

Annual report 2022–2023



The Worshipful
Company
of *Ironmongers*



FRONT COVER IMAGE: **The Ebblewhite Salamander Loving Cups, 1928.**

Presented to the Company by Ernest Arthur Ebblewhite as his Mastership present in 1928, these decorative cups were made by silversmiths Harman and Company and designed by George Alexander. This may have been the same George Alexander (1881–1942) who had been responsible for the intricate stone and wood carvings for the new Ironmongers' Hall, which opened in 1925.



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THE COMPANY





The Worshipful Company of Ironmongers is one of the Great XII livery companies of the City of London, incorporated under a royal charter of 1463.

Our links to the iron trade date back over 700 years. The earliest records suggest that the Ironmongers, then known as Ferroners, were an effective body in 1300, when they took action against the smiths of the Weald over the quality of iron supplied for the cart wheels in the City of London.

When the iron industry moved to the Midlands and the north of Britain by the 17th century, the Company's association with the trade lessened. Our focus is now on education and philanthropy, with members actively giving their time, talent and treasure to the Company and its Charities.

Foreword from the Master

By David Liming Esq
Master 2023–2024



It is a pleasure and a privilege to be made Master of this wonderful livery company. Mary and I are looking forward to an exciting year, building on the good work of Julian and Zehan.

Twenty-five years ago, Ashley Boddy introduced me to the Company whilst I was leading the construction of the Guildhall Art Gallery. Ashley had been my boss whilst a director at John Mowlem Construction and he became a close friend and mentor. After a number of subscription lunches (offering snuff with your coffee!), I was won over.

My past year as Senior Warden has been preoccupied with a number of

activities which are pertinent to my year as Master and my current focus on ensuring our Company and our Hall are fit for the future.

March saw the completion of the refurbishment of Geffery's Fields, the sheltered accommodation facility that the Ironmongers' Trust Company runs as the Trustee of Sir Robert Geffery's Almshouse Trust. This, the culmination of five years' work, involved considering a number of options, appraisals and planning applications to identify the best design that was both affordable and fit for the next 30 years. The good news is that the residents love their new flats. I would particularly like to thank our

Warden, Jackie Lovell, who has been so patient in addressing their needs whilst ensuring the contractor addresses some post-completion issues that have become manifest.

A Hall fit for the future

It is thus coincident that as I find myself Master, there are more Ironmonger-related building projects that I can lend my skills and experience to, and that will shape the nature of the Hall as the Ironmongers' home.

We continue discussions with the Corporation of London regarding how the London Wall West project

will affect the amenity and the configuration of the Hall. We have a working group ably led by Lord Garvagh (Master 2018), which is looking after our interests. I am of the firm mind that the Hall should not be vacated during this works programme. Not only would this disrupt our sense of identity, but on a very practical point, the Hall's fabric is likely to be disturbed by altering the temperature and humidity profile, resulting in possible movement of the panelling and fibrous plaster ceilings. The recent Grade-II listing of much of the Hall's fabric makes these matters even more pertinent.

We also have a working group led by Mike Lloyd investigating how we make our Hall fit for the future. Design considerations include achieving a carbon footprint that meets the City of London Corporation's Climate Action Strategy and improving amenities for our members. Philip Pascall, who chairs our Sustainability Working Group, is providing valuable insight to ensure any measures are truly effective rather than greenwashing. We already have a CAD model from which to develop ideas. Any proposal will need to ensure that current income streams from rental or hospitality are not compromised.

Building firm foundations

Over the last few years, there have been meetings of Court members who are in train to become Master. Chaired by the Senior Warden, and formalised by the Court, the Below the Chair Working Group is, in essence, the leadership think tank of the Company and ensures that there is a continuum of purpose during each Master's year to ensure focus and enable strategic change.

A key outcome of this has been the production of a business plan for the Company, replacing the objectives-based approach of past years. Tatiana Doncaster, our new Finance Director, has done a great job undertaking a deep dive into the past decade's finances to identify key trends and challenges. This business plan sets out specific means to address the recurring operational deficit and to build a more robust capital base. As a civil engineer, it is unsurprising that I expect a plan to deliver firm foundations to take the Company forward, particularly in these times of volatility and uncertainty.

A welcoming Company

I would like to thank the Clerk and all the staff for making the Company so welcoming. It is a joy

that new applicants regularly cite friendliness and inclusion as a reason for choosing the Ironmongers'. The regular welcome evenings for new members and the work of the Livery and Yeomanry Committee are to be congratulated on playing their part in this too. With our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Policy and Roadmap (for implementation by everybody), we remain committed to ensuring that we attract the involvement of people from all walks of life and harness a wide range of talents and life experiences.

We continue to support many charities and I thank everybody for giving time, treasure and talent. For me, a key differential of the Livery is the level of engagement we have with those to whom we give. We still need volunteers to visit those we support and you do not need to be on a committee to do this. Ironmongers — please put yourself forward!

Finally, this year marked 100 years since Major Cecil Pemberton Stedall laid the foundation stone of Ironmongers' Hall. As your new Master, I look forward to playing my part in laying the foundations for our great Company to prosper for the next 100 years and beyond.



A visit to a forge workshop in Coleg Ty'r Eithin, Wales, in relation to an Iron Committee grant to the Ruskin Mill Trust.

Message from the Immediate Past Master

By Julian Verden Esq
Master 2022–2023



Julian Verden Esq and his wife Zehan Verden.

Thank you again for allowing me the honour of serving our Company as Master over the past year. It was a tremendous opportunity and one which my wife Zehan and I relished and decided to maximise by arranging our diaries such that we were able to accept nearly all of the events proposed to us.

We both have full-on jobs, but we are afforded flexibility and worked our holidays around the natural seasonal breaks so as not to miss being able to represent our great Company. On one occasion I flew in overnight from Asia and went immediately to the Skinners' Great XII Lunch, followed by the Plaisterers' City Dinner — thoroughly enjoying both of them. I promise I kept my eyes open!

Growing our charitable involvement

Aside from the dinners which serve to enhance the bonds between the 111 livery companies, the year was our chance to grow our involvement in the many charitable activities that our Company has links with. To mention a few, the year started with our Landrake School's prize-giving on a hot July summer day in Cornwall, shaking the hands of each pupil, watching their charming performances, touring the school and its grounds, and meeting the donkey — all while wearing my bright red Master's gown! It was a delight, and all of the Ironmongers' team involved were very proud of the school and its pupils.

A week later, a complete contrast — the presentation of the Ironmongers' Prize — a spectacular stainless-steel model, too big to lift comfortably, of the O2 — at the Defence Academy at Shrivenham to Lieutenant Colonel Tom Bright. On the day, many prizes were awarded and it was most impressive to see the quality of the young officers in whose hands our future security may well rest.

Unfortunately, last August's prize-giving trip to visit the Army Cadets training camp had to be cancelled due to essential training of the Ukrainian troops at the camp. But we did welcome them, together with the Sea Cadets whose Carol Service and Coronation Parade at Greenwich we much enjoyed, at our Cadet Forces Supper in January.



Greeting The Rt Hon. The Lord Mayor Nicholas Lyons at the Ironmongers' City Dinner.



TOP RIGHT CORNER: With George Bastin for the Presentation of New Colours.



DIRECTLY ABOVE: The Ironmongers' Prize — a stainless-steel model of the O2.

Our support of ironwork helps continue this ancient industry. So many beautiful buildings and their grounds have ironwork, and should be preserved as much as possible.

It was a great honour to have been invited to the Presentation of New Colours by His Majesty King Charles III to the Grenadier Guards, with whom we have an affiliation.

Links with our ancient industry

As many of you already know, we give some prizes in the materials science arena. I twice visited the Midlands to present awards at the Cast Metals Engineers prize-giving ceremonies. The recipients, Josh Yeardley and Kieron Tighe, were clearly very dedicated to the industry. One of our awards included a trip to Korea which Josh found most instructive.

Our support of ironwork helps continue this ancient industry.

So many beautiful buildings and their grounds have historic ironwork that should be preserved as much as possible. Our grants to some of the projects that are proposed to us help this important task. Over the year, I have been able to observe our support of the Chelsea Physic Garden, the Royal Society of Sculptors and a trip to the Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings beckons.

Looking at the progress we have made within the Company, I'm delighted that we now have our first female full Court member, Kate Hughes. The Company strives to promote opportunity within and in the City as a whole and this is a positive step forward towards greater equality.

Cementing our relevance

We successfully completed the merger of our two Almshouses into the newly renovated Geffery's Fields which I was most pleased to visit and having had a good look around, I took the opportunity to chat to our residents who seemed most content. Very well done to all those who strived hard to make this transition happen.

We continue our work to ensure that the City Corporation's London Wall West project leaves our Hall intact and if possible, with improved surrounds.

We have increased our liaison with the steel industry, some of whom are now holding regular meetings in our Hall.

We have recognised that as a Company we need to ensure that our Hall operates on a financially neutral basis and I'm pleased that we have the support to look at how we may bring in appropriate, affordable and fair contributions to be sure that we leave our Hall in a better condition than we inherited it in.

All of this together with the work we do through our Charities will serve to cement our relevance and resilience as we go forward.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank the Court and the Livery for their support during my year and particularly our two Wardens for their good counsel. May I thank all our teams at the Hall, ably led by our Clerk, who have been wonderful to work with and who have all gone out of their way to make our year run smoothly, making it both a success and a real pleasure.

The Master and Wardens



David Liming Esq

MASTER

David grew up in north London, attending Highgate School. He then went to Imperial College to study Civil Engineering. He later completed an MBA at Cranfield University and was made a Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers in 2011.

David has worked for various building contractors including Wimpey, John Mowlem and Carillion. In 2006, he became Carillion's Managing Director of UK building operations, with a portfolio of large construction projects such as general hospitals, MOD facilities, schools and city centre offices. David was also chair of the UK Contractors' Health and Safety Committee from 2008 to 2011. He became an independent construction consultant in 2011, advising on technical disputes and project productivity.

David joined the Ironmongers' Company by redemption in 1998. He has been instrumental in developing the Ironmongers' Foundation Committee's RISE project with the Arkwright Trust, which has been successfully helping schools promote science and technology careers. This built on his experience as a STEMNET Ambassador, visiting schools to improve pupils' employability skills. Over the last two years, he has led the Ironmongers' team responsible for the refurbishment of Geffery's Fields, our sheltered accommodation facility in Basingstoke.



Ewan Wauchope

SENIOR WARDEN

Ewan was born in, and grew up in, west London, attending Wetherby and Harrow Schools in London. On leaving Harrow in 1980, Ewan joined a Lloyd's broker (Pearson Webb and Springbett) and began a 40-year career broking non-marine reinsurance business and specialising in political violence insurance and political risk.

Dealing with the Middle East, especially the Lebanon, Ewan became a partner/director in several broking firms and travelled on business throughout the Middle East and Africa. In 2020, Ewan changed from broking to underwriting, and set up a managing general agent specialising in political violence and terrorism insurance with Protect Underwriting LLP. He has been the underwriter for this specialist venture, underwriting risks in the Middle East and Africa for the last three-and-a-half years.

Ewan is married to Kate, a partner in a City law firm. They married in 1997 and have two daughters, Molly and Eliza (both Freeman of the Ironmongers'), and a son, Duncan who is in his last term at Harrow.

Ewan joined the Company by Redemption in 1995, having been proposed by Anthony Moss, Master of the Company for 1987 and Sheriff for 1992, and whose son Nick is a friend from Harrow. Ewan served as Warden of the Livery and Yeomanry in 2014 and is the Ironmongers' representative for the City and Guilds of London Institute. His twin brother, Andrew, was Master for 2021–2022.

Ewan has been assisting the Company to collect outstanding claims on its charity's property portfolio, and is looking forward to chairing the Below the Chair Committee, taking forward initiatives for the Company's future.



Randall Boddy

JUNIOR WARDEN

Randall grew up in Hertfordshire, attending Berkhamsted School, then Nottingham University to read Agricultural Science, graduating in 1985. After university, he spent some time in practical farming to broaden his knowledge base and subsequently worked for a merchant business, Sidney C. Banks (Frontier) based near Peterborough. From there, he took a more independent route with The British Cushion Supply Co. and in 1998, joined his future family, farming in Leicester.

Under his management, this business has grown and is now a diverse agribusiness, principally involved in recycling food products into animal feed and food wastes into green energy. In addition to this, it has an expanding property portfolio of three rural office business parks and light industrial units, and an arable farming estate.

In 2011, Randall started work on an anaerobic digester power generation plant, fuelled entirely by waste food. This was probably one of the first privately built commercial waste plants of its type, exporting 3.2 MW of green electrical power to the National Grid.

Randall married Sarah in 1998 and they have three daughters: Alice, finishing Biochemistry at Nottingham; Harriett, full-time equine event riding; and Millicent, starting sixth form at Oakham. They live outside Leicester, along with a cat, five dogs and 15 horses!

Randall joined the Ironmongers' Company in 1993 by patrimonial redemption through his father Ashley Boddy, and progressed to Warden of the Livery and Yeomanry in 2010, and to the Court in 2012.

Message from the Clerk

By Colonel Charlie Knaggs OBE
The Clerk



The Ironmongers' Company remains an increasingly diverse and inclusive membership organisation that makes a real difference in the public interest — why would one not enjoy serving this great Company?

One of the highlights of my past five years as Clerk has been in helping Ironmongers engage in the great works of the Company and its Charities.

Individuals join the fellowship from wide-ranging backgrounds and seem to be drawn by a great sense of belonging to an organisation where members contribute willingly and

generously because they feel their contribution will have a real effect. Members are asked to give as they are able and it is the combined effort of an engaged membership that will secure the future of the Company and its Hall for future generations. There is an overriding and tremendous sense of purpose and fun.

As we approach the Hall's Centenary, our priorities continue to be: to increase the size, diversity and engagement of the membership — we are always looking for new members and ways to keep members involved;

to develop the Company's Business Plan so we are best able to operate efficiently and continue to grow our assets; and lastly, to secure Ironmongers' Hall as the Company home and hand it over to future generations, fit for purpose for the next 100 years!

It is a great time to get involved, to enjoy the fellowship and to make a real difference. Please do get involved and contact me directly here at the Hall with your ideas. We would also love to hear from any prospective members who might wish to join.

The Court and Court Deputies



FRONT ROW:

A R P Carden, Sir Michael Oliver,
E D Wauchope (Senior Warden), D J Liming
(Master), T R Boddy (Junior Warden),
R H Hunting CBE, T P C Oliver

MIDDLE ROW:

Col C P H Knaggs OBE (Clerk), I Cooper,
K J Hughes, H J Charnaud, Sir Peter Estlin,
R J Patteson-Knight, J A Biles TD, J Verden,
R C R Twallin, Cdr E J Squire, T Doncaster
(Finance Director), S Walby (Beadle)

BACK ROW:

H S K Knowles, M S W Tilbury, M S W Lee,
G A Bastin, M A Hudson, P A Boddy,
A M Carter-Clout

The Court

- David Liming Esq, Master
- Ewan Wauchope, Senior Warden
- Randall Boddy, Junior Warden
- Brian Livingston Esq
- Robert Stedall Esq
- Sir Michael Oliver Kt DL
- Richard Hunting CBE Esq
- Hugh Johnson Esq
- Samuel Apsley Esq
- Timothy Oliver Esq
- Michael Crickmay Esq
- Richard Carden Esq
- Richard Twallin Esq
- Philip Hudson Esq
- Harry Charnaud Esq
- Maj Gen Patrick Cordingley
DSO OBE Esq

- Martin Hudson Esq
- Richard Patteson-Knight Esq
- Anthony Carter-Clout Esq
- George Bastin Esq
- David Worlidge Esq
- Richard Slade KC Esq
- The Rt Hon the Lord Garvagh
- John Biles TD Esq
- Andrew Wauchope Esq
- Julian Verden Esq
- Hugh Knowles
- Matthew Tilbury
- James Farquharson
- Alderman Sir Peter Estlin KStJ
- Peter Boddy
- Kate Hughes
- James Oliver

Court Deputies

- Mark Lee
- Cdr Elizabeth Squire

Court Deputy Elect

- Mike Lloyd

Warden of the Livery and Yeomanry

- Isla Cooper

A roadmap to equality, diversity and inclusion

By **Henrietta Brailsford**
Court Deputy



I have very much enjoyed my time as a Court Deputy. It has given me unprecedented access to the workings of the Ironmongers' leadership team and visibility of the important work that the Company achieves. I have gained a fascinating insight of the commitment and dedication of the Court, committees and our staff to the Company's charitable endeavours.

One of my assignments as Court Deputy was to deliver the Ironmongers' Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Policy and begin its implementation.

Despite its great age, our Company is a modern, outward-looking organisation and our EDI Policy outlines our commitment to ensure that diversity and inclusion is one of the leading agendas and common threads of our strategic and day-to-day business.

The Company is aware that in order to thrive in the modern world, it must remain relevant and must

continue to improve diversity within the membership, trades and charities that it supports. We must continue to attract involvement of people from a diverse pool of backgrounds and experiences. Our EDI Roadmap enables us to maintain a sharp focus on our EDI agenda so that we can achieve our aim of being truly representative of contemporary society.

..... **Moving this key challenge forward**

Good progress is being made. Since COVID, virtual meetings have become a standard option, ensuring accessibility to Court and committee meetings for those with personal, work or family commitments. In July, the Company celebrated its first female Court member with the election of Kate Hughes. There is now a dedicated 'safe space' during busy events and a focus on improving diversity within our committees and in our admissions.

Thanks also to some very generous donations, we now have a formal attire clothing library to improve accessibility for members to join our events.

There is more to do though. And, we all have a part to play in continuing to move this key challenge forward — particularly in the recommendation of more diverse members. Over the coming year, the Company needs to continue to make headway with our EDI Roadmap including clear targets and an open and transparent approach to our progress.

I would urge all Ironmongers to actively engage with this piece of work, helping to foster an environment where each member, employee and charitable beneficiary feels respected and able to give their best. It is up to all of us to ensure that the Ironmongers' remains relevant and thrives as a diverse and inclusive Company that is truly fit for the future.

Officers and staff



FRONT ROW: Pamela Ray (Communications Manager), Tracy Weddell (Cloakroom), Tatiana Doncaster (Finance Director), Charlie Knaggs OBE (Clerk), Helen Sant (Charities Manager), Kim Edmunds (Assistant Clerk), Su Seager (Housekeeper)

MIDDLE ROW: Patrick Jenkins (Assistant Houseman), Tim Kiddy (Property Accountant), Andrzej Flizak (Hospitality Assistant), Gail Campbell (Hospitality Assistant), Eric Mensah (Kitchen Porter), Marcus Seymour-Pierce (Junior Sous Chef), Katy Tytler, (Membership Manager), Asta Varanauskienė (Accounts Assistant), Ranjit Salian (Head Chef), Chris Lapworth (Under Beadle), Josephine Northcott (Cloakroom), Lynn Hanrahan (Cloakroom), Jackie Holmes (Cloakroom), Samuel Baracho (Events Manager), Chris Hanrahan (Cloakroom), Steve Walby (Beadle)

BACK ROW: Erotildes Delboni (Hospitality Assistant), Alexandra Serban (Hospitality Assistant), Hilario Fernandes (Support Chef), Carolina Cosson de Oliveira Medina (General Manager), Catharine Melville (Social Secretary), Ben Jeffery (Sales and Marketing Manager), Michal Kaminski (Events Manager), William Weddell (Cloakroom), Robin Manson (Houseman)



Farewell to Helen Sant

Our wonderful Charities Manager, Helen Sant, is retiring at the end of August. Helen has given an incredible 21 years' service to the Ironmongers' Company. During this time, she has been an integral part of our giving with her expert management of our Charities.

Helen worked closely with the various chairs and members of the Charity committees to bring focus and practical impact to our charitable giving and the running of the Almshouses. We would like to thank her for her immense contribution to the Company and wish her all the best for the future.

New starters

- Tatiana Doncaster, Finance Director
- Kim Edmunds, Assistant Clerk
- Pamela Ray, Communications Manager
- Katy Tytler, Membership Manager
- Amy Paget, Sales Coordinator
- Erotildes Delboni, Hospitality Manager
- Marcus Seymour-Pierce, Junior Sous Chef
- Samuel Baracho, Events Manager

Leavers

- Helen Sant, Charities Manager
- Andrew Harrison, Chief Accountant
- Sandra Tyler-Harrison, Almshouse Assistant Warden

THE HALL



Ironmongers' Hall



Home to the Company, Ironmongers' Hall is a beautiful country house tucked away in the heart of the City of London.

Purpose-built in 1925, Ironmongers' Hall is rich in history and full of charm. Its impressive Tudor-Jacobean style banqueting hall comes complete with crystal chandeliers, oak panelling and fine stained-glass windows, recording the room's connections with the Monarchy and past Lord Mayors of the City of London.

With a further three stunning rooms and a charming courtyard, it is the perfect venue for weddings, corporate events, or private dining and celebrations. With income from the Hall helping the Company to support the Charities that it administers, it is also an easy way to give back to our charitable causes.

To book an event at Ironmongers' Hall, please email events@ironmongers.org

A high-performing Hall and team

By **Carolina Cosson de Oliveira Medina**
General Manager, CH&CO



This year, we have once again had the honour of hosting some iconic events such as the Réunion du Gastronomes Annual Gala Dinner, our Clerk's son's Wedding & Ceilidh, and a *Financial Times* livestream panel discussion with billionaire chemical engineer Jim Ratcliffe. It is worth highlighting that the Gastronomes is an organisation specialising in hospitality and food service, and for the first time, it is returning to the same venue for two

consecutive years because of such a successful event at Ironmongers' Hall in 2022.

Over the past year, one of my main goals has been to improve service standards and lead a high-performing team that could be an example to other venues. We have therefore introduced new uniforms, proper housekeeping briefings, the use of regular team members and debriefings. We have also ensured that all feedback is

taken on board. As a result, we have increased our percentage of return clients of new business post COVID.

..... **Exploring changes to our menu**

Ranjit, our Head Chef, has been busy in the kitchen exploring changes to our menu. He is now dry ageing the beef for our Monday Luncheon Club for 56 days, adding extra tenderness and flavour to our signature roast.

He has also been creating a fully plant-based menu following the same high standards and flavours as our meat dishes.

Most of our suppliers are part of London Larder and we not only purchase fresh local products of a higher quality, but our fish is MSC (Marine Stewardship Council) certified and our meat is Red Tractor certified. We are also looking at adopting their sustainable approach, which is fully supported by the Company of Cooks.

Welcoming new team members

We have welcomed a number of new starters including Samuel Baracho, our new Events Manager, who has joined Michal Kaminski to complete our management team. I had the pleasure of working with Sam at the Naval and Military Club and am delighted that he brings his experience, knowledge and charm to our team.

Amy Paget is our new Sales Coordinator who is supporting Ben, our Sales and Marketing Manager. With a fresh pair of eyes and a head full of innovative ideas, I have no doubt that she will attract even more business to the Hall. Erotildes Delboni joined as Hospitality Manager to assist Andrzej, Gail and Alexandra on events. Last but not least, we welcomed Marcus Seymour-Pierce, our Junior Sous Chef, who has created some delicious dishes alongside our Head Chef Ranjit.

A truly successful year

Big congratulations to Ben, our Sales and Marketing Manager (pictured below), who received an Acorn Award as one of the '30 under 30' (an award recognising the brightest prospects in the hospitality industry). He also received an ACE Robyn's Award (an award recognising up-and-coming

talent) alongside nine other individuals. We would not only like to praise Ben on his professional achievements, but also for breaking the record for commercial event sales last year — £1.3 million in revenue against an £843,000 budget. What a sensational performance!

We have had an unforgettable and truly successful year, and it has been a pleasure leading such an amazing catering department. Working together with a 'one-team' spirit has unified us through some extremely busy periods. The support we received from the Ironmongers' Hall team has also been essential in ensuring the success of all our events. I would therefore like to thank the Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Social Secretary, Beadle, Housemen, cloakroom attendants and cleaners for their continued support. Our team is looking forward to what the rest of 2023 has to offer, including what is already set to be an extremely busy Christmas season!



Building on our successes

By Anthony Carter-Clout Esq

Master 2014, Chairman of the Use of Hall Committee



For the Use of Hall Committee, this year has been one of consolidation and building on the successes of last year. Post-COVID, there still seems to be a pent-up demand for events, dinners and weddings. We were very busy with these along with a very full Christmas party season.

Our Monday Luncheon Club, which is held in the banqueting hall every week, is becoming ever more popular. Open to members of all livery companies and their guests, I would strongly recommend coming along to try it; you won't be disappointed!

We finished the 2022/23 year with record revenues from both Hall hire and our share of catering income, having soundly beaten our budget. This was thanks to the incredible hard work by all the staff involved from CH&CO, our caterers and the Hall. We were also very proud to win another award at the London Venue and Catering Awards for 'Best Historic Venue or Livery Hall' in London under a 300-seat capacity!

Redevelopment and sustainability

We are continuing with our Hall Site Working Group, which is working with the City of London's planners of the London Wall West project as they tackle the issue of redeveloping the Museum of London site both to upgrade the area and to improve the public realm. Unfortunately, work on this has stalled with environmental issues and opposition to the plans from local residents.

A decision by the City of London is now not expected until early next year which leaves some of the works to improve our Hall on hold for the time being. Notwithstanding this, the Company has drafted its own Sustainability Policy with the aim of achieving net-zero carbon emissions from our own operations by 2027. To start to achieve this, we have identified some carbon reduction 'quick wins', which will include replacing the main boiler in the Hall, and replacing and reconfiguring the heating and air conditioning controls. In addition,

we will be changing all lighting to LED lamps, which will reduce both our electricity and gas consumption. This work is now in hand and will be ongoing throughout this summer.

A fit-for-purpose Hall

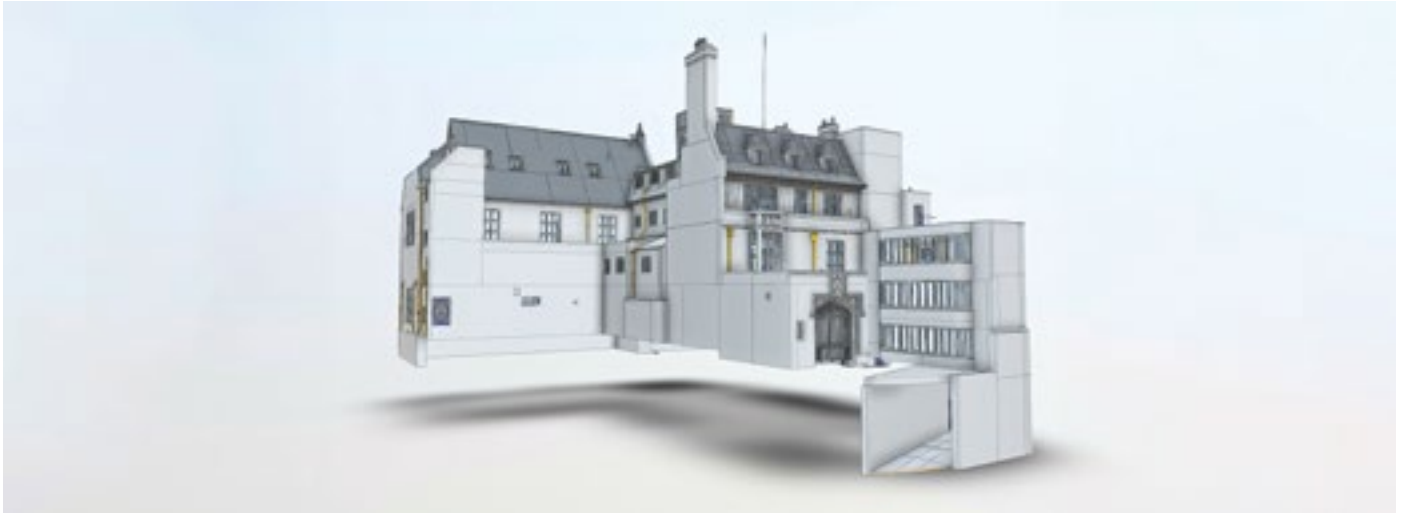
We are also continuing with our Next Century Hall Working Group, which now meets monthly to review progress under the chairmanship of Liveryman, Mike Lloyd. Our centenary is coming up in 2025 and with the potential refurbishment and reconfigurations that the London Wall West project may offer us, we are using this opportunity to review in-depth the changes and improvements that we need to ensure that the Hall remains fit for purpose in its second century. We have been considering an updated and detailed preventative maintenance schedule to ensure that the building fabric is kept in good condition and will allow us to continue to operate efficiently from our Hall.

To further protect the Hall, we commissioned a full review of the Hall and its interiors by Historic England with a view to a listing to protect and safeguard it for its special architectural and historic interest. I am delighted to announce that their report was accepted by the Secretary of State and we are now a Grade-II Listed Building, covering the parts that we wished to list, but not including Ferroners House, our 1970s office extension.

So, a busy year indeed. On behalf of the Use of Hall Committee, thank you to all the staff at Ironmongers' Hall for their hard work and dedication in keeping the Hall running smoothly, and for the warm welcome you give to our members, our guests and our visitors.

Creating a next-century Hall

By Mike Lloyd
Liveryman



Over the past 12 months, we have undertaken a number of improvements 'below stairs' at Ironmongers' Hall to improve our efficiency and move towards the Company's goal of net zero by 2040.

The original boiler has been replaced with two state-of-the-art modular condensing boilers that have over 97 per cent efficiency and are estimated to save over 28 tonnes of carbon each year. A new heating and cooling control system has been installed, which will hopefully enable us to flexibly regulate the temperature throughout the Hall in winter and summer. Old fluorescent lighting in the Hall has also been replaced with low emission LED, estimated to save around 1.8 tonnes of carbon per annum. These three quick wins help improve operational efficiency whilst driving down operating costs for the Hall.

Additionally, we have commissioned a full building services feasibility study to examine areas where we can make further improvements. Whilst it is our intention that one-day we might be able to connect to the City Corporation's central heating system run by Citigen, this is still some way off and we are therefore doing all we can to improve our efficiency on a standalone basis.

Ironmongers' Hall will continue to be our very special home in the City.

Safeguarding our Hall

In conjunction with these works, we have undertaken a full, measured survey of the Hall. This has enabled us to have comprehensive digital plans of the Hall in 2D and to create a 3D model. This is a useful management tool for the Company, but is also an extremely valuable sales tool. If potential Hall clients are unable to visit in person, they can now have a 3D 'walk through' of the Hall.

This data capture process will form the basis of a databank that can be used as a reference once the works around us begin and the London Wall West project starts to take shape. We will be able to measure any movement or vibration impact against our existing condition survey from 2023, with the position of the Hall thereby safeguarded. Overall, a great investment for the Company for the years to come.

A historic listing

In addition to all of these technical works, the Clerk and his team have acted judiciously to achieve a historical listing for the Hall. As of 20 April 2023, the Hall is now a Grade-II Listed Building on the register of Historic England. This provides us with extra protection from whatever is built around us, whilst also giving us national recognition for the beautiful gem of a building that we Ironmongers have always known our Hall to be.

The final part of our work within the Next-Century Hall team this year has been to engage specialist architectural practice APT to assist us in developing a building feasibility study. This will show what alterations or improvements we might be able to make in line with our 21st-century operations, and the ideas and observations that Company members raised in a survey in the first quarter of 2023.

We will continue to develop these ideas over the coming months and years. Whatever changes may come, we are certain that Ironmongers' Hall will continue not only to be our very special home in the City, but also a next-century Hall that we can happily and confidently share with others.

A word from our Beadle

By Steve Walby
Beadle



It has been another very busy year for the Beadle's team. In the first quarter, we hosted a number of Company events, such as the Cadet Forces Supper, the Lord Mayor's Dinner, the Masters' & Clerks' Dinner, the Masters' Wives' Lunch, the United Guilds' Service and numerous Past Masters' dinners — all needing special attention along with the Company silver requirement. This work combined with a healthy smattering of commercial Hall events has

certainly kept us on our toes with lots of early starts and late nights. Not to mention the redevelopment of the Museum of London site, a staff review and new rules on Health & Safety and Security added in for good measure!

The rest of 2023 is a healthy mixture of formal dinners, weddings, seminars and concerts, leading up to the finale of Christmas, which is always a very busy time at the Hall. Not forgetting the accompanying critical maintenance projects, like

the main boiler replacement and the flood-damage repair taking up many weekends.

I would like to thank CH&CO staff for their continued support and give a very special thank you to my team — Under Beadle Chris, Housemen Robin and Patrick, Cleaner Su, and the team of cloakroom and washing-up staff consisting of Jackie, Tina, Chris, Lynn, Tracy and Bill. Thank you all. Without you, Hall life would be less entertaining!

HERITAGE AND HISTORY



From Fenchurch Street to Shaftesbury Place (Part 1)

By Mike Lloyd
Liveryman

As we look ahead to the centenary of Ironmongers' Hall and the changes that the London Wall West project will inevitably bring, we should also pause to reflect on the past and the long and eventful history of our great Hall.

In this Annual Report, I delve into the 1900–1922 era, the first of three periods that I will cover in the next two Annual Reports. Special thanks to historian Dr Penny Hunting and Justine Taylor, our Archivist, for their support with this endeavour.

As most Ironmongers will be well aware, the Company was originally based in Fenchurch Street in the City's eastern area. The Ironmongers' first bought a site there in 1457 and over the centuries, its buildings had been adapted and remodelled. By 1900, a fine Georgian livery hall stood on the site, comprising "a very noble modern building" (W. Thornton, *The New Complete and Universal History, Description and Survey of the Cities of London and Westminster* (1774), p.389) with the approach to the grand staircase being via an avenue of Tuscan columns in the vestibule. The banqueting hall or 'state room' on the first floor was decorated with beautiful carvings and furnished at one end with an eye-catching grand buffet.

The destruction of 1917

Having escaped the ravages of the Great Fire of London in 1666, Ironmongers' Hall was the only livery hall to suffer the consequences of an enemy air raid during the First World War. On the morning of Friday 7 July 1917, between 11.00am and 12.00pm, London was attacked by a wave of Gotha 4 aircraft, dropping incendiary

bombs. Seventy-two bombs were dropped, 57 lives were lost and 193 people were injured.

A 110-lb bomb from one of the aircraft hit the courtyard of Ironmongers' Hall. This space had been used to drill City special constables of No.1 Division, H Company, and to house more police recruits. The bomb's major impact was on the York stone paving of the courtyard, where it made a crater 4-feet deep and 8 feet in diameter, causing structural damage to all four of the 18th-century walls. The Hall's windows, slates, plasterwork and panelling were also broken and scattered. Today, some of the Company's pewter plates bear holes that tell the tale. A heavy 16th-century iron-bound wooden chest was propelled 8 feet and survived, albeit with a steel splinter through its lid. This chest has recently been restored, leaving the bomb damage still visible and sits in the entrance hall of the present Hall. A fragment of the bomb was presented at the time by the Beadle to the Court as a reminder of the 1917 destruction.

Abandoning the old Hall

Despite the shattered courtyard of the Fenchurch Street Hall, the banqueting hall, the vestibule, the kitchens, the parlour and the Clerk's office were still usable. Even so, the Court chose to hold its quarterly meetings at nearby Clothworkers' Hall and hospitality was suspended, except for a Christmas lunch for members of the Court. The Hall could not be repaired immediately because of the restriction on building during the war.

Fortunately, in 1916, the Court had had the foresight to have the Hall and its contents insured against 'aircraft' and in 1918, received an insurance payout of £32,651 for the structure and £6,519 for the damaged contents. However, the bomb damage to the Hall raised three questions: should the damage be repaired? Should there be a new building on the same site? Or should a new Hall be built elsewhere?

Much consideration was given to each of these three options and a decision was taken by January 1919 to sell the Fenchurch Street building and find a new site. The old Hall was then abandoned. The Company's wine was stored with Corney and Barrow, and its pictures and furniture with the Victoria and Albert Museum. The sale of 750 dinner plates, marble chimney pieces and Georgian furniture amounted to a derisory £539. The Hall (including numbers 1 to 3 Fishmongers' Alley adjoining) was sold without advertisement or publicity to William Cory and Sons Ltd for £132,000 in June 1919. After the demolition of the Hall, an office block was built on the Fenchurch Street site.

The Company Surveyor, George Hubbard (1859–1935), twice elected vice president of the Royal Institute of British Architects, was so upset by the rapid decision to rebuild that he resigned in protest after more than 22 years of service. Perhaps this was also out of frustration that the Court had not taken up his 1901 design for the re-building of the Hall in Fenchurch Street, mothballed in 1904. His moment had gone! Interestingly, these plans are still in the Company's archives and show what might have been.



Ironmongers' Hall in Fenchurch Street, image © London Metropolitan Archives (City of London)

Finding a new home

Several locations were explored by the Company before Shaftesbury Place, off Aldersgate Street, was purchased in March 1922; it was then vacant land let to the General Post Office for the parking of its carts. The site was acquired in two slices: 10,800 square feet for £11,750 and 560 square feet for £1,050, against an asking price of £14,120 for both.

Ironmongers' Hall was the only livery hall to suffer the consequences of an enemy air raid during the First World War.

The Ironmongers' surmised that it had an advantage over other buyers as a right of way between the two sites needed to be closed by the City Corporation to enable its development, and the Company correctly assumed it would have the leverage to achieve this.

The site chosen for the new Hall had already been through several reincarnations before being acquired by the Company. Its marshy land had originally been drained between 1606 and 1616 by a member of the Ironmongers', Nicholas Leate, who went on to drain and develop Moorfields.

Thanet House was the first building on the Shaftesbury Place site. This had been erected for John Tufton (1608–1644), second Earl of Thanet, a Royalist during the Civil War period. When the earl lived at Thanet House,

Aldersgate Street was said to have resembled an Italian street, spacious and uniform, lined with the residences of the aristocracy such as Petre House, Lauderdale House and Thanet House.

By 1920, the site fronting Aldersgate Street consisted of a parade of shops and access to the site was achieved through an archway into Shaftesbury Place. The Ironmongers' Court noted that it was located in a "congested area" (Court Bk 40, GQC, 19 January 1922, p.193) as far as fire insurance was concerned with a premium of five pence in the pound. This amount could be reduced if the new Hall included the installation of fire appliances and was built with a view to minimise the risk from fire. These were prophetic recommendations that saved the new Hall when it experienced its first great test of the 20th century in December 1940! *To be continued...*

Preserving our heritage

By Robert Stedall Esq

Master 1989, Chairman of the Heritage Committee

For the Heritage Committee, the year has been one of great activity on longer-term projects with a few tasks coming to fruition.

The new Company history

Dr Penny Hunting delivered a revised draft of the Company History at the end of 2022 and members of the Heritage Committee have given her detailed comments. She is currently working on another draft, which will be delivered at the end of 2023. The most significant change so far has been the addition of an extra chapter on overseas merchant traders, taking in the complex subject of slavery. She is also gradually compiling a list of images for inclusion.

Discussion has also taken place on the style of the final book. To be of the desired quality, the estimated total design and print production costs will be significant. The Court has therefore agreed that members of the Company will be invited to contribute towards these costs and a list of subscribers will be prominently displayed in the book.

In the past, the Company used to provide copies of the History to new members when they joined. Although it was suggested that an abridged paperback version might be produced, it has been decided that new members will receive the full version and pay for it on admission.

A record of Past Masters

As a subject of personal interest, I compiled a list of Past Masters at the beginning of 2022 and have recently updated this record as a result of research by Dr Penny Hunting. This third version is now available in the Resources section of the members' area of the Company's website. Updating the list will be a constant process as more Masters pass through the chair. The research has also resulted in a considerable revision to the list of Past Masters in the Blue Book.

Display cabinets

Last year's Annual Report mentioned the installation of new cabinets in the lower corridor and the refurbishment of those in the upper corridor. Work is ongoing for the provision of labelling for the items on display.

Gifts from B J Livingston Esq

During the year, with the help of Kate Hughes, Brian Livingston (Master 1988) presented the Company with a large silver tray and a silver cloche to cover a meat dish. The silver tray (shown below), which is emblazoned with the Company arms, had been a gift from members of the Company to his grandfather, Arthur Birkett (Master 1911). This has made a fine addition to our collection of silver.



Sale of unused silver

The Heritage Committee had hoped that a new contemporary piece of silver might have been commissioned and funded from the sale of artefacts that no longer have a practical use. In particular, our considerable collection of fish knives and forks that are unlikely to be needed in the future. Unfortunately, these have ivory handles and can no longer be sold, so the funding of a new piece will need to be found from another source.

Maintaining records

We are grateful to Justine Taylor for the time that she spends on updating the Access to Memory (AtoM) system which provides unified access to all items in our collections of archives, silver, paintings, furniture, books and other artefacts. AtoM also contains accompanying reference images of all items of importance. This will be invaluable for updating the next insurance valuation scheduled for 2024–25. All microfilms of the Company's key archives have been digitised and copies have been given to Dr Penny Hunting. Work gradually continues on indexing and binding newer Court minutes and further items are also being scheduled for scanning as budgets allow.

Rehanging Company portraits

Work has been completed on rehanging portraits in the Hall and has now progressed to providing them, as funds allow, with new and improved picture lights.

The portrait of Sir Job Harby, Master in 1635 and 1643 (shown below), was purchased five years ago, and conserved and hung in the upper corridor leading to the Banqueting Hall. This has now been reframed by Paul Mitchell Ltd who supplied and fitted a replica antique early 17th-century frame in oak. The installation of a new electrical supply for a picture light is being considered.



Remembering our past

By Justine Taylor
Archivist

First of all, we are sad to report the deaths of two members of the Heritage Committee and would like to remember their generous service: Court member His Honour Richard Hone KC KStJ (adm. 2008) died on 14 October 2022 and George Pellatt (adm. 1957), who had joined a long line of past Pellatt family members and had been Warden of the Livery and Yeomanry, died on 23 March 2023. George had been a great help in making an initial record of the Company's book collection and also listing a large number of archived Charity files.

Researching enquiries

Enquiries over the past year have included a request from Dr Angus Vine (University of Stirling) for details of Henry Clitherow, Christopher Clitherow and Rowland Heylin for a book, provisionally entitled *Lives and Ledgers: Early Modern Merchants and Their Books*. Dr Vine also visited in June 2023 to see various 17th-century portraits and to discuss merchants' cultural lives. Helen Clifford, the Goldsmiths' Company historian, was interested in information on Richard Hunter, an early 17th-century Clerk of the Ironmongers' Company, and his records of the Ironmongers' Irish estate. Some text and an image was also supplied for the Ironmongers' entry in the *City Unlocked* book project.

Details were provided of our original lead statue of Sir Robert Geffery by John Nost (or Van Ost) to the Museum of the Home — the museum has the 1912 replica. Our 1723 statue was cleaned and re-sited on 23 February 2023 by Matt Nation of Taylor Pearce at Geffery's Fields, on top of a new plinth of Cornish granite. Sir Robert Geffery's biography, as well as general comments and images, were given to the Headteacher of Landrake for a new school historical timeline. Details from

a Court minute book and photographs of Landrake's newly built Sir Robert Geffery Memorial Hall in 1930–1931 were emailed to local historian Dick Kingswell.

Research was also undertaken for the listing of Ironmongers' Hall and on 20 April, the Clerk was able to report that the Hall had been listed as a Grade-II building and that this listing excluded Ferroners House and the other 1970s' Hall additions.

A Company legacy

We continue to follow the links between the Ironmongers' Company, the West Indies and transatlantic slavery and are liaising with a group, led by Melissa-Jo Smith of Illuminated Arts, exploring the Ironmongers' legacy in this regard, especially in the context of the Company's marble statue of William Beckford. This project has been named the Beckford Legacy Project and the group is working on a paper outlining its aims and potential deliverables.

We continue to support Dr Penny Hunting with her new history of the Company, scheduled for publication in 2025. Dr Hunting is preparing a second draft for delivery to the Heritage Committee by the end of 2023 and she has also revised her thematic chapter headings, inserting a new chapter to cover merchant interests and trading companies, including the use of enslaved labour on plantations in the Americas and also the trade in enslaved people.

The Chairman of the Heritage Committee has updated his biographical details of Past Masters and a PDF file can be downloaded from the members' area of the website or found in hard copy in the Cloisters' bookshelves. The list of Past Masters has been updated in the light of new research and this is now included in the latest Blue Book and available via the members' website.



A Portrait hanging of Rowland Heylin (Master 1614 and 1625), painted by Edward Cocke in 1640.

Creating a digital record

Our old microfilms have been scanned by the British Library's imaging team and extra capacity for these digital files has been added to the Archives server.

The Access to Memory (AtoM) system for unified access to all our catalogues works well for recording details and images of our paintings, silver and other treasured artefacts, as well as archives and books. Biographies of members and others also continue to be added. New accessions, such as the two pieces of silver, kindly donated by B J Livingston Esq in January 2023, can also be recorded in the system.

The indexed Court Book for 2011–2015 (no. 59) has been sent for binding and boxing. A new process for archiving these Court and Committee minutes from 2020 onwards will ensure a faster signing-off process and the creation of a searchable PDF. The hard-copy minutes (printed on acid-free paper) will also be bound in a smaller format.

PHILANTHROPY



Giving at a glance

43%
Almshouses
£464,893



15%
Schools
£165,038



27%
Communities
£292,254



£1,092,198



8%
Application of iron and steel
£85,757



8%
STEM
£84,256



Making a difference through charity partnerships



Charity partnerships are one of the main ways in which the Company supports education for disadvantaged children and young people. Through these partnerships, the Company makes a commitment to fund a particular organisation for at least three years. We award large grants in relation to the size of a project, thereby playing a critical role in enabling a project to happen. Charity partnerships enable the Company to make an impact over a period of time and also provide an opportunity for Ironmongers to get involved in the charity.

The Ironmongers' key partnerships include Betton's primary schools, Materials Science departments at universities, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) in schools, and educational charity partners.

..... Betton's primary schools

We support projects with a focus on social and emotional development according to the needs and priorities of the individual schools. The Company also allocates individual Ironmongers to each school in a supportive role.

- Bethany CE Junior School in Bournemouth
- The Bishop's CE Junior School in Thetford
- Emmaus Catholic/CE Primary in Sheffield
- Scunthorpe CE Primary
- St Andrew's Benn CE Primary in Rugby
- St John's CE Primary in Shildon
- St Martin's CE Primary in Salisbury
- St Mary's CE Primary in Brent
- St Stephen's CE Primary in Lambeth

Materials Science departments at universities

We award annual grants to support individual students researching ferrous metals at the following universities:

- University of Sheffield
- University of Oxford
- University of Cambridge
- University of Birmingham
- University of Manchester
- Imperial College London

..... STEM in schools

We fund initiatives that encourage young people to study science subjects and then progress to university or vocational training.

- The Smallpeice Trust
- Work-Wise Foundation
- The Access Project

..... Educational charity partners

We award grants to these charities for projects that develop literacy skills through the arts, parenting, and life skills for disadvantaged children and young people make:

- Lyric Hammersmith
- MakeBelieve Arts (pictured above)
- St Vincent's Family Project
- The Island Trust



The Access Project

The Access Project helps young people from disadvantaged backgrounds gain access to an education at one of the UK's top universities. The Company's support has enabled them to continue delivering the programme at Waverley school, working with disadvantaged teenagers in the West Midlands (directly benefitting over 300 teenagers since the Access Project became a charity partner in 2015).

Ruth Joyce from the Access Project said, "The Ironmongers' generous funding ensures that each young person gets the help they deserve to realise their potential and look forward to an exciting future. We are so grateful to have their support, and hope our partnership continues to bring a positive change for more young people in the future."



Lyric Hammersmith Theatre

The Ironmongers' has been the longest-standing partner for START, a six-week training programme for marginalised young people who are not in education, employment or training. START uses the transformational power of the arts to help young people to rebuild their confidence, increase resilience and re-ignite their aspirations, as they work towards a recognised Bronze Arts Award qualification.

A valuable service where there is great need

By Grant Baker
Liveryman



St Vincent's Family Project (SVFP) supports the most vulnerable and excluded in Westminster, offering a range of different services and activities. The Ironmongers' support its year round parenting programmes, which are fundamental to helping young families develop resilience and thrive long term.

Unsurprisingly, all of its services were massively affected by the COVID pandemic, but by making use of IT, the charity was able to develop more flexible ways of giving support to families. In addition, it could devote

more time to focus on the most vulnerable families, becoming more aware of complex issues and how best to deal with them. The pandemic also enabled the SVFP to work more closely with local schools.

SVFP continues to offer the same parenting programmes (including Positive Parenting Programme and Mellow Parenting) that were in operation before COVID. It has also started a 'Therapy for Parents Programme' using drama to develop awareness, skills and confidence through play.

Over the past year, SVFP has prioritised trying to encourage more parents to take part in programmes, including new families but also those who have stopped engaging with the programmes. It has also continued to provide flexible options using arts and drama therapy to deal with increased mental health needs.

It has undoubtedly been a challenging two years and I'm proud that the Ironmongers' supports the SVFP. It clearly provides a valuable service to the Westminster community where there is a great need.

An opportunity and privilege to support others

By **Angela Harris**
Liveryman

I became an Ironmonger to re-engage in charitable endeavours supporting the vulnerable and disadvantaged young people. When I joined the Betton's and Appeals Committee, I immediately volunteered to visit a few of the Company's grant funded rehabilitation programmes in young-offender institutions.

These visits gave me an insight into the vast range of charitable work that the Company supports. Visits are very rewarding and play an important role in ensuring that grants awarded are appropriately distributed by their recipients.

It is humbling to be a member of a livery company that is both steeped in history and so heavily committed to making an ongoing difference in the charity sector. Soon after becoming an Ironmonger, I represented the Company at a mental health conference at Mercers' Hall. It was a helpful springboard for future visits to a couple of Betton's partner schools, and more recently, the talented choristers at St Paul's Cathedral.

I would strongly encourage all Freemen to embrace all opportunities. Last year, I was delighted to be allocated in a supportive role to one of Betton's partner schools. Visits to a state primary school in a deprived area of south Yorkshire have been a real eye-opener.

There are essential needs shared across the Betton's schools and, to further this cause, I recommended the inspirational educational speaker James Shone, (founder of the charity I Can & I Am), to present at the annual Headteachers' Meeting.

As a newly elected Liveryman, I intend to use this platform as an opportunity to learn more about the different workings of the Company's committees, Charities and partners. I really enjoyed contributing to a recent discussion to assess grant applications received from a number of small UK charities. It is a time-consuming process (particularly for the Charities team) but a hugely valuable one.

Encouraging professional development

By **Ruth Eglesfield**
Charities Assistant



The Company has partnerships with nine primary schools in areas of England with high levels of deprivation. By making annual grants over a number of years, we help these schools improve educational standards, funding work such as literacy and art programmes, counselling and emotional support, nurture groups and family liaison. The Company also allocates an individual Ironmonger to each school to offer support and friendship.

In May this year, senior staff from Betton's partner schools came together with Committee members to share ideas at the 16th annual Headteachers' Meeting at Ironmongers' Hall.

The guest speaker for the day was James Shone who is one of the most successful educational speakers in the UK and founder of the charity 'I Can & I Am'. He visits hundreds of schools and businesses every year delivering his pastoral messages to pupils, parents and staff. The charity also has a double-decker bus, which is used to visit schools and deliver workshops to further embed positive messages.

..... Individual, Challenge, Attitude and Needed — ICAN

James suffered a brain tumour in 2012, which resulted in permanent sight loss and meant coming to terms with giving up his teaching career and plans to become a headteacher. A turning point for James came when he was asked by a friend to identify his passion. James said that it was to see young people believing in who they are and what they can do.



Self-belief is a challenging place for young people. Schools are being driven by exam results and exams are difficult for many young people. The pressures of social media is also a major challenge. In his talk, James (pictured above right) used the metaphor of a balloon to represent self-belief (when it is inflated, you don't battle with your mental health — you are resilient). He then looked at ways in which schools could keep children's balloons inflated.

Individual

James highlighted the work of Professor Howard Gardner, a developmental psychologist. According to Gardner's theory of multiple intelligences, we have several different ways of processing information, relatively independent of one another. Gardner has identified eight intelligences: linguistic, logical-mathematical, musical, spatial, bodily/kinaesthetic, interpersonal, intrapersonal and naturalistic. James said that everyone has a form of intelligence and a form of natural purpose. Archie, a boy that James once taught, had dyslexia and dyspraxia but was discovered to be interpersonally strong. Encouraged to show parents around the school and mentor other children, Archie went on to have a career selling houses.

Challenge

We were shown video clips of inspiring people including Australian Cricketer Shane Warne who was told as a teenager that he was not good enough, but was determined not to fall by the wayside.

We also watched 'I Can & I Am: an animation explaining how to inflate balloons of self-belief'. Messages included appreciating your unique strengths and not comparing yourself to others.

You have to challenge yourself to move forward. The physiotherapy that James received was all about making small steps. The job of educators was to notice and applaud small steps.

Attitude

James explained how attitude is a choice that affects our levels of hope. It was up to educators to keep hope alive. Setbacks could be springboards: an opportunity to reflect and redefine. They could make people more determined. It was important to let children make mistakes. There is 'failure avoidance': parents hate it when children fail, but a child is not an academic robot and what matters is attitude. Gratitude means to be thankful in any situation.

Needed

It was important to find places where you belong or feel needed. The best schools celebrate individuality: children are allowed to be themselves and there is a culture of mutual encouragement and collaboration. These schools are not focused on the old-fashioned motive of competition, which should be for sports days and not for all the time. Schools should be about understanding that we've all got a role to play.

In the group discussion that followed the talk, headteachers described what they were doing to improve the emotional wellbeing of children at their schools. Two of the schools were running a special mentoring programme, which was teaching children to support their own and their peers' mental health.

Self-belief is a challenging place for young people. Schools are being driven by exam results and exams are difficult for many young people.

Supporting young people

By George Bastin Esq

Master 2015, Chairman of the Betton's and Appeals Committee



A tour of the boats in harbour at the time revealed that Moosk was out on a day trip and Pegasus had just returned from a week-long voyage. The crew was busy clearing up, cleaning down and preparing for the next voyage which was to be the annual Eddystone Charity Sailing Pursuit the following day. This is a charity event that has raised £1m since it started in 2002. The race over 26 miles begins at 8.00am and finishes by 6.00pm (with light winds forecast, a 6.00pm finish might have been optimistic). The Ironmongers' did have a volunteer who was set to participate but unfortunately, they had to pull out at the last minute. Perhaps next year!

The Betton's and Appeals Committee supports four charity partners together with nine primary schools. The Island Trust has been a Betton's charity partner for three years following two previous applications for one-off funding. Based in Plymouth, it provides life-enhancing, residential and day sailing activities for young people with special needs, disabilities, and those experiencing hardship and deprivation. Many of the schools they support are based around the United Kingdom, far from the sea. Unfortunately, COVID restrictions resulted in fewer visits than we would have wished. However, in June, I had the pleasure of visiting the Trust to catch up with what they had been doing.

Improving mental health

The Trust has reported regularly and last year, it received increased funding of £9,000, giving a total of £24,000 to support 63 young people across nine sailing voyages, in addition to helping with financial aid to cover engine refits for the Johanna Lucretia training vessel.

In the past year, it has been supporting groups and individuals from various secondary schools who educate disabled students and those with special educational needs, home educated students and others who have anxiety and mental health issues. From June to September, it organised voyages in three boats for a number of home-educated young people and 25 other disabled youngsters with mental health issues. It also gave individual bursaries to support an adventure challenge sailing voyage for young people with additional needs. £17,500 in funding for 2023 has been received, but only £7,530 has been spent with future voyages allocated £9,970.

We were curious to know what concerns they had about costs that might catch them unawares. The greatest threat is that the three ships they have (Johanna Lucretia, Pegasus and Moosk) are all old and in constant need of maintenance. A new engine, followed by a gearbox, revealed other unseen vital items that might be overlooked in different circumstances, but cannot be ignored when dealing with disabled or vulnerable passengers.

Upcoming changes

It is all change at the Betton's and Appeals Committee after Master's Day 2023. I will be stepping down after three years as Chairman and David Worlidge will be stepping up. It has been a privilege to have been involved with Betton's which has been described by a former Chairman, Maj Gen Patrick Cordingley, as being the best committee since it dispenses the charitable grants and giving that lie at the heart of what the Ironmongers' Company does. It is important that all the organisations with which we are involved are visited. It is not all about the money. It is also about time spent listening to what is done with the money. If you are an Ironmonger and are interested — get involved!

More importantly, Helen Sant, our Charities Manager, has decided to retire and spend more time at the sharp end of charity work in her new home in Derbyshire. Helen has worked tirelessly on all the Ironmongers' Charities and will be missed, but the foundations she has laid will live on. Thank you Helen!

Inspiring the next generation

By **Harry Charnaud Esq**

Master 2009, Chairman of the Ironmongers' Foundation Committee



Julian Verden Esq with two Arkwright scholars.

I feel very privileged to once again write about the Ironmongers' Foundation charity and its achievements over the past 12 months. As ever, it has been a year full of interest with robust discussions at our Committee meetings. I encourage all our members to air their thoughts, as in my opinion, it is by far the best way to properly analyse an appeal or project. Long gone are the days of being encouraged to stay silent when the Chairman alone was deemed to be sufficiently qualified to express the Committee's collective thoughts!

As usual, we have supported many worthwhile causes and appeals. Our relationship with the Smallpeice Trust continues and within their activities, the truly amazing Arkwright engineering scholarships (arkwright.org.uk). These highly esteemed scholarships are designed to inspire students to pursue their dreams and change the world through engineering. Students receive personal mentoring, hands-on industry experience and real-world learning opportunities.

This year, we supported an additional two students making a total of four scholarships. Our scholars have been busy undertaking a full programme of activities with companies, universities and organisations including the RAF, Collins Aerospace and the University of Cambridge.

Getting young people Work-wise

We continue our strong relationship with the Work-wise Foundation in Sheffield, an employer-led charity for STEM fields such as engineering. Work-wise aims to show young people first-hand the opportunities that a career in STEM-related industries can bring and prepare them with the awareness, knowledge and employability skills they need to achieve their goals.

Over the past year, the Work-wise Foundation has continued to see an increase in demand and need for its programmes, partly brought about by the impact of the pandemic, by changes in the labour market and by

the lack of job-ready people. Funding from the Ironmongers' has contributed significantly to the Work-wise Foundation being able to grow and develop a number of its programmes, introduce new activities, and extend its reach and support to more young people in the region.

Improving employability

In the summer of 2022, the Work-wise Foundation delivered a STEM Employability Summer Academy to 40 young people aged 14–18. Over four days, students gained key skills and personal attributes that employers look for — readying them for the world of work. They received first-hand experience of the STEM industry with company-based sessions hosted by Metlase and CTI (Casting Technologies International), including a site tour and activities, leadership challenges with the Army's 4th Brigade, and mock interviews and CV workshops with a range of employers.

Our support also enabled the Work-wise Foundation to host a STEM Employability Brighter Futures Innovation Challenge. This three-month programme was delivered with AMETEK Land (Land Instruments International) and aimed to provide students with a real insight into a business challenge. During the programme, participants worked with a world-leading company and gained an understanding of how a business works, employability skills and project-management experience. Fifty-three students from three schools participated with the winners receiving an award.

To help address the ongoing challenge of broadening the diversity of individuals pursuing STEM-related careers, the Work-wise Foundation used Ironmongers' funding to deliver a Female Role Models Day for International Women's Day in 2023. To showcase potential STEM jobs and careers, girls met and heard from successful women in the sector. The day proved popular with almost 200 girls from 12 schools in attendance and it is hoped that this will become an annual event.

Hands-on with STEM

Finally, the Work-wise Foundation outdid themselves again with their 'Get up to Speed with STEM' event. This amazing careers fair at the Magna Centre in Rotherham, enabled 14–15-year-old students to get an interactive and hands-on introduction to the world of work in STEM.

Over 5,000 pupils and teachers visited engineering companies' stands to see what possible STEM-related careers were available to them, and what future employment holds for them. I was truly delighted that some of our Committee also came to visit the exhibition and meet the organisers and participants.

STEM training for the RAF Cadets

Ironmongers' giving stretches far from our London base. This year, we supported the RAF Cadets in Durham with STEM training and an industry engagement programme run by the Engineering Development Trust in three West Midlands' schools. Grants were also made to the University of Nottingham for a girls' engineering project and in Scotland, we supported Forth Valley College with a STEM engagement project.

We continue to do more with our gradually increasing income and will look to do even more in the years to come. Of course, this is dependent on funds being available and hence the huge importance of Ironmonger giving. I know it's difficult but please do your best and thank you.

This year, the Ironmongers' Foundation benefitted from generous legacies left to us by Ironmongers who have sadly passed away. Their giving is an example to us all of how easy it is to leave the Foundation some additional funds when the time comes for us to draw stumps. Amazingly, we can continue to 'live on' as Ironmongers with this gift. God bless them!

As usual, I thank all the outgoing members of our Committee for all their contributions and welcome our new members. I, as well as all the other past Chairmen of the Ironmongers' Foundation, wish Helen Sant (our Charities Manager), a happy and well-earned retirement. It has been a real pleasure to work with Helen and we shall greatly miss her wise counsel and humour (despite her supporting Everton FC!).



A student undertakes a STEM challenge at the 'Get up to Speed with STEM' event.

Investing in education

By Richard Twallin Esq

Master 2006, Chairman of the Board of Governors, Sir Robert Geffery's School, Landrake



For many of us, the COVID pandemic may seem a distant memory with the associated lockdown and social distancing constraints lifted more than two years ago and life returning to 'normal'. However, the effects on children, especially the very young, have continued to prevail including at Sir Robert Geffery's School.

The social interaction instincts of those children who were two or three years old at the time of the restrictions, particularly those without siblings, were curtailed. Now five and six years old, they have just completed respectively their first and second years at the School. For some, this has been a challenge,

and one that they have faced with the support of their parents/carers and the School's teaching staff. It is a great tribute to the staff's skill and commitment that the children, despite their previous experiences, have completed the year successfully.

The skills and experience of all governors are key to the School's future success and I very much appreciate the time that they give up on a regular basis.

The year has also been demanding for teaching staff because of the dispute between the unions and the Government over pay. Despite the unions' calls for strike action, staff at Sir Robert Geffery's School continued to work. The Company owes an immense debt of gratitude to the whole team, under the leadership of the Headteacher, Mr Ed O'Hara, and the Assistant Headteacher, Mrs Becky Cunningham.

Achievements to be proud of

The staff can all be very proud of the entire School's achievements. The results from the Key Stage 2 assessments (for Year 6 pupils in their

final year at primary school) were well above the national average. The results from extracurricular activities, particularly sport and music, were equally impressive. Speech Day, held in mid-July a week before the end of term, was an opportunity to celebrate these achievements and I am most grateful to the Master and Mrs Liming for coming to the School to address the children and parents, and present the various awards.

As is normal at Speech Day, one of the two Heads of School invited me to deliver some closing remarks after the various year group and music performances and prize-giving. This was an opportunity for me to thank the Governing Body for all they have done over the past year.

As is evident from the school's website, the Governing Body comprises Academy Trust Members appointed by the Company, and Trustees, appointed by the Members, parents and staff. Several Members and Trustees retired at the end of the academic year and on behalf of the Company I would like to thank them

for their many years of service — in particular, James Oliver, who as Clerk to the Company, oversaw the opening of the current school building back in the 1990s and has been a member of the Governing Body ever since.

Ensuring continued success

I am very grateful to all those who answered my June appeal for new governors, which has enabled us to fill the vacancies with members of the Company and local people with a past or present association with the School. The skills and experience of all governors are key to the School's future success and I very much appreciate the time that they give up on a regular basis.

As Ironmongers are aware, the School was started as a result of a bequest from Sir Robert Geffery when he died more than 300 years ago. Now, as a state-funded Academy Trust, most school expenditure is funded by local government. This enables us to use the income from Sir Robert Geffery's Trust for other activities such as music, the provision of additional books

and maintenance of the school farm, which we feel are so important to the children's development. For the past couple of years, we have also benefitted from grants from the Ironmongers' Foundation for which the School is very grateful.

Another highlight of the year was the annual visit of the Year 6 children to Ironmongers' Hall which is part of their week-long expedition to London. The group attended Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral and was then given a magnificent supper organised by the Hall's catering team. Some of the children then demonstrated their musical skills on the Banqueting Hall's grand piano before spending the night in their respective dormitories (the Drawing Room and Court Room!). They have all made a great start at Sir Robert Geffery's School and we wish them every success as they progress to the next stage of their educational careers.

Meanwhile, we look forward to the next academic year and the opportunity to perpetuate Sir Robert's vision of educating the children of Landrake.



Preserving ironwork and advancing Materials Science

By David Worlidge Esq

Master 2016, Chairman of the Iron Committee

The Iron Committee holds two meetings a year in October and April during which it decides how to allocate grants amounting to approximately £90,000 per annum. I am very grateful to the members of the Iron Committee for providing their expertise, help and guidance through the year. I would particularly like to thank Helen Sant, our Charities Manager, for all her hard work in supporting the Iron Committee over the last 21 years. It is always a steep learning curve when one takes on the Chairman role of a committee and Helen has helped me immensely since I took on the role in 2018.

For many years, the Iron Committee has made grants to the Materials departments at Birmingham, Cambridge, Manchester and Sheffield universities, and to Imperial College (University of London), and in the 2022/23 year we provided grants to each of them of £5,000. The criteria for these grants is agreed with the universities and is primarily used to help fund undergraduates or postgraduates to do summer research placements on iron/steel-related work and to help fund students to attend conferences with a connection to iron/steel

overseas. All the universities report back to the Committee on how the funding was used and if they are unable to meet the strict funding criteria, that annual grant is lost to the university. This funding is often vital in ensuring that such research takes place through the summer and provides research experience to students alongside their courses.

Promoting the craft of ironwork

During the year, the Committee receives applications for grants for projects that promote the craft of ironwork. Support is given primarily for the conservation of historic ironwork or the creation of new decorative iron or steel work. Applications are accepted from registered charities, churches and schools for projects in the UK only. For church bells projects, only the repair or rebuilding of existing iron framesides, or the provision of new framesides cast in iron, are considered.

During 2022/23, the Committee agreed to make grants for nine projects including for the restoration of the entrance gates at Holnest Church, near Sherborne (Dorset), and the entrance gates at Hill House, Helensburgh, Scotland. Funds were also granted to the Chelsea Physic Garden to commission a decorative steel structure to support a fabulous tree rose, which is being installed as part of the Garden's 350th anniversary.

A significant grant was provided to the National Railway Museum in York to assist in the conservation of the Gaunless Bridge, which was designed by George Stephenson and installed in 1823 across the Gaunless River, and is one of the oldest surviving examples of an iron railway bridge. Another grant was given for the restoration of a mid-20th-century-steel and aluminium street-map sign depicting the private Elms Estate in Bromley, Kent.

During the year, the Committee received confirmation that a number of projects for which grants had been given in prior years had been completed. This included the gates at Weston Park, a 'desert rat' divisional statue to mark the Second Battle of El Alamein, Penzance screens, the iron staircase at Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings, and the balcony at the Royal Society of Sculptors (shown below).

Awarding the Oxford Medal

I was grateful to the Master and the Clerk for joining me at the Oxford Materials Department in May to help decide who should win the Ironmongers' Oxford Medal. This was the first year that the talks, given by a record 40 fourth-year students, were supervised by Professor Jan Czernuszka and it involved two full days of presentations.

The general quality of the presentations was very high and the winner was Nicolas Joinson whose presentation was entitled 'It Just Makes Sense — A Novel Method for High Sensitivity Cavity Enhanced Absorption Spectroscopy'. Nicolas will be attending the October Court meeting to give a short version of his presentation and to receive his Oxford Medal from the Master.



Improving our sheltered housing

By **Richard Patteson-Knight Esq**

Master 2013 and Chairman of the Homes Committee



The refurbishment of Geffery's Fields in Basingstoke (a sheltered housing scheme run by the Ironmongers' Company on behalf of Sir Robert Geffery's Almshouse Trust) was finally completed in March 2023, much to the delight of residents and all involved. As with any big project, there were challenges, many outside of our control. In the last three years alone, the United Kingdom withdrew from the European Union (exacerbating supply chain problems for the construction industry) and we faced a COVID pandemic, including three lockdowns. However, in spite of these challenges, we persevered and, as always, the Homes Committee kept residents' wellbeing at the heart of our deliberations.

Selling and refurbishment planning

In October 2017, we sought the Charity Commission's approval to amend the Scheme dated 16 March 1988 to enable the sale of Geffery's House, our almshouse at Hook. This consisted of

a detailed case for the sale, including reports on demand for sheltered housing and the viability of such a provision. In September 2021, we were given approval to proceed with the sale of Geffery's House (subject to a Section 36 valuation, and use of funds of the Endowment to refurbish our other almshouse, Geffery's Fields, in Basingstoke).

In October and November 2017, we submitted pre-planning applications proposing alternatives of extension, redevelopment or refurbishment of Geffery's Fields. Planning consent was granted in July 2020.

Negotiations and appointments

An old Housing Corporation loan needed to be consolidated on Geffery's Fields or repaid. Several years ago, the mortgagor required full repayment including interest to the end of the loan term. The total repayment proposed was not attractive. We approached the mortgagor again in January 2021

and negotiations led to consolidation of the loan on Geffery's Fields and structural alterations being made.

The Homes Committee formed the Geffery's Fields Transformation Sub-Committee (chaired by David Liming) to manage the project detail and act as client interface between the professional team and the Trust. The Ironmongers' Trust Company (ITC) agreed the budget for refurbishment of Geffery's Fields in November 2020, and tenders were issued in December 2020. After detailed negotiations, Amiri Construction was appointed and the building contract was executed in August 2021 with a completion date of 26 August 2022.

A pre-application for the redevelopment of Geffery's House to provide 59 residential units was submitted in March 2021 with a viable pre-application response received in May 2021. Knight Frank was appointed to market the site and after two rounds of bids, six parties were selected for interview in November 2021.



The rrc completed a sale to Sorborn Developments Limited subject to additional payments if on receipt of planning consent, the portion of affordable housing was reduced. The sale was subject to leaseback to the Sir Robert Geffery's Trust outside the renewal provisions of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954 from completion to 31 July 2023, subject to a break option on a minimum of two weeks' notice expiring on or after 31 March 2023.

The relocation of residents

Over three years after Geffery's Fields residents were advised that they would be relocated to Geffery's House, the move finally started in May 2021. Under strict health and safety protocols, occupants and their furniture were moved at a rate of two flats a day. This operation was conducted with great efficiency and humour by AGS Global Solutions, overseen by Jackie Lovell and Maureen Knight with care and compassion. The residents were advised they would be away from Geffery's Fields for between 12 and 18 months.

The Homes Committee was in full swing with Sub Committees focusing on Health and Safety, Fire Safety, Disaster Action and Recovery, and Safeguarding. They reviewed policies,

plans and processes including the Fire Safety Policy, the Incident Response Plan and Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans for residents temporarily non-ambulant.

Work begins!

Amiri took possession of Geffery's Fields in June 2021, enabling works such as the removal of asbestos to begin. The main works started in August with a 'soft strip' of the facility, in spite of challenging procurement issues including cost fluctuations and supply issues.

Unfortunately, it became apparent in late Spring 2022, that the original completion date of 26 August 2022 would not be met because of several separate issues. This was not helped by the break-in and vandalism of the Home in September. Ten flats were broken into and sections of swa electrical cabling were cut and removed in the flats and the common areas, before being abandoned in favour of power tools and other implements.

However, not long after the precarious installation of Sir Robert Geffery's statue using a large mobile crane, practical completion was certified on 17 March 2023 (29 weeks after the original contractual date). Volunteers then kindly tested the

facilities, identifying any further works that needed to be dealt with. These were fixed along with other post-completion defects, such as overly sensitive heat sensors triggering alarms.

A new and transformed home

Two years and a day after vacating Geffery's Fields, residents moved from Hook back into their new home. The move started on 11 April and was completed on 5 May, with a party held to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles and Queen Camilla the following day. When the Homes Committee visited residents later that month, they expressed pleasure at the return to Basingstoke and in spite of a few minor outstanding fixes, were immensely grateful for improvements to the Home.

Members (both current and past) have made significant contributions to the transformation of Geffery's Fields. It has been a great comfort that the Trust has been able to draw upon the expertise and knowledge of the Committee membership to deliver this project. Both Helen Sant, the Charities Manager, and Jackie Lovell, the Warden of Geffery's Fields, played essential roles in ensuring the smooth operating of both Homes and the resident resettlement.

MILITARY AFFILIATIONS



A proud association with the Grenadier Guards

By Hadley Newman

Liveryman



We are tremendously proud of our association with the Grenadier Guards, which was announced in the summer of 2013. It was marked later that year with the Regimental Band Beating Retreat near the Barbican, followed by a dinner at Ironmongers' Hall, which was attended by representatives from all parts of the Regiment and the Company. Since then, our relationship has continued to thrive. The Ironmongers' has supported and entertained the Regiment and in return for this hospitality, the Grenadiers have invited members to visit them at their barracks, on the ranges and on overseas exercises in Kenya and Belize.

It is an honour to be affiliated with the Grenadier Guards who played such a prominent role at the State Funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The Late Queen was Colonel of the Regiment, and the Bearer Party was formed of troops from the Queen's Company, 1st

Battalion Grenadier Guards. The large guard of honour in Horseshoe Cloister at Windsor Castle was also formed by the 1st Battalion, and Nijmegen Company also formed part of the tri-service guard of honour on Parliament Square.

In June, the Livery and Yeomanry (L&Y) hosted Nijmegen Company at Ironmongers' Hall (pictured above) to engage with guardsmen and introduce them to the Company. The evening included an insightful and entertaining briefing by member Dr Iain Reid on the City of London, the importance of livery companies and the evolution through the Middle Ages to the present day. The Clerk delivered a very polished tour of the Hall and explained the special relationship between the Company and the Grenadier Guards.

Unsurprisingly, the feedback from Nijmegen Company and the Ironmongers who attended was very positive: the guardsmen gained a huge benefit from the experience and thoroughly enjoyed meeting the L&Y.

The Company's philanthropic work with the Regiment has continued. Whilst duty of care for wounded serving personnel lies with the Ministry of Defence and with the Government, especially its Health Department, the Regiment also helps all Grenadiers and their families with support that would otherwise not be given by the state. By means of the Colonel's Fund, the Regiment provides the right support, at the right time and in the right place. This fund was created in 2006 and supports the families of those killed in action and enhances the welfare of Grenadiers on operations and that of their families at home. We are proud supporters of the Colonel's Fund and over the coming 12 months intend to discover more about the help it provides.

Finally, we are delighted that there are a growing number of Grenadiers who have been admitted to the Freedom of the Company and also to the Freedom of the City of London.

Helping Army Cadets get the best experience

By Lt Col N P Williams, City of London & NE Sector ACF
Freeman



The significant support provided by City livery companies helps the City of London & NE Sector Army Cadet Force to provide the best cadet experience it can for the young people of north-east London.

The grants received from the Ironmongers' Company benefit all of the cadets in one way or another, from assisting with transportation costs, with minibus maintenance, with camping and sports equipment, or by helping those cadets whose families are suffering financial hardship.

As the cadets and their adult volunteers attend many varied events, this support is invaluable. In the last 12 months, some of the events that the cadets have been involved in include:

- A Weekend Winter Camp in Thetford and Mereworth Woods;
- A senior cadet team entering the prestigious and world-renowned Cambrian Patrol Competition in Wales (pictured above);
- A detachment of cadets attending Ironmongers' Hall to provide a stair guard for the Company;
- Attending St George's Church, Hanover Square, for a Remembrance rendition and rededication of the Queen Victoria's Rifles;
- Visiting the Tower of London to perform an honour guard for the Worshipful Company of Coopers' Installation Service in June;
- Attending the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III;

- Providing support and an honour guard at the Royal British Legion's (Lloyd's of London branch) annual supper for veterans, held in the Lloyd's Building, City of London;
- Participating in Armed Forces Day events in local boroughs, including a parade at the Guildhall in the City of London in June.

I feel very lucky to be in the unique position of being both an Ironmonger and a member of the City of London & NE Sector Army Cadet Force. It is a joy and a privilege to see at first-hand how funding helps these young people to participate fully in the cadet experience and to enjoy such a wide range of activities.

I would wholeheartedly encourage Ironmongers to get involved in any of the charitable causes that we support. Giving is at the heart of what we do and seeing the difference it makes is priceless.

Giving is at the heart of what we do and seeing the difference it makes is priceless.

Sea Cadets take flight in quadcopter challenge



With funding from the Ironmongers', Brentwood Sea Cadets were able to gain their engineering qualifications. Almost 40 per cent of the cadets gained an engineering qualification in 2022, nearly 10 per cent more than the next best unit in the London Area (Orpington).

With their newly acquired skills, the cadets were able to participate in the Raytheon Technologies Quadcopter

Challenge 2022. Joining over 500 other students, they designed, built, programmed and flew their quadcopter at the regional and national finals. They also made informative presentations and design changes using their engineering knowledge.

Commander James Nisbet VR RN, London Area Officer, said: "Engineering is a key component of the offer we

provide to our cadets, particularly those who have an aptitude towards mechanical and technical activities. The funding support from the Ironmongers' Company has been invaluable in enabling our cadets to participate in initiatives such as the Quadcopter Challenge, a technically demanding project beyond the scope of our normal training syllabus."

Venturing into a promising affiliation

By Master David Liming Esq



Following the Ironmongers' attendance of HMS Venturer's Keel Laying Ceremony in April 2022, members of the HMS Venturer project team attended lunch at the Hall in January 2023. We discussed the Company's charitable endeavours, the challenges ahead before the frigate is put in the water and ideas on how the affiliation between the Ironmongers' Company and HMS Venturer could develop.

HMS Venturer is the lead ship of the Type 31 frigate class currently under construction for the Royal Navy. It symbolises technology and innovation, named after the Second World War submarine Venturer (P68), the only submarine ever to have destroyed an enemy submarine in an underwater battle.

The first steel was cut for the new ship in September 2021 and HMS Venturer will enter service by 2025, part of a class of five Type 31 ships that will be in service by 2030.

FELLOWSHIP



Admissions



Freemen

OCTOBER 2022

Lieutenant Colonel
James Charles Maunder
Greaves, Redemption

Paul Grier, Redemption

DECEMBER 2022

Deborah Mackintosh
Oliver, Redemption

Marc Paul Begg, Redemption

Paul R Hailey, Redemption

Annabel Estlin, Patrimonial
Redemption

Camilla Frances Sewell,
Redemption

Andrew Grant Duff,
Redemption

Dominique Coeur,
Redemption

Nicholas Peter Williams,
Redemption

APRIL 2023

George Biddulph, Redemption

Oliver Campbell, Redemption

Frederick Collins, Redemption

Dr Victoria Estlin, Redemption

Kerry Louise Gibson,
Redemption

Archer Aidan James
Goodall, Redemption

Robert Laird Munro,
Redemption

Isobel Hannah Pelling,
Redemption

Alice May Slade, Patrimony

Eliza Katharine Payne
Wauchope, Patrimony

JUNE 2023

Randall Keith Anderson,
Redemption

Liverymen

OCTOBER 2022

Andrew Mark Harrison

DECEMBER 2022

David Michael Troman

Alastair Benedict
Protheroe Smith

APRIL 2023

Major Khushru Neville Cooper

Oliver George Woodburn Rose

Colonel Matthew
Neil Wilkinson

JUNE 2023

Daniel Christopher
Carter-Clout

FEBRUARY 2023

Angela Charlotte Harris

Court

APRIL 2023

Peter Ashley Boddy

Kate Juliette Hughes

A membership like no other

The Ironmongers' Company is welcoming and inclusive, with a fellowship that is committed to making a difference through the Company and its Charities. Our members join to belong and to give, and as stewards of the Company, strive to leave it in a better position for the next generation of Ironmongers.

Members are actively engaged in running the Company, supporting its Charities and participating in an array of different social events. They are also well regarded for their sporting activities and organise a number of events with other livery companies across the UK and overseas. This includes the Inter Livery Ski Championships in Morzine and the Great XII Sailing Challenge on the Isle of Wight.

An Ironmongers' membership is like no other. As an Ironmonger, you become part of a fun, life-long community turning its history and experience into future opportunities that deliver sustainable, social change.

To find out more about becoming a member, email membership@ironmongers.org



A focus on engagement, transparency and inclusivity

By Isla Cooper

Warden of the Livery and Yeomanry

When I took on the role of Warden of the Livery and Yeomanry (L&Y), I set out my priorities for the year, which were to continue improving engagement, transparency and inclusivity, with a particular focus on the journey. I wanted to ensure that members feel part of the Ironmongers' family from the beginning and for us to give them every opportunity to get involved.

I have been working closely with the newly expanded Clerk's Office team — Katy (Membership Manager), Pam (Communications Manager) and Kim (Assistant Clerk) — to document the current onboarding processes from an expression of interest right up to becoming a Liveryman. We were able to identify gaps and improvements, define ownership for each step and highlight where we needed better data to allow us to understand our membership pipeline and to track progress. These changes will ensure a consistent, high-quality onboarding process for new and potential members.

A lively calendar of events

I am very ably supported by the L&Y Committee, which has continued to organise fantastic events, including our very popular summer barbecue, with several potential new members brought along; the Grenadier Guards evening at the Hall, which aides our reciprocal relationship; and the inaugural informal drinks, which received great feedback and is set to become a more regular event. Katy, as our member engagement lead, also took the initiative to organise some group Freedom of the City ceremonies followed by the Monday Luncheon Club, and has supported



Ironmongers Isla and Khushru Cooper with their daughter Yara.

the Clerk in organising more welcome evenings for new members. The Company's Social Secretary, Catharine, graciously works with us on all events, and Pam is doing a great job of selling them via our communication channels.

This year has been fantastic. Not only have I thoroughly enjoyed my time as Warden of the L&Y, and have helped make some progress in some areas, but I also had my first child — my daughter Yara who was born in April. She has been warmly welcomed into the Ironmongers' family by everyone and the Hall staff have been so accommodating, both during my pregnancy and now as a nursing mother. A huge thank you to everyone.

Looking ahead

The arrival of baby Yara meant that the organisation of my Warden's visit was slightly delayed but, by the time this is published, I hope that we will have had a successful event.

Looking ahead to next year, we plan to have more of the same enjoyable events, including a repeat of the summer barbecue and informal drinks. We also hope to secure a slot at the City's Sheep Drive in September 2025. It is notoriously difficult to get tickets and you have to be ready as soon as bookings open. However, we now know what is needed and will be ready for next year! We also have other ideas brewing including plans for a very interesting dinner evening...

We have a great structure in place now with the bolstered Clerk's Office team and a diverse L&Y Committee to provide ideas, feedback and organisational skills to really ensure that members have a fantastic time in the Company. If you are an Ironmonger and would like to organise an event, then do let us know and we can support you to make it happen. All that's left for me to say is thank you for a fantastic year and I look forward to seeing what's next!

Sailing and camaraderie with the Great XII

By Dr Iain Reid
Liveryman



The Old Guard (left to right): Mark Lee, Philip Pascall, Andrew Grant Duff and Mike Lloyd.

First established by George Bastin in 2003, the Great XII Sailing Challenge is an opportunity for members of the Great XII to meet outside London in an informal setting. This year marked 18 years of the regatta and as befits an event organised by the Company, was well supported by Ironmongers.

The Great XII Sailing Challenge took place at Seaview, Isle of Wight, on 10–11 June 2023 and we were pleased to welcome George and Sa Bastin who spent the whole regatta with us, taking a keen interest in the racing and also the social side.

A quick practice outing

The Ironmongers' early arrivals assembled on the Friday afternoon

under the leadership of our Sailing Captain, Mark Lee, who established the availability of a boat for a practice outing. The boats used for the regatta are the 12, evenly matched, Seaview Mermaids (a one-design racing keelboat unique to the Solent). A hot, sunny afternoon with a brisk breeze from the east, meant choppy conditions with a bouncy rib-ride to the moorings. However, the boat was soon rigged under the skilled direction of Philip Pascall, while Sahra Evans bravely mastered the rigging and operation of the spinnaker from the foredeck.

Practice over, the remainder of the Ironmongers' party slowly gathered and a large group of hungry Great XII tucked into a well-presented buffet

in the clubhouse. The Ironmongers' group took advantage of the warm, still evening to enjoy their meal on the decking. Afterwards, we all retired to our various hotels, lodgings and homes.

Race day!

On Saturday, everyone assembled early for the actual racing. The rules of the regatta are Byzantine to the uninitiated, but thankfully, there was enough experience to ensure that the Ironmongers navigated them with no hitch. First to race, was the 'Old Guard' (Philip Pascall, Mark Lee, Andrew Grant Duff and Mike Lloyd). They went afloat in a flat calm and there were some fears that this would be a repeat of the



(Left to right) Richard Hunting, Sahra Evans, Mark Lee, Julian Verden, Andrew Grant Duff, George Bastin, Sa Bastin, Alastair Smith, Zully Grant Duff, Zehan Verden, Philip Pascall, Iain Reid, Susan Keane and Gavin Park Weir.

A chance to engage and raise money for charity

By Gavin Park Weir
Liveryman



The Great XII Sailing Challenge transformed my engagement with the Ironmongers' Company. After events in formal settings in the City, the relaxed environment enjoying quality time getting to know members was a revelation. More importantly, each year, this event raises money for the Lord Mayor's Appeal. The attendance of Ironmongers at this event and the payment of subscriptions is what allows us to do that.

I strongly believe that this event is an important tool to solidify engagement within our liveries. We recognise that entry, travel, accommodation and drinks all add up, but Henny and I work hard to make the event as accessible as we can to keep it attractive to younger and newer members of our companies. Ironmongers—if you have not attended the Great XII Regatta, please come along in 2024!

conditions of 2022. Philip reported, “We were expecting a long wait. However, Jimbo, the SVYC Race Officer, soon came on the radio saying he could see wind to the east that would arrive by about 10.30am, which it duly did, so we started the first race in about 10 knots of ESE breeze.”

“The wind direction meant that it was hard to cross the start line on starboard and the Ironmongers found themselves the wrong side of a flotilla cruising along the line. Approaching the first windward mark, a similar situation arose forcing some extra tacks which meant we were well down the order at the mark. Some superb spinnaker handling and tactics brought us back up to fourth by the end of the race; this at least secured us a place in the top group for the afternoon race.”

Valiant attempts

The same Mermaids were then re-crewed by the ‘Young Guard’ for the second race, the Ironmongers’ crew being Andrew Grant Duff, Sahra Evans, Tony Heath and a volunteer from the Goldsmiths’ to replace a rather over-ambitious Ironmonger who had realised his limitations during the Friday practice with an attack of *mal de mer*!

In fickle conditions, this crew only managed ninth place so stayed afloat for the third race, where they improved their position, coming fourth. The crew were even more delighted to find that there was still some lunch left when they eventually came ashore after several hours afloat!

This brought us to the last race of the day between the top divisions from the first two races where the ‘Old Guard’

had secured a place for the Ironmongers’ crew. The light breeze had veered so that the start line was close to 90° to the wind, enabling the Ironmongers’ to get an excellent start and lead for three quarters of the way up the first beat. Unfortunately, a big header then conspired to set them back, approaching the windward mark and, with the dying breeze and a shortened course, they were never able to recover, finishing seventh.

Back to the Clubhouse

In the early evening, everyone reassembled at the Club with a welcome glass of wine to talk through the day’s racing. The prize-giving was managed by our own Gavin Park Weir, who had worked tirelessly in his role as coordinator of the whole regatta, ably helped by Henny Maltby.

Julian Verden, as Master Ironmonger, spoke to thank the sponsors, Winkworth estate agents and the City Livery Yacht Club. He went on to talk enthusiastically to the assembled crews and supporters about how much he and Zehan had enjoyed the weekend, before presenting the prizes to the winners.

There were four prizes: the best ‘young’ team (the Drapers’); the best ‘senior’ team (the Goldsmiths’); the winner of the cruiser race (the Goldsmiths’); and then the Mercers’ Great Twelve Regatta Trophy was awarded by the Master Mercer to the Goldsmiths’. Sadly, the Ironmongers’ were not amongst the prize winners. Nevertheless, it was a wonderful day on the water and everyone repaired for the delicious, three-course, celebratory dinner in the clubhouse.

Hitting the slopes at the Inter Livery Ski Championships

By Christopher Hudson
Liveryman



Three days of competitions and social events:

- Day 1— Snow Camp Triathlon (a combination of Slalom, Biathlon Shoot and a shattering Snowshoe Trek), which raised over £33,000 for the charity. Informal après ski party;
- Day 2 —Parallel Slalom. Evening drinks party for about 290;
- Day 3 —Giant Slalom. Evening prize giving and dinner for 265.

Our best team results were:

- 3rd (Bronze Medal) in the Stationers' Prize (Best team with total age 200+);
- 4th in the Actuaries Cup (age-adjusted times where we were pipped for a medal by the Goldsmiths' with 6/10ths of a second!);
- 5th in the Vintners Trophy (Best overall team).

We were very lucky with the weather; the snow arrived just in time to allow us to run the competition as planned, although it was poor visibility and very cold for the races.

First organised by the Ironmongers' Company under the enthusiastic guiding hand of George Bastin in 2010, the Inter Livery Ski Championships raises valuable funds for the Lord Mayor's Appeal as well as for the charity Snow Camp, which helps young people develop a sense of purpose and even a career through snow sports.

This year, 33 livery companies took part with a total of 168 racers. Twelve of these Companies had individuals racing, but not enough to make up a team of three. The Ironmongers' fielded nine racers, three guest racers and three supporters, including the Master.

Individually, Katie Hudson was the second fastest woman under 41 and Marc Begg took sixth place overall.

In 2024, Ironmongers Ems Halford-Macleod and Marc Begg will take over the huge responsibility for the overall running of the event. If you have an inner Franz Klammer yearning to get out and you would like to take part, please contact our Team Captain Philip Pascall to express your interest.

Taking our best shot

By Mark Lee
Court member



The Ironmongers' shooting team.

In mid-May, the Ironmongers' once again competed in the Inter Livery Charity Clay Shoot at the West London Shooting School near Northolt. The event was held over two days and over 400 people took part, representing the majority of the 111 London City livery companies.

We fielded four teams of four, including all levels of ability, from novice to instructor. The weather was great for us, and the new venue offered plenty of challenge. Our teams enjoyed taking part, even though we didn't quite manage to bring home the prizes. We will have opportunities to practise throughout the year and perhaps with enough practice, we will be able to climb the results table next time!

A private tour of the Chelsea Physic Garden

By Laura Prieto
Liveryman

In early May, a group of Ironmongers were invited to a private tour of the Chelsea Physic Garden. The visit was a thank you for the Ironmongers' Foundation's donation of £2,735 to restore their historic Embankment wrought-iron gate. The rain stayed away throughout the tour, and we were treated to a cream tea at the end!

The Chelsea Physic Garden is a fascinating place and as the Director put it, is "a living museum". There are over 5,000 different edible and medicinal plants that have changed the world. It was established by the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries (a City livery company) in 1673 in order to grow medicinal plants and only opened to the public for the first time in 1983. Definitely worth going for a visit!

A chance to make an impact

By Kate Hughes
Court member

My Dad is an Ironmonger and I knew that the Company was a friendly one but wasn't really sure how I could ever be involved. Then I learned more about all the charity work that the Company does, and wanted to contribute. So I joined, went to everything that I could and made friends. I haven't looked back since!

I love being part of a livery company steeped in history but also doing very relevant work that helps so many people. What has made my experience really special so far is that I have made great friends through the Company and the sense of community is fantastic.

For me, being an Ironmonger means community, charity and tradition. Be prepared for lifelong friends, meaningful work in many areas that touches thousands of lives, and events that will be worth writing home about.

Joining the Court is momentous for anyone. I was really pleased to be elected, and to be the first woman is a small nod to the history books. But I hope my impact will be far more wide-reaching than that! I hope that I can help the Company to evolve into an entity that is as relevant and diverse as possible in the future, and to ensure that we continue to be as impactful in the City and beyond.

It's incredibly exciting to be part of a Great XII company, and our future looks inviting to me. The membership is more diverse than it's ever been. It's up to us to nurture that, so that eventually the Company reflects society on every level, not just gender. I may be the first woman on the Court, but that means nothing if there isn't a line of other women ready to follow me. We have so much potential to realise and we need everyone to help us make the most impact. Are you in?

Deaths and obituaries

2022–2023



We are sad to report the deaths of the following members this year and offer our deepest condolences to their family and friends:

- Ashley Boddy Esq
- Alexander John Harris
- His Honour Richard Hone KC KStJ
- A P (George) Pellatt
- Richard Poulton Esq
- Lady Jane Slade
- Colin Tillinghast



Ashley H Boddy Esq
1934–2023

**Freeman 1973, Livery 1979,
Court 1986, Master 1997,
Senior Past Master**

Ashley was an Ironmonger and a keen supporter and advocate of the Company for nearly 50 years. He was proposed by Jack Twallin (Master 1964 and 1965), his father-in-law. Ashley and his wife Alison very much enjoyed their time at the Ironmongers' and made many good friends at the Company.

He was born and raised in Bedford and came from a family of engineers. He continued that tradition, enjoying a long career as a civil engineer. He was involved in the construction of the

Trawsfynydd Nuclear Power Station with Balfour Beatty, and then moved onto highway construction. However, his main career and enjoyment was building in London. He joined a City building Co, Trollope & Colls (a subsidiary of Cunard) and progressed to director.

Ashley was involved in some high-profile buildings including the London Stock Exchange and Wellington Barracks. He moved on to become managing director at Ashby & Horner and then, was a director for Mowlem Construction until his retirement. One speciality project he really liked was the restoration of the Albert Memorial in Hyde Park.

He was always very supportive of the Ironmongers' Company and encouraging of its progress and modernisation. He was Chairman of the Use of Hall Committee (2000–2015) in the early days of renting out the Hall. He was also Vice-Chairman of the Board of Governors at Landrake School (1998–2009). This was a role that he really enjoyed and was most enthusiastic about the school and its achievements. He was Chairman of the Homes Committee (2007–2015) and a Donation Governor at Christ Hospital.

Ashley and Alison lived in Chesham, Buckinghamshire and then Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.

They developed a strong Christian faith, which provided a great deal of comfort and support throughout their lives. They have four children, Charles (deceased), Randall, Peter (both Ironmongers) and Hilary. They also have nine grandchildren and their eldest granddaughter Hannah is also an Ironmonger. Ashley had a lively and cheeky relationship with his grandchildren who knew him as 'Ashers'.

He was a follower of early motorsport and later was a keen dinghy sailor, both on the river and at sea. With increasing age, his boats steadied and finally he would be found sailing more sedately on the Alde estuary in a Cornish Shrimper.

Ashley was a very keen reader of military history of all periods, the English monarchy and English country house architecture. He always enjoyed meeting new people of all ages and his wide range of interests including history, gardening and architecture, ensured he was always able to find a subject upon which you could have a good conversation.

He enjoyed excellent health throughout his life and was active and engaging to the end. He suffered a stroke and died shortly after on 10 May. Ashley was an enthusiastic Ironmonger, a family man and a true gentleman.



Ironmongers' Company

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