

ANNUAL REPORT  
**2021–2022**



The Worshipful  
Company  
of *Ironmongers*



One of the Great XII Livery Companies of the City of London, our links to the Iron trade reach back 700 years. An unassuming, inclusive and welcoming Company, our charitable endeavours unite our past, present and future. We administer six charities, focussed on the education of the young, the care of the elderly, metals and materials science.

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# Foreword from the Master

BY JULIAN VERDEN ESQ ❖ MASTER 2022–2023

It is a great honour for me to have been elected as Master of our wonderful Company.

I am most grateful for the support and friendship that has been extended to me throughout my time as part of “the Ironmongers”. I also thank the members of the Court, particularly those with whom I have worked for almost 20 years since I joined.



The Master, Mr Julian Verden

**I** thank the staff of the Company who, together with our friends from CH&CO, have always gone the extra mile to ensure what needs to be done is done well and when it should be done.

I thank all the friends I have made in the Freedom and the Livery. I thank the three exceptional Clerks, all of whom made me feel welcome and comfortable from the start, and also found ways for me to become involved and therefore a real part of our organisation.

I thank the Junior and Senior Wardens, the committee chairmen and the Past Masters who have supported me.

Lastly, I thank the two Immediate Past Masters, John Biles and Andrew Wauchope, who have toiled tirelessly throughout the difficulties we faced during the last three years. Both have been fun to work with and always full of enthusiasm. Their legacy is a clear roadmap for us all to follow.



LEFT: Mr Peter Boddy, Mr James Farquharson and the Master, Mr Julian Verden on Master's Day. ABOVE: Mr Harry Verden, Mrs Zehan Verden with the Master

Looking forward, it seems it will be a busy year. Fortunately for me, social events are getting back into full swing. This important side of our Ironmongers' life gives us the chance to make new friends and gain a much better understanding of the role we play together with the other livery companies as part of the City of London. The mutual support between these companies and the Corporation helps preserve the City of London as the foremost financial centre in the world, providing essential employment and income to our country.

This year we expect to see how our wonderful Hall, "Our Home", fits into the Corporation's plans for its redevelopment of the Museum of London site. This will be a huge building project and we are seeking to ensure that our Hall is preserved and its surroundings enhanced. The Corporation has the chance to create something truly special and we wish to work with it to aid the successful progress of the project.

Continuing with the theme of building, it will, I am sure, please all of us that the redevelopment of our almshouse at Geoffrey's Fields will be completed this year. This should enable us to move our residents there in early 2023. I have also had the pleasure this year in meeting some of the residents on more than one occasion.

***“ This gives us the chance to make new friends and gain a much better understanding of the role we play together with the other livery companies as part of the City of London. ”***

These two projects and also the other works of the Company are only accomplished by the dedication of the members and chairmen of our various committees. We are all grateful for their hard work. We list our various committees and their membership in our Blue Book.

In addition to these, I wish to note the progress of the New-Normal Working Group, the Below The Chair Group, and the projects being carried out by the Court Deputies. These all intertwine and are fed back to the various committees as appropriate. The purpose of these initiatives is to ensure the focus, success, relevance and viability of the Company for the years to come. I will work with all to drive these initiatives forward.

In the forthcoming year I also intend to seek greater liaison with the steel industry. We are Ironmongers, however these days most iron has been replaced by steel. Steel, with steel-related raw materials, is the second largest commodity traded around the world after oil. Steel is an essential part of all our lives and through our support of material sciences we can in a small way help the push for "green steel" as a more environmentally sustainable way of manufacturing.

As before, we always seek to act in the public interest and for the beneficiaries of all our charitable giving. I will help continue these most worthwhile endeavours.

In conclusion, I am most excited to be taking on this Mastership role and its responsibility. I am already enjoying the new experiences that it is bringing and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our frequent meetings and events through to next July.

# Message from the Immediate Past Master

BY ANDREW WAUCHOPE ESQ ❖ MASTER 2021–2022

The start of my year as Master coincided with the ending of Covid restrictions and the gradual return from chaos to normality. As Sun Tzu put it, *“In the midst of chaos, there is also opportunity”* and I have been keen to ensure that we have made the most of the opportunities we have had.

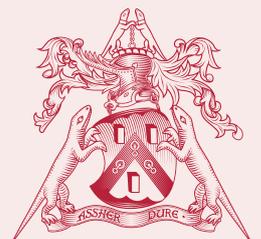


The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor Vincent Keaveny with the Immediate Past Master, Mr Andrew Wauchope, at the City Dinner

**L**ockdown gave us time to assess our strengths and weaknesses and consider any changes to make us leaner and fitter for the twenty-first century. In my year as Master, I have sought to drive forward those changes, whilst at the same time celebrating the character and traditions of our Company.

### *At the beginning of my year as Master, I outlined four priorities:*

- Membership engagement and fellowship;
- Addressing our operational deficit;
- Good governance;
- Engagement with the City.





Mrs Clare Wauchope and Immediate Past Master, Mr Andrew Wauchope

## Membership engagement and fellowship

Master's Day 2021 was held under Covid restrictions but as these lifted we were able to resume our usual programme of dinners and other events.

As the pandemic ran its course, we had tried to consider which parts of normal were worth rushing back to. However, it was clear from the start that dinners were definitely worth the rush back.

The first dinner was our Members' Guests dinner in October 2021. In my speech, I pointed out that fellowship is an important part of being an Ironmonger and that this is why the Ironmongers' Company continues to thrive. The dinner was a welcome return to that fellowship and to the Hall itself. Many of us had missed the fellowship during lockdown, despite the many virtual meetings, and it was good to see so many friends in person once more.

The subsequent City Dinner marked a return to City pageantry with the Lord Mayor and Alderman Vincent Keaveny dining with us, and saw a spirited speech by my guest, Baroness Jenkin. These two dinners and the next, the Combined Livery and Yeomanry dinner, at which Catriona Maclaren made a strong case for our continued support for the United Kingdom, ensured we had the first

complete programme of dinners since March 2020. In my oath as Master, I agreed to "arear no new custom", but I fear I may have, unintentionally, areared two: a prevalence of women speakers at our dinners and Masters wearing smoking jackets, because they were, in that one year "at home"!

The best way to build fellowship is through engagement. It has been good to see people volunteering time to help on our committees and with our charities and getting stuck in to the various inter-livery competitions. I would encourage people to continue to do so. My experience of the Company over 34 years is that, to get the most out of being a member, one should try to do as much as time and family allow.

The Monday Lunch Club has continued to flourish and I have done my best to promote its virtues to other livery companies, particularly where logistics can mean their non-court members have only one dinner a year or where their peripatetic existence makes informal gatherings difficult. Encouraging the use of Ironmongers' Hall is one of the most important ways we can both showcase our Hall and fund the day-to-day cost of our home and headquarters.

The Livery and Yeomanry Committee and its Warden are to be congratulated for the way in which they have embraced the challenge of building a programme of additional events, both for members of the Company and for younger freemen.

## Addressing our operational deficit

This has been an issue for some time and a clearly stated priority for the past five years. Much has been done to good effect, but the pressure to get back into the black must continue. The Covid pandemic drove a proverbial “coach and horses” through our plans and, whilst the letting business gradually recovered, it took some time.

However, there are encouraging signs that business in the Hall is strong and that, as a result of initiatives begun under the New-Normal Planning group, further work can be done to find ways to significantly reduce and eventually extinguish the deficit.

## Good governance

In this year, I have sought to build on the culture of both the Company and the Ironmongers’ Trust Company to exemplify good governance. We ensured that terms of reference properly set out our committees, functions, responsibilities and delegated authority, and that we have suitable policies in place to give proper attention to issues causing concern. This has included recognising our membership’s past involvement in transatlantic slavery and being clear about our commitment to diversity and inclusion.

## Engagement with the City

It is the Master’s role (and pleasure) to attend all the great ceremonies of the Corporation year. I have been fortunate to have attended two Common Halls and had the privilege of travelling in a carriage at the Lord Mayor’s Show.

However, there is a wider task for the Master in promoting our Company to the City of London in general and in building connections between our Company and other livery companies.

Part of this was easy. I accepted every invitation I could! But I have also used my year to build relationships with livery companies outside of the Great Twelve, especially with our fellow “metal bashers”, where I have launched an initiative to share more about what we do in this area and I hope we can learn from each other.

My Great Twelve Masters’ Group was focused on the changes recommended by Robert Rodgers, The Lord Lisvane, in his independent report into Corporation governance. Christopher Haywood, the member of Common Council charged with driving these changes forward, presented to us twice, as did Lord Lisvane himself. The Ironmongers’ Company supported this important initiative by changing the normal rubric for our Masters’ and Clerks’ Dinner to enable Sir Peter Eslin to outline the Court of Aldermen’s position.

“

The best way to build fellowship is through engagement. It has been good to see people volunteering time to help on our committees and with our charities and getting stuck in to the various inter-livery competitions. I would encourage people to continue to do so.”



## OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

Working together this year, we have all been able to demonstrate the Company’s key virtues of charity and fellowship to the full. It has been an honour and pleasure to serve the Company, its Charities and also Julian Verden as this year’s Master, and I am confident that we are in safe hands under the new Master and Wardens, supported very ably by the Clerk and his team.

We remain an unassuming, inclusive and welcoming Company where our charitable endeavours unite our past, present and future, and long may we continue to be so.

# Message from the Clerk

BY COLONEL CHARLIE KNAGGS OBE ✦ CLERK



The Clerk, Colonel Charlie Knaggs OBE

“

The concerted efforts, generosity and inspiration of a wonderful Ironmongers’ Team—the members, staff, agents and friends over generations—has kept and still keeps this great Company on track so that it remains relevant and fit for the future.”



## A “new normal” year — a time to seize opportunity

The Ironmongers’ Company is a welcoming place and it makes a real difference. It is all about people. The concerted efforts, generosity and inspiration of a wonderful Ironmongers’ Team—the members, staff, agents and friends over generations—has kept and still keeps this great Company on track so that it remains relevant and fit for the future. Fortitude, optimism, hard work and a consideration of the essentials which provide a platform for necessary change have been the essence of a busy and challenging year. Thanks must be given for the patience, generous contribution and confidence that have helped us find a way through the trials of uncertain, challenging times. The Company thrives on that input.

The new Ironmongers’ Year promises new opportunities: not only can we celebrate and reflect on all that is rewarding, fun and meaningful about belonging to the Company, but we can also focus on how best we are able to give of our time and resources to support and influence the Company as it moves forward through the “new normal” and beyond—leading the way and leaving a legacy of excellence for future generations.

## Recruitment and engagement

Our committees are well supported by the livery and they are always on the lookout for members who wish to make a difference. I would encourage every Ironmonger to review their involvement in the Company. Letting us know what you think is important for the long-term interest of the Ironmongers’ Company, so do take this opportunity to get more involved.

The Company needs people with talent and time to give. Anyone wishing to join the Ironmongers’ should contact the Clerk for further information: email [clerk@ironmongers.org](mailto:clerk@ironmongers.org).



## Ironmongers' Hall

**T**his neo-Jacobean jewel, at the heart of what the City of London has designated “the Culture Mile”, was purpose-built in 1925 and has been hidden from unknowing eyes for over 50 years. Set deep in the off-white tiled and concrete maze that is the Museum of London, and guarded to the north by a brutalist Barbican, it is the home and headquarters of the Company and a venue for business and social events cherished by those in the know. At last the Corporation has confirmed that the museum is to move to West Smithfield, allowing redevelopment of the current site and leaving Ironmongers' Hall intact. This will open up a much-improved public realm around the Hall as it reaches its 100th anniversary. Concurrently, the City is planning to refurbish the Barbican Arts Centre. We are working closely with the

team for the City's London Wall West Project in order to influence plans and ensure the betterment of the Hall, its users and the surrounding environment. Planning permission is expected to be submitted in December 2022, at which stage an outline programme for the development will be clearer, as will also a plan to protect the Hall from the demolition and construction works that will surround us over a four-year period.

The Covid-19 appeal to help raise funds for the Hall is helping to fill the gap from the lockdown loss of revenue. It needs your continuing support in this its third and final year. We are open for hire: conferences, board meetings, fine dining, weddings and parties! We are now busier than ever with bookings full for Christmas and a record number of weddings taking place in the current year. Come along and use your Hall!

**Use the Hall! Get involved! Make a real difference!**

Charlie Knaggs, Clerk

# The Master and Wardens



## JULIAN VERDEN

➔ *Master*

**Julian became a Freeman by redemption in 2003, having been introduced to the Company as a result of his roles as a committee member, treasurer and chairman (1990 and 1994) of the International Steel Trade Association (ISTA) with which the Ironmongers' Company has a long-standing relationship. He joined the Court in 2009.**

He attended St Edward's school in Oxford and his first role, having finished his education, was with Samac International in 1978 as a trainee. He later purchased their steel import business, Samac Steel Supplies in 1991, which he sold to Stemcor in 1998. Julian has now worked in the steel industry for over 40 years and is currently Stemcor Group's managing director for Europe. He sits on the Stemcor Group's trading management and derivatives management teams. In addition to his role in ISTA he also sits on the presidency board of Eurometal, the association of European steel traders and distributors and is a member of the London Metal Exchange's steel committee.

Having joined the Ironmongers' Foundation Committee, Julian spearheaded the Company's "Serious about Science" project, reaching out to underprivileged children in schools across London with the aim of promoting science as a GCSE subject, thus leaving the door open to the study of sciences at A-Level.

## DAVID LIMING

•→ *Senior Warden*



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

David entered a career as a civil engineer working 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 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.

Whilst at Imperial College, he met his future wife, Mary, who was president of the student union at the nearby Institut Français secretarial college. They married in 1981 and have three sons, Alexis, Francis and Lewis.

David joined the Ironmongers' Company by redemption in 1998, having been proposed by Ashley Boddy (Master 1997) whom he met whilst at John Mowlem. David was instrumental in developing the Ironmongers' Foundation Committee's RISE project with the Arkwright Trust which has now run successfully for several years, helping schools promote science and technology careers. This built on his experience as a STEMNET ambassador, visiting schools to improve pupils' employability skills.

David's current challenge is leading the Ironmongers' team to complete the refurbishment project at Geffery's Fields on time and on budget.

## EWAN WAUCHOPE

•→ *Junior 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 Lloyds 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 two-and-a-half years.

Ewan is married to Kate, a partner in a City law firm. She specialises in employment and commercial law. They married in 1997 and have two daughters, Molly (already a Freeman of The Ironmongers' Company) and Eliza, who has just left Newcastle University, and a son, Duncan who is about to sit A-Levels at Harrow.

Ewan joined the Company by Redemption in 1995, having been proposed by Anthony Moss, Master of the Ironmongers' 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 Company's representative for the City and Guilds of London Institute. His twin brother, Andrew, was Master for 2021–2022.

# The Court and Court Deputies



## FRONT ROW:

T P C Oliver, R H Stedall,  
D J Liming (Senior Warden),  
J Verden (Master), E D Wauchope  
(Junior Warden), R H Hunting CBE,  
M J Crickmay

## MIDDLE ROW:

Col C P H Knaggs OBE (Clerk), Dr G R E Shilson cc,  
Cdr E J Squire, Maj-Gen P A J Cordingley DSO OBE,  
P A Boddy, H J Charnaud, J E H Farquharson, Sir P K Estlin,  
A M Carter-Clout, R C R Twallin, A G Wauchope,  
H J Brailsford, M S W Lee, S Walby (Beadle)

## BACK ROW:

K J Hughes, M S W Tilbury,  
The Lord Garvagh, J A Biles,  
R J Patteson-Knight,  
H S K Knowles, G A Bastin

## Reports of Court Deputies

### MR PETER BODDY

♦♦ *For developing long-term  
Company business opportunities*

My challenge is best summarised by the need to identify ideas to drive greater income and contain costs in order to deliver a positive operating profit for the Ironmongers' Company. Historically the Company has an operating deficit of approximately £150k a year which, if allowed to continue, will erode the sound footing we currently enjoy and jeopardise the long-term future of the Company.

Importantly, the distinction must be made between the Company and the Charities—together these two entities form the Worshipful Company of Ironmongers but operate as two distinct entities with different objectives.

In simple terms, the Charities form the entity through which the Worshipful Company of Ironmongers conducts many of its charitable works, gifts and donations and this is the entity to which members mostly donate. The Charities enjoy income from a portfolio of eight properties and a multi-asset fund.

The Company is the entity which is responsible for managing the Hall and all the activities that support the Worshipful Company of Ironmongers and is also the entity to which a few members donate. However, the Company enjoys the benefit of income derived from letting the Hall, income from a portfolio of three properties (in addition to the Hall) and its own multi-asset fund. Sadly the combined income from these sources do not cover the costs involved in running the Hall—our Home—which we all use and love.

To identify opportunities which could be explored to address this shortfall of approximately £150k per annum to offset the operating deficit, I have approached outside sources for ideas, held exploratory chats with individual Ironmongers and pursued extensive conversations with the Clerk.

The output of the work so far has been presented to the Master and Wardens for consideration and review. The deficit is recoverable but only with the effort and contributions of the engaged membership of the Worshipful Company of Ironmongers.

**MRS HENRIETTA BRAILSFORD**

♦♦ *For maintaining welfare and safeguarding, as well as diversity, equality and inclusion*

I have established much useful contact with the wardens at the two Almshouses regarding the welfare of our residents during periods of Covid lockdown. This has also included calling local garden centres and arranging donations of plants—a pretty primula for each resident—which I collected and distributed at the Homes. Easter biscuits, expertly made by our Hall chef David Summerell, were beautifully packaged by Catharine Melville and Will Pender, and then kindly delivered by the Clerk. There was also a collection and delivery of books to boost the libraries at the Homes.

In terms of safeguarding, I have reviewed the procedures at the Homes and also took a vulnerable-adult safeguarding course to ensure I understood the issues within this specific area. I then wrote a comprehensive safeguarding policy to include and reflect changes in the law regarding the protection of vulnerable adults and in accordance with guidance from the Almshouse Association

and the local authority. This policy is now held on file and will be regularly updated to ensure compliance. I then drafted a process document that has now evolved, through meetings with the Charities Manager and the wardens, into a single-page document for display in the wardens’ offices that now ensures we have a clear and easy-to-follow process if and when any safeguarding issues arise.

I also reviewed the excellent initial work by Isla Kennedy regarding Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and after much research on best practice in this field, I developed the Ironmongers’ first policy document. From this document we have developed the EDI Road Map which has been presented both to the Admissions Committee and the Master and Wardens, marking a way forward in equality, diversity and inclusion for the Company. This will be worked on across our committees and then regularly reviewed and promoted across the Company as a whole.

We also held our second ‘in house’ Christmas Carols in the Hall last December—a joyous occasion that was well supported despite the shadow of Covid. Representing the Court at the start of our new and exciting Royal Navy affiliation, I attended the keel-laying ceremony of Venturer, the lead ship in the Type 31 Frigate class.

**MISS KATE HUGHES**

♦♦ *For establishing charitable historic preservation and maintenance*

My project is all about stewardship for the preservation and maintenance of Ironmongers’ Hall and the Company’s treasures and archives. During the pandemic I was involved in the New-Normal Planning Group and was tasked with considering how we might better

be able to look after our stunning Hall and everything within.

It became very clear that the membership views the Hall as a pivotal part of the Company: a place to call our home and a place that needs to be well looked after for generations of Ironmongers to come. What was also apparent was that we all, as an organisation, take much delight in showing our Hall to others who love our history and artefacts just as much as we do.

One way of preserving our home, and also allowing it to flourish whilst at the same time sharing it with others, is to establish a charity to help us look after the Hall. This would entail the Company, the Hall and a new charitable body working together to achieve the same goals. However, and importantly, the Company must never lose control of its Hall and so we need to retain ownership and continue to hold on to the access and other rights that we presently enjoy.

This can be achieved by creating bespoke terms of licence and having a constitution that properly reflects our intention; that is, to preserve and enhance the Hall to ensure that it remains an asset worth keeping for future generations and to open our doors to groups of like-minded people beyond our membership. We are forging relationships with local schools and City and also Blue Badge guides who will help us to invite the public in, in an organised manner, which still gives us the opportunity to use the Hall whenever we want to do so. A balanced board of trustees will have shared aims and objectives, while the benefit of Gift Aid will ensure our charitable giving is enhanced by 25%, thus providing much needed funds for ongoing maintenance and improvements.

So a new charity. Fair, transparent, inclusive.

**MR MARK LEE**

◆◆ *For managing the property portfolios of the Company and the charities*

Our Property Investment Sub-Committee ran well during the year. Several long-standing occupier issues were resolved and payments that fell into arrears during Covid are being brought up to date. We benefit greatly from the recruitment earlier in the year of Tim Kiddy, who joined the Company's finance team as our Property Accountant. Tim has a role which incorporates being the main point of contact for our managing agents and ensuring that they work effectively. We have recently refreshed the sub-committee with the recruitment of another experienced surveyor from amongst the Company membership. We have allocated a sponsor from the sub-committee to each portfolio property and the team's initial visits to their respective properties are now almost complete. We have seen good letting demand for our properties and recently achieved 97 per cent occupancy. The annual valuation at 31 March 2022 reflected the performance of the portfolio, with a healthy increase in valuation. The Property and Investment sub-committee chairmen are now working closely together to ensure that the outcomes of the Quinquennial Review are realised.

**DR GILES SHILSON CC**

◆◆ *For developing the Ironmongers' relationship with the City of London*

I was set the task of reviewing the Ironmongers' relationship with the City and making recommendations to improve individual members' engagement and influence in City matters, in the best interests of the Company.

In researching this task, I conducted over 20 interviews with Common Councillors of the City, individual Ironmongers, other livery company masters, clerks and members, as well as City workers in general. These interviews have enabled me to build up a picture of the complex relationship between two ancient institutions and will enable the Company to make evidence-based decisions on how it wishes to proceed. I produced a paper for the Court summarising the current nature of the relationship between the City and the livery companies in general (and the Ironmongers' Company in particular), looking at the purposes of the City and of the livery movement, and making recommendations as to how these purposes could be aligned with one another to mutual benefit.

This paper will be considered by the Court in October 2022. Should some or all of the recommendations be accepted, the Court will decide upon the specific areas where it wishes to align its goals with those of the City; further work will then be required in order to develop concrete plans for doing so.

**CDR ELIZABETH SQUIRE**

◆◆ *For improving outcomes and maintaining contact with the beneficiaries of our charities*

The Ironmongers' Company has been in the fortunate position of helping many young people over many years. From our bursaries at Christ's Hospital, the City of London School for Girls, King Edward's School Witley and the Guildhall School of Music to the Arkwright Scholars and Oxford Medal winners, we have a diaspora of 'alumni' we do not yet, but should, further develop.

My goals are currently two fold; firstly, to see if former bursary recipients might become potential new Company members, allowing us to recruit from a broad church and to increase the diversity of our membership; secondly, to see if we can offer more support and mentoring to people after they have completed their studies resulting from our grant giving.

My initial approach has been to contact the organisations we support to discuss how we can stay in touch with our current recipients and to ask their advice about the best way to approach previous recipients. Then I plan to inform our alumni and gauge their interest in the Company. To guide these 'alumni' conversations, I have talked to current Ironmongers who have previously been supported by our Charities. At the same time, I have begun discussions with the chairman of the Admissions Committee to see if there are any options for alternative admission routes for such alumni. My task is also benefiting from livery experience generally as I reach out to contacts in other livery companies to see how they manage this type of alumni engagement.

My thanks go to Helen Sant, Charities Manager, and to Ruth Eglesfield, Charities Assistant, who have been fantastic in providing the information I require.

# THE CHARITIES



**The Ironmongers' Trust Company is the Trustee of the registered charities administered by the Ironmongers' and has strategic oversight of all their charitable activities. Of the six registered charities, five were formed through bequests in the early 18th century from Ironmongers including Sir Robert Geffery and Thomas Betton and have specific terms of reference in accordance with their wishes. The Ironmongers' Foundation, was founded by the Company in 1963 to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the granting of the royal charter and has general charitable purposes.**

Sir Robert Geffery's Trust was set up to support almshouses, relief in need and education in the village of Landrake where Sir Robert was born (through Sir Robert Geffery's School Charity). Three Thomas Betton's Charities support Church of England education and relief in need. The Ironmongers' Foundation is used primarily to re-connect the Company with its historic origins in ferrous metals i.e. iron and steel.

These areas of interest are fairly diverse and the Ironmongers' Trust Company has a Charities Policy to bring a strategic focus to its activities in order to be as effective as possible. Underpinning much of this work is the desire to help disadvantaged children and young people facing the most challenging circumstances to fulfil their potential. Therefore the focus of much of the charities work is education in its broadest sense.

# GIVING AT A GLANCE

£1,166,453

**ALMSHOUSES**



£563,609

**COMMUNITIES**



£283,844

**SCHOOLS**



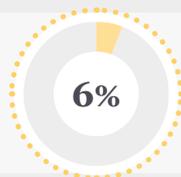
£144,590

**IRON COMMITTEE**



£102,265

**STEM**



£72,145

# IRONMONGERS' CHARITY PARTNERS

BY MS RUTH EGLESFIELD ❖ CHARITIES ASSISTANT



Charity partnerships are one of the main ways in which the Company supports education for disadvantaged children and young people. We have adopted this longer-term collaborative approach across all of our grant streams.

**The Company supports education in its widest sense. This can mean any educational activity which gives children and young people an opportunity to learn and develop skills. Committees take a proactive approach to identifying partner organisations and the types of projects which offer the most benefit to children and young people from challenging backgrounds.**

Some of the charity partners have evolved from the Ironmongers' two open grant programmes for children and young people, which make one-off, relatively small grants in response to appeals. One programme is for educational projects that benefit disadvantaged under 25s; the other is for projects that inspire schoolchildren to study STEM subjects. Through these programmes, Ironmongers' committee members keep up to date with what is happening in the charity sector and get to know the work of individual charities before, in selected cases, committing to longer-term funding.

ABOVE: **Re-engaging with learning, through performance at the Lyric Hammersmith**

## ***What are the benefits of an Ironmongers' charity partnership?***



A charity partnership means that 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.

These partnerships give charities stability as well as the scope and flexibility to trial new approaches and ideas. For the Ironmongers' Company, there is a greater involvement in the charity and the opportunity to make a more significant impact over a period of time. For individual Ironmongers, being able to develop a relationship with a charity partner can be very rewarding.

## Who are the Ironmongers' charity partners?

The Ironmongers' key partnerships include:

- ➔ Betton's Primary Schools
- ➔ 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

The Company supports projects with a focus on social and emotional development, according to the needs and priorities of individual schools.

By investing in its partner schools over a period of years, the Company has helped improve educational standards. Projects running currently include creative and literacy programmes, mental health support, after-school and holiday activities for vulnerable families, and the provision of enhanced outdoor learning.

In addition to this, the Company allocates individual Ironmongers to each school in a supportive role. Senior staff from the schools come together with our committee members to share ideas at the annual Headteachers' Meeting held at Ironmongers' Hall and whole classes visit the Hall to take part in the Curiosity Conference.

## Educational charity partners

- ➔ Lyric Hammersmith
- ➔ MakeBelieve Arts
- ➔ St Vincent's Family Project
- ➔ The Island Trust

Grants awarded to these charities are for projects that develop literacy skills through the arts; parenting; and life skills for disadvantaged children and young people.

### ● Lyric Hammersmith



Since 2008, the Company have supported the Lyric's 'START' programme, which enables 16- to 25-year-olds who are not in education, employment or training to re-engage with learning through the performing arts. Participants, recruited from youth-offending teams, social workers, schools and shelters across West London, improve their communication skills as they work towards a Bronze Arts Award qualification.

### ● MakeBelieve Arts

A charity partner since 2008, MakeBelieve Arts work with primary schools, in particular those in areas of deprivation. The curriculum-linked storytelling and drama programmes which they create and deliver are designed to make literacy and numeracy enjoyable. MakeBelieve Arts also provide schools with teacher training and classroom resources. Their annual Curiosity Children's Conference for the Ironmonger partner schools has been held at the Hall since 2014.

### ● St Vincent's Family Project

St Vincent's became a charity partner in 2011. They provide holistic support for vulnerable families in Westminster through a range of services and activities that address the issues of parenting, child welfare and social exclusion. The Ironmongers' grants are used to deliver the charity's two parenting courses.

### ● The Island Trust

Our partnership with The Island Trust began in 2021. Grants have been used for residential sail-training voyages around Plymouth for 12- to 16-year-olds with disabilities from two special schools. Young people learn practical skills and gain qualifications.



The Company supports projects with a focus on social and emotional development, according to the needs and priorities of individual schools.

## STEM in schools

- The Smallpeice Trust
- work-wise Foundation
- The Access Project

These grants are for initiatives that encourage young people to study science subjects and then progress to university or vocational training.

### ● The Smallpeice Trust

This charity's programme of Arkwright Engineering Scholarships supports able students through their A-Levels, inspiring them to pursue higher education and careers in engineering, computing or technical design. Ironmonger charity has sponsored 21 Arkwright Engineering scholars since 1997.

Since 2014, we have also supported the Rise project. This programme is currently running in three disadvantaged secondary schools in Newcastle, Manchester and Shoreditch. There are STEM Days and Crest Discovery Awards for GCSE and A-Level students, with opportunities to attend residential courses offered to Year 9 students (aged 13 to 14).

### ● work-wise Foundation

A partnership with this employer-led charity began in 2016. work-wise introduce young people to careers in STEM and the skills required to gain and maintain employment. The "Engineering a Bright Future" STEM Employability Programme, running at secondary schools in Doncaster and Rotherham, provides targeted support for disadvantaged students. The Ironmongers' are also supporting the delivery of two annual Employability Summer Academies, one of which is for girls, and an Engineering Business Challenge competition for schools.

I hope this brief overview has given you a better understanding of the amazing charitable work that the Ironmongers' Company and its members support through our valuable charity partnerships.

*Ruth Eglesfield, Charities Assistant*

### ● The Access Project

The Access Project helps students from disadvantaged backgrounds gain places at top universities. It became a charity partner in 2016. The Ironmongers' supports a programme for pupils at Waverley School in the deprived area of Bordesley Green, Birmingham. Activities include one-to-one tuition, mentoring in school and an enrichment programme of university trips, subject-specific societies and workshops.

## Materials science departments at universities

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

Partnerships with these universities were formed between 1999 and 2005. Annual grants are awarded to materials science departments and are used to support individual students researching ferrous metals.



Students take part in one of work-wise's annual Employability Summer Academies

# Betton's and Appeals Committee

BY GEORGE BASTIN ESQ ❖ MASTER 2015, CHAIRMAN

We were warned by the medical advisers at the very beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic that the collateral damage to the nation would be greater than the lives lost and the financial turmoil that would follow. How right they were! All our Betton's Partner Schools have some children who have suffered from mental-health problems. Children need to play. Children need to go to school to learn. Children need to run around and socialise. For over a year, all the normal activities in which young people participate ceased, with the result that they could not properly express themselves in the usual means open to them. The Betton's and Appeals Committee therefore decided that we should provide extra Covid-recovery grants in order to help with things not covered by government funding.

**When the committee invited all the headteachers of our schools to come together for a meeting at the Hall to listen to our guest speaker, Alicia Drummond, founder of the Wellbeing Hub, it became clear that mental-health issues at these schools were far greater than we had imagined. The meeting was attended by all the headteachers and their Ironmonger contacts.**

Alicia is a member of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Fit and Healthy Childhood. She is passionate about providing evidence-based advice to parents, teachers and all those looking after children and young people, so that they can be pro-active in supporting the mental health and wellbeing of those in their care. Alicia also works directly with children and young people, empowering them to look after their own mental health and wellbeing. She has worked with schools across the UK for more than a decade,

delivering webinars, talks and workshops to parents, carers, staff and pupils. In 2020 she created the Wellbeing Hub. This is an award-winning platform which provides schools with a whole-school pro-active approach to supporting the mental health and wellbeing of young people. The Wellbeing Hub now operates in over 130 UK schools, impacting over 78,000 pupils. Following Alicia's talk, we offered all our schools financial support to subscribe to the Hub and we are pleased to report that the majority of our schools have taken up the offer.

Another casualty of Covid was last year's cancellation of the Curiosity Conference in the Hall. Make Believe Arts, our charity partner who delivers this conference, managed to engage our schools with the Curious Investigators' Project. This required children to be inspired by some creative thinking and writing from within their own schools.





**The Wellbeing Hub** is an award-winning platform which provides schools with a whole-school, pro-active approach to supporting the mental health and wellbeing of young people. The Wellbeing Hub now operates in over 130 UK schools, impacting over 78,000 pupils.

**ABOVE AND LEFT: This year the Island Trust in Plymouth became a charity partner. The trust enables disadvantaged and disabled young people to take part in inspirational sailing voyages**

Good as this was, it did not replicate the excitement, fear, anticipation and creativity of standing in front of a few hundred children and staff from other schools in the Ironmongers' Banqueting Hall. This year we did manage to hold the Curiosity Conference in the Hall. Unfortunately not all our schools could make it because of logistical problems, and were also not helped by continuing Covid restrictions. The 170 children from the six schools that did manage to attend certainly brought the Hall alive. They arrived as terrified children and left as giants.

**A**s well as Make Believe Arts, our other charity partners include the St Vincent's Family Project, where we have supported parenting courses, and the Lyric Hammersmith for its START programme. The Island Trust in Plymouth also became a charity partner this year. This trust supports disadvantaged and disabled young people to take part in inspirational sailing voyages in which they ordinarily would not have been able to participate. Many of the Island Trust's normal activities have been curtailed owing to Covid but we believe it will fulfil its promise to be a worthy recipient of Ironmonger funding in the future.

Do have a read of Ruth Eglesfield's extremely useful overview of the Ironmongers' work with all our charity partners, which you will find on page 15.

# Ironmongers' Foundation Committee

BY HARRY CHARNAUD ESQ ❖ MASTER 2009, CHAIRMAN

When Amy asked me to write this piece on the activities of the Ironmongers' Foundation (IF) for the annual report, I almost told her that it was rather prescient of her, after all it could not be so soon since the last report which you all read so carefully. Time has Zoomed by! But since the last year's report a great deal has happened.



The work-wise Foundation's Summer Academy

Most importantly for us Ironmongers is that we can meet again, socialise and get back to doing what we do best, certainly at the IF. We have resumed our meetings with the benefit of Zoom technology for those members of the committee who cannot attend (the preferred option). This means we can still have the wisdom of everyone’s input. It is important that we meet and properly debate the causes we support, which in this past year occasioned discussions which were both robust and well informed. Thank you. It’s a far cry from the committee’s tradition; I was once advised that the usual thing was to keep one’s own opinions to oneself!

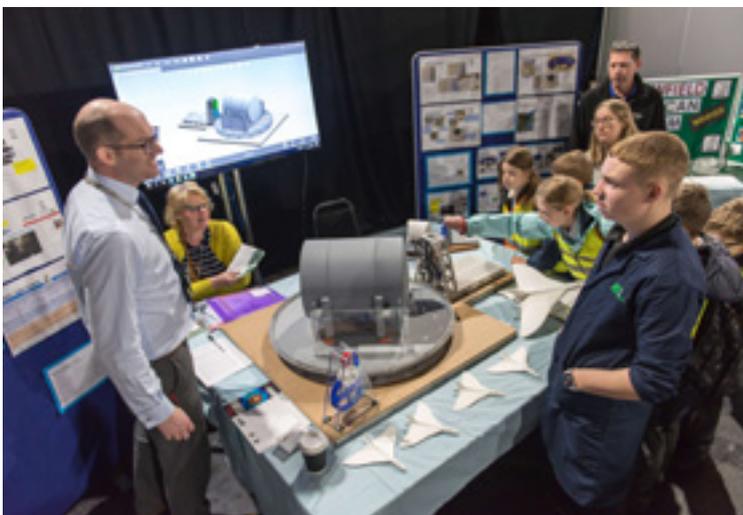
The IF has continued generously to support a range of Company causes through the Betton’s and Appeals Committee and the Iron Committee. The Foundation also supports STEM charities, which as you may remember are the Smallpeice Trust’s (yes, that is how they spell it) Arkwright Scholarships, the Access project at Waverley school near Birmingham, work-wise (yes, lower case) in Sheffield and several other great

causes. All these initiatives encourage young people to study STEM subjects and teach them how to engage with their future workplace.

It’s worth me telling you a little about work-wise in Sheffield. This remarkable initiative is run by John Barber and his colleague Janice Richardson (world-champion flapjack maker) and it had a massive success at this year’s GUTS (Get Up to Speed) event at the Magna Science Adventure Centre in Rotherham. This event hosted 3,445 visitors from 62 schools and colleges (ages eight to 25 years). It also showcased the businesses of 77 exhibitors, allowing the students to participate interactively with the various types of jobs and skill sets they are likely to need in the future. There were replacement knees, hips and shoulders to handle and fiddle with, tablets with which to fire long-range artillery (topical), a McLaren car, worth over £1 million, to sit in and let rip, as well as hydrogen cars, etc. etc. It was fantastic. But the real and only shame was that so few of the IF committee could attend and see for themselves. Actually none of them, except for me!

Following a break in delivery as a result of Covid, the Smallpeice Trust’s RISE2 project resumed in three secondary schools: the Co-op Academy in Manchester, the Excelsior Academy in Newcastle-upon-Tyne and the Mulberry Academy in East London. This five-year project provides a sustained enrichment programme for STEM careers, providing activities for students who would not otherwise have access to such opportunities. Students took part in ‘Aircraft Challenge’ events and worked with VEX robotic kits. Over 80% of students said they had gained a better understanding of engineering as a result of taking part in the project.

It is wonderful to have the considered opinions of committee members, but it is also important that during our visits we see in practice the real benefits delivered by our support. Once again, I would like to thank all members who have stepped down from the committee over the past year (if you would like to re-join, please let me know!). I also offer a warm welcome to all our new committee members.



The work-wise *Get Up to Speed* event at the Magna Science Adventure Centre in Rotherham

# Homes Committee

BY RICHARD PATTESON KNIGHT ESQ ✦ MASTER 2013, CHAIRMAN

In the past year we have experienced further Covid outbreaks, the implications of Brexit, war in the Ukraine, and consequential rising inflation and interest rates. We have successfully sold Geffery's House, Hook, subject to taking a leaseback to cover the period until the refurbishment of Geffery's Fields in Basingstoke has been completed and the facility is reoccupied. Our two sets of residents remain steadfast and have integrated successfully.

My thanks go to the wardens of both Homes in particular for their hard work in building relationships and to the residents already based in Hook, who have gone out of their way to make the residents of Geffery's Fields feel welcome. During a recent visit, it was clear from comments made to members of the Court and the Homes Committee that the two former communities look forward to moving together to Basingstoke in the New Year. Sadly four residents have passed away this year, whilst others have moved elsewhere. Currently there are 30 residents living at Geffery's House.

As I write, the refurbishment (in financial terms) of Geffery's Fields is approximately 70 per cent complete. A new lift is being installed; all windows, doors and carpets, bathrooms and kitchens, heating systems and wiring are being replaced; and a fibre network for internet access and internet phones is being installed. There remain technical aspects of the work that have yet to be commissioned and certified as compliant and complete, which will be essential to the efficient operation of the Home. There are also some works outstanding which require careful planning and execution.

The early eighteenth-century lead statue of Sir Robert Geffery by John Van Nost (pictured opposite) is an important historic asset of the Trust and of significance to the Ironmongers' Company. Its safe removal from Geffery's House, where it is attached to a high-level brick plinth,

and its transfer to London for specialist conservation works is planned after the completion of refurbishment works at Geffery's Fields. The removal of the statue is not a difficult operation. The statue weighs approximately 1.4 tonnes and the conservator will need to remove the statue from the existing brick plinth and ensure any damage to Geffery's House's fabric is made good and the old plinth left in a tidy state.



ABOVE AND LEFT:  
**The refurbishment project of the Homes continues apace**



The statue is to be transported to the conservator's workshop where work will be undertaken to give the statue and accompanying but separate sword an overall clean and to examine the surface for any former paint residue. We have also agreed the conservator's design of a new plinth of about two-feet high, which is to be made of Cornish granite. Once the conservation work is complete the statue will be taken to Geffery's Fields for installation, along with its new granite plinth, which will have been delivered from a quarry in Cornwall.

### **A delicate operation**

Fitting the statue and sword in its final location is a little more complex. The statue needs to be relocated to the garden behind the building at Geffery's Fields, where a foundation area will be created. Access to the site is limited and it might not be prudent to wheel 2.5 tonnes of plinth and followed by around 1.4 tonnes of lead statue through the building, risking damage to new carpets, aluminium runners for the glazed doors to the garden, and screed and underfloor heating capillaries in the new Garden Room. It is not possible to bring these two items around the perimeter of the building where there are underground services, where the ground slopes and is uneven, and where there are trees with preservation orders. It is therefore likely that a crane will be needed to lift first the plinth and then the statue over the roof to their final location in the garden.

All this work is governed by design standards, safety regulations and good industry practice.

So before the removal of Sir Robert Geffery's statue can begin, the selected specialist conservation firm contracted for this work will detail its proposed methodology to remove the statue, propose a specification for its cleaning, provide design details of the plinth and its installation and also the safe connection of both the statue and the separate sword to the plinth, ensuring security and to prevent over-toppling. The specialist contractor will also explain how the various elements will be lifted into place, installed and attached. The Ironmongers' Trust Company (ITC) (acting on behalf of the Trust) will be given evidence of competence and experience of the conservation company, the timescales for each task and an outline of safety management for these works.

**The ITC have appointed the firm FT Squared (FT2) to act as project manager for this job, working with the conservation specialist. The outline timescale is for the removal to be undertaken by the end of October and the installation at Geffery's Fields is expected to take place during December 2022. The plan is then to surround the base of the plinth with roses as a means of further protection.**

# Sir Robert Geffery's School

BY RICHARD TWALLIN ESQ ✦ MASTER 2006, CHAIRMAN

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After the challenges of the previous two years caused by the Covid-19 pandemic the academic year 2021–22 saw a welcome return to the normal pattern, with all children able to attend school. Nevertheless we should not lose sight of the difficulties faced during the two periods of lockdown which were particularly challenging for the youngest children starting their academic life and I would like to pay particular tribute to them, their parents and of course the teaching staff as a mixture of the home-schooling arrangements, commitment and dedication has enabled them to come through what was a very difficult period.



At the beginning of the Spring term we welcomed Edward O'Hara as Headteacher, replacing Julie Curtis who retired at the end of the Autumn term after nineteen highly successful years as Head. The recruitment programme started in summer 2021. After two rounds of advertising and interviews in June and September the Governors appointed Ed, an accomplished and experienced teacher both in the UK and overseas, from his role as Deputy Head at Stivichall Primary School, Coventry. We are delighted that he chose to join Sir Robert Geffery's and thank him and all the members of our wonderful team of teachers and support staff for everything they have achieved this year. This includes, of course, Julie Curtis whose contribution to the School has been immeasurable and which the staff and governors were able to celebrate with her, and her husband Phil who has also contributed so much, at a party in Saltash in March. I would also like to take this opportunity of thanking Jill Jarvis and her fellow governors on the selection panel for all the crucial and extensive work that they did in order to recommend the appointment.

Jill is a member of a very experienced team of governors, full details of which are on the school website, and on behalf of the Company I thank them all for everything that they do to support the success of the School. The website notes the distinction between the 'members' of the Academy Trust, appointed by the Company, and the governors who are essentially appointed by the members. This arrangement implements the School's Articles of Association, established when the school became an Academy Trust in 2011, as well as providing an effective mechanism for perpetuating Sir Robert Geffery's original vision when the School was founded more than 400 years ago.

***Other examples of extracurricular activities which contribute to the development of the children include the Farm, set in a two-acre plot of land in the school grounds, sport and drama.***



Speech Day at the end of the summer term was, as usual, a highlight of the year. It was an opportunity to celebrate the children's academic achievements, evident again from the SATS results, and enjoy the customary mix of performances by each class, the school orchestra, band and singing group. The standard of music is particularly impressive and an example of the importance which the School places on extra-curricular activities which are funded, where necessary, by Sir Robert Geffery's Trust fund and the Ironmongers Foundation for which the governors are most grateful. The event was also an opportunity to welcome the Master and Mrs Verden who kindly presented the prizes which we all very much appreciated.



**The Master and Mrs Verden present the Speech Day prizes**

Other examples of extracurricular activities which contribute to the development of the children include the Farm, set in a two-acre plot of land in the school grounds, sport and drama. We are particularly proud of the achievements of the cricket (runners-up in the Cornwall county cricket finals) and gymnastics teams (champions in the Cornwall summer games) and Year Five children who participated in the Playhouse Project at the Theatre Royal, Plymouth.

The Company was particularly pleased and excited to welcome the Year 6 group to the Hall for the banquet and 'sleepover' in June, the 2020 and 2021 visits having had to be cancelled because of the pandemic. Special thanks go to the Clerk's team for organising the evening which provided further evidence of the School's musical talent, several of the children demonstrating their skills on the grand piano in the Banqueting Hall!

We are all looking forward to the coming year and the opportunity to perpetuate Sir Robert's vision of providing the best start in life to the children of Landrake and the surrounding areas.

# The Iron Committee

BY DAVID WORLIDGE ESQ ✦ MASTER 2016, CHAIRMAN

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It was a particular pleasure this year to be able to return to the University of Oxford in May, after a break of two years, to decide which fourth-year student in the Materials Department should be awarded the Ironmongers' Oxford Medal and Prize of £450.



The new churchyard gates at Kilmore Parish Church, in County Armagh



This year we had a record 38 students each giving a 12-minute presentation. I am grateful to the Master, to Brandon Severin (Freeman and a past winner of the Oxford Medal who boosted the science knowledge of the judges immensely as he is currently studying for a PhD at Oxford!) and to Professor Keyna O'Reilly. Keyna gave up two days to conduct the judging and assist in the selection of the winner, Camilla Hurst, whose presentation was titled 'Can composite solid electrolytes solve the challenges of all-solid batteries?'. It was pleasing that Camilla was also able to give a short version of her talk to the Court in June, before she was presented with her Oxford Medal and Prize by the Master. At the end of the judging in May, Keyna had advised us that, after 12 years in the role of running the talks, she was going to have to step down as she had taken on the role of Chairman of the Examining Board, which would present a conflict. We are very grateful for all the hard work and time Keyna has put in to arranging the talks over the years and we will miss her wise counsel on the judging panel.

Earlier this year Mrs Mary Harris sadly decided to step down from her involvement with the Iron Committee. Although not an official member of the committee for long, Mary, the widow of John Birkett Harris (Master 1979), who instigated the Oxford Medal in 1995, had been on the panel of judges for the Oxford Medal for many years and when there was a request for someone to visit Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings in deepest Shropshire she took on the role with her usual gusto. Her enthusiasm and knowledge will be greatly missed by the Iron Committee.

**ABOVE: New gates for St John's in Kensal Green, porch railings for the Woolwich Garrison Church. Some particularly fine new rainwater goods and hinges at St George's Church, Thriplow and the Watergate lanterns at the Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich**

*The change in policy has given us a broader breadth of projects to support*

After seeing a steadily rising stream of applications from churches to repair their bells, the change in policy to support only repairs to existing iron frames or new cast-iron/steel frames resulted in a dramatic reduction in such applications and has given us a broader breadth of projects to support.

Part of our policy is to ask successful grantees to confirm completion of the projects for which awards have been made and to send us photographs. This year these projects have included the Watergate lanterns at the Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich; churchyard gates at Kilmore Parish Church, Co. Armagh, Northern Ireland and at St John's, Kensal Green; a weathervane at Petherton Arts Trust in Somerset; the North Porch railings at Woolwich Garrison Church Trust; some particularly fine rainwater goods and hinges at St George's Church, Thriplow; replacement bollards at Bluecoat arts centre in Liverpool; the commissioning of a replacement weathervane at St Peter's Church in Cradley, Halesowen; and the restoration of the parclose screens at Penzance Roman Catholic Church.

At the October and April meetings the committee also considered several grant applications and agreed to provide a total of nine grants to a cross-section of projects, including the conservation and remedial repair of a Victorian Coalbrookdale carriage gate at Weston Park, Shropshire; the restoration of the Canal Gates at the Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal Water Garden, North Yorkshire; the restoration of the decorative ironwork at Dora House, the home of the Royal Society of Sculptors on London's Old Brompton Road; and assistance to the Veterans' Forge near Corfe Castle in Dorset to help it provide blacksmith courses to former soldiers with physical and mental-health difficulties.

# GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

BY MRS CAROLINA COSSON DE OLIVEIRA MEDINA ❖ CH&CO



**T**his year has been incredible so far and full of news. Last March, I was appointed to lead the catering department at one of the most iconic venues I have had the pleasure to know. My first visit to Ironmongers' Hall was full of surprises, as I was not expecting such warm country-house features in the middle of this city of concrete. It was breathtaking. As the previous general manager, Gabor Moscar, and his team left the Hall, my first task was to restructure the whole department and this was one of the biggest challenges of my career. However, with the incredible — and essential — support from our Clerk, Charlie Knaggs, and his “one team” philosophy, we are working through and building an outstanding core team.

We began with Benjamin Jeffery (Ben), our Sales and Marketing Manager who has brought his impressive passion and efficiency to raise our sales numbers above and beyond expectations. Our 2022 actuals are already over budget and all credit is due solely to his focused and purposeful approach. We have now welcomed Hannah Hart as the team's Sales & Marketing Coordinator, bringing her fresh energy and aiming to increase our Google reviews as we continue to grow our social-media marketing.

We also have a new Events Manager, Michal Kaminski, who has vast experience in the world of events and he is an incredible character and a joy to work with. Along with Michal, we have four new Hospitality Assistants in Andrzej, Gail, Sofia and Ferial — each of them being experienced in catering and hospitality, having worked in a number of venues ranging from The Law Society to Nesta.

Our newest addition to the catering team is Ranjit Salian, our new Head Chef. Ranjit has previously worked with us at the Hall as a support chef when our dear David Summerell decided to retire in March. Having proved himself, Ranjit was offered the permanent position to lead us into experiencing new mouthwatering menus, surprising plant-based options and innovative alternatives to suit all tastes and choices. Ranjit will be with us from September and so this will be a perfect opportunity for us all to settle down and start to work together, along with David Summerell and Derreck Blanche (as part-time support chefs).

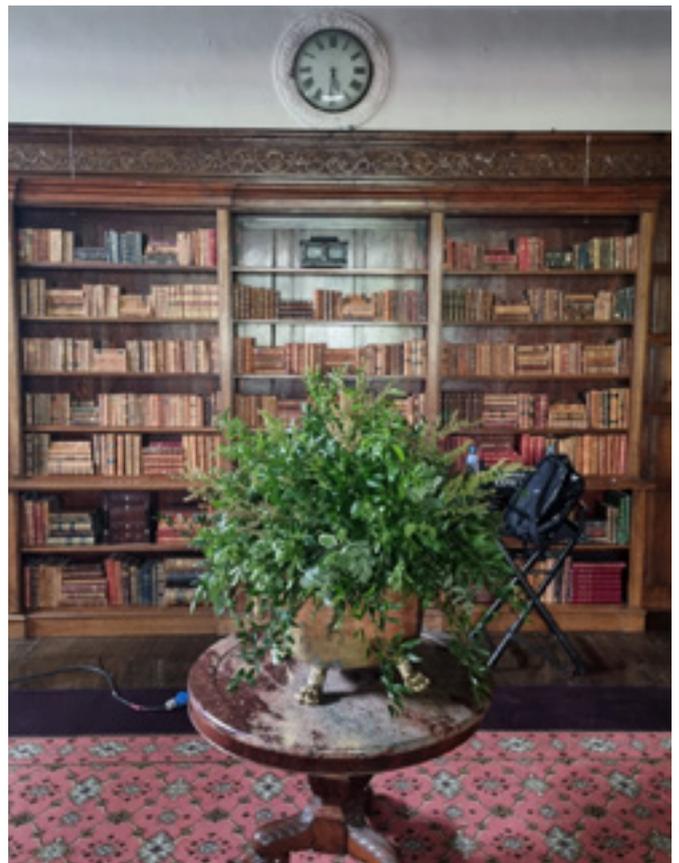
During this short but intense journey, we have had some distinguished events like our Subscription Lunch, the Combined Dinner and also Master's Day luncheon (truly a day to remember for me and my team). In addition, we hosted the annual dinner for The Performance Theatre, also a white-collar boxing event and moreover took on the successful challenge of looking after the entire production for *Great Expectations*, working with the Walt Disney Company as well as the BBC when they were filming scenes in the Hall.

It is worth mentioning that we are implementing new standards of service and food as you can begin to see in our new uniforms, menus and logistics. My personal goal is to lead a team of people who love what they do and then to show this as an example to all the other livery halls of how it should be done. This will be reflected in not only the smiles of gratitude from our guests, but also in great feedback.

Finally, I would love to invite you to come to our events office so that I will have the opportunity to introduce myself to all of you. Saying that, I would also like to thank our Master, the members I have had the opportunity to meet so far, the Beadle and the Housemen, the Assistant Clerk, the Social Secretary, and our Clerk, and his amazing "one team", for all the support I have received during my time at the Hall so far. Here's to another great year!



FROM TOP: **The Hall in resplendent wedding mode; Julian Verden, Master, makes a toast at the Master's Day Luncheon; and The Courtroom is transformed for the filming of *Great Expectations***



“My personal goal is to lead a team of people who love what they do and then to show this as an example to all the other livery halls of how it should be done.”

# Use of Hall report

BY ANTHONY CARTER-CLOUT ESQ ❖ MASTER 2014, CHAIRMAN

I became the chairman of this committee in September last year after the “retirement” of Michael Crickmay who had very ably looked after our home for a number of years, together with the Clerk and the Beadle and their staff.



The year has been as challenging as we had expected in the aftermath of Covid, however we have been able to host many exciting events including the use of the Hall for the filming of *Great Expectations* by the BBC and Disney. We have had an increase in the number of weddings as many had been postponed because of the pandemic and we managed to exceed our budget by a healthy margin. CH&CO put us jointly forward for the London Venue and Catering awards 2021 and I am delighted to report that together we won the award for the “best historic/livery hall”!

Our Monday Lunch Club, held in the Banqueting Hall every week, goes from strength to strength and members are urged to recommend it to their livery contacts!

CH&CO, our caterers and Hall events and business coordinators, have had some major staff changes: our Head Chef, David Summerell, decided to retire and at the same time our Hall Manager, Gabor Mocsar, was headhunted for a new and prestigious position with one of the oil majors which was an opportunity he couldn't refuse, and it was with much regret that they have both now left us. His replacement is Carolina Oliveira who has settled in happily and is now leading her team to even higher standards, being ably assisted by Ben Jeffrey, the senior events sales and marketing coordinator, and our new head chef Ranjit Salian.

We have now set up two committees, the Hall Site Working Group, who are working with the City of London's planners on 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 and, at the same time, safeguarding our interests within that building project. The other committee is the New Century Hall Group who will help us make Ironmongers' Hall fit for purpose for its second century as its centenary arrives in 2024–25. This will include looking at improvements for the Hall, together with our usual preventative maintenance plan and, importantly, also at our sustainability. We are developing an action plan and a climate-action strategy to renew and upgrade our services within the Hall and have commissioned an energy saving strategy report and are hopeful that the upgrades will start this autumn.

On behalf of the Use of Hall Committee, I would like to offer my thanks to the staff at Ironmongers' Hall for all their hard work and dedication in keeping the Hall always running smoothly and for the warm welcome they always give to our members, guests and other visitors.



# The Beadle's report

BY MR STEVE WALBY ❖ BEADLE



The Beadle, Mr Steve Walby

*The past year has seen the events' calendar at the Hall start to resemble the pre-Covid period and there is a renewed sense of optimism within the ranks for a healthier future regarding Hall hire and events generally.*

Our Events business, led by Carolina Oliveira and Ben Jeffery, and well supported by the new catering team and the Beadle's team, have been kept busy. This has included a record-breaking number of weddings, various conferences and even a gala boxing match — along with various Ironmongers' dinners and court events for other livery companies, especially for the Shipwrights', Fruiterers' and Gardeners' Companies, who have shown their loyalty and appreciation in continuing to store their gowns and collections of silver with us.

We know that the next few months will be very busy, culminating with the Christmas Party season — we will of course endeavour to keep our foot firmly planted on the pedal and provide an excellent service and welcome to our clients, whilst making sure that 2023 is even better.

*We've been kept busy with a record-breaking number of weddings, various conferences and even a gala boxing match*



# A next-century Hall

BY PHILIP PASCALL ❖ FREEMAN

Hopefully few people remain unaware that we are in the midst of a climate crisis and that we rapidly need to stop emitting carbon dioxide into the atmosphere if Planet Earth is to remain habitable for future generations. Frustratingly, climate change always seems to be pushed down the agenda by seemingly more urgent crises — but it really is urgent.



The current dramatic increases in energy prices and the effect these are having on people and businesses provide further impetus. There are things all of us can do to help address these issues.

The UK is a global leader in legislating to reduce and eliminate carbon emissions. The Climate Change Act 2008, initially aiming for an 80 per cent reduction, was amended in 2019 to commit the government to ‘net zero’ by 2050, reducing emissions by 100 per cent of 1990 levels. Legislation is affecting every business, organisation, household and individual by progressively limiting emissions relating to everything we do or consume.

The City of London Corporation is playing its part by committing to the hugely challenging targets of achieving net zero within its own operations by 2027, and also within its investments and supply chains by 2040. The Ironmongers’ Company and many other livery companies are making the same pledges.

Our own operations in this context are primarily the use of energy at the Hall. Two principal actions are needed: firstly, to use less energy, and secondly, to switch from fossil fuels to renewable and other low-carbon sources of energy. Using less energy is a pre-requisite for the success of the second action, because alternative sources of energy for heating are not as convenient and effective as natural gas. In old, often historic and listed, buildings the challenges are compounded.

To use less energy, insulation needs to be improved — a ‘fabric first’ approach, the efficient use of energy in all plant and appliances is increased, for example in recovering heat from ventilation systems and changing to LED lights; waste is also reduced. The alternatives to gas heating include heat pumps, thermal storage, district heating networks, biofuels and, in time, hydrogen boilers.

The Company will celebrate the centenary of our Hall in 2025 and, by 2024, we will find ourselves in the middle of the London Wall West Project site. We now have a huge opportunity to make our Hall a highly desirable and carbon-efficient venue for its varied functions over the next century.

## Working group

A sustainability working group (namely Isla Cooper, Philip Pascall, James Twallin and David Tudor-Morgan) is developing an action plan with the Clerk, David Liming, the Use of Hall Committee and Paul Chilton, the Ironmongers’ Company Surveyor. Some quick wins are being sought to increase efficiency of energy use such as improving the heating, cooling and ventilation controls. In preparation for the upgrade works to be undertaken concurrently with the London Wall West project, we have prepared a client brief and sought proposals from consultants to examine all aspects of how we might be able to eliminate carbon emissions from our use of the Hall.

# The Archivist's report

BY MISS JUSTINE TAYLOR ❖ ARCHIVIST

**A**s usual, it has been a busy year looking after the Ironmongers' collections and answering enquiries.

Some enquiries have again included information about various Ironmonger properties over the years. Details were explored concerning 67 Fleet Street (including the top of Whitefriars Street, previously known as Water Lane), property that had been acquired as long ago as 1726 by the Company for Sir Robert Geffery's Trust, and which was sold in 1987 as part of a huge (at the time) property deal. On this building is a City plaque commemorating Thomas Tompion (1639–1713), the father of British clock making, who had occupied a building before this site was acquired by the Ironmongers' trust. Maps, or images of them, was another topic of enquiry. Dr Annaleigh Margey of Dundalk Institute of Technology was given permission to publish some Ironmongers' maps for *Mapping Ireland, c.1550–1636: a catalogue of manuscript maps of Ireland*, to be published in conjunction with the Irish Manuscripts Commission. London Metropolitan Archives will use a digital copy of the Ironmongers' 1633

plan of its Old Street Estate ("The plott of Cornwall's Croft & Goulden Acre...", CLC/L/IB/H/004) for its temporary exhibition, 'Magnificent Maps of London' (11 April–26 October).

For Ironmongers' Hall and its contents, we supplied details to Wendy Frère (PhD on Baroque sculpture in the Low Countries, University of Brussels) on the maquette of Edward IV made by Caius Gabriel Cibber in 1667 (in the Court Room) and its relationship to a larger stone statue by Arnold Quellin that was erected in the new Royal Exchange in 1685. José Carlos Hernandez Cruz of the University of Pennsylvania also confirmed the presence of 'Akoustolith' tiles or bricks in the Banqueting Hall above the wooden panelling, an innovation used by the 1920s for reducing reverberation and echo within a room.

## ● Addressing issues of links to historic slavery

Research into the links between the Ironmongers' Company, the West Indies and transatlantic slavery continues. We have also continued to liaise 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 portrait of Sir Robert Geffery and the marble statue of William Beckford. Until a more permanent plaque for the wording is fixed, a draft form of words was agreed (shown below) and placed beside the Beckford statue in time for the a group visit of Harris Boys' Academy in Peckham on 28 January 2022; signed by the Master and both Wardens.

The Archivist continues to keep in touch with Dr Penny Hunting about her new history of the Company and Penny now has priority access to the Company's older archives stored at the Guildhall Library and also additional access to two more recent deposits temporarily held at the London Metropolitan Archives. As you will read elsewhere (page 36), the Chairman of the Heritage Committee has very kindly compiled family trees and genealogical detail on Past Masters; this is valuable research which will also be useful for AtoM biographies in the longer term.

To support the new history project, work has also begun on digitising our most important records, especially those

## A DRAFT STATEMENT ON SIR ROBERT GEFFERY'S PORTRAIT AND THE SCULPTURE OF WILLIAM BECKFORD

*A number of members of the Ironmongers' Company in the 17th and 18th centuries were merchants associated with the transatlantic slave trade, especially in the West Indies, where plantations had long made use of enslaved labour. Some members of the Ironmongers' Company also made money from investments in the Royal African Company and the South Sea Company which were involved in the transportation, enslavement and sale of African peoples for forced labour on plantations in North and South America and the Caribbean.*

*The portrait of Sir Robert Geffery and the sculpture of William Beckford are key indicators of the complex legacy of the Ironmongers' Company in this respect. Sir Robert Geffery (Master 1667 & 1685, Lord Mayor 1685) was an investor in the Royal African Company and also jointly owned the China Merchant, a ship that was hired to transport enslaved peoples from West Africa to the West Indies from 1689 to 1700. William Beckford (Master 1753, Lord Mayor 1762 & 1769) was a Jamaica-born merchant who, as an absentee landlord, inherited his family's*

*substantial and long-established sugar plantations on the island, together with their enslaved workers. He consequently became one of Britain's wealthiest men.*

*In especially displaying these two works of art, the Ironmongers' Company acknowledges and regrets the horror and pain caused and endured by such historic transatlantic enslavement, trade and forced labour. The Company also commits itself to a policy of equality, diversity and inclusion in all its spheres of operations.*

BELOW: **Innovative 'Akoustolith' bricks in the Banqueting Hall for reducing reverberation and echo; and a George V Silver Jubilee Matchbox for 1935 (dated 1934), kindly donated by Mrs Joanna Barker**

which have already been microfilmed. With much help (and heavy lifting) from John Biles, we finally retrieved the Company's set of films discovered at Barclays' Eastbourne branch. These films had originally been placed in a safe-deposit box at the Oxted branch of Barclays Bank back in 1992 by Richard Bolding Brayne, then Clerk.

After a spreadsheet comparison with other microfilms of Ironmongers' archives spread across the Guildhall Library (GL) and London Metropolitan Archives (LMA), and compiled with help from Melanie Kirton of the LMA, the microfilm scanning project has been divided into two phases — the Company held films and secondly a set of further films held by the GL/LMA. The British Library's imaging service scanned and returned our set of microfilms in June and are now preparing to scan the set from the Guildhall Library. We have also increased the capacity of the special Archives file server used for the storage of these digital files.

The Access to Memory (AtoM) system which we are using for unified access to our catalogues has been upgraded and continues to work well for recording our paintings, silver and various other treasured artefacts, as well as archives and books. Biographies of painters and silversmiths, members and other related people also continue to be created.

There have been a few new additions to our collections. Sir Robert Geffery's School (via the Clerk) deposited four small items of silver for storage in the Silver Vault, being three dishes (two coronation dishes for 1937 and a silver jubilee dish for 1977) and a miniature beaker of Swedish silver by Arvid Arvidsson Castman, made in 1762. In June 2022 Mrs Joanna Barker kindly donated three small pieces of silver, also relating to royal jubilee events:



(Cambridge: McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, 2017), which has been added to the Cloister Room bookshelves. In terms of disposals, all deeds and documents relating to Geffery's House were handed to solicitors Farrers in February on the sale of this property and 31 bags of paper were also picked up for shredding this month.

Two new museum-quality cabinets were installed in August by cabinet maker Nick Geard, with cotton case-lining material from Création Baumann and new LED lighting. The display cases in the upper corridor have also been relined with the same museum-quality material and new LED lighting has also here been installed. The newly refurbished cabinets will enable us to display some of

our smaller pieces of silver in a safer and more energy efficient environment. Suitable short captions for the new displays will be available later in 2022.

The electricians completed various other tasks, especially the illumination of the stained glass of the internal windows in the lower corridor (see more in Snippets section below), added better emergency lighting and improved the lighting in the Clerk's Office. Further lighting improvements elsewhere are also being planned.

The portrait of Ralph Adams Beck has been cleaned and conserved by Helen Draper and a new stretcher added. She has also returned it to the original frame after its restoration by Tristram Bainbridge. Patina Art Collection Care have visited twice for picture hanging and returned for a third time when the portraits, newly hung in the Court Room, as well as the ceiling lights, were also temporarily removed and returned for filming in the Hall from 27 May until 5 June. Handmade gilded name plates have been added to five portraits, especially those recently acquired of Sir Peter Estlin and Sir Job Harby.



a George V Silver Jubilee matchbox for 1935 (dated 1934), a George VI coronation ashtray for 1937 (1936) and a small Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee dish (1977) — these had been given to her late husband by his uncle, Bernard Horner (Master 1955). Member Simon Stoddart donated a copy of his book (ed. S. Stoddart, *The DAAD Cambridge Symposium — Delicate Urbanism in Context: Settlement Nucleation in Pre-Roman Germany*

# Heritage Committee

BY ROBERT STEDALL ESQ ✦ MASTER 1989, CHAIRMAN

Like the swan, the Heritage Committee may seem to be floating along serenely, but below the surface there is a huge amount of paddling to deliver future projects.

## Pictures

Perhaps the most visible achievement has been the reorganisation of our pictures, so that portraits of recent Ironmonger Lord Mayors and another modern portrait (that of Sir Christopher Slade) now hang in the Court Room and images of recent Clerks are in the Clerk's Office. Pictures have also been repositioned in the upper and lower corridors, the Luncheon Room and the Drawing Room. There has also been some framing and the provision of gold-leaf plaques. Further work will be completed this year to improve the lighting for some paintings and to ensure that the hanging height is consistent.

Repairs and improvements have included the conservation of the portrait of Ralph Adams Beck (Clerk 1883–1912, Master 1925) was undertaken by Helen Draper, whilst Tristram Bainbridge undertook the restoration of its frame; the two ink drawings by T R Way, showing the entrance hall of Ironmongers' Hall in Fenchurch Street, have been framed and now hang in the Cloister Rooms; and there are plans to provide a new frame for the portrait of Sir Job Harby, now hanging in the upper corridor.

## Lighting

New and more energy-efficient lighting (by Steve Fletcher) has been provided for the lower corridor, the ceiling of the Clerk's Office and also the Silver Vault. Of particular interest has been the backlighting of stained glass in the lower corridor (previously almost invisible) and more is planned to improve the lighting of the Court Room's interior stained glass and also for the interior windows in the upper corridor. When other general maintenance takes place, improvements for the up-lighting above the main staircase and its pictures will also be planned.

## Display cabinets

The new display cabinets for the lower corridor have been expertly made by Nick Geard and his assistant Rai. These are now lined with museum-quality materials and have non-reflective glass doors, with brass fittings. The two cases in the upper corridors have also been relined with the same green-colour fabric. At the same time, the electricians also upgraded all four cabinets to LED lighting. We now have clearer and more secure environments for the safe display of some of our smaller treasures.

## History

The Committee's most important activity is of course overseeing the rewriting of the Company history, being undertaken by Dr Penny Hunting. She updated the Committee on her progress at our meeting in April 2022 and has promised us a more detailed draft outline by the end of the year. She assures us that her research is uncovering much fresh information about the Company. The plan is to produce a c. 300-page book to coincide with the centenary of the opening of the current Ironmongers' Hall in 2025.

As an independent project, I undertook to prepare short biographies of the nearly 500 Past Masters of the Company, gleaning information from the freedom records and further research on genealogy websites and other online sources. Work is now almost complete. It will include trees of families with a 'dynastic' connection to the Company. This is likely to be produced as an online resource on the Company website rather than a hard-copy book of over 200 pages, thus making any further updating more straightforward.

One of the interesting findings of this project has been the changing occupations of Ironmonger Masters over time. The Company began as a group of merchants importing iron from



The recently restored portrait of Ralph Adams Beck, Clerk 1883–1912, Master 1925

the Continent and later from the Weald of Kent and Sussex to manufacture products in areas mainly around Old Jewry. Yet wealthy members of the Company owned or chartered ships to import raw materials from the Continent. When iron became readily available in the Midlands and further north in Britain, their ships were used to carry produce to and from the Levant, and the East and West Indies. While some Ironmonger Masters continued to have ironmongery premises in London, others made their fortunes in other forms of international trade.

It was not until the 1850s that efforts were made by John Nicholl (Master 1859 and the author of a previous Company history) to attract some of the pioneering Victorian engineers and those who manufactured for them to join the Company. Thus, important industry names such as Thomas Howard (Master 1848), Henry Grissell (Master 1873) and Henry Maudslay (Master 1888) helped to reassociate the Company with the forefront of the iron-manufacturing profession, providing steel work for the Houses of Parliament, Nelson’s Column, Covent Garden Opera House, Blackfriars’ Bridge and the railings of Buckingham Palace, to name but a few. Do read my article on these nineteenth-century Past Masters, on page 38, for further details.



ABOVE: The restored portraits are back in situ; and the new museum-quality display cabinets in the Hall’s lower corridor

## Other developments

Thanks to Justine Taylor’s continued dedication to the Company’s heritage, the AtoM cataloguing of our records is almost complete and we now have cards displaying information for the principal pieces of plate on display at events at the Hall. Sometime ago, she found three black velvet caps in the archives described by Nicholl as ‘garlands’ with silver and enamel badges depicting the Company’s arms. Advice is being taken on how these might be cleaned and their enamel repaired so that they can be displayed. The Senior Warden, with advice from the Treasures adviser, is looking at items held in the Silver Vault which may now be obsolete for current day use. If we feel that they have a sufficient value, it is the intention to sell them and use the proceeds to commission a piece to demonstrate contemporary silver-making skills.

# The Company's renewed interest in iron manufacture in the nineteenth century

BY ROBERT STEDALL ESQ ❖ MASTER 1989, CHAIRMAN

In researching the list of Past Masters of the Company it has been interesting to note three distinct groupings within the Company's membership. While many of the original members of the Company were involved in ironmongery trade, either as small-time manufacturers or as merchants/shopkeepers, others were involved in different trades and used the Company as a means of registering their apprentices. William Dane and his wife Margaret, for example, were linen drapers, but there was a random selection of other member business activities, including wax chandlers, druggists and hosiers. There was also, of course, a number of tin-plate workers who broke away from the Ironmongers' Company, in what appears to have been an amicable separation, and set up their own livery company in 1670. A third and much wealthier group were ship-owning merchants who used their vessels to import iron from the Continent, but who also often became involved in many a lucrative trading venture. Thus, many members of the Court tended to be involved in international trade to places such as the Levant, the East Indies and the West Indies. Names like Geffery, Betton, Beckford and Hawes fall into this category, but there were many others.

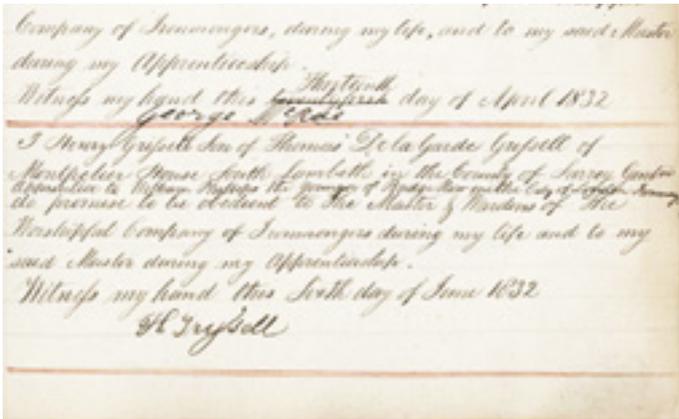
Although there were families with longstanding ironmongery premises in London, such as the Hawkes, Barron and Humfrey families, these were in a minority by the mid-nineteenth century. As feats of engineering involving the use of iron in building structures started to gather pace, the Company was determined to keep abreast of a changing world. Members made conscious efforts to restore their Company's standing at the heart of this burgeoning and pioneering iron-related business activity. It was probably John Nicholl (1790-1871), the writer of the original Company history and Master in 1859, who was at the forefront of attracting the membership of these engineering pioneers, creating a fourth strand to the membership.

One of the first noteworthy engineers was Thomas Howard (1796-1872), Master in 1848 (and who, at the end of his year of office, had been given the elaborate silver snuff box generously donated in 2021 to the Company's silver collection by David Worlidge). Although Howard's family

had been members of the Company for some generations and had been based at the King and Queen Ironworks at Rotherhithe, Thomas trained as an engineer. He was responsible for the development of the 'vapour-engine', able to drive pistons with steam without needing a cumbersome boiler. By dipping cups of water into super-heated mercury, steam could be produced with great fuel economy. The vapour was then recirculated after being condensed in pipes running through water. Although the vapour engine worked well, it was soon superseded when tubular boilers were developed, but the condensing process, allowing water to be recirculated, continued in use. In 1840, he joined his family's business at the King and Queen Ironworks, where he developed a process for rolling out chain links with an eye at each end to enable them to be bolted together. These proved extremely strong and provided links for large suspension bridges and cranes.

Another pioneering manufacturer was Henry Grissell (1817-1883) who joined the Company by servitude in 1839 and was Master in 1873. As a young man, he joined the Bramah Company where John Joseph Bramah (1798-1846) was at the forefront of the manufacture of intricate castings and metal work, creating a substantial railway equipment business at Pimlico. In 1841, Henry Grissell set up in business with his brother Martin at the Regent's Canal Ironworks. With his eldest brother Thomas de la Garde Grissell being a public works contractor on projects such as the Houses of Parliament and Nelson's column, Henry, who gained the soubriquet of 'Iron Henry', provided the ironwork, including that for Covent Garden Opera House and the gates and railings of both Buckingham Palace and the British Museum. He also provided much of the ironwork for bridges designed by many of the great engineers of the day including projects in Vienna, Leipzig and Russia,

In 1850, Alfred Lawrence (1826-75) joined the Company by servitude to Henry Grissell. Alfred was the third son of the strongly Unitarian Alderman William Lawrence (1789-1855), a successful London builder. His two eldest brothers both served as Lord Mayor, but Alfred went into partnership with a younger brother, Frederick (1828-64) to form the City Ironworks and, in 1854, John Nicholl invited Frederick,



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: The record of apprenticeship of Henry Grissell (1817–1883), who joined the Company by servitude in 1839 and was Master in 1873; Godsell Middleton’s portrait of John Nicholl (1790–1871), the writer of the original Company history and Master in 1859; and iron engineer Henry Maudslay (1822–99) joins the Company by redemption in 1864, on the proposal of Henry Grissell

who had become a civil engineer, to join the Company by redemption. Frederick had already made his name improving the sluice gates of the Middle Levels in Cambridgeshire and providing the castings for Holborn Viaduct (have a look at them the next time you are wandering past) and for Blackfriars’ Bridge.

**Never let it be said that the Company lost connection with its trade**

The youngest brother, Edwin Lawrence (1837–1914), had joined the Company by servitude to Alfred in 1852 and became Master in 1887. He had a law degree and had become MP for Truro, writing

*The Progress of a Century; or The Age of Iron and Steam* (1886). In 1898 he was granted a baronetcy and became Sir Edwin Durning-Lawrence (Durning being a family name of his wife Edith, whom he had married in 1874). He became a generous benefactor to the Company and you can see his coat of arms in stained glass in the Court Room.

Another iron engineer was Henry Maudslay (1822–99), who joined by redemption in 1864 on the proposal of Henry Grissell, becoming Master in 1888. He was a member of a family of pioneering engineers and

toolmakers. His much more famous grandfather, another Henry Maudslay (1771–1831), has been dubbed the founding father of English machine-tool technology. Maudslay senior’s particular claim to fame was the development of a screw-cutting lathe which enabled thread sizes to be standardised, opening the way for the provision of spare parts for machinery repairs. Having started from humble beginnings at Bramah’s Works, he had married John Bramah’s housemaid, Sarah Tindal (1762–1828), after which he set up his own business, which became Maudslay, Sons and Field. He was joined by his son, Thomas Henry Maudslay “who demonstrated considerable ability” as a mechanical engineer. Following his wife Sarah’s death, Henry married Elizabeth Prime (1789–1855), and their son, also Henry, qualified as a mechanical engineer, also joining his father’s business. In his early career, the younger Henry set up machinery for government tobacco manufacture in Paris and Portugal, and also conducted work on the docks in Malta, but his main interest was in producing steam engines and general machinery according to Grace’s Guide to British Industrial History.

Never let it be said that the Company lost connection with its trade.

# Warden of the Livery and Yeomanry Committee's report

BY MR CHARLIE MORGAN ❖ WARDEN OF THE LIVERY AND YEOMANRY

The Livery and Yeomanry Committee burst into life after enduring two years of lockdown restrictions. We agreed on four priorities throughout the coming year: Engagement, Diversity, Charity and Fun. With seven set-piece events organised by the committee over the year, we achieved these four objectives, particularly the last one: having fun.

In February, the Ironmongers hosted the inaugural Great XII Curling competition. As the Inter-Livery Skiing had been cancelled at the last minute because of Covid, we decided to host this with support from George Bastin's contacts and it was organised by the then Warden of the Livery and Yeomanry, Charlie Morgan. The event was held at the Langham Hotel, London. Replica ice, Christmas trees and snow abounded, and with the host in a ski-suit whipping the curlers into shape with some glühwein, it was great fun. This excellent event brought together nearly a hundred people from across all livery companies and was won by the Salters' Company team. We will host the event again next winter.

In March the committee hosted the Great XII Drinks at the Hall. Despite a tube strike, 80 people attended from across the younger community of Great-XII members. The tour of the Hall by members of the Ironmongers' Livery and Yeomanry Committee proved insightful and fun, with a game of two truths and a lie, based on facts about the Hall. Many of the visitors were interested in the Ironmongers' history and the opportunity to visit another livery hall of a Great XII company. We are encouraging other Great XII companies to host the next drinks

event. There are plans for an exciting 'safari-supper', which involves visiting three halls in one evening for a course in each hall.

In March we also visited the Tower of London for the Ceremony of the Keys. The visit was organised by Hadley Newman, a member of the Livery and Yeomanry Committee, in his capacity as our liaison with the Grenadier Guards. Following supper at the Hall, we made our way to the Tower of London—the Ceremony of the Keys is an ancient ritual, held every evening at the Tower of London, when the main gates are locked for the night. The ceremony is said to be the oldest extant military ceremony in the world. Once the gates were locked, we had the privilege of attending drinks at the Yeoman Warders' Club with our hosts from Nijmegen Company, Grenadier Guards. This unique evening received strong endorsement from attendees and other Company members expressed interest, so we hope to arrange another visit to the Tower of London next year.

In April, one of the committee attended the Lady Mayoress's Sleep Out for the Lord Mayor's Appeal and a homeless charity, whilst two further members had a separate sleep out for the same cause a few weeks later. You will find Elizabeth Squire's

article detailing her experience on page 42, and the event went some way to fulfil our objective of charitable fundraising through our support to City, Members, Trade and Philanthropy.

In May, following a charitable donation from the Company, we were invited to the Chelsea Physic Garden. Committee member Laura Prieto helped to arrange for 12 members of the Company to attend. There is the possibility of an additional visit and a further request for sponsorship. There was very positive feedback for this event and it is an opportunity for us to strengthen ties with such organisations.

In June, Khush Cooper, also a committee member, organised the Ironmongers' Summer Barbecue. This was attended by over 60 members of the Company in an informal setting in the City. This was an opportunity for a low-cost introduction to potential new members as well as a chance for new joiners to meet a cross-section of the Company in an informal environment. Given the dress regulations (Hawaiian shirts and shorts), it fulfilled the requirement of bringing together our newer members with others in an informal setting.



ABOVE: **The Great XII Freeman and Livery drinks held at the Hall in March.**

BELOW: **Ironmongers attend the Ceremony of the Keys at the Tower of London**

Eagle-eyed readers will have noticed only six events reported above. The past-Warden of the Livery and Yeomanry Committee arranged for a river-boat cruise in early September, which will appear in next year's Annual Report. It's been a fun-packed, engaging and wonderful year as Warden of the Livery and Yeomanry. Together, we have increased our engagement, charitable work, diversity and fun-factor — and this has been down to the support of all committee members with the many other members of the Company who have given their time, talent and treasure. I am grateful to all who have helped and we look forward to building on these achievements for next year's Livery and Yeomanry Committee.



# The Lady Mayoress's Sleep Out

BY COMMANDER ELIZABETH SQUIRE ❖ LIVERYMAN

Back in mid-February, Charlie Morgan, our intrepid Warden of the Livery and Yeomanry, spotted the unusual opportunity to sleep outside for one night in Guildhall Yard. The Lady Mayoress had organised a sleep out to raise funds for the Lord Mayor's Appeal and also for a homeless charity, the Spitalfields Crypt Trust.

Leading from the front, Charlie had decided to take part and was looking for volunteers to join him. I shared his opinion that this was an appropriate activity to raise money for such good causes and, as the night in question was 31 March, a time of year usually quite clement, I thought it wouldn't be too much of a challenge. I paid my registration fee, set up my Just-Giving page and started to canvass friends, family and fellow Ironmongers for support. Shortly afterwards, Oli Rose joined the team.

As the time drew nearer, the weather forecast started to look less friendly, but safe in the knowledge that I had a sleeping bag, liner, carry mat and a tarpaulin, and was going to be joined by two capable and resourceful friends, I remained undaunted. Unfortunately, a couple of days before the event, first Charlie and then Oli were forced to drop out after contracting Covid. Thus on the evening in question, I packed the backpack I had used for my Duke of Edinburgh's Award a few short years before(!) and set out solo for Guildhall Yard. As I walked from the tube I passed several pubs and restaurants busy with customers, the smell of flame-grilled steak emanating from one made me feel quite hungry but that

was not the evening ahead of me. My weather app showed 2°C and, for

ABOVE: **Elizabeth Squire hunkers down for the Big Sleep Out; Charlie Morgan and Oli Rose on their own sleep-out in April, outside the Hall**



a brief moment, I caught the tiniest glimpse of what it might be like to walk in the shoes of someone with no choice, hungry and cold, and about to face a night on the streets.

I continued on my way to the Guildhall and found a lady by herself so asked if she minded if I bunked next to her. Laura was not a member of any livery company but the next-door neighbour of the Lord Mayor and had shown up to support her friend, the Lady Mayoress, Amanda Keaveny, who popped over at about midnight to give her a big hug.

As the mercury dropped a little further, we enjoyed speeches from the Lord

Mayor (who had arrived straight from a dinner) and a representative from the Spitalfields Crypt Trust. Then we hunkered down in our sleeping bags and tried to get a little sleep, hats pulled down low and collars up high as the sleet began to fall.

An hour before dawn, hot drinks were on offer as well as the best-tasting bacon butty I can remember. By 6am everyone was packing up their sleeping bags and bidding each other fond farewells. Soon I was home, enjoying a hot shower before work, extremely grateful that I had a warm home to go to and a family who cared. This mini sleep out in relative luxury was an eye opener, making me feel extremely grateful to have grown up in a stable, loving environment and thankful for all the opportunities that have been available to me.

That night, 90 people took part, raising over £115,000. Not to be outdone and to earn their sponsorship, Charlie and Oli rearranged their own sleep out three weeks later, spending an evening outside the Hall where the Clerk, suitably dressed in white tie, supplied moral support (and apparently a poetry recital!). Our fundraising efforts added £3,321 to the pot.

## A big thank you

Thank you so much to all our friends, family, co-workers and fellow Ironmongers who sponsored us in supporting these amazing causes.

# IRONMONGERS' VISIT TO GUSBOURNE VINEYARD

BY MR O G W ROSE ❖ FREEMAN



***On a peerless day in late May, an intrepid group of Merry Mongers made its way down to Gusbourne Vineyard in Kent. Some members of the Wine Committee have connections to the vineyard so it was a natural fit for a visit.***

Greeted with a glass 2017 Gusbourne Brut Reserve, we were ably guided by Steve who schooled us in the vagaries of the winemaker's art, all whilst members and their guests enjoyed stunning views across the Weald. We then settled in for a tutored tasting, sampling Gusbourne's Brut Reserve, Rosé, Blanc de Blancs and Blanc de Noir. The best was yet to come with an incredible picnic lunch, showcasing the best of Kentish produce, all washed down with a magnum of Blanc de Blancs generously gifted by Sir Peter Estlin.

But the best part of the day? A great sense of fellowship, from the train journey onwards, and a fantastic opportunity to get to know Ironmongers in a relaxed setting and meet some potential new members too.

If there's an appetite for it, other English vineyard trips could happily be arranged!



ABOVE: (left to right) Kitty Grubb, Arabella Grubb, James Lythe, Oli Rose, Nick Gorton, Sir Peter Estlin and guest Kati Väyrynen

# New Freemen and Liverymen

## New Freemen

### October 2021

Professor Angela Bridget Jones-Pantazopoulos  
↔ *Redemption*

### February 2021

Miss Molly Florence Payne Wauchope  
↔ *Patrimony*

Colonel Larry Brian Davis  
↔ *Redemption*

### April 2022

Mr Robert William Harris  
↔ *Redemption*

Ms Cheryl Deborah Roux  
↔ *Redemption*

Mr David Anthony Barrett  
↔ *Redemption*

Miss Katy Thorpe  
↔ *Redemption*

Mr Nicholas David Oliver Williams TD JP DL  
↔ *Redemption*

Major Benjamin John Irwin-Clark  
↔ *Patrimonial Redemption*

Mr Alexander Finlay Warren  
↔ *Patrimony*

Mr James Melville John Petrie  
↔ *Patrimonial Redemption*

### June 2022

Mr George Duncan Wauchope  
↔ *Patrimony*

Mr Ernest Sim Fasanya  
↔ *Redemption*

## New Liverymen

### April 2022

Mrs Davina Mary Irwin-Clark

Dame Sylvia Ann Morris

Mr Hadley Richard Newman

### June 2022

Mr Ruadhri Andrew Charles Duncan

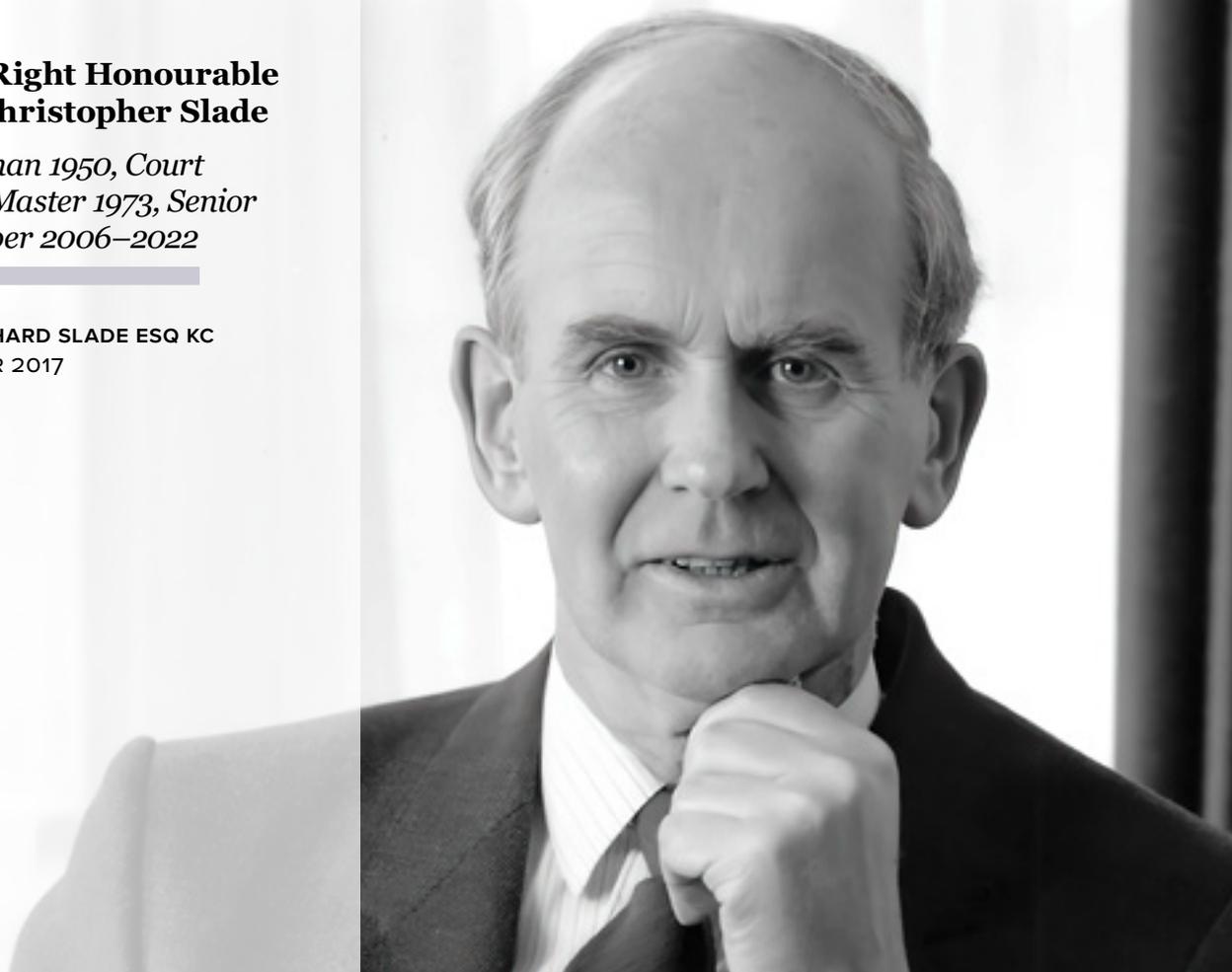


# Deaths and obituaries

## The Right Honourable Sir Christopher Slade

*Freeman 1950, Court  
1957, Master 1973, Senior  
Member 2006–2022*

BY RICHARD SLADE ESQ KC  
MASTER 2017



### | Christopher died on 7 February 2022.

He had a long-lasting affection for the Ironmongers' Company. He and his wife Jane were popular figures at the Hall over several decades, and he contributed greatly to the Company's stability and development.

He had been an outstanding student, being awarded the top scholarship to Eton and the Eldon Law Scholarship upon graduating from Oxford. But, with typical modesty, he claimed that he did not have a "Rolls-Royce brain, rather more of a serviceable Volvo".

His father, a KC and member of the Ironmongers' Company, was sadly short lived. He died when Christopher was 15 years' old. Christopher was determined to pick up where his father had left off. He became a Chancery barrister specialising in land law and trust.

When he joined the Company in 1950, archaic practices still persisted. Minutes of Court and committee meetings would not be circulated. Instead they would be read out by the Clerk at high speed at the start of the subsequent meeting. Christopher was relieved when this time-wasting process was abandoned.

He was on the Court when in the 1960s the City of London Corporation attempted a compulsory purchase of the Hall. The attempt ultimately failed and he consequently had a lasting admiration for the work of Jack Nardecchia, the Company Surveyor.

Christopher became Master in 1973 when he was 46. This was skilful timing because shortly afterwards he was appointed as a High Court Judge, and it would then have

been very difficult to carry out the duties of a Master at the same time. He was promoted to the Court of Appeal in 1982 and was the last surviving judge to have shared a court with Lord Denning.

In 1991 he stepped down as a full-time judge (although he continued to sit as a part-time judge for another 12 years). His retirement enabled Jane and him to buy a cottage near Chichester, where they hosted their four children and 12 grandchildren over many years of holidays.

He was also able once again to spend more time on Ironmongers' business. He particularly enjoyed the Iron Committee and the Policy Committee. On the rare occasions that there were divisive policy issues or personality clashes within the Company which needed diplomatic handling, Christopher could always be relied on to do his conscientious best. He became Senior Member in 2006, and made the most of the informal duties of advice and guidance which that position brought.

Attendance at the Hall enabled Christopher to do one of his favourite things — engaging in relaxed conversation. He was genuinely interested in finding out about other people, whatever stage they were at in their lives. He was more at ease asking questions of them than he was of talking about himself.

He continued enthusiastically to attend meetings and events at the Hall until very late in life. He never formally retired from the Court. Instead, much to his regret, Covid restrictions and his own frailty put obstacles in his way.

His portrait (painted by Georgina Barclay in 2009) depicts him dressed in the robes of an Appeals Court judge and now hangs in the Court Room. From here he will continue to have a benevolent overview of the Company's business.

Christopher was unassuming, conscientious, warm-hearted — and long-lasting. His qualities fitted very well with the qualities of the Ironmongers' Company. He is a great loss.



## Deaths 2021–2022

**We offer our condolences to the family and friends of our members who have died this year:**

- Sir Graeme John Davies
- Mr William 'Billy' Harry Dove OBE
- Mr Peter Wilton Lee CBE DL
- Mrs Jennifer Moss
- The Rt Hon Sir Christopher John Slade
- Mrs Gillian Warren

# News and snippets



## FRONT ROW:

Steve Walby, Amy Higgins, Su Seager, Carolina Cosson de Oliveira Medina, Charlie Knaggs OBE, Asta Varanauskiene, Andrew Harrison, Helen Sant, Robin Mason

## BACK ROW:

Nisha Jayan, Catharine Melville, Ben Jeffery, Michal Kaminski, Eric Mensah, David Summerrell, Tracy Weddell, Jackie Holmes, Lynn Hanrahan, Ruth Eglesfield

Members visiting the Hall will have noticed that the stained-glass windows on the left side of the lower corridor are now much better lit or actually properly lit for the first time in many years. These windows were originally exterior windows lit by natural daylight but after a major refurbishment of the Hall in the late 1970s they became interior windows.

● Each of the first four windows bears a relevant coat of arms and tells a very brief story about the land and the buildings that previously occupied this site in Shaftesbury Place on which the Hall was newly built in 1923–24, opening in 1925. The wording of these first four inscriptions reads as follows:



**NICHOLAS LEAT:**  
*He was chiefly responsible for the draining of the moor outside the walls of this city 1600 to 1616, and was Master of this Company 1616, 1626 & 1627.*



**JOHN TUFTON,**  
*Earl of Thanet.  
Thanet House was built here by him in 1644.*

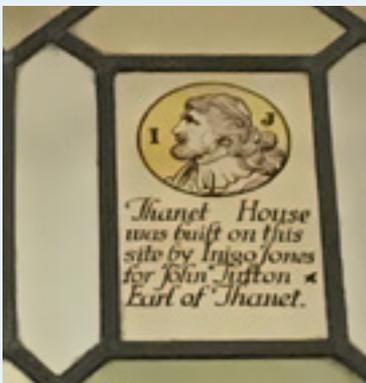


ANTHONY ASHLEY COOPER,  
*First Earl of Shaftesbury, entered into possession of the house in 1664 & it was thereafter known as Shaftesbury House.*



THE DUKE OF MONMOUTH.  
*He lay concealed in this House during the occupation of the Earl of Shaftesbury.*

- Then the fifth and sixth pieces of glass, on the left before you reach the Court Room, commemorate two architects, one from the seventeenth century and one from the twentieth:



THANET HOUSE  
*was built on this site by Inigo Jones for John Tufion, Earl of Thanet.*

- A portrait of Inigo Jones drawn in a roundel has been placed above this inscription.



SYDNEY TACHELL CBE FRIBA,  
*Surveyor to the Company 1921–1953. He designed this Hall — opened by Thomas Goldney esquire Master and dedicated by the Right Revd Arthur Foley Winnington Ingram, Lord Bishop of London, on the 17th day of June 1925.*

- As the architect of Ironmongers' Hall, Tatchell's coat of arms can be seen to the right of this inscription.
- Eventually, all the colourful stained glass incorporated into many of the windows at the Hall will be recorded.

# Dates to note

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Thursday 27 October 2022

*Members' Guest Dinner*

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Saturday 12 November 2022

*Lord Mayor's Show and lunch for other Companies*

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Thursday 17 November 2022

*Subscription Lunch*

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Wednesday 7 December 2022

*Carol Service in the Hall followed by drinks*

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Monday 16 January 2023

*Army Reserve and Cadet Force Supper*

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25–27 January 2023

*Inter-Livery Ski Championship*

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Monday 6 February 2023

*Lord Mayor's City Dinner*

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Friday 24 March 2023

*United Guilds' Service*

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Thursday 18 March 2023

*Ironmongers' Combined Court, Livery and Yeomanry Dinner*

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Thursday 8 June 2023

*Ironmongers' City Livery Lunch*



The Worshipful  
Company  
of *Ironmongers*



**The Ironmongers' Company**  
Ironmongers' Hall  
Shaftesbury Place  
London EC2Y 8AA

[ironmongers.org](http://ironmongers.org)