douglas agent James Moore. However there was still no organised brigade and the local agent of Sun Insurance relied heavily on local untrained volunteers to man the fire engines whenever they were called out. People living in the out of town areas were still no better off because of the time it would take for word to be sent to Douglas and then drag the engine to the scene of the fire.

WCOFF Links Expand

As we develop our contacts with brigades we have extended our contacts to both Belgium and Canada. In our next issue we anticipate a short report from our Belgium Colleagues.



Belgian Fire Tender

FIRE HERO HONoured AFTER RESCUE BID



A Sheffield delivery driver who entered a burning house thinking children were trapped inside has been given a fire service award for his actions.

19 year-old Ethan Maillard kicked down the door to the house in Netherthorpe but thankfully discovered the property on fire was empty.

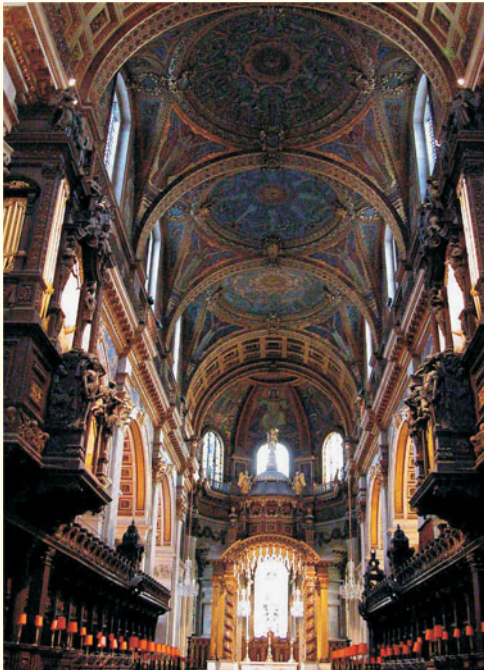
As a fire and rescue service, are you interested in getting an article in this page? Then have your PR contact get in touch.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit to St Paul's

An event is being organised by Sentinels Tony Skinner and Donald Bond on behalf of the Events Committee inviting members to a guided tour of St Paul's Cathedral on Monday 20th August

Sir Christopher Wren's great masterpiece was built three hundred years ago and is one of the world's great buildings. It is the fifth cathedral to stand on the hill that dominates the ancient City of London, constantly reminding this commercial centre of the spiritual dimension of life.



The present Cathedral was built between 1675 and 1710. St. Paul's has celebrated many important events; such as the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana, and the funerals of Nelson, Wellington and Churchill.

The programme for the day will start on the main steps of the Cathedral at 10.00am. Liveryman Donald Bond will meet those participating and will be responsible for the visit. A tour of the Cathedral will follow which should take about one and a half hours.

Firefighters' Memorial Trust and Wreath Laying Ceremony

A notice from the Memorial Trust advising of a change of date to Sunday 9th September for the Firefighters' Memorial Trust Service and Wreath Laying Ceremony.

The Service will be held at The Priory Church of St Bartholomew the Great. Those wishing to attend should take their seats by 11.45hrs. After the Service, at about 13.00 hours, the bands standards and attendees will parade to the Firefighters' Memorial.

Annual City Dinner Invitation

An invitation is extended to the 2012 Annual City Dinner hosted by Past Master Sir Ken Knight, Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser to be held at the City HQ of Catlin Insurance Company Ltd, on Tuesday 13th November 2012 – 6-30 start, carriages at 10pm.

In addition to enjoying superb views across the City and the excellent food and wine provided through the generous hospitality of Catlin, our primary objective is to raise money for The Worshipful Company of Firefighters Charitable Trust and for Youth and Education and Training Programmes associated with the Fire Service. All the proceeds will be devoted to these two worthy charitable objectives.

Places can be reserved to join Sir Ken and a host of City and Fire Service/Industry VIP guests and are set at £100 each (VAT does not apply because it is a charitable event). You are invited to come on your own, bring guests or make up a round table of up to 10 places. Anyone interested should contact Tony Skinner.

Fire Industry Charity Ball

Booking details are available by calling **07860 188 030** or email brandy.promotions@virgin.net or visit www.firefighterscompany.org/ball

An advertisement for 'The Fire Industry Charity Ball 2012'. The top half features a close-up of a champagne glass with a cork popping out, creating a large splash of liquid against a blue background. The text 'Come and celebrate with friends and colleagues at the Fire Industry's glittering annual event...' is overlaid on the left side of the image. The bottom half of the advertisement has a solid red background with the text 'The Fire Industry Charity Ball 2012' in white. Below this, in smaller white text, is the location and date: 'Radisson Blu (SAS) Portman Hotel, Portman Square, London W1H 7BG' and '15th September 2012'.

A NEW BOOK

The Day Parliament Burned Down - Caroline Shenton

Caroline Shenton has recently written a book called 'The Day Parliament Burned Down' which is the first full-scale study of the catastrophic 1834 fire that burnt down the old Palace of Westminster. Lady Antonia Fraser is quoted as saying that this book is "absolutely riveting ... It's a thriller". Caroline Shenton is clerk of the Records at the Parliamentary Archives in London and has had unique access to historical information on the fire. It is stock full of references. A full review of the book will be provided in our next newsletter, but for those who can't wait, it is published by Oxford University Press at £18.99.



JUDITH JONES

Viv Jones, on behalf of his family, would like to thank all Firefighters for their words of comfort and support following the death of Judith at home on the 10th April 2012.

Judith had been suffering cancer for over 18 months but, despite that, kept working in the family business and continued to assist Viv in many aspects of his WCoFF duties. Judith had been a stalwart for many years in support of the Firefighters, proof reading thousands of words, assisting in the re-launch of Meet the Firefighters, sponsorship administration for the Fire Industry Charity Ball and, not least, during her year as Mistress Firefighter.

Judith's first love of course was her devoted family of James, Charlotte, Jonathan and step-son Martin. James spoke of his mother on behalf of the family so eloquently in his eulogy at the funeral which was held at St. Nicholas in Great Wakering and attended by a huge group from the Company of Firefighters.

THE BERTIE GILLINGS FINE

Members of the Firefighters Livery Company may not be aware of the Bertie Gillings Fine. This custom arose partly in memory of a much loved founder member and Past Master as a light hearted but voluntary way to raise funds for the Charitable Trust and partly to encourage correct appearance and decorum at Company events. A "Guide to Dress Code and Protocols" was recently issued by the Clerk's office. Further copies are available on request.

Tariff of Fines

A fine of £5.00 for the following infringements:

- Not wearing recognised Company tie (men only)
- Not wearing Court Assistant's badge
- Not wearing Master's, Warden's, Constable's or Sentinel's badge
- Not wearing appropriate gown of office
- Allowing mobile to ring during meetings

Fines can be cumulative when more than one 'offence' has been committed.

MEMORABILIA

In celebration of 21 years since the formation of The Guild of Firefighters, a unique crystal glass to keep as a future family heirloom is available for purchase. The goblet is priced at £10.00. Please add £2.50 for postage and packing.



There are only 7 left.

WCoFF ties in blue and red are available for purchase at £25 each.

Also available are crystal glass paperweights at £10 each, Salamander lapel pins at £80 each and cuff links at £22.50 for a set.

All enquiries to Brian Eves at:
brian84.eves@virgin.net.



The Salamander

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters

Service, Fellowship, Harmony and Honour

November 2012

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Diary

30th November

Court of Assistants,
Insurance Hall

7th December

Members Informal Luncheon,
Old Dr Butlers

14th December

Carol Service, St Mary-le Bow

29th January

Dinner for Liverymen,
East India Club

6th March

Massey Shaw Dinner,
HQS Wellington

8th March

Meet the Firefighters,
Winchester House

15th March

United Guilds Service, St. Paul's

22nd March

Court of Assistants
Insurance Hall

28th March

Members Informal Luncheon,
Old Dr Butlers

23rd April

The Fire Lecture 2013,
Insurance Hall

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters

The Clerk: Sir Martin Bonham Bt

The Insurance Hall, 20 Aldermanbury
London EC2V 7GF

T: 0207 600 1666 F: 0207 600 1666

E: clerk@firefighterscompany.org

ST FLORIAN'S BANQUET DINNER AT THE GIRDLETS' HALL

A wonderful evening was celebrated at the Girdlers' Hall by the Worshipful Company of Firefighters St Florian's Installation Banquet.

The occasion was used to present the Worshipful Company of Firefighters' award to Dr Brian Ward, National Resilience Officer, CFA.

The principle guest was the Right Honourable John Gummer, Lord Deben and the whole company was treated to a wonderful recital by students from the Tring Park School for the Performing Arts.

More pictures and report inside.



Don't forget The WCoFF Carol Concert

A Festival of Carols

December 14th 2012

6.30 pm

St Mary-le Bow

Friends and family invited

Refreshments afterwards



www.firefighterscompany.org

FROM THE MASTER'S DESK



Common Hall seems like yesterday but already a quarter of my year has gone. Everyone tells me that the year goes very quickly! I have certainly enjoyed many external meetings on behalf of the Company already ranging from the splendour of a BP Garden Party through Livery Dinners, Mansion House events, services at St Pauls, to the opportunity to see at first hand the work of many Charities associated with the City and the Livery. I've seen charitable work ranging from giving international experience for students/graduates to the difficult work of helping newly released offenders not to re-offend. The charity work in the City of London is substantial and can be really inspiring.

Of course, there have been plenty of internal meetings as well. But it is refreshing to note the active involvement by many involved in the affairs of the Company and in the organising of many events, underlining how much voluntary work our members and officials put in and how effective it usually is. We owe them a great debt of gratitude. Please keep it up everyone and thank you!!

The Company is progressing well with a sound financial position and a growing membership. We need to find new ways of keeping the membership, particularly new members, engaged and involved. Our Charitable Trust has new and experienced leadership (Past Master Frank David and Frances Blois). We are working to clarify the relationship between the Trust and the Company to mutual benefit and to be in line with current best practice.

I wish all members and their families a very happy Festive Season when it arrives. Don't forget the Carol Service on Friday December 14th at St Mary-Le Bow - it is a lovely occasion to enjoy with Company members, friends and family.

Michael Harper

FIRE INDUSTRY CHARITY BALL

The Fire Industry Charity Ball was held at the Portman Hotel on September 15th and was enjoyed by all who attended. Dancing was to Nicole and her Big Band, there was excellent food and good fun was had by one and all.

Wonderful entertainment was provided by the young Mountview academy members. With lights flashing and wailing air raid sirens, guests were enthralled by a performance sponsored by The Massey Shaw Preservation Society. The society last year bid for and was rewarded with a donation from the Trust to be used in support of an education programme of modern history being rolled out by the Society to schools and a cameo of the programme was performed on the evening. The scene experienced by those in the London during the bombings of the last war was vividly portrayed. In her role as an Auxiliary Fire Women the actress held the guests spellbound as she related life as it was during those dark days.

Our new Master Michael Harper, in his welcome speech, thanked the guests for supporting the Ball, graciously thanked the sponsors to whom we were most indebted and appreciative. He also saw that he had a duty to remind us of the need to be as generous as possible and participate in both raffle and auction. His words were clearly taken to heart with record sales and bids thus ensuring a very satisfactory outcome for the Charitable Trust.

A very healthy donation of more than £21,000 (£6000 above target) will be made to our Charitable Trust Fund for distribution in line with the trustee's objectives which include needy causes and Education and Training.

Much thanks goes to Under Warden Bryan Spearman for once again organising a highly successful Charity Ball, enjoyed by over 10 % more guests than the previous year. Thanks also must go to everyone who provided raffle prizes, items for the auction and most importantly, the corporate sponsors.

Fire Industry Ball 2013

Following our previous successful events we are now embarking on another great evening of dining, dancing and raising charitable support, again at the:

Radisson Blu (SAS) Portman,
Portman Square, London W1H 7BG

21st September 2013

The Ball, co-promoted by the FIA and FIRESA is organised by the Worshipful Company of Firefighters on behalf of their Charitable Trust.



WCoFF NEWS

Wreath Laying Memorial Service

The National Service and Wreath Laying Ceremony Memorial Service took place on Sunday 16th September 2012.

The picture opposite features the Master and Sheriff Wendy Mead laying wreaths. The Service took place in the Priory Church of St Bartholomew the Great.

Facebook

The WCoFF has an updated website and you can join the WCoFF Facebook community by clicking on the Facebook icon on the site - this will keep you up to date on all WCoFF news feeds and also connect to WCoFF friends and colleagues.



Golf Day with Painter Stainers

It was an overcast and damp day, with an early start after our excellent previous evening at the Girdlers' Hall. The Firefighters, led by the Master, ignored the weather, played very well and took the honours.

The Master, Mike Harper began the day as the reigning champion Firefighter, and looked to be heading for a second consecutive win, scoring an excellent 37 points. He was however overtaken by recently retired Peter Holland who is clearly spending a lot of time on the golf course, and who came in with 38 points. That sort of score is normally the domain of golfing legend John Sherrington, the only known retired Fire Officer with a legitimate handicap!

Everyone enjoyed the event, despite heavy clouds and occasional drizzle. As always the hospitality and fellowship was excellent. The late change of date affected overall numbers, but it was nevertheless an excellent day on a fine course.

Jeremy Beech, Golf Secretary



The Worshipful Company of Firefighters 2012 Exclusive City Dinner

Hosted by Sir Ken Knight CBE QFSM DL.

This dinner, sponsored once again by Catlin Group, the leading global specialty property / casualty insurance and reinsurance group, was held on Tuesday 13th November 2012.

Guests included:

Sir Edward Lister - The Mayor of London's Chief of Staff and Deputy Mayor for Planning
James Cleverly - Chairman of the London Fire & Emergency Planning Authority.
Ron Dobson - London Fire Brigade Commissioner.
Phil Salt - Head of DFRMO (Defence Fire Risk Management Organisation)
Lee Howell - President of CFOA (Chief Fire Officers Association)

This dinner is a major showcase for our Company. All money raised goes directly to the Charitable Trust Fund of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters. Organisations benefiting from Grants by the Trust were represented and spoke briefly about their work and what our Trustee donations meant to them.

A full report on the dinner will be in our next issue.

ST. FLORIAN'S BANQUET

St Florian's Installation Banquet Dinner

On 10th October, an excellent night was had at the St Florian's Installation banquet held at the magnificent Girdlers' Hall, just round the corner from the Insurance Hall. The Girdlers' Hall has its famous Bell carpet, a 16th century Turkish woven piece over 20 yards long, displayed alongside one side of the room as the backdrop to the banquet setting. In his address on behalf of the Company, the new Master, Michael Harper, referred to the ancient art of belt or girdle making by the Girdlers, noting, as apparently the only belt now officially provided by the Girdlers' company is one for every new monarch, that the Company must currently be on short time.

There were several highlights to the evening. The presentation of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters award to Dr Brian Ward, the National Resilience Officer, for his magnificent work in providing exactitude in the UK's disaster emergency planning was warmly given and humbly received by Dr Ward, who gave a touching speech on the sound motives that underpinned his important work on behalf of communities.

The main guest of the evening was the Right Honourable John Gummer, Lord Deben, Chairman of Sancroft, who, in a wide ranging discourse from the environment to the benefits of belonging within Europe, entertained with a myriad of stories from his political life. Finally, we had the most delightful recital from the Tring Park School for the Performing Arts who presented a selection of songs by James Robert Brown – it was wonderful to see and listen to lovely performances by such talented young people, stars of the future.

The evening was complemented by an excellent menu (belts or girdles had to be put out a notch!). Overall, it was an evening enjoyed by all who attended.



Many thanks go to Steve Neville for taking pictures of the event, shown here and on the front page. The top left picture shows Dr Brian Ward being presented with his commendation sponsored by Vimpey and represented by Past Master Viv Jones, alongside his sons James and Martin. The lower pictures show part of the wonderful Bell carpet and examples of ancient girdles and belts on display.

CHARLIE CODLING

It is with great sadness that we have to report that Charlie Codling, son of Liveryman, Karen Eves-Codling and Grandson of Liveryman Brian Eves passed away on Thursday 6th September. Charlie was featured in our last newsletter being given a real treat on the annual Wessex Cancer Trust day out to Paulton Park, a children's theme park, in Hampshire, made a bit more special courtesy of the Fire Service Preservation Group allowing Charlie, Karen and Brian to travel in their 1975 Volvo Water Tender.

Our thoughts remain with Brian, Karen and their family. From the money raised at Charlie's funeral, Karen hopes to acquire a beach-hut near the coast in Charlie's memory where children in a similar condition as Charlie can have a bit of a holiday with their families.



THE DAY PARLIAMENT BURNED DOWN

Caroline Shenton has recently written a book called 'The Day Parliament Burned Down' which is the first full-scale study of the catastrophic 1834 fire that burnt down the old Palace of Westminster. Lady Antonia Fraser is quoted as saying that this book is "absolutely riveting ... It's a thriller".

Caroline Shenton is clerk of the Records at the Parliamentary Archives in London and has had unique access to historical information on the fire.

Your editor has really enjoyed reading this book and I can agree with the Antonia Fraser comment above – it does read like a thriller, bringing together all the little seemingly insignificant elements that allow this catastrophe to develop, from the political scheming and intransigence of King and government to prevent any spending on a new House of Commons (whilst at the same time spending a fortune on Buckingham House) to the decision to use old tallies to stoke the furnaces rather than give the wood to poor labourers. The drama of it all is set against a wonderful picture of political and social life in the 1830s, with as much parliamentary corruption appearing then as now in the award of contracts and sinecures. The expansion of the west end of London and the plight of Irish labourers also feature in the story. There are snippets of delightful knowledge such as the name "exchequer" derives from the process of counting tallies or money owed on a counting table with a cloth in the form of chequered cloth or scaccarium, used as a form of abacus.

All those interested in firefighting will understand the manifest indications of danger of fire, the actions of the firemen, heroically led by James Braidwood (who, despite being a leader in modern firefighting theory, was later to die in the great warehouse fire of Tooley Street in 1861), with their hard worked pumps aiming to contain the fire spread, the impact of the flashover, the immense and appalling splendour of it all, and, of course, the aftermath process of blame and analysis.

Although the flames were put out without loss of life, the impact of the fire on Westminster was significant in terms of the development of our democracy as well as social, cultural and political life.



MEMORABILIA

In celebration of 21 years since the formation of The Guild of Firefighters, a unique crystal glass to keep as a future family heirloom is available for purchase. The goblet is priced at £10.00. Please add £2.50 for postage and packing. There are only 7 left.

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All enquiries to Brian Eves at: brian84.eves@virgin.net.



UPCOMING EVENTS

The Fire Lecture 2013

Following on from the successful Fire Lecture 2012 the wheels have started turning to bring you the Fire Lecture 2013. On Tuesday 23rd April 2013, 6.30pm - 9.00pm at The Insurance Hall.

Please keep this date free in your diaries.

In the meantime if you would like to read the papers of the Fire Lecture 2012 please visit the WcoFF website where you will find a link to the papers.



CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

Members of the Company,

Family, friends and guests are invited to attend

A FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS

At the church of

St. Mary-le-Bow

Cheapside, London EC2

Friday 14th December 2012

At 6.30 p.m.

Featuring Soprano, Suzanne Wilson

Following the Carol Service, members of the congregation are invited to remain in the church to share light refreshment and good company.

There will be no charge for Members of the Worshipful Company and their immediate family: but Members are invited to make a donation in respect of other family members, friends and guests who accompany them as a contribution towards essential costs.

The church of St Mary-le-Bow was completely destroyed in the Great Fire of London in 1666. Its successor was built by Wren between 1670 and 1683. At almost £15,645 it was then the most expensive but also the most important Wren church after St Paul's Cathedral. Bow bells are probably the most famous in the world and for many hundreds of years have been woven into the folklore of the City of London. In 1392 Dick Whittington heard Bow bells call him back to London to become Lord Mayor; to be born within the sound of Bow bells was the sign of a true Londoner or Cockney; and Bow bell's authority ends the medieval nursery rhyme Oranges and Lemons, 'I do not know says the Great Bell of Bow'



FIREFIGHTERS'

MEET THE CHIEF

Peter Hopkins meets Ann Millington, Chief of the Kent Fire and Rescue Service.



In the first of these new articles I met Ann Millington from Kent Fire and Rescue Service during which Ann outlined how Kent FRS is first in the UK to move from retained fire fighter to on-call contracts

Ann Millington is originally from Wales and graduated with a philosophy and psychology degree. She has worked in HR in the Home Office, as well as the NHS, and for the London Borough of Bexley. Most of her career has been in Organisational Development, involving developing systems and managing change projects. Ann joined Kent Fire and Rescue Service in 2007 as HR Director, then became Deputy Chief Executive. She became Chief Executive of Kent Fire and Rescue Service in early 2011 and is the first woman to take the helm at KFRS.

Eighteen months ago Kent Fire and Rescue Service (KFRS) became the first in the UK to move its 750 retained firefighters to on-call contracts with virtually the same terms and conditions as their wholetime colleagues, allowing KFRS more control over the availability of pumps when and where they are needed.

Several significant factors led to the change. In 2010 the results of the FBU tribunal finally

ruled that retained firefighters had been treated less favourably in terms of pension rights and sick pay. In addition, a spate of EU legislation around driver's hours, health and safety and working time also put a focus on the 60-year-old system.

The Service was also undertaking a comprehensive emergency response review, and it was clear that guaranteed availability of crews was vital to future changes.

In addition, the recent deaths of retained firefighters in other parts of the UK focussed attention on being absolutely sure retained staff worked enough hours to complete essential safety training.

KFRS Chief Executive, Ann Millington, said "We needed to know we had staff available when and where we needed them, and that we could forward plan with accuracy and reliability. Previously, retained staff often committed to over 120 hours, but chose themselves which hours they would work. Now staff are on call for an agreed number of guaranteed hours based on a risk assessment for each station area. This is no criticism of the very dedicated retained firefighters we had here in Kent, but the 60-year-old retained system we inherited after World War II was no longer fit for our needs."

Kent's new contracts identify the annual number of hours for core training, as well as simplifying the previously complicated retained payments system which was largely claim based. Under the new on-call system firefighters are paid an annual salary - whether called out or not. They also receive extra payments if they are called out to incidents over and above an agreed threshold, at the same hourly rate as wholetime firefighters.

KFRS aimed for around 60 on-call contracted hours, allowing firefighters to have a more sensible work-life balance to fit in with family commitments and primary employment, as well as ensuring KFRS has guaranteed availability when and where it is needed.

To further enhance the availability of staff at the right time and in the right place, annualised contracts have also been developed to provide a flexible resource to fill gaps in crewing on part-time pumps on a pre-planned basis by drawing on a 'pot' of hours that individual firefighters commit to. The use of annualised contracts in this way is subject to review to ensure that this resourcing model is right for the organisation.

KFRS is currently recruiting for around 80 new on-call firefighters, and is offering contracts to work specific hours that match the local risk profile of particular stations.

With thanks to Ann Millington CEO and KFRS PR Officer.

NEWS

PM appoints new Fire Minister

Brandon Lewis has replaced Bob Neill as Fire Minister in England as part of the Coalition Government reshuffle.

Mr Lewis becomes Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

He was elected the Conservative MP for Great Yarmouth in 2010 after a career in law and business, and currently sits on the Regulatory Reform Committee and the Work and Pensions Select Committee.

Taking up the role, Mr Lewis said: 'I am honoured to have been appointed to the position of Fire and Rescue Minister. I recognise the important service fire and rescue authorities deliver to local communities. Fire and rescue authorities and wider sector partners play a key role in ensuring public safety, reducing deaths and injuries from fire, promoting fire prevention and responding to major national emergencies. It is a key public service and one that I look forward to learning more about in this new challenging role.'

'I would also like to wish my predecessor Bob Neill MP all the best for the future and thank him for his contribution to the Government's work during his time in the role.'

Mr Lewis' website says he has a wealth of business experience and fully understands the challenges facing small businesses and the burdens placed on them by government.

The appointment was one of a host of changes in junior ministerial ranks at DCLG.

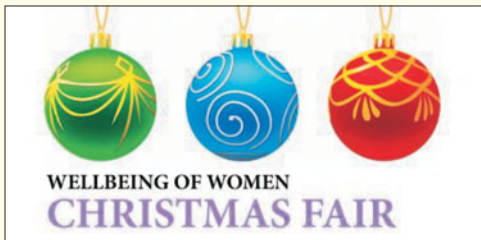


CITY LIVERY NEWS

City Christmas Fair in aid of Wellbeing of Women

Monday 3rd December 2012, 11am-8pm

**Drapers' Hall, Throgmorton Street,
London EC2N 2DQ**



Join in at the City Christmas Fair where you can browse stalls filled with original and luxury goods and unwind with a glass of bubbly at our Champagne and Prosecco bar. You can place a bid in the very popular Silent Auction throughout the day or buy some raffle tickets for a chance to win one of our fabulous prizes. More information is available on the Wellbeing of Women website.

Entrance tickets cost £5 on the door or can be bought in advance online at £5 per ticket. Take advantage of our special 3 for 2 online offer for £10 before November 26th 2012.

The fair will take place in historic Drapers' Hall.

Now in its twelfth year, the annual Christmas Fair organised by The Wellbeing of Women will be held once again at Drapers' Hall on Monday 3 December between 11am and 8pm. Many of you will have visited this before but it really is an excellent opportunity to do your Christmas shopping in a civilised manner at the same time as helping a really first class charity. This year there are 54 stalls which, as usual, will be selling a wide variety of items. Everything from baby Alpaca knitwear to fun fashion watches and yes, the rich dark boozy Christmas cakes will be there again!



Lord Mayor's Show Saturday 10th November

This spectacular three-mile-long procession will wind its way from Mansion House through the historic streets of the Square Mile to the Royal Courts of Justice - parade and a tradition dating back to 1215. The event welcomes into office the new Lord Mayor of the City of London - this year, it's the turn of the 685th incumbent, Alderman Roger Gifford. It is expected that around half a million spectators will watch the procession, which will begin at 11am with an aircraft fly-past. There will be carriages (notably the 254-year-old, gold Lord Mayor's State Coach, which spends most of the year glittering impressively in the window at the Museum of London), marching bands and floats featuring people from a huge variety of London organisations including Jaguar Academy of Sport ambassador Jessica Ennis at the wheel of the new F-type Jag.

Immediate Past Master, Peter Cowland took the lead for the Modern Companies entry for those Companies taking part in this year's Lord Mayor's Show. The Worshipful Company took part with other Modern Companies.

The New Lord Mayor

A merchant banker has been sworn in as the new Lord Mayor of London - the first in eight years to have a background in banking. Roger Gifford, who works for Swedish bank SEB, was formally admitted to office, becoming "chief salesman for the City for the year".

He said he intends to champion London's banking sector. Mr Gifford said: "I'm going to try and point out all the good things about banking. Banking is a cyclical business and tends to follow the way the economy moves."

He said he was of the belief the slump would lead to technological innovation and the "start of a new boom" - I'm sure the banking jobs will come back."

Mr. Gifford has served on several of the committees of the City of London Corporation. He started his career in finance with SG Warburg (1978-82), working in international banking and capital markets. In 1982 he left to join a new merchant bank, Skandinaviska Enskilda Bank Corpand, from 1994 to 1999, he headed the bank's operations in Japan. Since 2000 he has been SEB's UK country manager.

Mr. Gifford is a former chairman of the Swedish Chamber of Commerce (UK) and of the Association of Foreign Banks (UK). He is a trustee of St Paul's Cathedral Foundation, St Paul's Cathedral Choir School Foundation and King Edward's School Witley; chair of the English Chamber Orchestra and the Tenebrae Choir among other arts involvements.



He is a liveryman of the Worshipful Companies of Musicians, Cordwainers and Security Professionals. He served as Master of the Worshipful Company of International Bankers (2010-11) and is sponsoring alderman for the Guild of Public Relations Practitioners.



The Salamander

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters

Service, Fellowship, Harmony and Honour

February 2013 Inside

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- Upcoming Events 6
- Firefighters News 7
- Memorabilia 8

Diary

6th March - Massey Shaw Dinner, HQS Wellington

8th March - Meet the Firefighters, Winchester House

15th March - United Guilds Service, St. Paul's

22nd March - Court of Assistants, Insurance Hall

28th March - Members' Informal Luncheon, Old Dr Butler's

23rd April - The Fire Lecture 2013, Insurance Hall

2nd May - St Florian's Day Partners Lunch

14th May - Festival of the Sons of the Clergy, St Paul's

7th Jun - The Court of Assistants (Election), Insurance Hall

21st Jun - Members' Informal Luncheon, Old Dr Butler's

5th Jul - Common Hall, Insurance Hall

5th Jul - Annual Service of Re-dedication, St Mary-le-Bow

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters
The Clerk: Sir Martin Bonham Bt
The Insurance Hall, 20 Aldermanbury
London EC2V 7GF
T: 0207 600 1666 F: 0207 600 1666
E: clerk@firefighterscompany.org

FROM THE MASTER'S DESK



As I write this piece at the start of the New Year and hopefully spring around the corner, I can say that we find the Company in good heart for the year ahead. We now have a satisfactory financial position, membership is on an upward trend and we have a strong programme of events coming up. I hope that many of you will be able to enjoy these as the year progresses.

The PR group is making good progress with a new web-site now up and running which will not only present a stronger outward image to our communities, but will also be able to allow livery members to access information on the Company securely and for us to be able to transact bookings and purchase memorabilia more efficiently.

A highlight for me in raising our profile was the City Dinner which featured our work in the Education and Training field and is featured in this newsletter. We look forward to seeing another successful Fire Lecture again, which demonstrates how we can influence the communities we understand and serve. I encourage you to attend if you can – details can be found in this newsletter and on our web-site. We also enjoyed a memorable Carol Service which attracted a good attendance and the Company was present at the annual Livery Companies' pancake race.

We need to keep our focus on measures and events to interest our growing membership and I would encourage all members to let me,

Wardens, or the Clerk have any ideas for Company development.

Finally we are very fortunate to have many people working hard for the Company on Committees and in many other ways. I should like to thank them all for their efforts which are much appreciated.

Michael Harper

Firefighters at the fore in the Lord Mayor's livery company pancake race - pictures show Master Michael Harper concentrating on tossing his pancake, Renter-Warden Bryan Spearman ready for the off and Upper-Warden Beryl Jeffrey in full flight at the turn. Good fun was had by all and money was raised for the Lord Mayor's charity.



THE WCoFF - AGAIN PROVING ITS WORTH IN FIRE AND CITY COMMUNITIES

The WCoFF - Exclusive City Dinner 2012

The third in the highly successful "An evening with Sir Ken Knight" event again proved to be a not to be missed event. The 2012 City Dinner, hosted by Past Master Sir Ken Knight CBE QFSM DL, then Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser, was held at the City HQ of Catlin Insurance Company Ltd on Tuesday 13th November. The dinner was agreed to have been a great success for the Company and provided a good platform to promote its excellent work with the Community Fire Cadet organisation and The Massey Shaw Fire Boat & Marine Vessels Preservation Society.

Honoured Guests Included:

- **Sir Edward Lister** - The Mayor of London's Chief of Staff and Deputy Mayor for Planning
- **James Cleverley** - Chairman of the London Fire & Emergency Planning Authority
- **Ron Dobson** - London Fire Brigade Commissioner
- **Phil Salt** - Head of DFRMO (Defence Fire Risk Management Organisation)
- **Lee Howell** - President of CFOA (Chief Fire Officers Association)

With much knowledge and expertise around the tables, discussion was keen and relevant to all those who attended.

Thanks to the generosity of Catlin Group, the leading global specialty property and casualty Insurance and Reinsurers, in providing the superb venue, reception and dinner for over 110 guests; the money raised goes directly to the Charitable Trust Fund of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters. Organisations benefiting from Grants by the Trust were represented and provided an insight about their work and how important our Trustee donations meant to them.

In particular it was very rewarding to hear from some of the Fire Cadets themselves; as to how much getting involved in the Fire Cadet activities had transformed their lives in giving those from socially deprived areas the opportunity to develop skills that will be of real use as they enter employment; including confidence, teamwork, communications skills and discipline.

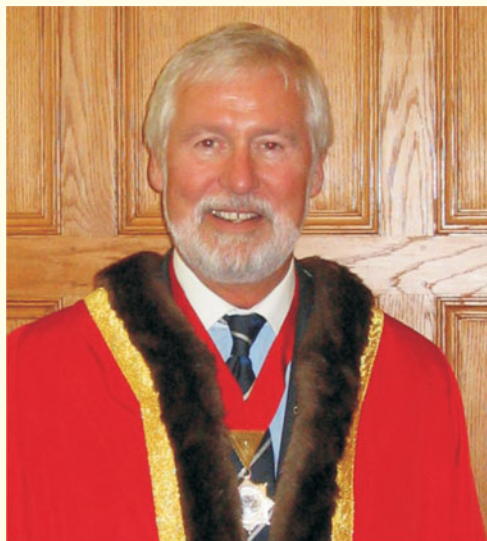
Another first at the City dinner was an excellent dramatisation of "A Night in the Blitz", from a young "Fire Runners" view point. This was movingly portrayed by actress Jane Cartwright and was very well received from all who were present.

Functions like these demonstrate the relevance and active involvement of the WCoFF in both The City and fire communities.



WCoFF NEWS

Past Master Geoff Morgan



As many of you are aware, Past Master Geoff Morgan collapsed with chest pains while attending a committee meeting at the Ironmongers Hall and had to be rushed into hospital. The good news is that, following a spell in hospital, he has recovered well and is now recuperating at home. Geoff has been a great supporter and contributor to the newsletter as well as being a wonderful proof reader. We all wish him good speed with getting back to full fitness.

Carol Concert Homily

On 14th December 2012, at the Company's annual Carol Service at St Mary-le-Bow, the 'homily' was delivered by Past Master James Blott (2008-2009), who was licenced by the Bishop of Portsmouth as a Lay Minister in the Church of England in September 2010. This is a summary of what James said:

James took as his message the relevance that the Christmas story has for us in the Company in 2013, looking to the challenges ahead.

He started by referring to the 'St John's Bible' project, the first illuminated Bible produced with a goose quill on vellum since the invention of the printing press. The depiction of the Christmas story is of a huge red Bible in the manger, in place of the baby Jesus. This challenges us to think about the meaning of the famous passage in St John's gospel, read at so many Carol Services: 'And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us'. The strangeness of this image, of the baby Jesus shown as a Bible, encourages us to think of the real meaning of the Christmas story, which lies in the enormity of the gift that God has given us, by coming among us as a vulnerable baby.

James went on to say that Christmas has a wide appeal, which enables us to reach out to those of

other faiths and none, but it's also a time when we need to acknowledge our responsibility to reflect Christ's values in our lives; His care for the oppressed, His concern for the powerless and voiceless, His commandment that we should love one another and His non-violent, self-sacrificial offering of himself. In coming to us in the form of a baby, God makes himself intentionally vulnerable, and in doing so He calls us to mirror that vulnerability in our dealings with each other. The Christmas message shows us a model for our own relationships with each other; it calls us to shine as a light in an increasingly dark world, and to see each other as gifts from God to each other. James quoted the great Civil Rights leader and Baptist minister, Martin Luther King, who said that all life is interrelated and we can only be what we ought to be when those with whom we come into contact become what they ought to be.

At the end of a memorable year for the Company, in which we've experienced another successful Fire Lecture, the triumph of the River Pageant and the continued success of our Ball, James concluded that looking on the Christmas message this way would enable us to look forward to a happy and successful 2013.



Past Master James Blott (2008-2009)

Carol Concert Raises £458 for Homeless Charity

The WCoFF carol concert held at St. Mary le Bow was well attended and enjoyed by all who came, company members, family friends, children and even some visitors to London who happened to be passing. The singing was excellent, there were some fine readings and our Past Master James Blott gave the homily - a summary of which can be seen on the left. There were some tasty eats and drinks afterwards and a good time for enjoying each other's company in the run-up to Christmas in the heart of the city. The really good news was a generous collection for the homeless which was much appreciated.



Company Represented at Armistice Day Commemoration

The Company was well represented at the annual Armistice Day commemoration ceremony held at the Menin Gate in Ypres, Belgium, at the eleventh hour of 11th November.

Members of the Company attending the commemoration were Honorary Archivist Martin Lloyd-Elliott, Liveryman Richard Squire and Under Warden-in-Waiting Bruce Hoad. Martin laid a wreath at the Gate on behalf of the Master, Wardens and members of the Company.

In addition to the annual ceremony every evening since 1928, the Last Post, the traditional final salute to the fallen, is played by buglers of the Ypres Fire Service in honour of the memory of soldiers of the former British Empire and its allies who died in the Ypres Salient during the First World War. It is the intention of the Last Post Association to maintain this daily act of homage in perpetuity.

Because of the inextricably close relationship between the Last Post Association and the Fire Service, the annual commemoration has taken on a significant 'fire service' identity. Fire and rescue services from across the United Kingdom are represented by bands and marching contingents who process in full uniform through the town to the Menin Gate where they form up for the ceremony.

Martin, Richard and Bruce were members of an annual tour to the Belgian and French First World War battlefields organised by members of the London Fire Brigade.

Bruce Hoad, Under Warden-in-Waiting



Picture taken at the Menin Gate, Ypres in Belgium on Armistice Day, 11th November 2012. Members of the Company attending the commemoration were: Honorary Archivist Martin Lloyd-Elliott, Liveryman Richard Squire and Under Warden-in-Waiting Bruce Hoad. Martin Lloyd-Elliott laid a wreath at the Menin Gate on behalf of the Master, Wardens and members of the Company.

Ladies' Lunch

Following last year's very successful and enjoyable Christmas Lunch for lady members and members' spouses at the Civil Service Club organised by Lesley Cowland, wife of then Master Peter Cowland, our present Master's wife, Judith Harper, organised a similar event with lunch at the Smugglers Room at The Prospect of Whitby. This is one of London's oldest riverside pubs, dating back to 1520 and once frequented by Captain Cook. The meal was thoroughly enjoyed by all those ladies who attended, with the historic location contributing to the convivial atmosphere and the chance for a 'good natter'.



Recruitment

Ron Murray is asking for your support in attracting new members into the Company. In particular he is seeking your help in nominating people who work in or have experience of the Fire Service or Fire Industry to attend our 'Meet the Firefighters' events.

The occasion is designed to provide people who are interested to learn about the WCoFF and livery companies in a relaxed and informal atmosphere. Presentations are made about the Company to explain what it does and what it stands for and the advantages and privileges of membership.

If you know of someone, especially those who work in or have experience of the Fire Service or the Fire Industry, or whose family served within the fire service, who you think may be interested and would make a good member then please ask them if they would be interested in attending one of these events.

Other Social Events Enjoyed

A dinner for Liverymen was held on 29th January at the East India Club and members and friends enjoyed a visit behind the scenes at St. Paul's on 18th February.

Company Directory

The clerk, Sir Martin Bonham Kt, recently sent all members a directory for 2012/13. If anyone has not seen the directory please let the clerk know. The directory contains a wealth of information on the structure, officers, committees and company members.

'MK2UK' Training Initiative for Macedonian Firefighters

Between 17 November and 01 December 2012, a group of 27 firefighters from across the Republic of Macedonia took part in a training programme for specialist fire and rescue service instructors at the Severn Park Fire and Rescue Training Centre at Avonmouth. This training was organised by Operation Florian, the UK-based fire and rescue service humanitarian charity.



In addition to its many other aid projects throughout the world, Operation Florian has been actively involved with fire service capacity building in Macedonia since 2007, and during that time has delivered over 20 fully equipped fire appliances, 200 sets of breathing apparatus, 30 sets of specialist road crash rescue equipment, personal protective equipment for 350 professional and volunteer firefighters, and relevant training for over 200 firefighters.

After an approach from the manager of the Severn Park Fire and Rescue Training Centre, and then extensive negotiations between the principal partners in UK and Macedonia, a plan was drawn up to bring 30 firefighters to UK in November to be trained in specialist instructional techniques in breathing apparatus and structural firefighting and road traffic collision rescue, and for a proportion of these to receive introductory training in Urban Search and Rescue techniques.

The students also had the opportunity to visit and spend some time on operational fire stations within the Bristol area. They studied how the UK fire service is organised and equipped, and how it operates, and some had the opportunity to witness their UK colleagues in action at live incidents. Particular emphasis was placed on how UK firefighters contribute to reducing risk in their communities by their involvement in proactive community safety initiatives.

Our Master, Michael Harper, took time out of his busy schedule to visit Severn Park to witness first-hand the training being delivered, and to talk to the students to gain an appreciation of the difference that this training will make to their services back home.

At the end of the training courses the Centre

arranged a pass-out and graduation event for the students. A combined exercise was executed, giving the students the opportunity to display the skills and techniques that they had learned to a wide audience of invited guests. The event was attended not only by a number of highly influential figures from the UK Fire and Rescue Service and associated industry, but also by the Macedonian Charge d'Affaires and the Secretary of the Association of Macedonian Citizens in the UK. The Master was represented at this event by our Upper Warden, Beryl Jeffrey, with whom the firefighters were deeply impressed, likening her to Mother Teresa, arguably Macedonia's most famous and much revered daughter.

The Macedonian Fire Services' Network is in the early stages of planning to establish a training centre where centralised training and development of firefighters and officers can take place. The training of specialist instructors is a key element of capacity building within the Service, and it is hoped that Operation Florian can support this development by repeating the initiative in the course of 2013.

The first phase of the MK2UK Project must be judged by any objective standard a major success. The firefighters attending the training created an excellent impression of their service through their enthusiasm, effort and professionalism. Bonds with UK fire services, institutions and individuals have been formed that can only be of benefit for the future.

Bruce Hoad, Under Warden-in-Waiting



Picture shows the Upper Warden presenting the Company shield to 5 Fire Chiefs, representatives of the Fire Services' Network in Macedonia.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Fire Lecture 2013 - Safe as Houses?

This year's annual Fire Lecture, hosted by The Worshipful Company of Firefighters, is a debate that examines the case for the installation of sprinklers in all new homes. The debate will be chaired by James Landale, Deputy Political Editor, BBC News. James Shannon, President of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) of the USA, will propose the motion and Jonathan O'Neill, Managing Director of the Fire Protection Association (FPA) of the UK, will oppose.



CPD credits are available to members of the IFE, EPS and the CII.

A discount is offered for members of the Institution of Fire Engineers.

The lecture will be held on Tuesday 23rd April 2013, 6.30pm - 9.00pm at The Insurance Hall, 20 Aldermanbury, London EC2V 7GF.

We hope that present will be Sheriff Nigel Pullman, City of London Corporation, Peter Holland CBE OStJ QFSM FIFireE, Chief Fire & Rescue Adviser and the immediate past Adviser Sir Ken Knight CBE QFSM DL.



Wellington, Temple Stairs on Victoria Embankment

This is a wonderful occasion where members are most welcome to bring wives, partners, family and friends for this special evening at HQS Wellington. The dinner is held in honour of Sir Massey Shaw, the first Chief Fire Officer of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade from 1861 until 1891

You and your guests will be able to enjoy a 3 course dinner with accompanying wines prepared by "The Cook and The Butler" who have catered most excellently for the Company at many recent functions and were recently awarded the franchise at this venue. There will also be musical entertainment during the evening.



The historic ship Wellington is the last surviving member of the Grimsby Class of sloops which served the nation with such distinction in World War Two. She has been moored on the Thames since 1948 during which time she has been the home of the Honourable Company of Master Mariners, a City of London Livery Company.

Visit to the Tower - Saturday 2nd March 2013 - To see the Ceremony of the Keys

Liveryman and Constable Tony Skinner is organising a visit to the Tower of London on 2nd March 2013. It is always an honour to be invited by the Yeoman Warders of HM Fortress the Tower of London to witness the Ceremony of the Keys, a ceremony that has been held every evening at the stroke of 10pm for hundreds of years, whether it be peacetime or during times of war.



Normally, there is a short external guided commentary tour of the grounds and sights before our party is invited into the Yeoman Warders' Club for some supper and drinks. At about 9.30pm our group will go to witness The Ceremony of the Keys which will be carried out by the Yeoman Warders and the resident guard.

Massey Shaw - Wednesday 6th March - HMS

FIREFIGHTERS NEWS

Sir Ken Knight to lead review into operational efficiency of Firefighters

An expert led review into the operational efficiency of the services delivered by fire and rescue authorities in England was announced on the 14th December 2012 by Brandon Lewis MP, Minister for the Department for Communities and Local Government. It comes as part of a broad policy to support fire and rescue authorities in reducing the number and impact of fires.

The statement from the department said that the review was to be conducted by former firefighter and out going government Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser, Sir Ken Knight, starting early 2013. The review will seek to identify ways fire and rescue authorities can pinpoint savings and improvements without reducing the quality life-saving services that the country's fire firefighters are known for.

The statement said that fire deaths and incidents are at an all time low. Over the last decade attendance at incidents has fallen by 39% and attendance at fires by 48%. The review will help today's fire service reflect that change.

In conducting the review, Sir Ken Knight will talk to key partners to help develop his findings including the Local Government Association, Fire Sector Federation, the Chief Fire Officers' Association and the Fire Brigades Union, as well as individual authorities and other emergency services. The report is expected to be completed in the spring of 2013.

Fire Minister Brandon Lewis said:

"We all recognise our firefighters perform an incredibly important public service. That is why spending for fire and rescue authorities, like other blue light services, has been protected. But we cannot escape the reality that every bit of the public sector has to help reduce the deficit we inherited.

"Public safety is always our first concern and this review will make sure no stone has been left unturned in the quest for the most efficient and effective front-line fire service there can be. I know Sir Ken is passionate about the quality of fire and rescue services and he will bring an enormous amount of experience and knowledge to the task."

Sir Ken Knight said:

"With over 40 years in the fire service, I know firefighters care deeply about public safety and

want to provide the best possible service, but we need to make sure that service is as effective and efficient as possible. Many authorities have made great strides already, but there is much more that can be done.

"This review is a real opportunity to get to grips with what is happening on the ground, to highlight best practice and make sure that every option for efficient working is being explored. I will be talking to firefighters, fire authorities and union reps about how we can get there."

Peter Holland Succeeds Sir Ken Knight as Chief Fire & Rescue Adviser

On 23 Jan 2013, the government announced the appointment of Peter Holland CBE as the UK's new chief fire and rescue advisor. Mr Holland, who will succeed Sir Ken Knight will be in charge of delivering professional support and advice to senior officials and government ministers on fire policy. Additionally, he will be giving his opinion on fire safety, national resilience and the inspection of Crown premises, while providing additional support in the event of national emergencies.

Mr Holland has had a successful career in the fire industry, starting out as a front-line firefighter and working his way up to senior management. He held the position of chief fire officer at the Lancashire Fire and Rescue Authority and was also the international president of the Institution of Fire Engineers. He will join the Department for Communities and Local Government, which is in charge of fire and rescue affairs.

Speaking about Mr Holland's appointment, fire minister Brandon Lewis said that he is delighted that the government could call upon experience for a "vital role in national resilience". He noted that "Peter's appointment is crucial to helping them do this as well as supporting key policies such as the decentralisation of power from Whitehall, promoting local accountability and transparency and helping fire and rescue authorities be as efficient as possible."

Peter has recently joined the Worshipful Company of Firefighters and took part in the City dinner debate.



Peter Holland

South Yorkshire Fire Brigade Help Film Production on Car Crashes

The local young stars of a dramatic new production have given the thumbs-up to a car crash horror show, aimed at cutting deaths and injuries on South Yorkshire's roads.



The film 'Collision', was commissioned by South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue (SYFR) in 2011, after six young people died in two car crashes in the county in a matter of weeks. It was launched at Sheffield Hallam University's Pennine Lecture theatre, and attended by the stars of the show, as well as new Police and Crime Commissioner, Shaun Wright, and Chair of the Fire Authority, Jim Andrews.

The cast, who are all aged between 16 and 20, and from South Yorkshire, are backing it to be a hit in driving home the road safety message in local schools.

Rotherham's Tom Hadfield, who plays Sean, the driver of one of the cars which crashes in the film, said: "The makers have approached some really hard subjects, which made it hit home. It shocked me seeing how dangerous things can be, and the other factors involved in driving. It's not just that you're on the road – there are stories that lead to the crash."

SYFR, which obtained funds from the South Yorkshire Safer Roads Partnership to commission the project, are now working with local schools to ensure as many young people in the county as possible have a chance to see the film, with the aim of improving road safety in the future.

Firefighters and Water

The 'Wet 10' is an association of Livery Companies who have a connection with water. The 'Wet 10' has invited members of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters to attend a debate on the 4th March (conducted under Chatham House rules). The key speakers will come from the Department of the Environment and the Met Office and will discuss "Droughts and Floods - what is happening to the weather?" Water is becoming ever more a key element in the economies of the world and in the well-being of its citizens. The Fire Services of the world are intimately involved in situations of too little water (e.g. hot blazing fires sweeping across townships in Australia) or too much (e.g. rescuing stranded people in floods). Swift access to water for firefighting and concerns about contaminated run-off from water used on fires are also issues. The "Wet 10" debates are worthy of your interest. Further details can be found at: www.wet10.co.uk.

And on the Subject of Water....

The Worshipful Company of Water Conservators (a modern company, 102nd in the precedence list and becoming a worshipful company in 2000), has asked us to contribute a few pages on the importance of water in the world of firefighting for a book project that they are promoting this year called "Reflections on Water". Your editor has attempted to put something together for this project and a summary of that contribution will be put on our web-site when it is released.

MEMORABILIA

In celebration of 21 years since the formation of The Guild of Firefighters, a unique crystal glass to keep as a future family heirloom is available for purchase. The goblet is priced at £10.00. Please add £2.50 for postage and packing. There are only 7 left.

WCoFF ties in blue and red are available for purchase at £25 each.

Also available are crystal glass paperweights at £10 each, Salamander lapel pins at £80 each and cuff links at £22.50 for a set.



All enquiries to Brian Eves at: brian84.eves@virgin.net.



The Salamander

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters

Service, Fellowship, Harmony and Honour

July 2013 Inside

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Diary

30th August - Combined Golf Day - Painter-Stainers, Wilderness GC

8th September - Annual UK Firefighters Memorial Service, St Bartholomew's

13th September - Court of Assistants, Insurance Hall

21st September - Fire Industry Charity Ball, Portman Hotel

27th September - Members' Informal Luncheon, Old Dr Butler's

10th October - St Florian's Installation Banquet, Cutlers' Hall

9th November - Lord Mayor's Show, City

12th November - City Dinner

6th December - Members' Informal Luncheon, Old Dr Butler's

13th December- Carol Service, St Mary-le-Bow

THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FIREFIGHTERS CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

On July 5th, shortly after Common Hall, members gathered on board the MS Elizabethan to celebrate 25 years of being a City Company.

Immediate Past Master Michael Harper and new Master Beryl Jeffrey were present to welcome members and their guests on board. Entertainment was provided by a swing band and singer and there were drinks and a fine buffet to enjoy on a pleasant evening sailing the Thames. Father of the Company and Founding Master, Gerald Clarkson was unable to attend due to ill health.

The Guild of Firefighters was formed in 1988 and was recognised by the City on 13 June 1988 as it started its journey towards Company and ultimately full Livery status. On 13 June 1995 the Guild fulfilled the first stage and was granted the status of a City Company without Livery. On 23 October 2001 the City of London granted the Company Livery status, when it became known as The Worshipful Company of Firefighters.

Members and guests were able to buy some special celebratory wine goblets to mark the occasion. For those who couldn't make the evening, there is an opportunity to buy these glasses (see back page).

The Company has grown in strength since its inception, supporting worthwhile charities and making its mark in the City with events such as the annual City Fire lecture. With a loyal core of members, the future looks bright for the Company, with hopes also to gain a future Royal Charter.



The Worshipful Company of Firefighters
The Clerk: Sir Martin Bonham Bt
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London EC2V 7GF
T: 0207 600 1666 F: 0207 600 1666
E: clerk@firefighterscompany.org

www.firefighterscompany.org

COMPANY NEWS

Common Hall

Common Hall took place on 5th July. This is the occasion when the Company bears witness to the sworn Declarations of the incoming Master and of the Wardens and we thank the outgoing Master.

Common Hall is also the occasion when Liverymen and Freemen can address questions to the Master, Wardens and Court.

Following Common Hall, the newly installed Master and Wardens, together with the Company, processed to St Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, for a Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication. This was conducted by the Company's Honorary Chaplain, The Rev. George Bush.

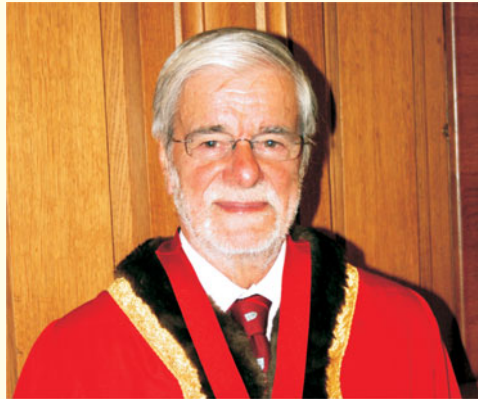


New Master Beryl Jeffrey

The new Master is Beryl Jeffrey. Beryl studied architecture and was a senior architect with London based practice T.P. Bennett for over 20 years. She was elected a councillor for the London Borough of Wandsworth in 1990 where she served as deputy chairman of the Planning Committee and was appointed one of Wandsworth's representatives on the London Fire and Civil Defence Authority. She was also a local government member on the London Arts Board. Beryl was Mayor of Wandsworth during the year 1994/95. She retired from the council in 2002, but is still a trustee for a number of local charities.

After joining the Company of Firefighters, Beryl became our "First Lady" liveryman in 2002 and subsequently served on the Court of Assistants, becoming Under Warden in Waiting in 2009. Beryl is a widow and had two sons, one of whom is living in the USA and she has four grandchildren and, as well as enjoying her family, likes travelling, gardening and the theatre.

The new Upper Warden is Bryan Spearman Esq., the new Renter Warden is Ron Murray Esq. and the new Under Warden is Bruce Hoad Esq. John Mansfield became Under Warden-in-waiting.



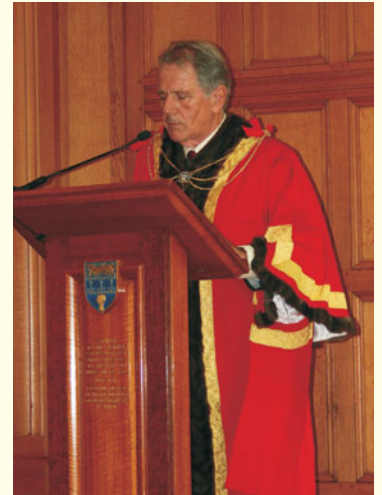
Upper Warden Bryan Spearman Esq.



Renter Warden Ron Murray Esq.



Under Warden Bruce Hoad Esq.



The Tower Proves its Worth

Master Michael Harper raised over £3000 for the British Red Cross following incarceration in the Tower of London.



On 29th May, Michael took part in the British Red Cross Annual Jailed & Bailed event hosted by the Right Honourable, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, Alderman and Mrs Roger Gifford, on Wednesday 29 May. He was arrested at Mansion House, on nefarious charges, and then transported by the City of London Police to the Tower of London where he was incarcerated pending bail. Bail was set at £1,000 in support of the British Red Cross.

Fortunately, Michael, through his many friends and colleagues, managed to raise a sum in excess of £3000 and he became a free man again. He said that a number of "friends" had offered more money to allow him to stay longer. However, although he was made very comfortable at the Tower, he was glad to be able to escape and send thanks to all who allowed his bail bond for such a deserving cause to be well surpassed.

Diary Note

The date of the St Florian's Installation Banquet has been moved to Thursday 10th October 2013 and will be held at Cutlers' Hall, Warwick Lane, London EC4M 7BR.

David Rea

It is with some sorrow that we report the sad news that David Rea passed away on 6th June. David was a member of the Company for almost 20 years. He had been in poor health for some time which he bore with fortitude and humour. He will be missed by his family and colleagues.

William Hackett

Congratulations are due to liveryman William Hackett who has become a Member of St John Scotland, and as a member, uniquely holding the St John life saving medal, awarded for his action as Assistant Divisional Officer in the London Fire Brigade for his action in saving a man who had climbed 130ft up a 250kV electricity pylon.

Paul Settle

It is good to report that Paul Settle, General Secretary of the Firefighters Memorial Trust was awarded an MBE in the latest honours list for his public and charitable services.

New Members' Website

We hope that many of you regularly use the WCoFF website to obtain information or to book activities. You will also notice that there is a members' section, where non-public information can also be displayed.

When you first enter this site, having obtained a login password from Colin Simpson, you will have an opportunity to attach a short biographical summary and a photograph. We are hoping that by keeping such information up to date, members will be able to use this area of the web-site as a means of better communicating capabilities that we collectively can provide to promote the activities of the Company.

To contact Colin, please email Colin Simpson at webmaster@firefighterscompany.org

"Pudding and Pie" Luncheon

The Company has again been invited to organise the now traditional "Pudding and Pie" Luncheon to be held following the Firefighters Memorial Trust Service and Wreath Laying Ceremony on Sunday 8th September 2013.

This will be held at the (brand) new "Happenstance" Restaurant and Brasserie located at 1a, Ludgate Hill, EC4M 7AA which is almost opposite the steps of St Paul's Cathedral.

This is an ideal opportunity for us to meet our friends from both the Trust and participating fire brigades.

City Dinner 2013

Hosted by HM Government Chief Fire & Rescue Adviser Peter Holland CBE QFSM FFireE

Tuesday 12th November 2013

In support of Youth Training, Education & Welfare

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters presents an "Exclusive Black-Tie Dinner" hosted by Peter Holland, supported by Sir Ken Knight CBE QFSM DL and proudly sponsored by Catlin Group, the leading global specialty property / casualty insurance and reinsurance Group.

Join our VIP guests from the Government, the City and from all the major Fire Industry Companies and Associations in launching a 3-year programme to raise dedicated funds for The Worshipful Company of Firefighters Charitable Trust Fund in support of Training, Education and Welfare projects exclusively for young people affected by e.g burns, anti-social behaviour and special needs training requirements. Our aim is to help them so that they can help themselves.

Dinner will be held in the impressive Skyline dining room overlooking the City of London at Catlin Group's UK HQ at 20 Gracechurch Street, London EC3V 0BG. Here a host of VIPs, leading Fire Industry figures and their guests will gather for a 6.30pm champagne reception followed by dinner at approximately 7.00pm. The Dress code will be Black Tie with miniatures where applicable. Carriages will be at 10.00 - 10.15pm but for those wishing to linger a little longer, there will be an after dinner bar.

You are cordially invited to join us for the launch of our Stage 1 Opening Project by either reserving your place; by taking a table for 10 or part thereof. The cost of each place is £100 and thanks to the generosity of Catlin Group, all money raised will go directly towards this project. To reserve your table or place at this exclusive dinner, please contact Tony Skinner at the address below or email to tskinner42@hotmail.co.uk

A. J. Skinner,
2 Broadwater Green, Laindon
West, Basildon, Essex SS15 6BG

CITY "FIRE" LECTURE

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters held its third annual City "Fire" lecture at the Insurance Hall on the 23rd April. It was sponsored by Capita plc and had the title "Safe as Houses" and was a debate about the benefits and costs of fitting domestic sprinklers in new homes.

James Shannon, President of the NFPA, based in USA, spoke for the introduction of sprinklers into new homes and Jonathan O'Neill, head of the FPA in UK, spoke against this automatic fitting of sprinklers for domestic buildings. The debate was chaired by James Landale, Deputy Political Editor of BBC News.

It was an intense debate with many questions and absorbed the many people from the City and fire industry who attended.

Master Michael Harper welcomed some 155 people to the Insurance Hall; Sheriff Nigel Pullman made an opening address and was presented with a cheque for The Lord Mayor's Appeal 2013.

Bruce Hoad, then Under Warden-in-Waiting, introduced the guests, closing with comments about the work of the LFB's Community Fire Cadet Scheme. The Master presented a Company shield to each of eight Fire Cadets who attended to assist with preparations for the lecture.

Jim Shannon's presentation about domestic sprinklers from the American perspective was enlightening and informative; and to a degree what the audience expected. Jonathon O'Neil, with the more difficult task in opposition, surprised the audience with a well-balanced argument, not against domestic sprinklers as such, but supportive and favouring a more pragmatic approach to their installation in domestic buildings.

The Fire Minister, Brandon Lewis MP, made a closing address and gifts were presented to the sponsors and participants, culminating with a special presentation to Sir Ken Knight by the Master on behalf of the Company. The gift was a book entitled "Masters' Badges of the City of London Livery Companies" to wish him well in retirement.

Through its City "Fire" Lecture, the WCoFF is becoming an important contributor to key issues in the fire protection world.

PM Alan Wells
Chairman, Fire Lecture Working Group



FIREX

The WCoFF was present at this year's International Firex exhibition held at the NEC in Birmingham in May. Past Master Viv Jones along with a number of Company members including John Worboys, Peter Moore, Colin Simpson and Past Master Peter Cowland manned the stand and gave out information on the Company.

The event is one of the largest Fire Industry event in the calendar and it is a good opportunity to advertise the Company to the fire trade (and interest them in the Fire Industry Ball). The organisers, UBM (who also regularly sponsor the Fire Industry Ball), generously donated the stand and also donated some of the takings from dinner and quiz social events to our charitable activities.

The next International Firex event will be held in London.



Colin Simpson and Past master Viv Jones with the bottle of champagne prize for the raffle.

SUPPORTING THE FIRE CADETS

Livery companies have been involved in the training and development of young people for centuries. Apprentices were indentured to their masters in order to learn the skills of their particular trade. The livery companies set and maintained the standards of their respective trades and provided regulation. Education was a cornerstone on which the trade or craft was built and flourished.

For the last two years the WCoFF has supported the Community Fire Cadets (CFC) programmes developed and run by the London Fire Brigade (LFB). The courses, which are seen as 'life-changing', are for young people, many of whom come from disadvantaged backgrounds. The courses last for 15 months and include practical firefighting skills, life safety and engagement with the community.

The programme, which is very much in the traditions of livery, enhances employment opportunities in the fire service or elsewhere, and can lead to a BTEC qualification.

On the completion of each CFC course, the Master of the Company of Firefighters presents an award for outstanding achievement to the top cadet. The WCoFF's charitable trust, in association with Bristol Uniforms, also buys the personnel protection equipment for all cadets on a CFC course being run by LFB in 2013.

The WCoFF Charitable Trust has also supported education and training in Croydon by providing junior fire kit for use by youngsters attending the Croydon Fire Brigade training programme 'Crossfire', which aims to combat antisocial behaviour among young people, such as fire-setting, hoax calling and crime, promotes good citizenship and personal safety.

During a Crossfire session, the best behaved learners are able to dress in fire kit. Usually, this involves the protective clothing belonging to the officers delivering the session, but this time the team were able to dress in brand new youth fire kit donated by the WCoFF. Borough Commander Chris Bigland said: "I am incredibly grateful to the Worshipful Company of Firefighters for recognising the work of this vital team. The gift we received today will help us bring this crucial learning to life."

Article abstracted with thanks from the magazine Crisis Response Journal and was written by Past Master Geoff Morgan.



Bryan Spearman of the WCoFF (above), in association with Bristol Uniforms, presented three junior firefighting kits to David Gill of the Crossfire team. The kits will be used at all Crossfire programmes across Croydon, UK.

Come and celebrate with friends and colleagues at the Fire Industry's glittering annual event.

For further information and tickets visit:
firefighterscompany.org/ball

The Fire Industry Charity Ball 2013
Radisson Blu (SAS) Portman Hotel, Portman Square, London W1H 7BG
21st September 2013

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters

Please support this major fund raising event by your presence.

The cost per head is £110 and is inclusive of the dinner dance, entertainment, reception drink and ½ bottle of wine.

To reserve your places please send a deposit of £30 per head to:
Andy Phillips, Little Tors, School Road, Kelvendon Hatch, Essex, CM15 0DH

Cheques payable to "The Worshipful Company of Firefighters Charitable Trust"

Tables of 10 or individuals are all welcome.

You can also take advantage of a specially negotiated room rate for overnight accommodation which includes breakfast, for Friday and Saturday nights at the Portman Hotel, Portman Square, London W1H 7BG. The rate for a double room is £185 per night (£175 per night for a single room). For room bookings please call the hotel on 0207 208 6000 and ask for reservations and quote reference number 130920BRAN and the date of the event (21st September 2013) and the name (Fire Industry Charity Ball).

THE MASSEY SHAW DELAYS HER RETURN TO LONDON

One of the main charities that the WCoFF charitable Trust has been supporting for many years has been the restoration of the Fireboat "The Massey Shaw"

The Massey Shaw is one of London's unsung heroes on the Thames. Built in 1935, the fireboat served the London Fire Brigade for many years and also took part in the WWII 'Operation Dynamo' to rescue soldiers from the beaches at Dunkirk. It ferried 500 men to the warships and brought over 100 men back to England.

In late March 2012, after many months of planning, the Massey Shaw was lifted out of the water and transported by road overnight to Gloucester Dock to complete her restoration after 5 years of dedicated work by many volunteers and with later support of lottery funding.

However, delays to the final restoration work meant that the original plan to sail the Massey Shaw back to St. Catherine's Dock had to be put off. The boat will be transported now by road to Denton Wharf in London.

The boat will make its first sailing appearance at the Great River Race at Richmond on 7th September and will then sail to St. Catherine's Dock on September 8th.



ANNUAL SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

The Firefighters Memorial Trust invited members and their guests to attend the Annual Service of Thanksgiving at the Firefighters Monument on Sunday 12th May 2012. This was held at the National Memorial Arboretum.

The open air Service was conducted by Canon Peter Mortimer MBE TD (Chaplain to the Trust).



Michael Harper laid a wreath during the service.



Upper Warden Beryl Jeffrey with Canon Peter Mortimer for the dedication of four newly installed granite benches, donated by the Worshipful Company of Firefighters Charitable Trust.



Michael Harper and Past Master Peter Cowland enjoy a moment on the seat.

(pictures courtesy of the Firefighters Memorial Trust)

'SAVED'

In 2000 when John Lawrence MBE was Master, he presented to the Company a number of commemorative plates to mark the Millennium.

Many members have one and know well the famous picture shown, 'Saved' by Charles Vigor. Most too will know something of the history of this painting which hangs in The Fire Service College.

A few of the plates themselves have been extremely well received following contributions by guests to special events, most recently the annual Fire Lectures. The realisation that an American recipient, Jim Shannon, President of the National Fire Protection Association, would know little or nothing of the painting's origins, has prompted another PM Alan Wells to produce a note to accompany future presentations. It is an A5 page and outlines the events that may have influenced the painting and some background of the artist. Future recipients of such presentations will therefore have a greater knowledge of the history of their gift.

For members who own one of these plates, an email to our Clerk, Martin Bonham, or PM Alan Wells will secure you a copy of the note which fits comfortably into the boxes that house them.



FIREFIGHTERS NEWS

From Tyne and Wear

Meet the Chief

Last year was the first time no one in Tyne and Wear died in an accidental house fire. This was a significant achievement and Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service is believed to be the only metropolitan area ever to have achieved this.

Salamander caught up with Tom Capeling, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service's Chief Fire Officer and asked him how they achieved this. Tom said: "There is no doubt this has been due to our effective Home Safety Check Strategy and the phenomenal dedication of our staff across the Service, our very clear targeting strategy that supports the 'protection' ethos we are passionate about within this Service. It is also down to our continuous education campaign which has led to an increase in smoke alarm ownership, our proactive partnership working, the commitment of people in Tyne and Wear, and a degree of good fortune."

Tom has worked for the Service for 25 years after seven years in the Royal Navy working as a marine engineering mechanic. Starting as a Firefighter Tom worked his way up to Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service's top post. In 2007 he became an Area Manager; responsible for the Service's estates, procurement and stores, fleet maintenance, contingencies and special projects and the Control Room services. He was then promoted to Assistant Chief Fire Officer for Community Safety and spent three years leading community safety and the Service's frontline emergency response service. He was appointed Chief Fire Officer in February 2012.

Tom's focus has been on reducing the risk to the community by improving performance, reinforcing the importance of intelligence led decision making, changing how the Service responds to fires and working with partners to make Tyne and Wear a safer place to live.

Tom is facing his biggest challenge yet with significant reduction in funding. He said: "Protecting the most vulnerable in society is our number one aim. The challenging financial situation will make this aim even more difficult to achieve. We need to provide our services in a different way to ensure we continue to reduce the risk to our community. However, given the dedication and professionalism of the staff who work at Tyne and Wear, and our partners, I know that they will rise to this challenge and that the Service will continue to be one of the best in the country."



From Devon and Somerset

Improving Public Safety by Working in Partnership



Chief Fire Officer, Lee Howell had the pleasure of presenting certificates of appreciation to two partnerships that have been established with Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service. The certificates were awarded to Bourne Leisure Group and Yarlington Housing Group celebrating the positive outcomes that have been achieved.



Bourne Leisure Group were commended for their on-going commitment to improve Fire Safety for their employees and their guests. Yarlington were commended for installing four Domestic Sprinkler Systems in some of the properties of their most vulnerable residents.

Lee Howell said: "I'm absolutely delighted with the partnership we have with Bourne Leisure and Yarlington, it is certainly going to allow us to improve public safety for those most at risk. It also shows a commitment between industry and the fire and rescue service, working in partnership to deliver improved outcomes for the public. The commitment is inspiring and we look forward to a long and fruitful relationship with both organisations. "

The future

Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service look forward to building upon both relationships in the future to everyone's mutual advantage as well as the wider community.

Chairman of the Fire Authority, Mark Healey said: "I'm really impressed to see people coming together to improve Fire Safety. Well done to Yarlington Homes for taking the initiative and starting to put sprinklers into their properties. It's smart partnership working as they picked homes in vulnerable people living in rural locations."

"Well done to Bourne Leisure as well, they are very pro-active in fire safety nationwide. I was very interested to hear about their take on Carbon Monoxide so we look forward to doing some collaborative work in the near future. So a really exceptional day for the Fire Service and fire safety in general."

The Master Sends Condolences

Our Master has sent condolences to the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service following the tragic death of fire brigade member Stephen Hunt on 13th July. Stephen was involved in dealing with the fire that started in a hairdressing facility in the city. The family of the 38-year-old father of two described Stephen as "an old-fashioned gentleman" who "lived to serve his country." As well as being a firefighter, Stephen Hunt also served with the Royal Signals regiment for seven years. A book of condolences and support fund for Stephen can be accessed from the GMFRS site at www.manchesterfire.gov.uk

Fire Service Clean up Shoalstone Outdoor Swimming Pool



Brixham's outdoor seawater swimming pool is an art deco icon and only one of a few left in this country. It is maintained by a committed team of volunteers known as: "The Friends of Shoalstone", who raise funds and carry out the maintenance work.

Fearing that the pool had been facing closure, Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service, White Watch Manager, Mark Rollings from Brixham decided to take action: "Due to the current financial climate Torbay council has cut the funding for the pool and last summer it was only open for a very short season.

"I felt it would be a good idea to see if the crew would be interested in volunteering to help clean and paint the pool ready for the summer season. The positive response from the crew was overwhelming, so I approached the Friends of Shoalstone pool and to say they bit my hand off would be an understatement!

"Over the winter months the pool collects sand and debris from the winter storms so in April we spent a day cleaning it, followed by four days in May repainting the pool and surrounding areas.

"This has been a great opportunity to help the voluntary group refurbish the pool and keep this valuable asset open. It has also been a great way for us to engage with the Brixham community as this is a popular pool enjoyed by thousands of people, locals and visitors every year and is an integral part of our leisure facilities."

"The Friends of Shoalstone" are instrumental in ensuring that the pool remains open to the public. Without their efforts to repair the winter damage every Spring, it is unlikely that it would remain open and free for all.

GREAT WAKERING TO PARIS

In Memory of Judith Jones



Judith will be remembered by many of our members, in particular by the clerk and PMs that served around the time of Viv's year.

Judith gave significant help to Viv on the re-establishment of the "Meet the Firefighters" event, as well as acting as an excellent proof-reader and producer of the annual Order of Service. She also assisted with much of the admin and documentation related to the sponsorship for the Ball and not least the Salamander.

During her last days she was nursed at home by Viv as her main carer. This is a role he described as a privilege but impossible without the help of the Hospice at Home team co-ordinated by Havens Hospices with support from the Marie Curie Charity.

In memory of Judith, Viv and a team from Vimpey, would like to help to ensure others have this same opportunity to care for loved ones in their own home during "end of life" - the most difficult time most of us will experience.

Therefore, Viv, his three sons, Judith's brother, nephews, grandsons and a close business associate will be cycling from Great Wakering in Essex to Paris on Sunday 28th July 2013. Their plan is to arrive at the Eiffel Tower on the morning of the following Thursday. Whilst many of the Firefighters will have donated at Judith's funeral, another opportunity exists to mark Judith's life and contribution to the company by donating to this fundraising challenge:

Should you wish to donate to Havens Hospices please do so via:
www.justgiving.com/teams/vimpey

MEMORABILIA

In celebration of 25 years since the formation of The Guild of Firefighters, a unique crystal glass to keep as a future family heirloom is available for purchase. The price ordering it direct from Brian Eves is £13.00 including P&P. However you will also have the opportunity to buy it at the St Florian's installation dinner when the cost will be £10.00.



Brian also has WCoFF ties in blue and red available for purchase at £25 each, inclusive of VAT.



Also available are Crystal Glass paperweights at £10 each, Salamander lapel pins at £95 each and Cuff links at £10 each, all inclusive of VAT.



All enquiries to Brian Eves at:
brian84.eves@virgin.net.



The Salamander

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters

Service, Fellowship, Harmony and Honour

November 2013

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Diary

29th November - Court of Assistants, Insurance Hall

13th December - Members' Informal Luncheon, Old Dr Butler's

13th December - Carol Service, St Mary-le-Bow

28th January - Dinner for Liverymen, East India Club

26th February - The Massey Shaw Dinner, Insurance Hall

4th March - Pancake Race, Guildhall Yard

7th March - Meet the Firefighters, Winchester House

21st March - Court of Assistants, Insurance Hall

28th March - Members' Informal Luncheon, Old Dr Butler's

4th April - United Guilds Service, St Paul's

11th May - Annual Service of Thanksgiving, Arboretum

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters
The Clerk: Sir Martin Bonham Bt
The Insurance Hall, 20 Aldermanbury
London EC2V 7GF
T: 0207 600 1666 F: 0207 600 1666
E: clerk@firefighterscompany.org

A successful City Dinner puts the seal on a wonderful and fulfilling autumn for the Worshipful Company of Firefighters

City Dinner

A very successful City Dinner was hosted by the Company, courtesy of Catlin Group, where funds were raised for the Company's projects in youth training and education.



St. Florian's

The St. Florian's installation banquet was an opportunity for the Company to present its Worshipful Company of Firefighters' Annual Award.



Fire Industry Ball

The Company again hosted the Fire Industry Ball, where many top companies in the fire industry took tables in support of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters' Charitable Trust.

Stories on these and other events in the life of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters can be seen inside this newsletter



FROM THE MASTER'S DESK



It has been a busy and eventful time for me since Common Hall and I have enjoyed attending many events on behalf of the Company ranging from the Garden Party at Buckingham Palace to the Lord Mayor's show. I was privileged to be invited to form part of the Guard of Honour welcoming the Lord Mayor on her return to the Mansion House after the procession. There have also been a number of livery dinners and lectures, events at the Mansion House and services at St. Paul's Cathedral, including a very moving service for the opening of the Garden of Remembrance, where I planted a cross on behalf of our Company.

I enjoyed the Installation Banquet held at Cutlers' Hall and especially the opportunity to reward the education work of Operation Florian for firefighting services in developing countries overseas. We also heard from our principal guest, Sir Nicholas Young, about the work of the Red Cross overseas and here at home, particularly of first response teams working in close co-operation with fire services and located at fire stations. I was very touched when the PR and Marketing Group kindly presented me with a beautiful photobook, recording my installation as the first woman Master of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters. I do thank them and it will become a family heirloom!

More recently we have held what is now the annual City Dinner, sponsored by The Catlin Group in their restaurant at the top of their City offices. The event has raised a considerable sum to go into our new restricted/designated charitable fund for youth education and training. As the Company grows its membership and its activities, I thank all those volunteers involved in the affairs of the Company, together with the Charitable Trust, contributing to our success and I wish all of you and your families a happy Festive Season as it approaches.

Please don't forget to come to our Carol Service on Friday 13th December at St. Mary-Le-Bow. It is always a very enjoyable occasion for company members, friends and families and I look forward to meeting you all then.

Beryl Jeffery, Master

COMPANY NEWS

St. Florian's Banquet

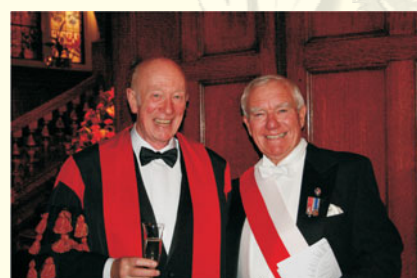
On 10th October, The WCoFF held the annual St. Florian's Installation banquet. The new Master Beryl Jeffery, accompanied by Upper Warden Bryan Spearman, Renter Warden Ronald Murray and Under Warden Bruce Hoad, welcomed members and guests to an enjoyable evening held at the magnificent Cutlers' Hall in the City.

The Cutlers' Hall is truly magnificent and is the 5th Hall to be built for the Company after destruction of the original Hall in 1666 in the Great Fire of London. On the landing can be seen some fine examples of the sword art, most of them made by Wilkinson Sword. The main feature of the Livery Hall is its Victorian hammer beam roof and mounted high on the end wall above the canopy hangs a Barge Banner used for the Lord Mayor's procession in 1763.

After a lovely meal, the annual WCoFF Firefighters' award presentation (sponsored by Vimpey) was then made to Mr Steve Owen-Hughes and Mr Mick Doherty of the charity Operation Florian which aims to train firemen in countries without suitable training facilities and funds. This operation had made a significant impact particularly in training firefighters' from Macedonia. Some of that work had been witnessed by the Master herself.

Bryan Spearman then welcomed the many guests including the principal guest Sir Nicholas Young, chief executive of the Red Cross, Sally Muggeridge, Master of the Worshipful Company of Marketers and Michael Wren, Master of the Worshipful Company of Bowyers. Sir Nicholas Young gave a comprehensive talk on the work of the Red Cross, in particular its ongoing help in the conflicts of Syria and in such actions as the massacre in Kenya. He talked about the closeness of the Red Cross in support of the fire services with Red Cross vehicles now regularly stationed in many fire stations in the country. He also promoted a new Red Cross app to the Master, one that provides on the spot emergency aid information to anyone finding themselves requiring to provide assistance.

The Master in her speech of thanks welcomed the gift of the app and hoped that she would be taught how to use it. She was grateful for the support of family and from the company as a whole for the year ahead. With the Company involved with worthwhile charities such as Operation Florian and the Red Cross (last year's Master, Michael Harper, had helped to raise over £3000 for the Red Cross through being incarcerated in the Tower) and being active in promoting fire safety through lectures and information within the City, it was definitely proving its credentials as a Worshipful City Company and an exciting year lay ahead for it.



Fire Industry Charity Ball

On Saturday 21st September, the WCoFF hosted the annual Fire Industry Charity Ball, held again this year at the Portman hotel. After the reception and a superb meal, there was dancing to Nicole and her big band. Many companies representing the width of the UK fire industry had taken tables and brought along guests. It was a very enjoyable and fun evening all round in aid of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters' Charitable Trust.



Painter-Stainers Golf Match

The setting for the annual match between worshipful companies of the Firefighters and the Painter-Stainers was the lovely Wilderness Golf club near Sevenoaks in Kent. The format was slightly changed this year in that we were joined in a wider competition by other livery companies, including the World Traders, Plumbers, Loriners and Marketors.

Jeremy Beech magnificently organised the Firefighters team, although he was unable to play himself and we succeeded in not losing to the Painter-Stainers (it was deemed a draw), but, alas, we did not win the overall prize which went to the Loriners. Ken Barnes took the trophy as the best Firefighter golfer on the day (but as the magnificent trophy was not available to be handed over, he had to be contented with the award of a golf ball).



Firefighters' Memorial Trust Wreath Laying Service

The Firefighters' Memorial Trust invited members of the Company to join them at their Annual Memorial Service & Wreath Laying Ceremony in London on Sunday 8th September 2013. The Service is an annual event to honour all those firefighting personnel who have given their lives in the course of their duties.

After the church service, Standards and all attendees paraded to the National Firefighters' Memorial where there was a short Wreath Laying Ceremony. The Master, Beryl Jeffrey, laid a wreath on behalf of the WCoFF.

Paul Settle, the secretary of the Firefighters' Memorial Trust has been awarded the Member of the Order of the British Empire in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours. Although Paul isn't a member of the Company it is still a proud achievement for the fire service community and Paul is well known to the WCoFF as many of our members are active within the Memorial Trust. We would like to add our congratulations to Paul for this well deserved award.



City Dinner Event

This dinner was a major showcase for the launch of a 3 year programme from our Company to the education, training and support of young people. It was held at the Catlin Group offices in the City of London on 12th November. All money raised goes directly to the Charitable Trust Fund of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters. Organisations which could benefit from grants from the Trust were represented and spoke briefly about their work.

The LFB Community Fire Cadets made a guard of honour for the Master and honoured guests upon entrance and during the opening speeches. Our top table honoured guests included: James Cleverly AM - Chairman, London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority; Ron Dobson CBE QFSM FIFireE - London Fire Commissioner; Paul Fuller, QFSM, President, Chief Fire Officers Association; Ian Dyson - Assistant Commissioner, City of London Police and Mrs Martina Milburn CBE - CEO of the Prince's Trust

Our host Peter Holland, CBE OStJ QFSM FIFireE, HM Government Chief Fire & Rescue Adviser, read a letter that was from a young man who had attended a Prince's Trust training programme. This was a very moving account of his journey from being a very lonely and antisocial person to becoming a valuable member of society. This move was made possible with his involvement with the Prince's Trust and he has stayed in touch to become a mentor for other participants.

Cassandra Swan gave an overview of the work undertaken by the Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service on youth engagement programmes. The dramatic changes seen in the young men and women could be seen by all those involved. Josiah Barker gave his own personal experiences and how the programme has changed his life.

More information can be found at www.bedsfire.com.

Dave Gill, from the London Fire Brigade Crossfire team gave a very good account and demonstration of the work that the Crossfire team undertakes at primary schools.

The Crossfire team has developed a programme for schoolchildren, to support citizenship programmes within schools. This one-day programme explores decision making, choices and consequences through real-life re-enactments of critical incidents using film, workshops and enactments to increase their awareness of safety in the home and the community.

Paul Fuller explained the work of the Children's Burns Trust. The Trust receive no government funding and are only able to continue the work they do as a result of their own fundraising efforts administered by their small (1.5 person) full-time team.

More information can be found at www.cbtrust.org.uk.

After-dinner entertainment was provided by the very talented singers from Tring Theatre School who performed some wonderful songs.

More images can be found on the WCoFF website.



The Lord Mayor's Show

The Lord Mayor's Show has floated, rolled, trotted, marched and occasionally fought its way through almost 800 years, surviving the black death and the blitz to arrive in the 21st century as one of the world's best-loved pageants

Over the centuries the Mayor's journey became one of London's favourite rituals. It moved from river barges to horseback and then into the magnificent State Coach and around it grew a splendidly rowdy and joyful mediæval festival known as the Lord Mayor's Show.

This year, thousands braved the rain for an event marking the inauguration of the 686th Lord Mayor of the City of London, Fiona Woolf, only the second woman to hold the post in its 800-year history.

The Lord Mayor boarded the QRB Gloriana, the vessel made famous for leading the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Pageant last year, at Vauxhall before sailing past Lambeth, Westminster, Waterloo, Blackfriars, London and Tower bridges and disembarking at HMS President near St Katharine docks. The Lord Mayor then joined the procession at Mansion House. This year is the first time that women in the city have had a float.

Fiona Woolf said that she hoped that throughout her mayoral year, she wanted to raise the profile of women in business to better enable younger women to fulfil their ambitions and to aim high.

Fiona Woolf is an energy and infrastructure lawyer and led the legal team that delivered the restructuring and privatisation of the National Grid. She is a world-leading legal advisor on energy reforms.

The Master was privileged to be invited to form part of the Guard of Honour welcoming the Lord Mayor on her return to the Mansion House after the procession.



Members of the Company, family, friends and guests are invited to attend

A Festival of Christmas Carols

At the church of

St. Mary-le-Bow

Cheapside, London EC2

Friday 13th December 2013

At 6.30 pm

Featuring Soprano, Suzanne Wilson



Following the Carol Service, members of the congregation are invited to remain in the church to share light refreshment and good company. There will be no charge for Members of the Worshipful Company and their immediate family: but Members are invited to make a donation in respect of other family members, friends and guests who accompany them as a contribution towards essential costs.



FIREFIGHTERS NEWS

From Peter Hopkins, Freeman and Brigade link for the PR and Marketing working group of the Company.

Nearly everyday across the UK I deal with issues around either fire safety or workplace safety that involves a link to the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. Similarly, there are just as many questions about its effectiveness and how it is enforced. The article below caught my eye and, with the permission of Gerry Dunphy the author, we reproduce an edited version here in Salamander, with the aim of (hopefully) provoking some discussion.

"The votes are in and it's confirmed - current fire safety legislation is flawed"

According to our latest poll, only 13% of respondents found the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 to be effective, with some 33% wishing the return of the old fire certificates, much beloved by businesses and public sector organisations in years gone by. But really, do we want to go back? The government certainly won't - fire safety concerns barely registering a pulse in the Westminster body. Added to that, is the sheer cost of the operation at a time when fire service efficiencies are under review. Sending out legions of staff with safety certificates hardly fits the current model, so it's not very likely such a labour-intensive operation will be forthcoming, despite the expertise and undeniable suitability the FRS holds.

So, is the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 fit for purpose?

Clearer Advice Needed

Interestingly, 31% stated the legislation was suitable, but the individuals needed clearer advice as to what to do. Now call me naive, but a major piece of legislation such as this required an orchestrated and targeted information campaign aimed at businesses and organisations across England and Wales. Business owners and organisation managers needed vital information on the implications of the changes in process plus, more important, on the impact the legislation would have on them directly.

They needed to know their friendly neighbourhood fire service representative would no longer visit; they needed to know that a fire risk assessment was their concern and the duty - that's quite a challenge for someone running a business whose attention and knowledge are principally commercial. A concerted campaign was needed to reach all sectors of industry affected and would have unquestionably raised

the awareness levels and created tangible momentum.

There have been numerous debates and discussions about the ambiguity of the legislation, particularly in respect to the term "responsible person." This is another major cause for concern within the business community. It's not as if these people set out to compromise life safety, but it was often the case they simply didn't know their full expectations under the legislation. They did not know this because the communication of the changes was so poorly addressed. Obviously ignorance before the law doesn't stand up in court but in this case, where the goalposts have so clearly moved under the cover of darkness, there is a degree of understanding.

Speaking very much as a civilian with a watching brief on the fire sector, I find it perplexing that many business owners I speak to are completely unaware of the changes to this legislation, with many still wondering when their fire inspections were going to take place. Seven years of waiting may even prompt them into looking into this, but I fear "out of sight out of mind" will prevail. Therefore there will be an increasing number of cases and prosecutions in the years to come.

The solution to me seems simple and relatively straightforward. Renew the campaigns to educate and inform on a national level, to make sure business owners and the responsible people in general are at least aware they'll have a problem should the worst happen. The fundamental essence of the legislation is to improve life safety and create an environment where a risk-based approach to fire protection is endemic within the public and private sectors.

As it stands, the poll verifies there is dissatisfaction with the current legislation in addition to a feeling of a lack of clarity. Notices are also vague. There is a lack of consistency across the country as each fire authority interprets the legislation in accordance to its own levels of expectation.

Therefore I offer a challenge to DCLG and the Government: review how you communicate this legislation, and provide all affected parties with a fair chance to assess their fire risks and overall obligations. You'll be greatly enhancing the national life safety message and be helping to deliver the originally intended outcome of the changes in the legal framework. We've watched how confusion and misinformation have made this vital piece of law an object of anxiety and despair - so it's time to put it right.

Gerry Dunphy, Sales Director, Firex International

Do you have a comment? Then email me direct at: ph@richardlawrenceassociates.co.uk and we can (if they are printable!!) include them in the next Salamander.



WCoFF Attend Surrey Fire and Rescue Open Day

Surrey Fire and Rescue Service held an open day at their headquarters. It was attended by John Kempton ex SFRS and the WCoFF standard bearer, who manned a stand and information centre on the Worshipful Company of Firefighters. John reported that the event was a great success.



Update on Massey Shaw

On 22nd November, after lots of delays associated with ensuring the vessel's fit state to be in the water, the Massey Shaw will eventually leave Gloucester Dock and sail down Sharpness Canal into Commercial Docks and from there head out to Portis Head. On Sunday 24th she will travel to Avonmouth for 5 hours testing. If all goes well, the vessel will be craned out and travel to Denton PLA where she will be prepared for launch on the Thames. There will be a complete refit of the wheelhouse and deck locker, and then on 28th November she will leave for Royal Victoria dock.

The Massey Shaw education trust project is one of the projects being supported by the Worshipful Company of Firefighters Charitable Trust.



FIRE SALAMANDER

Finally, spare a thought for our namesake the Fire Salamander now under threat of extinction.



A deadly skin-eating fungus is threatening the fire salamander population in the Netherlands.

A deadly fungal disease has driven the creature to the brink of extinction in the region though it's still unknown whether other countries have seen similar declines. Recognisable by its vibrant yellow and black skin, fire salamanders dropped to a population low of 10 animals before a treatment programme began.

Once researchers observed the near catastrophic decline, the animals were taken into captivity. A treatment programme was developed and youngsters have now been born. The team plans to reintroduce them into the wild once numbers are back to a sufficient level. A team of international scientists was able to isolate the fungus after analysing dead salamanders.

Professor Matthew Fisher from Imperial College London, said "it was unclear why this outbreak was occurring now, though it was possible the fungus had spread to the Netherlands from elsewhere in the world."

"We need to act urgently to determine what populations are in danger and how best to protect them," Professor Fisher added.

MEMORABILIA

In celebration of 25 years since the formation of The Guild of Firefighters, a unique crystal glass to keep as a future family heirloom is available for purchase. The price ordering it direct from Brian Eves is £13.00 including P&P.



Brian also has WCoFF ties in blue and red available for purchase at £25 each, inclusive of VAT.



Also available are Crystal Glass paperweights at £10 each, Salamander lapel pins at £95 each and Cufflinks at £10 each, all inclusive of VAT.



All enquiries to Brian Eves at:
brian84.eves@virgin.net.



The Salamander

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters

Service, Fellowship, Harmony and Honour

May 2014

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Diary

11th May - Annual Service of Thanksgiving, Arboretum

13th May - Festival of the Sons of Clergy, St. Paul's

28th May - The Fire Lecture, Insurance Hall

6th June - Court of Assistants (Election), Insurance Hall

20th June - Members' Informal Luncheon, Old Dr Butler's

4th July - Common Hall, Insurance Hall, 3-30pm, followed by Service of Rededication

4th September - Combined Golf Day

12th September - Court of Assistants, Insurance Hall

14th September - Annual UK Firefighters Memorial Service

20th September - Fire Industry Charity Ball

26th September - Members' Informal Luncheon, Old Dr Butler's

8th October - St. Florian's Installation Banquet

11th November - 2014 Exclusive City Dinner

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters
The Clerk: Sir Martin Bonham Bt
The Insurance Hall, 20 Aldermanbury
London EC2V 7GF
T: 0207 600 1666 F: 0207 600 1666
E: clerk@firefighterscompany.org

WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FIREFIGHTERS HOSTS THE 2014 FIRE LECTURE

Following along from past successful Fire Lectures, the Worshipful Company of Firefighters are proud to bring you the Fire Lecture 2014.

High Rise - Not High Risk

The lecture will examine experiences of fires in high-rise buildings and the level of preparedness in the UK to deal with such incidents, followed by an open forum.

The Fire Lecture will be held on 28th May at the Insurance Hall, 6-30 to 9pm.

The presentations will be made by Jones Yeung, FSMSM FIFireE (Assistant Director HK Island in the Hong Kong Fire Service) and Ron Dobson CBE QFSM FIFireE (Commissioner of the London Fire Brigade).

Further details are provided inside.



ALL CHANGE IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE

Before long, members will hear two new voices in the Clerk's office. From 1st July, Steven Tamcken and Stephen Sanders will be starting their duties as the Clerk (full time) and Assistant Clerk (part time) respectively. There will be an overlap period with Sir Martin Bonham and Michael Leaver who both officially retire on 31st August. Hopefully, this arrangement will ensure there is continuity of service to members.



FROM THE MASTER'S DESK



The year continues to be very busy with attendance at many livery dinners and lectures, one highlight for me being the dinner for all livery Masters hosted by the Lord Mayor and held at the Mansion House. Progress with our Royal Charter has gone well with Royal Assent received on 31st March 2014. We were recently privileged to see the vellum charter with its seal and we are discussing how this should now be "bordered". We are hoping for a Royal presentation of the charter sometime in the Autumn.

Internal meetings also take up a fair bit of time, so it is always a joy to get out into the fire community. Along with Upper Warden Bryan Spearman, Past Master Geoff Morgan and John Mansfield, I thoroughly enjoyed the very moving Haringey fire cadet passing-out parade held on 5th April. We had previously met some of these cadets at our City dinner at the end of 2013, so it was good to see Ron Dobson CBE QFSM FIFireE (Commissioner of the London Fire Brigade) present these cadets with their completed B.Tech. qualifications. I then presented a special WCoFF award for the top cadet as chosen by the cadets themselves and it was very moving to see they had looked beyond just academic and technical capability to choose someone they themselves had wanted to succeed.

It was a privilege to see young people grow up into the world of the Fire Service and it was a lesson for us all to see how working together gives us all such great benefit.



COMPANY NEWS

25th Anniversary Presentation

Note from Bryan Spearman, Upper Warden

It had been the intention to make a small presentation to the Father of the Company on the 25th Celebration River Boat trip after Common Hall last July. Unfortunately Gerry Clarkson's health precluded any such opportunity and for numerous reasons it was not possible to do anything until close to the end of 2013 between Christmas and the New Year.

Somewhat less formally than originally intended, Past Master Frank David and Upper Warden Bryan Spearman visited Gerry and his delightful wife, Rose. Following lunch near their home in Charing, Frank and Bryan presented them with a set of Company Commemorative Glasses, fulfilling the desire to mark the 25th Year.

As can be seen from the photograph it was a most enjoyable and casual affair enjoyed by all.

Post script : The Father of the Company has asked the Company Clerk, Sir Martin Bonham Bt., to circulate a letter he had sent to the Master of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters, thanking the Company for the kind and thoughtful presentation made to him by Past Master Frank David and the Upper Warden Bryan Spearman.

Ceremony of the Keys

Tony Skinner accompanied by Yeoman Warden Colin Smith MBE BEM of HM Fortress the Tower of London, hosted a wonderful trip to witness the Ceremony of the Keys on the evening of Saturday the 15th March 2014.

This ceremony has been held every evening for hundreds of years, whether it be peacetime or during times of war.

After meeting at the west gate main entrance to the Tower, an external guided tour of the grounds and sights was given finishing at the Yeoman Warders Club, where, in addition to lovely hospitality, the Group was able to view the hundreds of pieces of memorabilia that adorn every conceivable space. There is also an exposed section of the old London wall.

At about 21:30 the Group then left to witness The Ceremony of the Keys which was carried out by the Watchman, Duty Supervisor (Yeoman Warders) and the resident military guard.



Massey Shaw at the London Boat Show, 4th to 12th January

From David Rogers, Hon. Company Secretary & Director, Massey Shaw & Marine Vessels Preservation Society

The Massey Shaw was invited into the London Boat Show by the British Marine Federation to celebrate its recent restoration and showcase the Society's WWII Drama.

The Fire boat arrived back in London on the 14th December 2013 and so time was very limited to prepare the vessel for the large number of people awaiting its attendance at the Show. Massey Shaw docked at The Excel Centre, on Friday 3rd January 2014 after a short trip from West India Dock through the Thames Barrier. The trip had been eventful as the Barrier was due to close due to increased water flow and Massey was one of the last vessels to make it through.

On Saturday 4th January 2014 the Show opened and Massey was visited by many hundreds of people, who were fascinated by her story and the tremendous restoration that had been undertaken over the past four years. A continual stream of people visited the boat each day, particularly in the early afternoon, when Massey would put on a water display to demonstrate what her famous Merryweather Fire Pumps could deliver.

Alongside the vessel performances, a WWII drama was presented each day in the main hall for two sessions and was very well received by children and adults. In the middle of the week the new Dunkirk Drama which tells the story of Massey Shaw and her crews involvement in Operation Dynamo was showcased. Once again we have another great dramatic piece to offer to schools later in the summer, and we look forward to performing this script to a wide range of audiences around the country.

The show concluded on the 12th January 2014 by which time nearly 1,000 people had visited the boat and drama and we had built a large circle of friends. Our volunteers were fantastic and we hope to swell their ranks once we are back in action during the summer. Massey has now returned to West India Dock and will be undertaking training sessions for the new crew in preparation for many more adventures in 2014.

If you would like to visit the vessel please contact me.



Pancake Race

The Company was invited again to attend and participate in the 10th Annual Pancake Race by the organisers, The Poulterers' Company on Tuesday 4th March 2014. Our team performed exceedingly well at Guildhall Yard and were well supported. There were some wonderful attires to be seen. Everyone enjoyed a pancake or two and some joined in the splendid buffet lunch provided by The Cook and Butler.

Massey Shaw Dinner

The Master and Wardens had pleasure in having Sheriff Adrian Waddingham as the guest speaker at this year's Massey Shaw dinner. This event was held at the Insurance Hall, very much regarded as our 'home', and allowed us the rare opportunity to display a large selection of our silverware, plate and artefacts to compliment these impressive surroundings.

The Massey Shaw Annual Dinner is held in honour of Sir Eyre Massey Shaw. Sir Eyre was the first Chief Fire Officer of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade from 1861 until 1891.

It proved to be a very convivial evening with good food, good wine and good friends and some wonderful entertainment.

The Master was presented at the dinner with a framed picture of the Massey Shaw boat by Mr John Furlonger, Director of the Massey Shaw Society as thanks for the support given by the WCoFF to the charity.

Meet the Firefighters

Meet the Firefighters is an annual event where we can present the Worshipful Company of Firefighters to all interested in membership. The images to the right were taken at the event held in Winchester House on March 7th.

If anyone knows of people who work in, or have experience of, the Fire Service or Fire Industry who would be suitable to be invited to future 'Meet the Firefighters' events, then please let the clerk have details, so that they can be contacted or send information to:

claire.mansi@fireinvestigationsuk.com.

Livery Dinner

The Worshipful Company held a dinner for Liverymen again this year in the Canadian Room at the East India Club on the 28th January. The central portion of the East India Club was severely damaged by enemy action during the Second World War. Shortage of supply of building materials and strict controls caused serious problems in rebuilding. The Canadian Forces whose officers were welcomed by the club during the war came to the rescue and generously donated the necessary timber that was shipped direct from Vancouver. The Canadian Room was so named as a gesture of thanks for this act of friendship.

The East India Club is well known for the quality of its cuisine and did not disappoint. The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all.



Firex International

WCoFF will be taking a stand at this year's Firex International, to be held at the Excel Centre in London between 17th and 19th June. It is an opportunity for the Company to meet members of the Fire Industry and to promote its charitable work and encourage participation at this year's Fire Industry Charity ball. If any member would like to attend and help out at the stand, please contact Viv Jones.

A MESSAGE FROM THE LORD MAYOR

Going into 2014, I am feeling energised from my experiences as Lord Mayor so far. It was a pleasure to host the Masters and Clerks at my Address to the Livery in November and to introduce everyone to my '686 Plan', named after me being the 686th Lord Mayor. The four programmes which make up the 686 Plan – The Lord Mayor's Appeal, the Power of Diversity breakfasts and conferences, the Charity Leadership Programme, and the Tomorrow's City programme – have all started with a bang!

The Lord Mayor's Appeal - With your help, the Appeal hopes to raise £2 million for my four benefitting charities: Beating Bowel Cancer, Princess Alice Hospice, Raleigh International and Working Chance. Fundraising is at the heart of the Appeal programme but there is also a strong commitment to mentor, help raise the profiles of these charities and open up new sources of funding for the future.

The Power of Diversity - The Power of Diversity programme has been designed to capture the benefits of diversity for the innovation that City businesses need to seize the opportunities of the "new normal". The first breakfast, Attaining Power, was a huge success as 100 of the programme's sponsors and an array of corporate managers engaged in a discussion about the skills needed to achieve power. There are four more Power of Diversity breakfasts to come, as well as two major conferences taking place this summer.

The Charity Leadership Programme - During 2014 there will be three receptions providing the opportunity for charity Chairs, Chief Executives, funders and leaders to network and share experiences and knowledge. Each of the receptions will have a social focus.

Tomorrow's City - In keeping with my role as Lord Mayor to promote the business and financial service sectors, the Tomorrow's City programme is setting out how the City can best ensure its future success through long-term value creation. The opening events have focused on forward looking financial services regulation, integrated reporting and new models of long-term finance for infrastructure.

I hope you will join me for some of the evening events at The Mansion House and breakfasts at my home law firm, CMS, which will be continuing the dialogue of this programme.



Your Support - If I have a single objective, it would be inclusiveness and Liverymen have so much to bring to the party. It has been a joy to see so many of your friendly faces over the last two months, and I hope to greet many more of you over the coming year.

Thank you for all you have done to support me as Lord Mayor and The Lord Mayor's Appeal. There is certainly more to come!

Alderman Fiona Woolf CBE
The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor of London

For the full list of fundraising events and for more information about The Lord Mayor's Appeal and Power of Diversity programmes please visit the Lord Mayor's Appeal website:
www.thelordmayorsappeal.org



FIREFIGHTERS NEWS

Visit to Ypres 2014

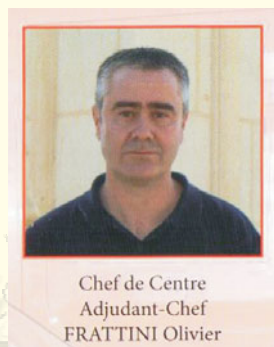
Peter Hopkins along with a number of WCoFF members, is involved through the Kent Fire and Rescue Service, in planning a special trip to Flanders Field for the special ceremonies to mark the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I. For four long years Flanders Fields was the scene of the First World War. Homes and fields were turned into a battlefield in 1914. European and wider international interests were fought over. A million soldiers were wounded, missing or killed in action. Some tens of thousands of citizens became refugees. Entire cities and villages were destroyed.

They will be travelling from Kent to Kotrijk via Poperinge and will attend the service on 11th November at Ypres where, since 1929, the Last Post has been sounded at the Menin Gate Memorial every night at 8:00 pm and in all weathers: the only exception to this was during the four years of the German occupation (WW2) of Ypres.

If anyone would like further information, please contact Peter. He will be reporting on the event in a later issue.

Pellegrue Fire Brigade

Peter has also been developing relationships between the WCoFF and some French fire fighting colleagues. He has submitted the following contact note from the Pellegrue Fire Brigade



Hello and welcome to Pellegrue Fire Brigade. My name is Oliviere Frattini and I am the Fire Chief for the station. We are situated in a small village south east of the city of Bordeaux. Some of you may know our region by the local wine of Entre de Mer.



We have some 21 fire fighters, all volunteers: one of the local district nurses is also affiliated to the fire brigade

The area covered by the brigade is very rural, consisting of scattered villages and hamlets and often isolated farmhouses and cottages. We look after eleven communes (villages and their outlying areas), the most distant at 11 kms. We also cover some 20 other communes as back-up in the event of a major incident or if the local brigade responsible is already out on a call. We can also be called anywhere in the department of the Gironde or even neighbouring departments should circumstances require it.

The nature of our work is first response to sudden illness or accident, road accidents, fires, rescue of animals, sea or river rescues, pollution incidents, floods, spillages, clearing roads (eg after a storm, the firemen will be out with chain saws dealing with fallen trees).

Our volunteers must be at least 18 and live in the area served. They must pass a recruitment panel (fitness tests, interview, medical examination) and successful candidates undertake 12 days of first aid training, 9 hours of theory at the fire station, 10 days training in fire fighting and general emergency training: other theoretical training to be done on line.

Regular exercises are carried out to refresh and reinforce. At least 4 hours a month must be spent at the fire station.

Equipment:

- 1 ambulance - 3 man crew
- 1 CCF (Camion Citerne Feux Forests) - a tanker lorry for dealing with forest fires - this holds 3000 litres of water, a winch plus other equipment and a 2 man crew
- 1 general purpose vehicle (VTU) carrying pumps, chainsaws generator and various other tools - 2 or 3 man crew
- 1 vehicle for intervention in road accidents, etc, carrying 3000 litres of water, foam, cutting and lighting gear, ladders - 4 or 6 man crew
- 1 light first aid vehicle (VLS) carrying oxygen, defibrillator etc Sundry reserve pumps, pipes etc - 2 man crew

The brigade responds to approximately 500 calls a year.

We also have a Junior Fire Brigade. This programme has recently celebrated its 10th anniversary. For 3 years students attend 2 hours a week of practical and theoretical courses in fire-fighting and first aid at school, then for one year at the fire station. They also have one hour a week of specially adapted physical training with a qualified instructor. The Junior Fire Brigade parade with their seniors on certain dates when they always look very smart.

(Translation from French thanks to Carolyn Murphy)

THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FIREFIGHTERS

FIRE INDUSTRY CHARITY BALL

2014

RADISSON BLU (SAS) PORTMAN HOTEL
PORTMAN SQUARE, LONDON W1H 7BG

20TH SEPTEMBER 2014

COME AND CELEBRATE
WITH FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES
AT THE **FIRE** INDUSTRY'S
GLITTERING ANNUAL EVENT

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE EVENT
OR TICKETS PLEASE SEE OVERLEAF OR VISIT
WWW.FIREFIGHTERSCOMPANY.ORG

FOR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES CONTACT
VIV JONES ON 01702 216999 OR VTJ@VIMPEX.CO.UK

THE BALL, CO-PROMOTED BY FIA AND FIRESA, IS ORGANISED BY
THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FIREFIGHTERS ON BEHALF
OF THEIR CHARITABLE TRUST - REGISTERED CHARITY NO.1000562



The Worshipful Company of Firefighters



A photo taken on the Bluebell Railway of our Upper Warden, Bryan Spearman and his wife enjoying the fruits of a successful bid at the 2013 Ball auction. A wonderful experience, looked after in typical Pullman style, great food, excellent service and good company."

It could be your turn next!!





THE FIRE LECTURE 2014



THE **WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FIREFIGHTERS**

in partnership with

ROCKWOOL®

HIGH RISE – NOT HIGH RISK

on **Wednesday 28th May 2014**

at The Insurance Hall, 20 Aldermanbury, London EC2V 7GF
6.30pm – 9.00pm

Jones Yeung FSMSM FIFireE
Assistant Director (HK Island) HKFS
and

Ron Dobson CBE QFSM FIFireE
Commissioner of the London Fire Brigade

**examine the levels of protection and preparedness
associated with the risk of fire in high-rise buildings**

subject to parliamentary demands;

The Rt Hon Lord Howard of Lympne, CH QC

Home Secretary 1993-97
will make an opening address
and

Brandon Lewis MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government
will make a closing address

also present will be

Peter Holland CBE OStJ QFSM FIFireE,
HM Government Chief Fire & Rescue Advisor

CPD credits are available to members of the following organisations:- IFE, IFSM, IRM, IFPO, EPS

The cost of a ticket for the lecture is £38 inc vat, includes a buffet reception

For members of City Livery Companies the ticket price is £28 inc vat

FIREMEN - THE PEOPLE'S HERO

In January 1854, John Everett Millais witnessed London firemen fighting a blaze and was so impressed by their courage that he decided to make it the subject of a painting. In his studio, he recreated the light and smoke effects of fires by using a sheet of coloured glass and by burning planks on an iron sheet laid on the floor. The dramatic painting that resulted, "The Rescue", shown at the Royal Academy in April 1855, focuses upon individual heroism by depicting a square-jawed fireman descending a carpeted staircase inside a middle-class home to escape a fire behind him.

Dressed in the plain, functional, dark uniform and leather helmet and boots associated with the regime of Fire Chief James Braidwood, he is carrying no fewer than three children - a baby under his left arm, a girl under his right and a boy clinging to his back - towards the outstretched arms of their anxious but relieved mother. Charles Collins, an artist-friend of Millais, painted the hosepipe visible in the bottom left-hand corner. Subsequently, the 'rescue' or 'saved' motif became one of the most common in the iconography of firefighting, an unexplored subject that provides a rich context for Millais's celebrated painting.

In Britain, the popular perception of firefighters as heroes dates from the nineteenth century and was due in the main to the replacement of private, fire insurance office or company brigades, whose prime concern was the protection of property, by a paid, professional, municipal fire service in major cities whose priority was to save life and serve the whole community.

This extract was taken from "Firefighters in art and media - a pictorial history" - by John A Walker, ISBN 978 1903427 23 1. It will be an interesting read for many.



PR & MARKETING COMMITTEE

If anyone in the Company feels that he or she can offer time and expertise to make a difference to how the Company communicates and markets itself to its members, the fire fighting community, fire industry and the City of London, then our Past Master Viv Jones, our Chairman, would be very pleased to hear from you (vtj@vimpex.co.uk). The PR and Marketing committee is an excellent forum if you want to get involved in the work and life of the WCoFF.

One of our current projects is developing programmes that will culminate in educational material surrounding the Great Fire of London anniversary in 2016. We have already been working with the Museum of London and the City of London, who have produced a "walking tour" pamphlet, which takes people round the key points in the City where the Great Fire made its mark. This is a very informative guide, but the committee is now working on a more interactive concept.

If anyone would like a copy of the pamphlet, then please e-mail Past Master Viv Jones and he will arrange for you to get one

MEMORABILIA

Brian Eves has, unfortunately, had to give up the management of the Company memorabilia. Brian has given many years of excellent service to this activity, storing, packaging and posting items to members of the company all in his own time. He now has to spend more time caring for his wife and we, on the PR and Marketing committee, wish them both well for the future. His attention to detail and great knowledge of the Fire Industry will be particularly missed on the committee.



Brian Eves



"walking tour" pamphlet



The Salamander

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters

Service, Fellowship, Harmony and Honour

September 2014

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Diary

14th September - Annual UK Firefighters Memorial Service

20th September - Fire Industry Charity Ball

26th September - Members' Informal Luncheon, Old Dr Butler's

8th October - St. Florian's Installation Banquet

11th November - 2014 Exclusive City Dinner

5th December - Members' Informal Luncheon, Old Dr Butler's

12th December - Carol Service, St. Mary-le-Bow

2015

17th February - Pancake race, Guildhall Yard

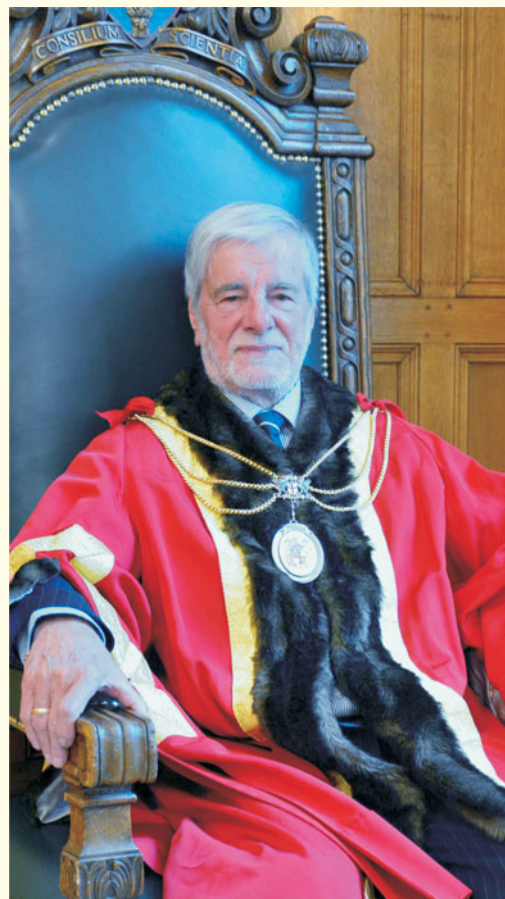
4th March - Massey Shaw dinner, Insurance Hall

MASTER CALLS FOR NEW TALENT TO SHOW ITSELF

In his Common Hall speech, after formal election as Master, Bryan Spearman noted that we had many members within the Company who had considerable talents in many fields, but unless some of that capability was known about, members could easily slip into a "knife and fork" role, merely attending dinners and similar functions. "The Company was very keen to move ahead particularly in the field of education - its' involvement with the London Fire Cadets had worked well, hosting an annual City Fire Lecture had advanced real city interest in key fire related topics and "The City Dinner", also discussing fire related topics of the day, had created a means of dynamic debate in fire education."

"I have recently enjoyed discussions within the City Livery Education initiative and through City Link have become aware that teachers are looking for experts in key fields to challenge and mentor pupils in seeking to attain rewarding careers - I feel that this might be something that we in the WCoFF might be able to help with. To do so, we need to be better at knowing the strength of talents we undoubtedly have within our Company to help push such initiatives forward."

The Master thought that putting together a database of talent would help. He also hoped that in his year of office, he would be able to meet with as many members as possible to have meaningful discussions on where they might be able to use their talents for the Company. He was hoping to arrange some informal evenings with Past Master David Cartwright when a start could be made to this effort.



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London EC2V 7GF
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E: clerk@firefighterscompany.org

www.firefighterscompany.org

COMPANY NEWS

Common Hall

Common Hall was held on Friday 4th July, 2014 in The Great Hall of The Insurance Hall. This is the occasion when the Company bears witness to the sworn Declarations of the incoming Master and of the Wardens and thanks are given to the outgoing Master.

On this occasion, we had declarations from Bryan Spearman in becoming Master, Ron Murray becoming Upper Warden, Bruce Hoad becoming Renter Warden and John Mansfield becoming Under Warden. Thanks and a presentation of flowers was made to Past Master Beryl Jeffery for admirably representing the Company so well during her year.

Thanks were also given to Michael Leaver for his support and service to the Company given freely over the years in his role as assistant clerk. His efforts have been gratefully received by many in the Company and he was thanked sincerely with a gift as a token of appreciation.

The retiring clerk, Sir Martin Bonham Bt was also thanked by the new master for his support, loyalty, and dedication given to the Company since 2005. His "Stabilising Influence" was very important to the Company over a critical period. The Master acknowledged that Martin would be missed in his role but the Company had offered him to become an Honourary Freeman and therefore the Company would have the privilege of continuing to have a long association with him.

The Master also presented Sir Martin with a crystal decanter as a gift and memento of his time in office as clerk.

The Master also formally welcomed the new Clerk Steven Tamcken to the Company. Steven has had a career in Telecoms, Computing and Management with a great deal of experience in systems and web sites. He is a Liveryman with the Basketmakers and a member of the City Livery Club.

Following Common Hall, the newly installed Master and Wardens, together with the Company, processed to St Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, for a Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication. This was conducted by the Company's Honorary Chaplain, the Rev. George Bush.



The Master with his wardens left to right:
Under Warden John Mansfield, Upper Warden Ron Murray and Renter Warden Bruce Hoad



Appreciation being given to Past Master Beryl Jeffery for her year in office



The Master with his wife and the honourary chaplain, the Rev George Bush at the Service of rededication

New Clerk, Steven Tamcken

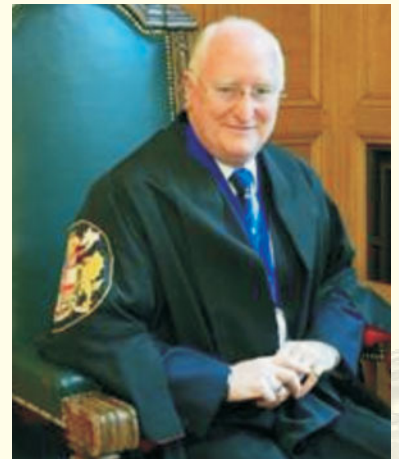
May I first say that it is indeed an honour to be elected as your new Clerk and will serve you and the Company to the best of my ability - Sir Martin Bonham certainly has made it a hard act to follow!

At the same time, may I crave your forbearance whilst I get 'up to speed' without, I hope, making too many of those 'learning from experience' opportunities for myself.

So some general background; I was born in Hackney in 1956 and moved to Hornchurch in 1970, I was educated at Hackney Free and Suttons Secondary Schools. I eventually obtained my BSc and Post-Graduate Diploma in Management with the Open University.

My working life revolved around what is now called ICT - Telecommunications and Computing - and Management. I finally retired from full time work in 2013, to concentrate on doing the things that I enjoy; the Livery and other philanthropic organisations, Sports, Fine Dining etc.

I have 1 grown-up son, Lee, from my 1st marriage that lives in Calgary, Canada and 2 lovely grand-daughters; I now live with Jane my long-term partner, who works in the Food Industry, and whom I met whilst we were training for sports competitions some 19 years ago.



I became a Freeman of the City in 2009, became a Freeman and a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Basketmakers in 2012, and currently a Steward of the Company and also their representative on the Livery Council Skills Council.

I very much look forward to meeting with you all over the coming years and to have a long and enjoyable time working on your behalf as your Clerk.

Steven Tamcken

BSc, PGDipMgmt, FCMI.

Clerk,

Worshipful Company of Firefighters.

John Garrett



It is with some sadness that the Company was informed of the sudden passing of Past Master and Wandsworth Councillor John Garrett on Saturday the 26th July 2014. John was very active within the Company during its formative years, and was Past Master of the Company in 2002 to 2003.

John Garrett served as a councillor in Wandsworth for 20 years between 1982 and 2002, and served two terms as Mayor. He played an active role as Wandsworth's representative for many years on the London Fire and Civil Defence Authority and was also chairman of the trustees of the Clapham Rail Disaster Fund, a member of the Battersea branch of the Royal British Legion and a former Governor at Earlsfield primary school.

He was a leading fundraiser and supporter of many charities and local voluntary organisations, including President of St John Ambulance, Wandsworth and Southfields Division, a governor of the Royal Hospital for Neuro-Disability, twice President of Balham Rotary club and honorary member of the Tooting Rotary Club.

He was also a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Painter Stainers. He was a Knight of the Sovereign Order of St John of Jerusalem – Knights Hospitaller and holder of the 'Polonia Restituta' decoration and Serving Brother of the Venerable Order of St John of Jerusalem. He also ran a very successful local construction firm and there are many buildings in the borough that he helped build and improve over many years.

Our heartfelt condolences go out to his wife Marion and their family. He will be sorely missed by all those who knew him."

Firefighters Memorial Trust

The Firefighters Memorial Trust has invited members and their families to join them at their Annual Memorial Service & Wreath Laying Ceremony in London on Sunday 14th September 2014.

You can access details of the Service on their website at www.firefightersmemorial.org.uk, where you should click on *Events* and then *Memorial Service*.

The Service is the Annual event to honour all those firefighting personnel who have given their lives in the course of their duties. After the Church Service Standards and all attendees Parade to the National Firefighters Memorial where there is a short Wreath Laying Ceremony

Andrew Lynch

Andrew, a Freeman of the Company, has let us know that, at the last Board Meeting of The Fire Fighters Charity, he was elected Deputy Chairman of the Fire Fighters Charity. He is very happy to discuss any issues that arise in regards to the Charity and to act as a point of contact between them and the Company.

Jonathan Hall



It is wonderful to report that Liveryman Jonathan Hall was awarded the Queen's Fire Service Medal (QFSM) in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours. Jonathan was Chief Fire Officer for Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service and he has recently taken up a new appointment as Director of Training and Organisational development at the Fire Service College at Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucester. Jonathan's award is a great tribute to him and I am sure all members will wish to join me in congratulating him on his achievement.

Past Master Beryl Jeffery

Company Gifts

Company Crest was donated to St Mary le Bow church by the Master - see picture opposite. This was presented to the Reverend George Bush.

A gift to the Company of a Vestal Hood was made by Past Master Michael Harper, and a Gavel was gifted from Past Master Beryl Jeffery.



CITY FIRE LECTURE

High Rise Fires - High Rise not High Risk

The Firefighters' Company, in partnership with Rockwool, hosted a very successful 4th Annual Fire Lecture at the Insurance Hall on Wednesday 28th May 2014.

The Rt. Hon the Lord Howard of Lympne, CH QC attended and made an opening address. James Cleverly, Chairman of the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority introduced Jones Yeung FSMSM FIFireE, Chief Fire Officer and Assistant Director (HK Island) HKFS and Ron Dobson CBE QFSM FIFireE Commissioner of the London Fire Brigade, who examined the levels of protection and preparedness associated with the risk of fire in high-rise buildings.

An appreciative audience posed a few challenging questions of the speakers at an open forum. Peter Holland CBE OStJ QFSM FIFireE, Chief Fire & Rescue Advisor to her Majesty's Government, made a closing address on behalf of the Minister, Brandon Lewis MP, who was unable to attend. The Master and Wardens brought the evening to a close with presentations to guests and the delegates joined them for a buffet reception.

Below is a photograph taken at the House of Lords during the afternoon of the 28th May, when Baroness Sal Brinton hosted a visit to the Lords for our lecture guests from Hong Kong. The picture shows Jones Yeung accompanied by the then Master, Beryl Jeffery and Mrs Jeanne Brinton (Baroness Sal Brinton's step mother). Foreground in the wheelchair is Baroness Brinton.



L to R: Jones Yeung, Lord Howard, Ron Dobson, James Cleverly, Wong chi-man, Peter Holland



HIGH RISE TRAINING

West Midlands unveils new high-rise training facility



Alan Wells, Past Master and Chairman of the City Fire Lecture working group recently (19th June) had the opportunity to attend the formal opening of the new high-rise training facility of the West Midlands Fire Authority on the 19th June. Oldbury Fire Station is adjacent junction 2 on the M5. Following presentations about the development and operation of the facility, Councillor John Edwards, Chairman of the West Midlands Fire Authority, accompanied by Chief Fire Officer Phil Loach, cut the tape to declare the facility open.

The new high-rise training facility, believed to be the first of its kind in the world, is set to play a key role in keeping the region's communities safe.

The 60ft-high (18m) six-storey, purpose-built facility was designed and built by HAAGEN. Its six configurable floors are linked by internal and external staircases and a lift shaft. It comprises 18 specially-designed inter-locking metal containers that can be configured to provide a realistic and safe environment for firefighter training.

It will enable West Midlands Fire Service crews and incident commanders, and those from neighbouring brigades, better understand fire behaviour in multi-storey residential and commercial premises. Instructors will be able to set fires in controlled conditions and, using built-in fans, vary important factors such as ventilation, generate wind speed of up to 25mph, and control the movement of smoke and fire gases using hand-held remote devices.

State-of-the-art thermal imaging systems enable training sessions to be monitored and recorded.

ANNUAL BURNS CAMP

In mid-August, Frank David, Michael Harper and Steve Neville paid a visit to the Open Day of the Annual Burns Camp held at the Grafham Water Centre near Huntingdon in Cambridgeshire.

This year the Charitable Trust has made a donation to enable 20 more students to attend the week long residential camp aimed at increasing the confidence and participation of children who have suffered from serious burns injuries and the many associated problems.

A wide range of activities, both in and out of doors are made available under the direction of Dave Webster and his volunteer staff, who had many moving stories to relate on the positive effects of the experience on often shy and embarrassed children who develop new social skills and form friendships which invariably have been of great benefit to the individual children and their parents. Testimony of parents and the evident pleasure and enthusiasm of some 60 participating children (8-17) underlined the success of this year's event.

During the week-long camp, fun activities including water sports, driving cars and fire engines. Some of the young people, who are supported by 23 adult chaperones, have suffered more than 90 per cent burns. A number have been coming back as helpers.

Frank David, Chair of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters Charitable Trust said "I am delighted that the Trust has been able to expand the work of the Annual Burns Camp this year. The work of the volunteers is impressive and the engagement and enthusiasm of the children is very moving indeed"

The grant was made in part from the Restricted Fund for Youth Education, Training and Development arising from the proceeds of the Company's Annual City Dinner. The event will be featured at this year's City Dinner on November 11th 2014.

FIREX

The WCoFF were present at the International Firex exhibition held at the Excel Centre in London on 17th – 19th June. Many exhibitors from every category of fire protection were present, displaying their latest products and services. The Company were given a free stand by the organisers and were able to promote the Company to interested parties as well as seek support for the Fire Industry Ball.



Picture above shows Past Master and Chairman of the WCoFF PR and Marketing Group, Viv Jones, on the stand

FIRE CADETS

Frank David and the Master Bryan Spearman put together a few words about the Cadet programme and the presentations made of the WCoFF Certificate of Achievement to the outstanding cadets of the year

From the Master

I am pleased to report that, since the beginning of the year, the Company have made 5 presentations of Certificates of Achievement to all this years LFB cadet schemes at Havering, Haringey, Barking and Dagenham, Redbridge and Walthamstow.

A certificate is awarded together with a gift voucher to the cadet chosen by his peers as the most deserving for their participation and input.

The scheme takes 14 to 18 year olds of all backgrounds and teaches life skills to help them improve self-esteem, community cohesion and reduce undesirable behaviour. The cadets gain confidence to interact with their communities and become ambassadors teaching people the serious consequences of anti-social behaviour such as arson and making hoax 999 calls. The objective of the LFB cadet schemes is aimed at modifying such behaviour.

The courses usually cover 2 or 3 school terms and are held one night a week during term time with some daytime and weekend sessions during the holidays.

The scheme benefits young people who would benefit from a structured, regulated activity, are interested in the Fire Brigade as a career, have difficulty at school or in personal lives, have been excluded socially or educationally or have confidence or self-esteem issues.

Funding is by external organisations and charities and the programmes are delivered by Fire and Rescue Service personnel and community volunteers.

From September this year courses are planned to run in Tower Hamlets, Newham, Hackney, Redbridge Haringey, Ealing, Brent, Bexley, Croydon, Lewisham and Greenwich all of which we applaud and will support.

The Under Warden John Mansfield accompanied Frank David went to Barking and Dagenham Fire Cadets on Wednesday 23rd July to present awards to the top cadets.

The picture opposite top shows top cadet Amber Wallace receiving her certificate.

Below is the winning Cadet from the Haringey Fire Service passing out held on Saturday 19th July.

MASSEY SHAW EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Between 28th and 30th July, The Massey Shaw Education Trust took part in the Westminster Boating Base Family Activity Festival. This was the second year the event had been organised by the WBB and we were invited to take part along with the LFB River service, RNLI, Peabody Trust and Westminster Council and QPR Football Foundation. It was a well-attended event.

The WBB provide a wide range of activities for all ages and support local families who would not have the opportunity to take to the water without their support.

A large number of water based activities were undertaken each day as well as an interactive display based on the theme "Keep calm get pumping" - each day families were invited to take the "stirrup pump challenge", which consisted of a WWII Stirrup Pump, lots of water, three tennis balls and cricket stumps. This proved to be one of the most popular events each day. Following a session with the pumps children could dress up in WWII uniforms and learn about sending messages by making their own "flag pole" with their name made from individual flags.

We were able to attend the event thanks to the support of the WCoFF Charitable Trust and we look forward to collaborations in the future.

David Rogers

Massey Shaw Education Trust



FIREFIGHTERS NEWS

From Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service

Fire and rescue service helps David to turn his life around

David Wood's life has been turned around after completing the 12-week Princes Trust Team Programme ran by Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service.

David, aged 20 from Thorney Close, Sunderland joined the course having had a troubled life using alcohol and drugs. The course gives young people the opportunity to meet new friends, try out new skills, get a taste of the workplace and plan for the future. It includes a team building residential, a community fundraising project, a work placement, CV writing skills, interview technique training and a team challenge involving helping others in the local community. David completed his programme at Farrington Community Fire Station. His presentation speech was so emotive and inspiring that it has been chosen to be published on the National Prince's Trust website this week.

Princes Trust Team Leader, Alan D'Arcy, Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service said: "David has been truly inspirational and he has shown that you really can turn your life around. We wish him all the best for the future.

If you are aged 16 to 25 and unemployed and would like to find out more about the course, please contact Princes Trust Team Leader Alan D'Arcy on 0191 444 1175 or go to www.twfire.gov.uk.



David Wood presented with his certificate from Chief Fire Officer Tom Capeling



Kent Firefighting Museum to Re-Open

When the museum at Kent Fire & Rescue Service HQ (Tovil – Maidstone) closed and went into storage in 2011, the future of the collection was uncertain. But a Stakeholder Group of former volunteers and supporters of the museum was formed to consider options for the future. After much hard work, arrangements have been made to occupy new premises and a charity has been established to run the museum. The new charity is called the Kent Firefighting Museum. The Rt. Hon. the Baroness Blackstone has agreed to be the Patron. A Friends Association has also been formed.

The main museum site open to the public will be at the Woodlands Garden Centre at Ash Lane, Ash, near West Kingsdown, not far from Brands Hatch. The museum will also use the former Chatham Fire Station as a storage and maintenance site, with some access by the public by appointment.

Commenting on progress to date with the charity and Friends, Chairman of Trustees and former Chief Fire Officer of Kent, Jeremy Beech said: "We have a team at The Woodlands and we would be delighted to welcome anyone with an interest in fire service history to become a volunteer. Volunteers will be our "game makers" and will supervise visitors and hopefully have a very enjoyable time being involved in developing the museum as a visitor attraction and a learning resource. We also need as many members of the Friends as possible. So even if you are unable to enrol as volunteers, we hope that there will be a large take-up of membership of the Friends to help us with our running costs.

Mr Beech also thanked KFRS for the support which has been given to the new charity – he hoped that the Museum would, in turn, try to support the Service by promoting fire safety generally and other key initiatives."

The formal opening of the museum by Baroness Blackstone took place on Saturday, August 30, 2014. It was a fun day full of activities and special exhibits to mark this important occasion.

The web site is:
www.kentfirefightingmuseum.org.uk

Facebook: [Kent Firefighting Museum](https://www.facebook.com/KentFirefightingMuseum)



UPCOMING EVENTS

Golf Day

Wilderness Golf Club
Friday 5th September 2014

The annual outing with the Painter Stainers, now also involving the World Traders and Plumbers and other Livery Societies was held once again at Wilderness Golf Club on Friday 5th September. Those who have played before know that the Wilderness is a very welcoming club with a superb course, which, next year, will again be an Open Championship pre-qualifying course. Report on who was the WCoFF golfer of the year will be in our next issue.

St Florian's Dinner

The Banquet is being held this year at Trinity House, Trinity Square, Tower Hill, on Wednesday 8th October 2014. Trinity House is one of the most attractive and historical venues in the City.



Our principal guest and speaker this year will be Commander Graham Hockley, Secretary to The Corporation of Trinity House. Graham started his career in the Royal Navy where he served from 1973 to 2001 as an Engineer Officer. He has served in a variety of ships ranging from Frigates and Destroyers to Aircraft Carriers and the Royal Yacht. While ashore he worked in training establishments, the Engineering Head Quarters in Bath and the Ministry of Defence.

THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FIREFIGHTERS

FIRE INDUSTRY CHARITY BALL

2014

RADISSON BLU (SAS) PORTMAN HOTEL
PORTMAN SQUARE, LONDON W1H 7BG

20TH SEPTEMBER 2014

COME AND CELEBRATE
WITH FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES
AT THE **FIRE** INDUSTRY'S
GLITTERING ANNUAL EVENT

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FOR SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES CONTACT
VIV JONES ON 01702 216999 OR VTJ@VIMPEX.CO.UK

THE BALL, CO-PROMOTED BY FIA AND FIRESA, IS ORGANISED BY
THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FIREFIGHTERS ON BEHALF
OF THEIR CHARITABLE TRUST - REGISTERED CHARITY NO.1000562



The Worshipful Company of Firefighters



Mini - Salamander - November 2014 newsletter



2014 Exclusive City Dinner


A great evening was had on Tuesday 11th November, when the WCoFF hosted an exclusive city dinner for over a hundred guests at Catlin's head offices in the heart of London. Catlin Group, one of the City's leading global specialty property and casualty Insurance and Reinsurance companies, had provided a wonderful venue in their banqueting suite and the food and wine were of excellent quality. Peter Holland CBE QFSM FIFireE, Chief Fire and Rescue Advisor to HM Government, welcomed guests on behalf of the WCoFF, in particular Penny Mordaunt MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State covering fire, resilience and emergencies.

The City Dinner event is a fund raising effort for specific causes of the WCoFF Charitable Trust in Youth Education and Training and, before the meal started, there was an opportunity to hear about the great work going into the training of local fire cadets. The Master, Bryan Spearman, made a presentation on behalf of the WCoFF to their top fire cadet, who gave a very moving speech saying how much her attendance at Fire Cadets had given her in terms of confidence and motivation in her life.

From funds raised at last year's dinner, the WCoFF Charitable Trust had also been able to send 10 children to the 2014 summer burns camps organised by The Burns Camp Trust and, after the meal, guests were able to hear from Paul Fuller, organizer of the Burns Trust and Karen Reid, a volunteer helper, about the educational and

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The Master, Bryan Spearman, presents the award to the top cadet for the year



The Fire Cadets and trainers present on the evening

confidence benefits children, who have been severely burned, get from attendance at the summer camps. It's frightening to think that up to 15 children can be burned each day, mainly due to accidents in the home. Guests also heard first hand from a burns survivor and attendee at the camp, who spoke eloquently about the benefits he obtained to his self confidence from attending the camp.

Frank David, Chairman of the Charitable Trust, who, along with the Master and Past Master Michael Harper, had attended the camp itself to see its work, spoke of how he felt that this had been one of the most deserving causes he had witnessed for the funds of the Charitable Trust.

A group of singers from the Tring Performing Arts School gave some great renditions of a number of songs from well known musicals ending with, on this notable date, patriotically leading the company in the singing of "Land of Hope and Glory", with much flag waving. A draw was made for a Jeroboam of fine claret generously donated by the caterers Harbour and Jones and Ken Barnes held an auction for Wimbledon semi-final tickets, kindly donated by Judith Harper.

Michael Harper thanked all those responsible for the organisation of the evening, particularly Steve Neville and to Catlin for their generous sponsorship to these worthwhile causes. He hoped that other corporate sponsors would be encouraged to come forward. Peter Holland concluded the evening reminding guests of the City Fire lecture next April on the subject of Fire and Timber structures and with an invitation to a stirrup cup.



Guests enjoy singing "Land of Hope and Glory" and a bit of flag waving



Guests enjoyed the lovely atmosphere of Catlin's banqueting facility

provided a guard of honour to the guests as they proceeded into dinner



The Master, Bryan Spearman, with Peter Holland CBE QFSM FIFireE, Chief Fire and Rescue Advisor to HM Government, and Penny Mordaunt MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State covering fire, resilience and emergencies.



Mr. Paul Fuller talks about the work of the Burns Trust and their summer camps



A group from the Tring School of Performing Arts provided excellent entertainment

Mini - Salamander - December 2014 newsletter



The Worshipful Company of Firefighters Carol Service

The festive season got underway with a very well supported splendid annual Company Carol Service at St. Mary Le Bow on Friday 12th December.

A choir of 4 that sounded like 10, entertained and lead the congregation through many popular carols.

The readings were delivered by Dr. Nicole Hoffmann, Under Warden in Waiting Andrew Mayes, the Clerk Steven Tamcken and Myself.

As always, the Reverend George Bush regaled us all in his own inimitable style with an excellent sermon, sending us merrily on our festive way.

May I also take this opportunity to wish you all a very Joyful Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

Bryan Spearman,

Master



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Diary

Don't forget

Dinner for Liverymen to be held

Mini - Salamander - January 2015 newsletter



An Exciting Year Ahead

The 2015 year starts with a bang as, on Friday 27th February, the Company will receive a Royal Charter, to be presented by the Right Honourable Alan Yarrow, The Lord Mayor of the City of London. The gift of a Royal Charter was recently approved by Her Majesty the Queen.

This very prestigious function in the Company's history will take place at the Insurance Hall commencing at 11.00am on Friday 27th February - attendees are requested to be seated by 10-45.

The official ceremony will be followed by a reception, during which the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress would like to meet members of the Company and their partners. The reception will include a buffet during where wine will be served. The Master is extending an invitation to all members and their partners to join him for this once in a lifetime opportunity to witness and enjoy the Presentation of the Royal Charter. Please make the effort to come to show the Mayor how strong and active our Company is. Please contact the Clerk to let him know, so that he has an idea of numbers coming.



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The first English Royal Charter was granted in 1231 (to the University of Cambridge). The first Worshipful Company awarded a Royal Charter was the Saddlers' Company in 1272. Today there are about 750 in existence in the UK and only a few are awarded each year. So, this is indeed a significant achievement for the Company



Getting involved in Company Activity

The Master is inviting all livery and Freemen to the East India Club on 19th February at 7pm for a meeting designed to encourage a greater involvement by members in the activities of the Company, particularly for those in the Company who are unsure of how to use their talents to help the Company.

The evening will commence with an introduction from the Master and then Committee Chairman, each giving a short overview what their Committees' work entails.



It is then an open forum for group or individual discussions.

We will meet in the Canadian Room where drinks and canapés will be served. A cash bar will also be available. Dress is smart casual, including Company tie.

The venue address is East India Club, 16 St. James's Square, London, SW1Y 4LH

Please try to make this meeting if you can - it is an exciting opportunity to get involved in the great work the Company is doing in training, education and charity associated with fire fighting activities



Diary

Don't forget

Dinner for Liverymen to be held on the 27th January 2015, at the East India Club, and the Massey Shaw dinner to be held at the Insurance Hall on Wednesday 4th March.

Mistress Firefighter, Lynn Spearman, has invited partners and guests to visit the Mansion House, followed by tea on HQS Wellington on Monday 16th February - cost is £20 - please contact the Master for details.

Also don't forget about the Inter Livery Company Shrove Tuesday pancake race on 17th February. If you'd like to join in, please contact the clerk or come and support the Firefighters' team on the day .

If anyone is aware they are not getting e-mail communication from the clerk, can they contact him


Mini - Salamander - February 2015 newsletter




The Worshipful Company of Firefighters' Livery Dinner

On 27th January, the Livery Dinner was held in the East India club. Peter Hopkins reports that he always makes a point of attending this dinner over other functions as it really allows him to catch up with fellow livery members in a lively, convivial and relaxing atmosphere, despite the formal wear. The meal is always excellent and there are good opportunities to talk and learn from fellow diners about personal and livery activities. It was from the dinner last year that Peter learned from members of London Fire Brigade of the special WW1 celebrations at Ypres last year. This year, he had the chance to sit with the Beadle, John Norris, who had persuaded Peter to join the Company many years before, so a good chance to catch up with him over port. Peter highly recommends members to put the event into their diary for next year.

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Some members enjoying the livery dinner



Diary

Don't forget

Presentation of Royal Charter

The Right Honourable Alan Yarrow, The Lord Mayor of the City of London has kindly agreed to officially present the Worshipful Company of Firefighters with the Royal



Massey Shaw Dinner

This important dinner in the year of the Master is being held on 4th March at the Insurance Hall. It is the last

A message from the Clerk

As we are all aware, this is a busy time for the Company with the Master's initiative, the presentation of the Royal Charter, the Massey Shaw Dinner and Meet the Firefighters events all coming up very quickly.

In addition, the next major City event is that of the United Guilds Service, which is a fascinating insight to the pageantry of the Livery Movement and one not to be missed. Contact the Clerk's office for more information.

The Company is trialling a new communication method using Mailchimp, so if you see something from them, please have a look. We still do have some email addresses that are bouncing back, and would like to have a 100% send and receive, so if you know someone is missing emails from the Company, please alert us.

Steven Tamcken. clerk

major event over which the Master presides and the Master would certainly appreciate as many members being there as possible to support himself and his wife Lyn. Please book directly through the web-site or let the clerk know.



Ladies Day Out

The ladies and some of their partners enjoyed a day out in the City of London on Monday 16th February, with a tour of the Mansion House, followed by tea on HQS Wellington. The tour of the Mansion House included a trip into the vaults to see some rare Mayoral treasures. A quick walk through the rain ended with some warmth on board this historic ship which saw action at Dunkirk and rescued over 450 naval seamen.

Charter. This, as many of you will know, was recently approved by Her Majesty the Queen. This very prestigious function in the Company's history will take place at the Insurance Hall commencing at 11.00am on Friday 27th February 2015

Meet the Firefighters

In addition to the Massey Shaw dinner on 4th March, we also have a "Meet the Firefighters" event on 6th March, 11-30 at Winchester House. Claire Mansi is co-ordinating this event - if you know of a prospective member, who would like some information and perhaps could attend this event please let Claire or the clerk know.

The Master's Initiative

The Master has organised a meeting at the East India club for Thursday 19th February (7 pm) to progress greater knowledge within the Company of the activities of the various offices and committees of the Company in order to encourage a broader participative approach by members to the Company. Hopefully, report on this meeting will be circulated in the next newsletter.



The Salamander

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters

Service, Fellowship, Harmony and Honour

June 2015

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Diary

12th Sep - Fire Industry Charity Ball

13th Sep - Firefighters Memorial Service

25th Sep - Members' Informal Luncheon, Old Dr Butler's

16th Oct - St. Florian's Installation Banquet

14th Nov- Lord Mayor's Show, City

4th Dec - Members' Informal Luncheon, Old Dr Butler's

11th December - Carol Service, St. Mary-le-Bow

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters
The Clerk: Steven Tamcken
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T: 0207 600 1666 F: 0207 600 1666
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A RIGHT ROYAL YEAR FOR THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FIREFIGHTERS



Royal Charter



City Fire Lecture



Exclusive City Dinner



Fire Cadets



Massey Shaw Fireboat

FROM THE MASTER'S DESK

Where has the year gone? It seems like only a few weeks ago Past Master Beryl Jeffery installed me as Master of this wonderful Company.

Being an Ambassador for the Company has been a tremendous experience, involving many dinners, lunches, lectures, debates, presentations, church services and much more.

Before I say anything more, I must firstly give a great vote of thanks to you all for your help and support during my year without which it would not have been the success that it has.

The highlight of the year has to be the presentation of our Royal Charter by the Lord Mayor, which I know you all enjoyed as much as I did! A wonderful milestone in the life history of the Company, and an event never to be forgotten.

The Queens Garden Party on the 20th May and processing into St Pauls Cathedral with all the other Livery masters for the Sons of the Clergy service are just two more events that emphasise the wonderful traditions we have in the City and the great Pomp and Ceremony this Country enjoys, as well do the tourists!

In conclusion, I would like to ask for your help in the wonderful work of our Charitable Trust supporting the Cadet Programmes, the Burns Unit, as well as our core charities, RAFT, Massey Shaw Education Trust and the Memorial Trust. The major contributor to the Trust is our annual Charity Ball which this year will be held on the 12th September at the Radisson Portman Hotel, Portman Square, London.

The evening is a great opportunity to meet old and make new friends with a free drinks reception, 3 course meal with ½ bottle of wine per head, entertainment, a great band to dance to and a raffle and an auction. An early start of 6 pm gives those requiring to leave and catch the last train to do so without missing out on the fun.

Thank you again for support.

Master Bryan Spearman



2015 CITY FIRE LECTURE

The 5th Annual Fire Lecture was held at the Insurance Hall on Wednesday 22nd April 2015. The topic, Fire and Timber Structures, was presented by Andrew Carpenter, Chief Executive of the Structural Timber Association and Professor Barbara Lane, Leader of Arup's Technology Group, who examined the fire safety of new-build timber structures.

Peter Holland, HM Chief Fire & Rescue Advisor gave an opening address. Gareth Bacon AM, introduced the speakers and chaired an open forum. Neil Gibbins, International President of the Institution of Fire Engineers, gave the closing address. Principal guests included Peter Dartford, President of CFOA, and Ron Dobson, Commissioner London Fire Brigade. Peter Holland accepted a donation for his nominated charity, The Prince's Trust, and invited George Martin, the Trust's National FRS Liaison Officer, to receive it.

The Lecture Prize Draw enabled up to 15 ticket purchasers to visit The Leadenhall Building, where a building architect gave a guided tour of the building during the afternoon on the day of the lecture.

160 people, including guests, attended the lecture and the opening stages were attended by seven London Fire Brigade Community Fire Cadets, who assisted with reception duties and ushered guests to their seats.

The topic was of current relevance, and the partnership between The Structural Timber Association and Arup provided a credible and authoritative lecture. It worked well and was appreciated by a questioning and often critical audience. It was reassuring and satisfying to achieve an almost full-house for the lecture which proved challenging for the speakers and provoked considerable interest from the floor.

The atmosphere during the lecture and the reception which followed, coupled with numerous praiseworthy comments received since then, tell us the occasion was a resounding success.

A fuller report is available on our website along with pictures and the speakers presentations. In addition, a report on the Fire Lecture will also appear in the next issue of the FIRE magazine (June cover date) and the summer issue of International Fire Professional.



COMPANY NEWS

The Massey Shaw Fireboat



The Master and Chairman of Trustees were invited to attend a reception at the Westminster Boating Base on Thursday 30th April. The event marked the return of the historic LFB Fireboat Massey Shaw to the River Thames following her restoration. Then, on May 21st, Massey Shaw left Ramsgate Harbour with some other 45 plus 'Little Ships' in the Armada to cross the Channel and visit Dunkirk for the 75th Anniversary of Operation Dynamo.



The "Miracle of Dunkirk" meant that between 26 May and 3 June 1940 over 330,000 made the hazardous crossing back to the UK, far more than was originally anticipated! Massey Shaw was called up to take part and, with a mixed crew of volunteer River Service and Auxiliary Fire Service personnel, made for Ramsgate to join the other 'Little Ships' heading for the beaches of Dunkirk. Initially she was to be used to fight the fires in and around the harbour and oil installations but was quickly pressed into action taking soldiers off the beaches to larger ships laying off-shore. With her shallow (36 inch) draft she was able to get in very close to the beaches of Bray Dunes and La Panne for this purpose.

Massey Shaw made that hazardous trip three times across the channel and was attacked on numerous occasions. Her firefighting monitor was of great interest to the enemy as she appeared to be an armed vessel. Despite being dive-bombed she made it home safely after clocking up the rescue of over 500 troops from the fore-shore and directly ferrying some 110 across the channel. Badly injured troops were carried in the warmth of her engine room whilst others fell asleep exhausted on her upper decks. On her last passage to Ramsgate she came across a sinking French merchant ship the "Emile

Deschamps" which had struck a mine, and from which she directly rescued about 40 badly injured and oil contaminated men.

In order to participate in the 75th commemorations, a group from the British Firefighters Motorcycle Club, which included Past Master Peter Cowland and Freeman Tony Smith, rode to Dover for the Channel crossing to Calais, and by late afternoon were on the harbour side at the Dunkirk Basin du Commerce to cheer "Massey" and the other little ships as they arrived safe from their crossing.

No trip by firefighters abroad could ever pass without a visit to the local fire station and, with a number of London Fire Brigade Cadets, we were privileged to join the Massey Team at Dunkirk Fire Station where all were made most welcome by the "Sapeurs Pompiers" on duty there that day. Liveryman David Rogers, Director of the Massey Shaw Education Trust, with the assistance of the LFB Cadets, was pleased to present Capitaine Christophe Libert with a specially crafted trophy entitled "The Spirit of Dunkirk" to mark the 75th Anniversary. (The base of the trophy is formed from a portion of the original Massey Shaw deck).

Massey Shaw continued to serve London throughout the Blitz and, on the night of 29 December 1940, supplied water for land crews ashore in their firefighting operations, thus helping to prevent the major fires spreading to St Paul's Cathedral on a night when the Thames was at very low-tide. Massey Shaw remained in service until 1971. In 1982 a group of enthusiasts formed the Massey Shaw & Marine Vessels Preservation Society to preserve her history and keep her for future generations to enjoy. From this Society was formed the new Massey Shaw Education Trust which now uses her to allow young people to experience a "day-in-the-life" of a 1930's fire-fighter on the River Thames. This project has recently been extended to allow them to hear stories, from monologue actors, about the London Blitz and the Dunkirk evacuation.

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters Charitable Trust continues to support this particular project. Thanks to a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund Massey Shaw has recently undergone a major restoration which, completed in 2013, was in good time for her to celebrate her 80th Birthday in 2015. She is currently moored at the West India dock.



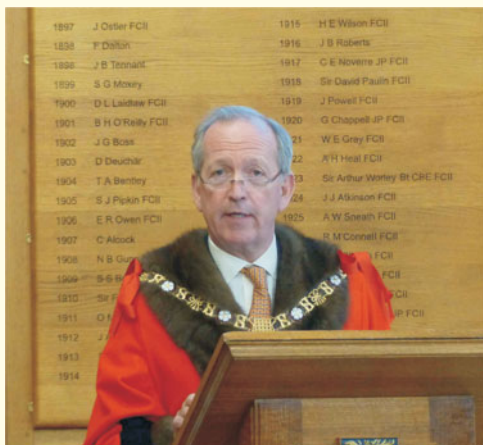
The Worshipful Company of Firefighters receives its Royal Charter

A wonderfully joyful celebratory event took place on Friday 27th February when the Lord Mayor, Alderman Alan Yarrow, along with the Sheriffs and their consorts, came to the Insurance Hall to unveil and present the Royal Charter to the Worshipful Company of Firefighters.



The Great Hall was filled with Past Masters, Liverymen and Freemen of the Company as well as honoured guests as the Lord Mayor's party swept into the room flanked by London Fire Brigade cadets. They were welcomed by the Master, Bryan Spearman, as well as the Father of the Company, Gerry Clarkson, and other members of the Court. The Lord Mayor unveiled the impressive charter, its words echoing the historic majesty of the granting of such an honour and illustrated with meaningful depictions reflecting the importance of firefighters in the City and society.

The Lord Mayor spoke of his admiration for firefighters and highlighted the charitable work of the Company in providing support for fire cadets and the Massey Shaw Fireboat restoration (his family having founded a shipbuilding business). The Master, to commemorate the occasion, presented gifts to the Lord Mayor, the Sheriffs and their wives as well as the famous Saved Plate Number 1 to the Father of the Company, Mr Gerald Clarkson, CBE. He also conferred Honorary Liverymanship of the Company on the Lord Mayor. The Lord Mayor, supported by the Lady Mayoress and Sherriffs, then circulated through the Great Hall, meeting and chatting informally with every guest, while a selection of canapés accompanied by champagne, wine and soft drinks added to the celebratory party atmosphere, which was enjoyed by all.



Extracts from speech by The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor of London, Alderman Alan Yarrow:

I am delighted to join the Worshipful Company of Firefighters for this very special occasion – the presentation of your Royal Charter. It was an honour to unveil it, and be part of this moment in history.

It's fantastic to work alongside you as Lord Mayor – and it's even better to be one of you!

Thank you for paying me the very great compliment of making me an Honorary Liveryman of the Firefighters.

Master – I know that the Firefighters are doing a huge amount to promote “life safety” and “good professional behaviour” – within your sector, and allied fields. And may I commend you on your excellent charitable support for those in your industry.....and for the “Massey Shaw & Marine Vessels Preservation Society”.

During WWII, the Massey Shaw fireboat went above and beyond the call of duty – ferrying hundreds to warships, and back from Dunkirk. A fantastic part of our heritage, and I'm delighted that this Company is helping to save it.

My great-grandfather, Sir Alfred Yarrow, founded a major ship-building business which made (and continues to make) many of Britain's warships. Maybe met by the Massey Shaw, during her service. But Yarrow's shipbuilders began right here, in London, when Alfred started sketching designs for boats in the East End of London. He invented the fastest launches on the Thames – and the rest, as they say, is history.

From small acorns, mighty oaks grow. And from its beginnings in 1988, this Company has blossomed to become a very valued member of the Livery Family – crowned, today, with a Royal Charter.

Congratulations to you all, and thank you for inviting me, Gilly and the Sheriffs, to be part of it.



St. Florian's Banquet

The St. Florian's installation banquet was held on Wednesday 8th October at Trinity House near the Tower of London. Almost 100 people enjoyed a splendid meal in the Library room of Trinity House, with views onto the Tower.



The Master, Bryan Spearman, welcomed everyone to the dinner. After the meal, loving cup and loyal toasts, Mr Ron Murray, Upper Warden, introduced the principal guests who included Mr David Raines, Master of the Distillers, Mr. Tahhan, Master of the Environmental Cleaners and Commander Graham Hockley, secretary of Trinity House.

Trinity House was celebrating its 500th anniversary with the original charter being granted by Henry VIII in 1514. So it was very great honour for the Worshipful Company of Firefighters to be allowed to join in this celebration by having our annual installation banquet at Trinity House and to have the Secretary of Trinity House, Commander Graham Hockley address the Company and to propose the toast to Company on behalf of the guests. Commander Hockley, in his speech, referred to the fact that most mariners have been trained in how to deal with fires at sea, so that they have an inherent admiration for the fire service.

He also referred to the plaque on the wall within the building commemorating the life of auxiliary fireman Abraham Lewis who gave his life in dealing with an incendiary fire that stated in Trinity House in May 1941 during the blitz. It wasn't the first time that Trinity House had been affected by Fire. In 1666, the fraternity lost its building (during the time Samuel Pepys was Master) and again in 1718, their building down by the port was lost to fire. The building was hit also in December 1940, which destroyed most of their valuable pictures and models.

Prior to the talk by Commander Hockley, there was a presentation of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters' award to Mr Cameron Black QFSM and Mr Stephen Nesbit on behalf of the UK Rescue Operation for their part in the development and transfer of skills internationally on rescue operations, thereby helping other countries reduce death and injuries in crash sites.

The Master completed the evening speeches, and was happy to announce that some £20k had been raised at the Fire Industry ball for the charities and that membership of the Company had now reached 200. The Master then invited guests to join him in a stirrup cup to conclude a lovely evening.

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters' Liveryman Dinner

On 27th January, the Liveryman Dinner was held in the East India club. This is always an event that allows liveried members an opportunity to catch up with fellow liverymen in a lively, convivial and relaxing atmosphere. The meal is always excellent and there are good opportunities to talk and learn from fellow diners about personal and livery activities. It is worth putting the date in your diary for next year's dinner.

Ladies Day Out

The ladies and some of their partners enjoyed a day out in the City of London on Monday 16th February, with a tour of the Mansion House, followed by tea on HQS Wellington - all organised by Lynn Spearman, the Master's wife. The tour of the Mansion House included a trip into the vaults to see some rare Mayoral treasures. A quick walk through the rain ended with some warmth on board this historic ship which saw action at Dunkirk and rescued over 450 naval seamen

Meet the Firefighters

Regular "Meet the Firefighters" events are held throughout the year, mostly at Winchester House. Claire Mansi has been coordinating these events and if you know of a prospective member, who would like some information on the WCoFF and perhaps could attend this event please let Claire or the Clerk know.

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters Carol Service

The festive season got underway with a very well supported splendid annual Company Carol Service held at St. Mary Le Bow on Friday 12th December. A choir of 4 that sounded like 10, entertained and lead the congregation through many popular carols.

The readings were delivered by Dr. Nicole Hoffmann, Under Warden in Waiting Andrew Mayes, the Clerk, Steven Tamcken, and the Master, Bryan Spearman.

As always, the Reverend George Bush regaled us all in his own inimitable style with an excellent sermon, sending us merrily on our festive way.



The Master's Special Project

The Master welcomed some 35 Freemen and Liverymen to an evening at the East India Club on February 19th to give an introduction to the structure and workings of the Company, and to encourage greater participation from members. Following the Master's welcome, there was a series of presentations by the Senior Past Master Locum, Jeremy Beech, and by Standing Committee Chairmen and the Clerk Steven Tamcken. A summary of these presentations were included in a special Mini Salamander for the benefit of those who were unable to attend. This can be found on the Company web site.

2014 Exclusive City Dinner

A great evening was had on Tuesday 11th November, when the WCoFF hosted an exclusive City dinner for over a hundred guests at Catlin's head offices in the heart of London. Catlin Group, one of the City's leading global specialty property and casualty Insurance and Reinsurance companies, had provided a wonderful venue in their banqueting suite and the food and wine were of excellent quality. Peter Holland CBE QFSM FIFireE, Chief Fire and Rescue Advisor to HM Government, welcomed guests on behalf of the WCoFF; in particular Penny Mordaunt MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State covering fire, resilience and emergencies.

The City Dinner event is a fund raising effort for specific causes of the WCoFF Charitable Trust in Youth Education and Training and, before the meal started, there was an opportunity to hear about the great work going into the training of local fire cadets. The Master, Bryan Spearman, made a presentation on behalf of the WCoFF to their top fire cadet, who gave a very moving speech saying how much her attendance at Fire Cadets had given her in terms of confidence and motivation in her life.

From funds raised at last year's dinner, the WCoFF Charitable Trust had also been able to send 10 children to the 2014 summer burns camps organised by The Burns Camp Trust and, after the meal, guests were able to hear from Paul Fuller, organizer of the Burns Trust and Karen Reid, a volunteer helper, about the educational and confidence benefits that children, who have been severely burned, get from attendance at the summer camps. Frank David, Chairman of the Charitable Trust, who, along with the Master and Past Master Michael Harper, had attended the camp itself to see its work, spoke of how he felt that this had been one of the most deserving causes he had witnessed for the funds of the Charitable Trust.

A group of singers from the Tring Performing Arts School gave some great renditions of a number of songs from well known musicals ending with, on this notable date, patriotically leading the company in the singing of "Land of Hope and Glory", with much flag waving.



The Master arrested and bailed

The cry went up from our Master: "Friends, Liverymen, Freemen of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters, I am in need of your urgent assistance!"

He had been invited to coffee with the Lord Mayor, Alderman Alan Yarrow, and the Lady Mayoress, along with several other Masters, to be "arrested" by the City of London Police on a trumped-up charge and then incarcerated in the Tower of London until his Bail, which had been set at £1,000 was paid, all in aid of the British Red Cross.

Fortunately, members did come to his rescue, so he was saved having to live on Perrier water and artisan cheese for too long.

Fire Cadet Awards

Past Master Frank David and Upper Warden Ron Murray went to present the certificates at the passing out parade of Tower Hamlets Fire Cadets at the end of March. The Education team there were very grateful for our support and thrilled to hear a wonderful response from the cadet getting the top award. He said "thank you so much for the year - it went so fast and I am so happy that I decided to attend. I had such an amazing time and I can't thank you enough for choosing me at the beginning. I want to share what I have learnt about the fire service. I can't wait to be a junior cadet." Wasn't that a wonderful response and makes all the efforts so worthwhile?



The Massey Shaw Dinner

On 4th March, the Master, Bryan Spearman, welcomed members and guests to one of the last formal Company events of his year, the Massey Shaw Dinner. This took place in the Insurance Hall a few days after the wonderful ceremony where the Company had been formally presented with its new Royal Charter. The Company silverware was also on display. After the dinner, the Master spoke well of his year in office, guests were warmly welcomed with many of the ladies present given lovely bouquets.

The Pepys Project

Next year sees the 350th anniversary of the Great Fire of London in 1666. The City of London intends to celebrate the event and we are involved in that planning process. Separately, under the auspices of the PR and Marketing Committee, a Pepys group has been working on the WCoFF's contribution to the year: a walking tour, a commemorative book (with new forensic analysis from Peter Mansi) and possibly a special "app" are being planned. If you would like to get involved with any of this activity, please contact Past Master Viv Jones. But look out for some interesting occasions to mark this momentous event in the life of the City of London.

Andy Rhodes

On 5 January this year the President of the United States of America was pleased to award the USA Meritorious Service Medal to Lieutenant Commander Andrew Rhodes RN for distinguished accomplishments which reflected great credit upon himself, the Joint Program Executive Office for Chemical and Biological Defense, the Royal Navy and the United States Army.

Following service at sea as Weapons Engineer Officer on HMS Cumberland, at the time when she became a vital component of the Libya Emergency of 2011, Liveryman Lt Cmdr Andy was seconded to the United States for a period of two years. During this time, along with his other duties, he participated with the USA in the destruction of the Syrian Chemical Weapons Program! He clearly represented his country and the Royal Navy very well indeed.

We now welcome Liveryman Andy home to the United Kingdom and congratulate him on receiving such a prestigious award. Well done Andy!



Teaching Block named after Past Master

Past Master, Geoff Morgan has been honoured by one of the largest and most successful mixed comprehensive schools in the country by naming a new £1.7m teaching block after him. Geoff served as a governor of St Martin's School, Brentwood for 27 years and was Chair of the governing board for some 5 years.

The new block, which will be used to teach English and Maths at the school which is rated "outstanding" by OFSTED, was formally opened by Geoff pictured on the left outside the building with Head Teacher, Mike O'Sullivan. Geoff said at the ceremony, "I was staggered when I heard the building was going to be named after me. It is a great honour. I thought I was making a contribution to the school and they have rewarded me more than I could have ever anticipated".

Having worked in Human Resources, Geoff has a life-long interest in education in both the private and public sectors. He was Chairman of the Education and Training Committee of the Firefighters Company for some 3 years before standing down at the end of 2013. He is now a governor of Havering College of Further and Higher Education which has 10,000 students. He is also active with charities and is currently Chairman of the Board of Brentwood Citizens Advice Bureau and was a trustee of a national charity concerned with the employment of disadvantaged people.

Geoff, who was Master Firefighter 2009-10, was attracted to livery because of its extensive contributions to charities and to education and development.



FIREFIGHTERS NEWS

Targeted Response Vehicles (TRVs)

Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service has launched two new-style appliances that will target smaller, low risk incidents, such as rubbish fires, across the area. Although these types of incident generally present a lower risk to the public and firefighters, they currently account for over 70% of total incidents attended by conventional fire engines, and also peak in the evenings.

These new Targeted Response Vehicles (TRVs) will attend lower risk incidents between the hours of 6pm and midnight. It is expected that they will be able to deal effectively with up to 70% of the low risk incidents, with traditional fire appliances attending the more serious and life-threatening.



Nepal Charity Car Wash

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service's Dunstable Green Watch Firefighters raised £615 during the Charity Car Wash that was held at Dunstable Fire Station on 18 May 2015.

The car wash was in support of Clive and Heather Wilkinson (foreground in attached photograph) and their fund raising efforts to aid relief to the devastated areas of Nepal that suffered damage in the recent earthquakes. Clive had been a long time crew member at Dunstable.



Meet the Chief

Paul Fuller - Chief Fire Officer QFSM MSc BSc FIFireE MInstLM

Paul Fuller joined the Fire Service in 1978 and worked for West Midlands, West Sussex, Staffordshire and Wiltshire before becoming Chief Fire Officer at Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service in 2002, also spent nine months seconded as Chief Fire Officer to Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service in 2009.

He became a Fellow of the Institute of Fire Engineers in 2008 and is Chair of CFOA Services Limited, deputy Chair of Fire Sector Federation, CFOA past President and Trustee of the national charity the Children's Burns Trust. He holds an MSc in Human Resources Management, Bachelor of Science in Fire Safety Technology and Management.

He is also a member of the Bedfordshire St John County Priory Group, the Police Partnership Board, the Strategic Steering group for the Regional and World Children's Burns Camp, and Chair of the Bedfordshire and Luton Chief Executive Forum.

In 2008 he received the Queens Fire Service Medal for exemplary service and was made a Freeman of the City of London in 2012.

"Like all Fire Services," he says, "Bedfordshire needs to be innovative, making less go further every year and finding new ways to provide our services, protect the public and improve safety.

"Perhaps our biggest innovation has been introducing a 24 hour duty system for our firefighters. This gave us better control over their off-duty rest periods and gave Watch and Crew Commanders greater responsibility.

"We have a well-established Fire Cadet Scheme at Sandy, thanks to the support of the Town Council, and are currently expanding it across the county.

"In conclusion I'd like to mention that 2016 will see the 350th anniversary of the Great Fire of London, perhaps the keystone in the history of firefighting in the country and especially relevant to the WCoFF. We should perhaps not only look back over the incredible progress made since that terrible tragedy, but also look forward to future innovations in protecting the public and making firefighting even safer.

Rolling Thunder is a storming success!

Over a period of three days in March, the largest National Resilience scenario took place called 'Rolling Thunder', hosted by Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue, National Resilience team. The incidents included Urban Search and Rescue (USAR), High Volume Pump, Enhanced Logistics Support and Mass Decontamination, Detection identification and Monitoring teams. Rolling thunder was attended by 20 Fire and Rescue Services National Resilience teams from all over the UK, along with Devon & Cornwall Police Disaster Victim Identification, HART, the Royal Air Force and Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service local crews.



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The Worshipful Company of Firefighters

