

***The Worshipful  
Company of  
Ironmongers'  
Annual Report***

***2020 - 2021***



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# Taking the Company forward

A G WAUCHOPE ESQ, Master 2021-2022



Andrew Wauchope Esq, Master

**T**he Covid pandemic has brought challenges for us all personally and as a Company and much has, rightly been said about that. I would like to add my thanks, like those of the Past Master and Clerk, to all in the Company and especially to our Hall Staff for responding magnificently to these strange times.

On the other hand, the pause provided has enabled the Company to focus on updating its structures and defining its priorities. We have been able to formulate a clear vision for the Company over the next 10 years. This is a long-term vision that gives relevance and perspective to our aims and objectives and also a direction for short-term planning. The work of the New-Normal Planning Group, recently approved by the Court, took this into account and implementing its recommendations will continue to be a focus in the current year.

## *Key priorities for this year will be:*

1. MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT AND FELLOWSHIP
2. ADDRESSING OUR OPERATIONAL DEFICIT
3. GOOD GOVERNANCE
4. ENGAGEMENT WITH THE CITY

*Much work in all of these areas has been achieved during the last two years, but further effort is required to maintain the impetus and keep the Company relevant and solvent.*

## **1. MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT**

This is crucial to the continued success of the Company and the Charities it manages. We need to encourage the best from all of us. I know that many current and potential Liverymen and Freemen will be time poor and will have competing priorities, but tackling this challenge is important and was addressed by the New-Normal Planning Group. As a result, the Admissions Committee terms of reference have been amended to include responsibility for membership with a more formal role for the Livery and Yeomanry Committee in proactively encouraging members to get involved.

I would also like us to give more thought to members' giving (Time, Talent and Treasure) and to legacies. Communication is key and we should strive to make clear what the Company does, how it administers the Charities, what we do for public benefit, and what is expected of members and how they can get involved.

One of our new Court Deputies has been tasked with exploring opportunities which would involve organisations and individuals that have been supported by the Company, with a view to long-term relationships beyond the period of individual grants and Company membership. I look forward to her report.



## 2. ADDRESSING THE COMPANY'S 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 is still with us and has been exacerbated by the pandemic. So, we need to redouble our efforts.

This means ensuring we manage our investments effectively. The Investments and Property portfolios are due a quinquennial review in this Ironmongers' year. It will enable us to confirm that our asset allocation is best placed to deliver the appropriate return at an acceptable risk in line with our values.

I have handed over the chair of the Investment Committee to Alexander Barr, who is a very experienced investment manager and who will bring his and the committee's skills to bear on ensuring our investment portfolio remains in good shape.

On the property front, a Court Deputy will chair the Property Sub-Committee and has a specific task to keep our property portfolio under close review at a time when rents have been under threat.

Another Court Deputy has been tasked with reviewing the overall business activities available to the Company, both from Hall Hire and other avenues, and to investigate potential new business opportunities. The result of this should be to re-invigorate our Hall hire business and increase our income where possible.

## 3. GOOD GOVERNANCE

I am due to report to the Court and the Ironmongers' Trust Company on a governance review which I conducted as Senior Warden.

We need to respect the separate Ironmongers' entities and ensure proper separation between the Company and the Charities. This will help to maintain the mutual benefits of the relationship. New terms of reference are to be drawn up for the Ironmongers' Trust Company and for its committees.

We need to be exemplars of good governance in all we do and it is important we keep up to speed with the developing requirements of the Charity Commission and the charity sector. The City Corporation and its institutions are under increasing public scrutiny and we should feel comfortable that our structures are fit for the twenty-first century.

## 4. ENGAGEMENT WITH THE CITY

Following BREXIT and COVID-19, the City is undergoing a period of change. It is vital that, as the City changes, we change with it and continue to attract new Freemen and Liverymen who can become involved in the Company's governance and Charities. A Court Deputy has been appointed to the task of making recommendations on the Company's relationship with the City of London and this will result in recommendations to the Court.

Our priority will be to renew old ties and forge new links with the City and its institutions as well as continuing to be an active partner in City life.

## **The Future**

*I am delighted and honoured to be Master this year. Those who know me, understand that I enjoy suggestions, discussion, debate and challenge. So, if you have passions and ideas (or even bug bears and hobby horses), I encourage you to tell me what they are and what you think we can do to solve them. I believe that we – the Company, Court, Livery and Yeomanry, Clerk, Charities and Company employees – all have a role to play in marking out a successful future for the Company and its membership.*

*With this sort of open engagement, I am sure we can confidently take the Company forward together and I am pleased to be working for you all in what I am sure will be an exciting year ahead.*



# Message from the Immediate Past Master

J A BILES ESQ TD, Master 2019-2021

*All plays, bear-baitings, games, singing of ballads or suchlike assemblies of people be utterly prohibited ... and all public feastings, particularly by the Companies of this City, be forborne till further order, and the money thereby spared be preserved and employed for the benefit and relief of the poor visited with the infection.*

*This declaration by Sir John Laurence, the Lord Mayor at the time of the Great Plague in 1665, could equally have been made in early 2020.*

**T**he last year-and-a-half has been a challenging and unsettling time like no other, even in the long history of the livery companies, but we have again lived up to our true purpose of charity.

## STRATEGY

Our strategy of keeping the Company relevant in the twenty-first century by encouraging members to contribute time, talent and treasure and focusing on preserving and growing the assets of the Company and Charities has continued.

## COURT

As part of the process of strengthening the Court, we have introduced the new roles of Senior Past Master and Court Deputy. Senior Past Masters continue as Court members but no longer need to attend all the working meetings of the Court. I would like to thank Sir Michael Oliver, Major-General Patrick Cordingley, Sir Graeme Davies, Richard Poulton, Brian Livingston, Ashley Boddy and Sam Apsley, all of whom have elected to become Senior Past Masters, for their many years of service and contribution to the Court.

I also welcome our six new Court Deputies, namely Kate Hughes, Mark Lee, Elizabeth Squire, Peter Boddy, Henrietta Brailsford and Giles Shilson. They will each serve for a period of one to three years and have agreed to undertake various tasks on behalf of the Company. The Court has also discussed Fines and made several changes in this regard.

## RISK MANAGEMENT

Following the work done last year, all committees are now keeping risks under regular review.

## CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

We contacted our beneficiaries to check how they were managing during the lockdown and subsequent restrictions. We asked whether they needed additional help and freedom over how they spent our grants. All grants were honoured, although payments have only been made when recipients confirmed that what they proposed would deliver the agreed outcomes. We also signed up to London Funders, along with other livery companies, to confirm that we would support all our beneficiaries during the crisis. There have been almost no physical meetings with our charity partners over the last year.

## COVID-19 PANDEMIC

There was no disruption to the timetable of Court, Committee and other meetings which continued to be held by Zoom with some members attending in person at the Hall when the rules permitted.

Our staff continued to work from home or were furloughed; we assisted CH&Co, our caterers, to continue operations; and Landrake School and the Homes implemented necessary precautions and operated brilliantly thanks to the commitment of the teachers and wardens. It has been a tough time for members. I hope that the aftereffects of COVID-19 are short-lived, and I am very aware of the impact of the last 18 months on mental health and finances.



## NEW-NORMAL PLANNING GROUP

After government-imposed restrictions took over our lives, we decided that we needed a New-Normal Planning Group to plan for the future, under the direction and guidance of Master and Wardens and chaired by the Senior Warden. The group identified some minor Company committee changes and the need for new policies to cover equality, diversity and inclusion; sustainability; and City Engagement. We will also investigate whether there are ways to financially support the preservation and maintenance of the Hall.

## THE HOMES

Planning permission has been received for the works at Geffery's Fields, Basingstoke. Specifications have been finalised, contractors appointed, and residents were moved to Geffery's House at Hook so that contractors could start on site this summer. Plans are also under way for the sale of Geffery's House.

## THE HALL

Following cancellation of the Centre for Music project, the Corporation is proceeding with a London Wall West commercial development. We have appointed advisors and are attempting to obtain the plans to understand how these will impact our Hall and Ferroners House.

## FINANCE

Our charitable giving has continued according to plan. Asset values went down, then slowly recovered and income has been adversely affected. Overall, the Charities' finances are in reasonable shape and well placed for the future.

The Company's finances have experienced a roller-coaster ride. The deficit for the year ended 31 March 2020 was £36k, a creditable result. In June 2020 we forecast that, based on what we knew at that time, we would make a loss of over £250k in the year to 31 March 2021. We calculated that over a three-year period we would incur, as a direct result of the pandemic, additional losses of over £250k and I launched the Appeal to raise funds to cover that deficit. The government then

announced the extension of financial support measures. Repair and maintenance work was delayed and investment returns improved, so that by late 2020 the forecast loss for the year reduced to £80k. By March 2021 this forecast loss had reduced to £15k and the actual result was a profit of just over £50k as a result of better-than-expected rent recoveries and investment income. This outcome is a tribute to the financial grip exercised by the Clerk and Andrew Harrison, our Chief Accountant.

In 2021/22 the loss will be greater than originally expected because of the anticipated slow rate of recovery of Hall income, less government support and significant repair and maintenance expenditure, which has had to be carried forward. Also 2022/23 will be adversely impacted and over the three-year period we still expect results to be £250k worse as a result of the pandemic than they would have been otherwise. The total raised from the COVID-19 Appeal is currently just over £80k and this amount is being held separately and will be used for the Hall.

*John and Françoise Biles leading the Company to The Charterhouse on Master's Day*





John Biles entertaining guests at the City Dinner in 2020

## SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Throughout the last 18 months there have been periodic briefing notes plus Zoom briefings, wine tastings and quizzes. Occasionally the Hall was allowed to open for lunches with a maximum of six people per table and suitable social distancing. From 17 May we were allowed to re-open the Monday Lunch Club. Several dinners and luncheons were planned but could not be held in the format that we wanted because of government restrictions and were cancelled.

So far as the Master's normal social life is concerned, disappointingly and frustratingly there was no activity or fun during the year. Instead of keeping my weight down by being marched to events around the City by the Clerk, I have resorted to walking our dog, and instead of making the eagerly anticipated substantial inroads into the cellars of other livery companies, I have depleted my own reserves.

## “Thank you

*I owe great thanks to Charlie Knaggs, for his support, leadership and perseverance through a challenging two years. Also I thank all Hall Staff, and the key CH&Co Staff, who have worked under difficult conditions during the last 18 months.*

*I also thank my Wardens, Andrew and Julian, for their support and wish them well for the next two years. Thank you also to the members of the Court for their support and for the magnificent beautifully engraved claret jug which they presented to me at my last Court meeting. It will be a treasured reminder of my time as Master. Lastly a big thank you to Françoise for her support throughout the last two years.*”



The engraved claret jug gifted from the Court to the Immediate Past Master

# Message from the Clerk

COLONEL C P H KNAGGS OBE



The Clerk holding a briefing on Master's Day

***The Company's Home and Headquarters – your Hall, use it!***

*Weddings! Family Celebrations! Parties! Corporate Events! Board Meetings! Charity Functions!*

*The Hall is as ready as ever to receive members and guests and needs to be used more. We would love members to spread the word among family, friends and the work-place so we can fill it to capacity.*

It is a real pleasure to be part of such a worthwhile team. At the end of another extraordinary year we now focus on bringing the Company and its Charities out of the not-yet-fully-understood ravages of COVID-19 into the as-yet-undetermined “New Normal” and beyond.

## **A TEAM EFFORT**

It is the people that make this Company great. My thanks go to the dedicated work and patience of a small, professional team of officers, staff and agents. With members' support, we have pulled together tremendously over another challenging year of uncertainty, often standing in to cover each other's duties, physically and virtually. It is so good to see all departments back at work in the Hall working as “one team”. I am particularly grateful for the advice, guidance and support of the Master and Wardens, and the Court and Committee members who are the driving force of a most effective and rewarding fellowship. Your generous contributions of expertise, of your precious time in

supporting the various projects and committees, and of the solid resolve from just under half of the Company who continue to donate money to the Ironmongers' COVID-19 Appeal, make a real difference.

We are by no means out of the recovery phase yet and we have much to do in addressing the operational deficit. But there are early indications of encouraging recovery in the Company's business and investments which will be realised all the better with the combined and focussed engagement of members, the staff and our partners.

## **IRONMONGERS' HALL**

The Hall is as ready as ever to receive members and guests and needs to be used more. We would love members to spread the word among family, friends and the work-place so we can fill it to capacity.

What of the Hall's future? We wait to see what plans the City have to replace the Museum of London and neighbouring Bastion House, now that they have dropped plans to build a Centre for Music and are looking at a commercial development. The Hall Site Working Group under the chairmanship of Lord Garvagh are working closely with the London Wall West Project Team to help secure the future of Ironmongers' Hall as your home and the Company's headquarters. The museum is due to move to a new site at Smithfield – when, is yet to be confirmed. As soon as the City's planning options and timescales become clear the Company will brief members on how we think the Hall may be affected. In the meantime all questions should be addressed through the Clerk.





David Liming and contractors on site at Geffery's Fields

## **THE HOMES TRANSFORMATION PROJECT**

Work has started in earnest on the project to refurbish Geffery's Fields in Basingstoke: all residents are now living temporarily in Geffery's House, Hook and contractors are at work on the Basingstoke site. At the end of the refurbishment programme, residents of both homes will move permanently to Basingstoke and we will sell off the Hook site.

## **MEMBERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT – BELONGING AND GIVING**

"Why would anyone want to join the Ironmongers' Company?" is often the question posed. The answer from the Clerk's perspective is clear and is backed up by evidence of the broad range of amazing talent and ability that comes from within an increasingly diverse fellowship of active Ironmongers who give generously of their time, talent and treasure in a wonderful cause. People tend to join this great Company because they wish to belong and they want to give.

As we emerge into the "New Normal", members are already re-engaging in the Fellowship and getting involved in the Court, the Ironmongers' Trust Company and the various committees that govern and help to run the work of the Company and the Charities. The Admissions Committee and the Livery and Yeomanry Committee are encouraging new membership and seek active involvement.

You are asked to think how you might want to get involved in both the formal and informal activities of the Company and of the Charities, and how your Hall might be put to better use. Drop in if you are passing by, take a brew with the Clerk and bring your views and ideas for discussion. Make use of the Monday Lunch Club to entertain family, friends and business contacts and encourage others to do the same.

## **WHERE NEXT?**

The long-term vision for the Company expects a thriving fellowship that is increasingly diverse, inclusive and engaged. Looking beyond the "New Normal" and the next couple of generations of Ironmongers, the Company will evolve – remaining true to its roots and relevant in its time. The Charities, properly administered by the Ironmongers' Trust Company, will continue to support those in need. How it gets there relies on you, the members.

As high priorities, there are working groups looking specifically at equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI), as well as at sustainability, but there are many other activities with which to get involved. I would be keen to know how you feel your time, talent and treasure might best be put to use in taking things forward.

The Company is a multi-talented fellowship of people who wish to belong and who want to give. The staff remain ready and in support – and we are here to help you help the Company.



# Master and Wardens



## ANDREW WAUCHOPE, MASTER

Andrew was born in London in 1962, 40 minutes before his younger twin Ewan (who is also an Ironmonger). They have two older sisters. After Wetherby School, they both went to West Downs, in Winchester, and then onto Harrow.

Andrew then attended Queen Mary College, London University, to study for a BA in History & Politics. After two years as the constituency assistant to The Rt. Hon. John Gummer (Lord Deben), he started work as a stockbroker with Quilter Goodison. He moved to Gerrard Vivian Grey and then to Laing & Cruickshank, who were taken over by UBS. Whilst keeping his private client and trust expertise, Andrew developed a specialisation in looking after charity portfolios and became Head of Charities there. He spent two years at Psigma Investment Management (now Punter

Southall Wealth) in a similar role. During this time, Psigma supported both the Inter-Livery Sailing and Real Tennis. He is a Chartered Fellow of the Securities Institute.

Andrew arrived at Harrow at the same time and in the same house as Nicholas Moss (also an Ironmonger). In 1998, Andrew married Clare Wilson, a cousin of Nick's, whom he first met at the Moss's house in Chesham, while he was still at Harrow. Clare is a solicitor and a Partner at Herbert Smith Freehills and they have two sons, George and William. The family divide their time between London and Brightwell-cum-Sotwell in Oxfordshire.

Nick's father Tony Moss (Master 1988) proposed Andrew as a Freeman of the Company in 1988. He joined the Livery in 1991 and was Warden of the Livery & Yeomanry in 2001. He joined the Court in 2009.

As well as being an Ironmonger, Andrew is a trustee of the Masonic Charitable Foundation, the Sir Halley Stewart Trust, the Accountants Charities and The Solicitors Charity. He is Chairman of the Harrow Mission Trust. He was formerly a governor of the Cathedral School of St Saviour & St Mary Overy in Southwark and is an honorary vice president of the Harrow Association.

## **JULIAN VERDEN, SENIOR WARDEN**



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

He attended St John's Preparatory School in Northwood followed by St Edward's School in Oxford. Julian's 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. Julian 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 of Eurometal, the Association of European Distributors and is a member of the London Metal Exchange 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, JUNIOR 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 1982.



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 in 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.



# The Court and Court Deputies

COLONEL C P H KNAGGS OBE

In April 2020, the Court considered the recommendation of the Policy Committee that the bye-laws be amended to include a new position of Court Deputy. The Court agreed that by co-opting eligible Liverymen as Court Deputies, their talent and experience would be usefully employed to improve the quality of the Court's discussion, oversight and decision-making. Inclusion of Court Deputies also addresses concerns of the Livery that there should be more transparency about Court decisions, more diversity on the Court and better opportunities for members of the Livery to engage and proceed through the Company.

We were delighted by the calibre of all the applicants and after careful consideration, and in line with the Company's current priorities, the Court elected six members to take up the role. During their tenure, each of the Court Deputies will be leading on projects and will report through the Master and Wardens, in the first instance.

## The Court members present on 1 July 2021

*Back Row:* Colonel C P H Knaggs OBE (Clerk), M J Crickmay, R C R Twallin, J A Biles, R J Patteson-Knight, S Walby (Beadle)

*Front row:* R H Stedall, J Verden (Senior Warden), A G Wauchope (Master), D J Liming (Junior Warden), A H Boddy



*Back Row:* T R Boddy, E D Wauchope, H S K Knowles, M S W Tilbury, H H R Hone, J E H Farquharson

*Front row:* D J Worlidge, H J Charnaud, A R P Carden, A M Carter-Clout, The Lord Garvagh



## The new six Court Deputies from 1 July 2021

*Back Row:* M S W Lee, Dr G R E Shilson, P A Boddy

*Front row:* Cdr E J Squire, Dr I R Reid (Warden of the Livery and Yeomanry), K J Hughes, H J Brailsford





*Master and Wardens (2019-21) with the Court Deputies*

**KATE HUGHES**

Stewardship for the charitable preservation and maintenance of Ironmongers' Hall, its treasures and archives in the public interest.

**MARK LEE**

As Chair of the Property Sub-Committee, to review the management of the Company's and Charities' properties for maximising return.

**ELIZABETH SQUIRE**

To review the organisations and individuals supported by the Ironmongers' Charities in order to widen the talent pool within the Livery and enhance the benefit given to beneficiaries beyond any given grant or project.

**PETER BODDY**

To scope business opportunities for the Company over the next five years, taking an entrepreneurial view of the Company and its assets, in order to maximise income.

**GILES SHILSON**

To review the Ironmongers' relationship with the City and to make recommendations to improve individual members' engagement and influence in City matters, in the best interests of the Company.

**HENRIETTA BRAILSFORD**

To review the welfare of residents at Sir Robert Geffery's Almshouses, draft a new safeguarding policy, processes and plans for the Almshouses.



# Charities in focus

RUTH EGLESFIELD, Charities Assistant

Since March 2020, most children across the UK have missed over half a year of normal schooling. The negative effects of this on children's learning and mental health are likely to last for many years. There has never been a more critical time for the services that charities provide to young people and to their parents, guardians and teachers. Cambridge Science Centre, St. Vincent's Family Project and MakeBelieve Arts are three of the many charities that have adapted to over a year of government lockdowns and restrictions with the support of grants from the Ironmongers' Company.

to be held at the Jack Hunt High School and in an Asda superstore. Continuing restrictions led Cambridge Science Centre to propose an alternate project, towards which existing funds are being directed.

To support the Jack Hunt School and to create a new way to reach Key Stage 3 students (ages 11 to 14), Cambridge Science Centre is developing a digitised SpectrumScience Show. Classes of students will discover how colour reveals the life of a star and investigate how invisible light reveals a previously hidden view of the sky and our planet. A professional science communicator will answer pupils' questions. The Show is to be placed on the VirtualSchoolTrip platform for any school or educational group to book and will provide a lasting legacy of the Ironmongers' support.

The Jack Hunt School's four feeder primary schools will also receive a VirtualSchoolTrip – with themes including "Stronger by Design" and "Sonic Science". All schools will receive copies of OpenUpScience magazine.

Throughout 2021, five PopUpScience days are being held in socially distanced zones in community spaces – including Asda. These aim to reach a wide range of young people in Peterborough and offer both a stand-alone experience and a route into other Cambridge Science Centre activities.

Since the schools have returned, Cambridge Science Centre have been adapting their work with schools increasingly to support teachers. New products are produced with greater-than-ever attention to the National Curriculum, to help address the gaps young people have, not only in science subjects, but also in literacy and numeracy. (See pictures below, pp. 17-18).

*“The Ironmongers' Company has allowed us to continue our STEM engagement with both a Peterborough school and the Peterborough community. In both cases we have strengthened relationships, and built new community links, allowing us to repeatedly engage a wide range of people with informal STEM, promoting the wonder of STEM and the careers it can lead to.”*

Andrew Farrer, Head of Programmes & Delivery, Cambridge Science Centre

## CAMBRIDGE SCIENCE CENTRE

Through its Science Centre and outreach programme, Cambridge Science Centre works to break down barriers to STEM participation and show future generations that whatever their background, gender or race, STEM can be for them.

Cambridge Science Centre adapted rapidly in response to the COVID-19 lockdown. To benefit children and young people isolating at home, it launched three new products in April 2020: OpenUpScience magazine, a VirtualSchoolTrip for schools, and a Science@6 web-series.

The Ironmongers' Foundation awarded Cambridge Science Centre a STEM grant for two roadshows in disadvantaged Peterborough,



## ST VINCENT'S FAMILY PROJECT

St Vincent's Family Project works with vulnerable families in Westminster, providing a range of services that address the issues of parenting, child welfare and social exclusion. It is one of the Ironmongers' partner charities and has received funds from Sir Robert Geffery's Trust for parenting projects since 2011.

In March 2020, St Vincent's closed its premises and parenting courses were suspended. The only parenting provision for the next few months was one-to-one sessions with families. Initially, staff, who were now working from home, provided families with the practical information that they needed around accessing services, food and basic items. Some families lacked computers and internet access, which were urgently needed for home schooling. St. Vincent's fundraised and accessed a local-authority initiative to provide the IT equipment and support required.

Reassuring and entertaining small children in isolation was a challenge for parents. The charity sourced and distributed online arts and crafts and parenting programmes to families at home. Family therapy was piloted online.

By the time lockdown eased, some families desperately needed face-to-face support. With cleaning and storage regimes, temperature testing, tracing, signage and social distancing in place, St Vincent's re-opened in July 2020 on an appointment basis for four to five days a week.

By September 2020, the charity felt experienced enough in COVID-19 risk management to hold sessions for groups of up to three families in "bubbles". St Vincent's adapted their Positive Parenting programme to combine online with face-to-face time. The first new parenting group, which included art therapy for children, supported six families and was smaller than in pre-Covid times. Parents reported that the programme helped reduce their anxiety and gave them skills to manage their children's behaviour. Investing in a quick-assembly gazebo, the charity also ran a small weekly crèche, which focussed on nature and being outside.

As a result of further restrictions, a second Positive Parenting course that began in January 2021 for ten families has had to be held exclusively online. The charity's online services have been busy and have expanded to include children's play sessions, cooking, fitness and lessons in baby massage.

*“Our parenting courses are always an important part of what we do, but this last year they have been especially important. Because of Covid-19, families were under added pressure: being isolated, stuck indoors, with school lockdowns and anxieties caused by the pandemic. So, not only were the courses helpful for young families to develop positive parenting skills, they acted as a release for parents, stretched to their limits.”*

Andrew Varley, Chief Executive Officer, St Vincent's Family Project



During the pandemic support from the Ironmongers' Company allowed us to be brave. Its support allowed us to take a risk and design an online training course for teachers in the absence of face-to-face training. We now have an online training course that is far more accessible to all educational settings and offers much more detailed training than we could cover in just one day.

Trisha Lee, Founder and Artistic Director, MakeBelieve Arts

## MAKEBELIEVE ARTS

MakeBelieve Arts, an Ironmongers' Partner Charity, has received grants from Sir Robert Geffery's Trust for literacy projects in disadvantaged primary schools since 2007. Their annual Curiosity Children's Conference has been held at Ironmongers' Hall since 2014.

In March 2020, MakeBelieve Arts was forced to cancel The Curiosity Children's conference as Covid rates increased. Over the coming days their bookings and training sessions for the rest of the year were either cancelled or postponed. By the end of the month the charity had lost all of its income, and from April the three staff were put on furlough until September 2020. The charity is grateful for the Ironmongers' support, which has enabled it to develop a remote solution to face-to-face training and has helped it to avoid further furlough.

Funding was awarded to MakeBelieve Arts to offer the Ironmongers' partner primary schools online

programmes to benefit Early Years pupils (ages two to six) and a remote video-conferencing version of the Curiosity Programme for Key Stage 2 pupils (ages seven to eleven).

In November 2020, six partner schools signed up for "Helicopter Stories on Demand". This online programme trains Early Years teachers to

deliver Helicopter Stories in their classrooms, encouraging young children to develop storytelling skills and a love of language. Schools also received online poetry and

story programmes, "The Poetry Basket" and "The Christmas Basket", together with books to accompany the training.

Seven partner schools were to take part in a Spring Term 2021 online programme where Key Stage 2 pupils would take on roles as "Curious Investigators". When schools closed to most pupils in January 2021, MakeBelieve Arts had to reimagine this project.

Working with Amie Taylor, one of their creative associates, it came up with the idea of Zooming into children's online learning, whether they were at home or at school. Amie developed a character who arrives on screen in the role of an employee of the London Museum of Artefacts. Children discover that everyday objects they find around the house can be fascinating if we tell their stories or make up poems about them.

In the summer of 2020, MakeBelieve Arts received funding from The Paul Hamlyn Foundation to develop their Helicopter Stories work, piloted previously in Chippenham, Wiltshire, and Kent with funding from the Ironmongers' Company. The Ironmongers' Company will continue to support the Helicopter Stories hub in Chippenham, consisting of a primary school and a pre-school. If visitor restrictions lift, Isla Hill and Trisha Lee from MakeBelieve Arts will return to schools in September 2021 to deliver the programme to classes of children. Teachers from other local schools will be able to visit the Wiltshire hub and see the work of MakeBelieve Arts in action.

Through a combination of face-to-face sessions and remote learning, the charity plans to train a network of Early Years practitioners across the UK, to develop their work in Special Needs Schools, and to create an online programme that parents can deliver at home.



MakeBelieve Arts, pre-pandemic

# ***Betton's and Appeals Committee***

G A BASTIN ESQ, Chairman (Master 2015)

**O**ur schools and charity partners have been struggling to keep up with the ever-changing environment in which they have found themselves in this difficult year. The Betton's Committee members have, as always, been really keen to help and get involved but we have had to tread carefully and let our partners get on with the job in hand. We have had to be flexible and understanding in our grant giving and, if circumstances prevented our beneficiaries from achieving their goals as planned, then we have tried to understand and help when asked to do so. Some of the grants have been redirected towards more appropriate projects unenvisaged when the original application was made.

It is always interesting to see what grants we have made. In October 2020 the Committee approved grants to 16 charities from Thomas Betton's Charity for Pensions and Relief in Need (£57,009), the Ironmongers' Foundation (£13,450) and Sir Robert Geffery's Trust (£26,680).

In March 2021 it approved grants to 14 charities from Thomas Betton's Charity for Pensions and Relief in Need (£62,213), the Ironmongers' Foundation (£13,620) and Sir Robert Geffery's Trust (£14,650).

Where did the grants go? Fifty percent went to the arts, 25% to sports, physical and outdoor adventures and 10% to homework clubs. The remaining grants were made to support employment skills and sensory activities.

We are very aware that we should be distributing our grants across the whole of the United Kingdom. However we can only award grants to those that apply and applications are not evenly spread geographically and a need is a need, wherever it is located. London attracted 35% of grants, 10% to the South East and North West, 5% to the South West, West Midlands and North East and the remainder to Yorkshire, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

As regards age groups, the majority of grants were made to primary and



The Island Trust



secondary schools with just a small number of grants helping 18-25 year-olds (15%) and under fives (5%).

With relatively high numbers of vulnerable children, the Betton's schools have remained partially open throughout the Covid crisis. They were eager to welcome back all their children last September and have worked hard to make the required adaptations.



*The Island Trust*

Headteachers received many individual documents containing guidance from the Government over the course of the pandemic and there was a lack of clarity and consistent advice on key issues, including procedures for dealing with positive test results amongst students and staff. The impact on the mental and emotional health of school staff and children became

increasingly apparent.

We sent a supportive email to the schools which was very well received and appreciated. Our Ironmonger contacts have also been in touch to offer a listening ear/shoulder to cry on and a Betton's Schools WhatsApp Group was set up for the headteachers to share thoughts, concerns and good practice.

During the course of the year we had decided that one of our Charity Partners had changed direction and was no longer delivering the benefits that we had envisaged. At a meeting in 2019 a proposal to consider other possible partners included The Island Trust, which had been the recipients of two previous grants in 2016 and 2017 and had again applied in 2019. It was decided that we should investigate its potential. In June a meeting was arranged at the Plymouth Yacht

Haven where the Trust moors its three training boats. A meeting aboard a gaff yawl, built 1906, in glorious sunshine followed.

The Trust meets the criteria of the focus of education through sport where we are looking for activities that teach broader life skills and not just how to sail a boat. This can be demonstrated by the testimonials of those that have taken part over the years. Disabled and disadvantaged

young people from across the United Kingdom have benefited since 1995.

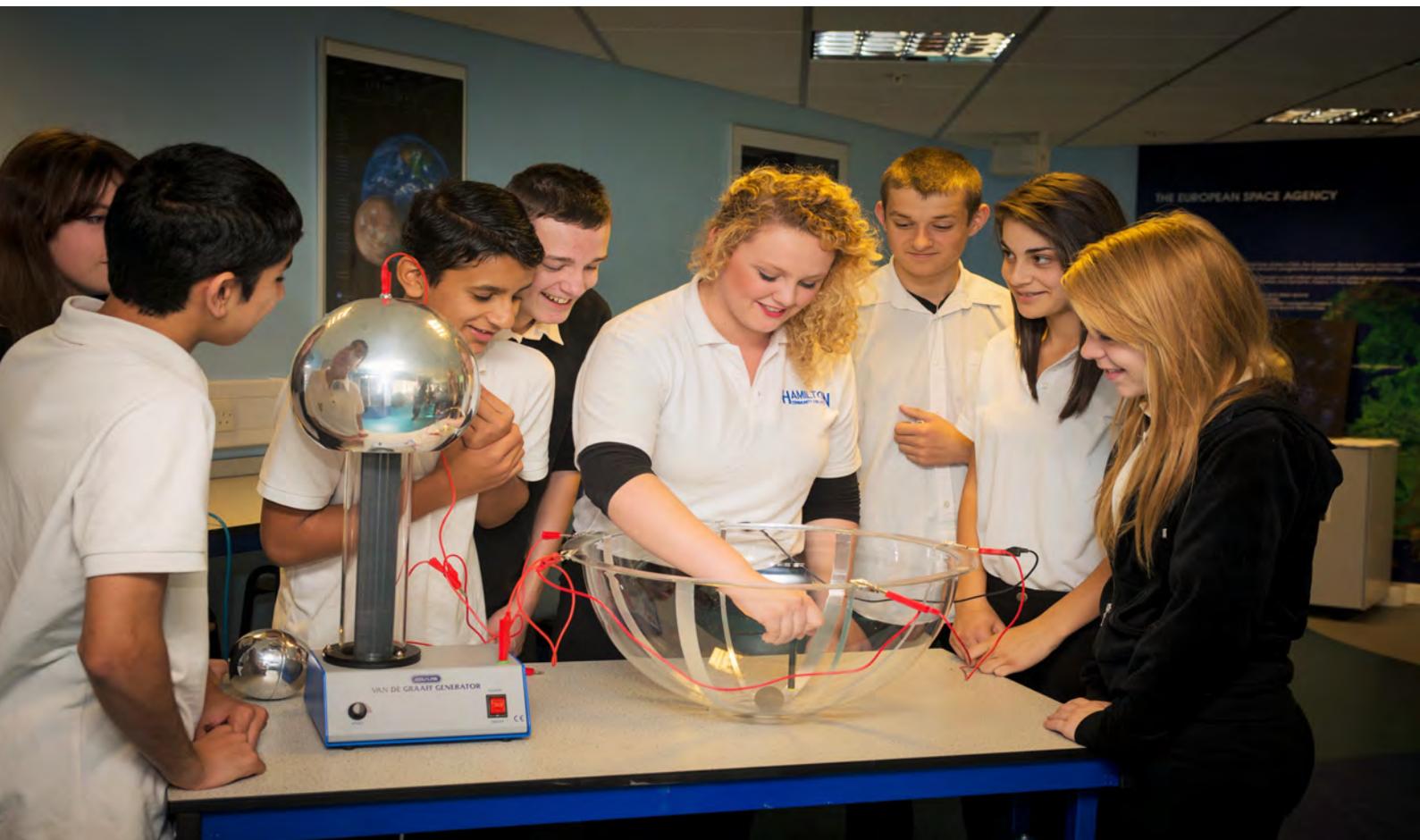
The Trust has been very proactive in its fundraising. The range of benefactors is impressive and extremely broad based. A recent visit by the Princess Royal in July 2019 as President of the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) and Patron of the RYA Foundation confirmed the Trust's position as a leading provider of sailing opportunities not only for the disadvantaged but also able-bodied sailors who wished to use its facilities for teenage sailing weeks, Duke of Edinburgh scheme expeditions, RYA courses and other adult activities. All of these financially support the Island's Trust charitable endeavours. We were impressed that many of the both able-bodied and disabled came back after their courses to volunteer in supporting the charity and its work. This gives me confidence in the sustainability of their endeavours.

The close proximity to Landrake and the Trust's interest in fostering a relationship with the school is an added positive that The Island Trust should be supported in its work. The Committee has now recommended that it should become our new Charity Partner.

We would, of course, welcome any members of the Company who may wish to visit our charity or school partners or grantees. It is important that they know that it is not all about the money but that we are also interested in what they are doing. Please contact Helen Sant or George Bastin.

# Ironmongers' Foundation

H J CHARNAUD ESQ, Chairman (Master 2009)



Cambridge Science Centre, supported by the Ironmongers' Foundation (see pp. 12-13)

If you had told me 18 months ago that nearly all meaningful person-to-person activity would have been prevented, I might well not have believed you. This enforced lockdown has taught us all new skills. Words like Zoom, Teams, Facetime and Whatsapp have become commonplace and new expressions have sprung up (for me). The one I particularly like is: "We are where we are!"

And as for the Ironmongers' Foundation (IF) at present "we are where we are" and pretty well where we were last year and not going anywhere fast. That said things are changing and social mobility (another new term) is starting again and we can shake hands and dispense (sometimes)

with the dreaded face masks. We have held our usual Committee meetings on Zoom and amazingly our giving has continued. Our horror of the known financial world collapsing because of an aggressive "mutant ninja virus" did not happen. I know that some of us have suffered with it and even some of our friends may have died of it, but now we are emerging into a brighter future with more of a known and measured risk.

At the start of all this pandemic, I am reminded of the late, great American sage, Donald Rumsfeld. It was he who had once described, in his inimitable jumble of words, the war in Iraq in 2002 and these seem to sum up this pandemic best.

"There are known knowns; there

are things we know we know. We also know there are known unknowns; that is to say we know there are some things we do not know. But there are also unknown unknowns – the ones we don't know that we don't know."

I think what he said totally reflects how our country and other countries dealt or are dealing with this virus.

Anyway, what of the IF?

As I mentioned earlier our funds have held up, our giving has continued and "business" has not stopped.

That said, we have not visited the recipients of our giving and I am sure our Committee members are itching to see these establishments as soon as we are allowed to. The



one interactive webinar (another new term) we held with our friends at Work-Wise Foundation in Sheffield was a triumph! This was entirely because of the hard work of the main protagonists: John Barber (Chief Executive Officer & Co-Founder) and Janice Richardson (Chief Executive Officer & Co-Founder). The Work-Wise Foundation is an employer-led charity for STEM fields such as engineering and manufacturing, and beyond. We support the development of young people so that they have the knowledge, skills, aptitude and opportunities for employment within the Sheffield City Region.

The Work-Wise Foundation helps the private sector take the lead in preparing young people for employment and rewarding careers by establishing links, developing programmes on training and practical guidance, and connecting

employers with their future employees.

It is precisely this steep and amazing learning curve we have all had to embrace that, once again, reconfirms the importance of our IF work in helping to direct young people into STEM subjects, enabling them to master these challenges.

Without these vital skills, not only will we have a less-educated workforce, but industry will wither and die, resulting in the UK failing as an industrial nation.

Thank you to all my Committee members, farewell to those who left last year and a warm welcome to those who are new.

Thank you also to all of you, who, in these difficult days, have so generously continued to support us in our vital role.

It is YOUR charity and we want you on board. See you soon and “Make the IF great”.

***The E-GUTS virtual Get Up To Speed with STEM initiative was a huge success.***

**11,369**  
VISITORS

**65**  
SCHOOLS

**139**  
ATTENDEES  
BUSINESS BREAKFAST  
VIRTUAL EVENT



At the Cambridge Science Centre

# Homes Committee

R J PATTESON-KNIGHT ESQ,  
CHAIRMAN (Master 2013)

This has been a difficult year, dominated by COVID-19 and its variants. It has not been the most auspicious backdrop and has added complexity to detailed preparations for the comprehensive refurbishment and part re-configuration of 49 almshouses and associated amenity and ancillary facilities at Geffery's Fields, Basingstoke. The purpose of the project is both to bring the appearance and utility of the facility up to date and also, as far as is possible, to future proof the facility so that it provides attractive and marketable retirement housing for the next 30 years. The refurbishment will facilitate further upgrades, expansion, maintenance and the replacement of components beyond 30 years.

Work has also been carried out to ensure compliance with the law, with building regulations, with British standards and with other regulations. We are also being sure to comply with other relevant housing guidance where deemed necessary, appropriate and practical. The building envelope (separating the exterior and interior) and the heating systems are to be refurbished and renewed. A show flat was configured to enable full consultation with the residents of Geffery's Fields. Their feedback on accessibility, general layout and the location of fittings and furnishings was key to the final design and specification. The building fixtures and fittings are designed for ease of access and maintenance. The overall design provides for



Plans for Geffery's Fields Refurbishment

Planning approval was given for the works by Basingstoke & Deane Council on 31 July 2020. A huge amount of work has been put into the design to ensure compliance with the Accessible Housing Standards 2015, and with good industry practice (including HAPPI principles).

increased energy efficiency and performance.

The Geffery's Fields transformation project is the most complex and costly scheme that Sir Robert Geffery's Trust has undertaken in the last 40 years. Keen interest has been taken in the progress of the project by the Court, the Ironmongers' Trust Company, the Master and Wardens, and the Finance & General Purposes and Oversight Committees. The



Homes Committee formed the Geffery's Fields Transformation Subcommittee (GFTC) chaired by David Liming and assisted by Bruce Clitherow. This manages the project detail and acts as the client interface between the professional team and the Trust. David and Bruce provide practical and technical expertise, having experience of working in construction and the property industry. This subcommittee reports to the Homes Committee.

In November 2020, a Stage 4 cost plan for the project was approved by the Ironmongers' Trust Company. Tenders were circulated in December 2020.

In a process overseen by the subcommittee responsible for moving the residents, and also by the wardens and the Charities Manager, works to the vacated flats in Geffery's House, Hook, including decoration, cleaning and light refurbishment were completed and made ready for occupation by the end of February 2021. AGS Global Solutions were appointed to arrange the transfer of the residents and their belongings to Geffery's House, Hook, in May 2021. Great care was taken to ensure the residents understood the Health and Safety protocols put in place, and that they were happily settled into their accommodation. Geffery's Fields, Basingstoke, was finally



*Above: Geffery's House, Hook*

*Right: The gardens at Geffery's House*

The tenders were analysed and the tenderers' example sites were inspected and their management staff interviewed.

On the recommendation of the professional team and the Homes Committee, on 23 April 2021, Amiri Construction Limited progressed to the second stage of finalising their tender price by negotiation. Amiri Construction Limited were appointed to undertake a package of enabling works, which included an asbestos survey and intrusive building surveys.



vacated at the beginning of June 2021 and the site was handed over to Amiri Construction to perform the Enabling Works contract.

The Finance & General Purposes Committee and the Chairman of the Investment subcommittee have been kept apprised of the project costs, which have been approved by the Homes Committee, the Court and by the Ironmongers Trust Company. In the short term, Geffery's Fields refurbishment costs will be paid out of reserve funds in the first instance with any shortfall paid out of the endowment fund. We have taken the opportunity to consolidate a housing loan on Geffery's Fields, Basingstoke. Geffery's House, Hook, is to be sold. The sum realised (net of costs of sale) will be used to repay any funds taken from the endowment.

Sir Robert Geffery's Trust has appointed Knight Frank as property advisors. The Homes Committee agreed that a pre-application be submitted to Hart District Council based on 59 residential units. This compares to 55 existing units on site. The configuration is deemed by Knight Frank to be the right number and mix of units for the least contentious planning but at maximised value.

Guy Napier (Chairman of the Property subcommittee) and Mike Lloyd are driving this sale forward. The initial sales campaign has generated considerable interest from a number of potential purchasers ranging from house builders to care home operators.

The strategy for the Sir Robert Geffery's Trust's Scheme after the project is being reviewed with advice from Farrer's. It will ensure that adequate provision is made for maintenance, including running costs, routine maintenance (short term) and extraordinary repair (medium to long term), as well as Relief in Need. The Trust, through the Clerk and the Company's solicitors, has been in contact with the Charity Commission to amend the Scheme. We have complied with the Charity Commission's directives, ensuring changes have been widely advertised and that we have consulted widely. We are close to finalising documentation of the changes.

*Will Pender preparing Easter treats for the residents*



The comfort, safety and wellbeing of our residents and wardens continues to be at the heart of the Homes Committee's deliberations during the past year or so. Considerable sacrifices have been made by the residents and the wardens to ensure everyone in the Homes has remained safe. Families and friends have been separated. Access to basic services such as chiropodists, hairdressers and private cleaners stopped while we practised social distancing. Everyone has played their part and to date the both Homes have been virus free. Henrietta Brailsford has taken the lead for the residents safeguarding and welfare. She is in regular contact with the wardens and in the Spring organised the distribution of bulbs from local garden centres and of Easter biscuits, cooked at the Hall.

The merging of the two resident communities may seem at first to be disorientating, but in time we believe this will be a positive change and an opportunity. It will be good to see Geffery's House full and the new arrivals will be made to feel welcome as coffee mornings and other social events restart and provide the chance for integration of the two formerly separate communities.



# Sir Robert Geffery's School

RICHARD TWALLIN ESQ,  
Chairman (Master 2006)

The 2020-21 academic year was, like 2019-20, impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The children were able to return to school for the Autumn term, under controlled conditions, but the government-imposed lockdown after Christmas meant that for much of the Spring term many children had to remain at home, Google Classroom enabling them to participate in lessons remotely. Although this remained challenging, the experience of the previous

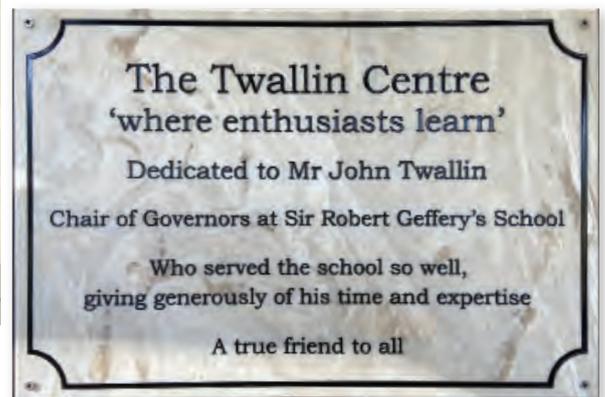
restrictions, until 19 July. It was definitely worth the wait! All year groups put on excellent musical performances and we are very grateful to the Master and Mrs Wauchope for presenting the prizes and awards. The day was also an opportunity to remember the former Chair of Governors, my cousin John Twallin, who died in 2019. The School decided to rename the two storey 'Qube' building, 'The Twallin Centre' in his memory. A plaque was dedicated by the Revd Laura Bushell Hawke and we were delighted that two of John's daughters, Frances Rowe and Philippa Ledson, were able to join us and share in our admiration, memories of, and gratitude for, all that John contributed to the School.



Mrs Julie Curtis presenting the plaque to two of John's daughters, Frances Rowe and Philippa Ledson

year meant that much of the planning and organisation was already in place. We were all delighted when the children were able to return for the Summer term. Despite the challenges the School once again achieved excellent results, which is a remarkable attainment and a tribute to the dedication and hard work of the teaching and other staff, parents and, of course, the children themselves.

Last year's Speech Day having been cancelled, we were delighted that this year's event took place although it had to be postponed by a week following the government's decision to delay 'Freedom Day' and the removal of the pandemic



Earlier in the year Mrs Julie Curtis, who has been our Headteacher since 2003, announced her decision to retire at the end of the calendar year. Julie is an absolutely outstanding leader, mentor, teacher and role model, inspiring everyone she has worked with, be they children, staff, parents or governors. During her tenure the School has achieved many awards, including our Ofsted 'outstanding' rating in 2012. Thank you, Julie, for everything you have done for us and we all wish you a long, very happy and well-deserved retirement.

Julie will be extremely difficult to replace but, as she has pointed



out to us all, her retirement does represent an opportunity for even further improvement! The search for a successor started in June, but the governors have yet to make an appointment. On behalf of the Company, I thank Jill Jarvis and the other governors on the selection panel for the painstaking and time-consuming work involved in finding our next headteacher.

I would also like to thank all my fellow governors for their work as well as for their skills and expertise which are of immense value to the governing body and the various committees (Personnel, Premises, Finance, Curriculum, Pupils and Admissions) - all so important for the effective functioning of the School.

Even though the School originated as a result of Sir Robert Geffery's legacy it is now state-funded, under the control of Cornwall Council. Additional funding (for music and other extracurricular activities) is provided by Sir Robert Geffery's Trust, with contingency, if needed, from the Ironmongers' Foundation for which the School is very grateful.

I would also like to thank the School's Friends Association who have once again raised significant funds for the benefit of the children.

We are all looking forward to the current academic year. The last two years have been difficult, particularly for the Year 6 groups, preparing to leave Sir Robert Geffery's and move to secondary school. Many of the events, including the annual supper and sleepover at Ironmongers' Hall, had to be cancelled. Despite the disappointment and other challenges, the children have made a great start to their educational careers and we wish them every success – realising Sir Robert's vision of which we are all so proud.

*Students of Sir Robert Geffery's School at Speech Day 2021*



# Iron Committee

DAVID WORLIDGE ESQ,  
Chairman (Master 2016)

I am delighted that in spite of the pandemic we managed to hold our two meetings in the year and that we were able to provide much needed grants to many worthy projects. However, the restrictions brought in place as a result of Covid meant that most award ceremonies were unable to be held and therefore our awards could not be made. These included the Young Craftsman Competition at the South of England Show, the ICME 2020 Foundry Industry Jubilee and Best Technical Student Awards, and the Hatfield Memorial Lecture.

On the plus side, we were able to hold the Oxford Medal remotely and although the numbers of students participating this year was down because of the work pressures many were under, the quality of the presentations was of the usual very high standard. The judging panel, consisting of the Master, Mrs Mary Harris, Prof. Keyna O'Reilly and me was augmented by Brandon Severin (winner of the Oxford Medal in 2019 and now a Freeman of the

Company). The winner was Kieran Rivers with a presentation entitled "Design of an oxidation resistance refractory high entropy alloy for nuclear applications".

In recent years, the Company has received a growing number of applications for grants from many churches for the restoration of their bells and it was becoming increasingly difficult to focus our attention on those we wished to support. The Committee therefore sought the advice of the Church Buildings Council Bells Committee and after much internal discussion, it was agreed to support only repairs to existing iron frames or new cast-iron/steel frames.

The Committee is always pleased to receive notification that projects for which awards have been made in the past have been completed. This year they included the restoration of the two chapel gates at St Conan's Kirk in Lochawe, Argyll; restoration of the Embankment Gates at Chelsea Physic Garden; restoration

*Right: Chelsea Physic Garden, Embankment Gates,*

*Far right: St Conan's Kirk Gates, St Brides chapel*





of the Watergate lanterns at the Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich; and the restoration of the Victorian water pump at The Charterhouse – I am grateful to the Clerk for attending the Topping Out Ceremony at The Charterhouse on my behalf.

At the October and April meetings the Committee also considered several grant applications and agreed to provide a total of 16 grants to a cross-section of projects, including new decorative iron-work railings at the Garrison Church in Woolwich; the commissioning of two decorative Parcose screens and two decorative chapel gates at the Catholic Church in Penzance, Cornwall; the restoration of four ornamental wrought-iron entrance gates at the Promenade Approach to Dukes Meadow in Chiswick; and the commissioning of new entrance gates at the Willesden Jewish Cemetery in north-west London. The Committee also received an application from the Ruskin Mill Trust to help fund

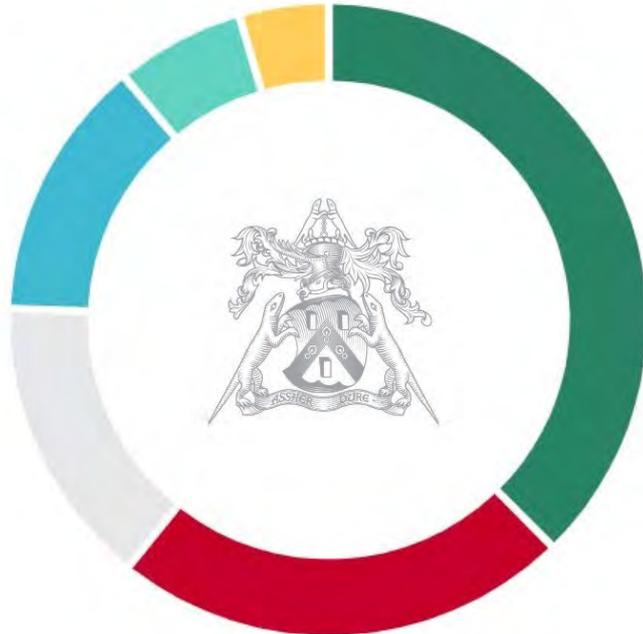
the equipment and materials to set up a new forge at Ty'r Eithin, a special needs college near Swansea. Its innovative Practical Skills Therapeutic Education method provides vocational and work skills to young students as well as underpinning social and living skills through the educational and residential curriculum. It was agreed to support this initiative and Mrs Mary Harris act as liaison and endeavour to get other Ironmongers involved.

In 2019 the Iron Committee agreed to provide funding through the Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust to enable a young blacksmith to gain an apprenticeship with a Master Blacksmith. Finding a suitable candidate has proved quite difficult but earlier this year we were advised that QEST had used our funding to enable Paul Gilbert, a master blacksmith based in Devon, to take on his first-ever apprentice, Jeremy Cash, who is also setting up his own forge and workshop, Blue Jay Metal Crafts, in Cornwall.

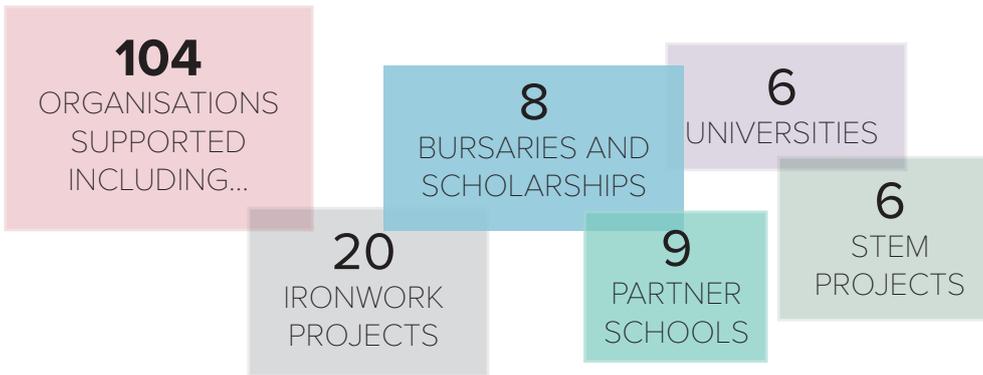
*Watergate lanterns, Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich*



# Giving at a glance



<span style="color: green;">■</span>	Future almshouse improvements	38%	£498,000
<span style="color: red;">■</span>	Communities	23%	£304,000
<span style="color: grey;">■</span>	Almshouses	15%	£193,000
<span style="color: blue;">■</span>	Schools	13%	£174,000
<span style="color: teal;">■</span>	STEM	6%	£83,000
<span style="color: orange;">■</span>	Iron	4%	£56,000



# General Manager's Report

MR GABOR MOCSAR

In my last report, I finished on a rather negative tone as we were still battling with COVID-19 and its effect on everyday life. Since then a lot has changed, both for CH&Co and for the Ironmongers' Company.

We were sad to say good-bye to our Sous Chef, Marinus Ferreira, and our front-of-house Supervisor, Adriana Flore. As the financial burden grew on the Company and uncertainty seemed to continue, the Company had to make the tough decision to let people go to be able to survive.

Luckily, we managed to keep Adriana on our books as a casual waitress. Her commitment and passion for the Company showed during Lockdown, where she was running smaller functions, developing new service styles and helping me keeping in touch with some of our key clients.

As the Autumn approached, there was a slight ray of hope that we would be able to re-open and we managed to host the Invictus Games Foundation Strategy day where the Patron of the games, Prince Harry, phoned in from America.

The other major change was of the successful appointment of Mr Ben Jeffery for the position of Senior Sales and Marketing Executive. Ben has worked with CH&Co in some of its most prestigious venues, which include Buckingham Palace Garden Parties, the Old Royal Naval College and Gray's Inn.

Ben quickly managed to get to grips with our work style and even in these trying times, he quickly

became a part of our team. He confirmed a filming contract with the BBC, where it shot scenes for the three-part series, "The Boleyns: A Scandalous Family", below.



As the situation changed leading up to Christmas, we managed to organise a small lunch for Mrs Teresa Waller-Bridge, who retired. The Hall Staff had a two-course lunch where the temporary "Head Chef", Adriana Flore, indulged us with her excellent Romanian cuisine and I made sure that the best wine (that the small country of Hungary can offer) was served. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

After the winter Lockdown we were all eager to get back to the Hall and open for business which we manage to do in the middle of May. We had several livery companies (the Makers of Playing Cards, Shipwrights, Fan Makers, Gardeners and International Bankers) at the Hall for both small- and large-scale events. Other events are steadily coming in and we are looking forward to a busy Christmas period.



Mr Ben Jeffery, Senior Sales and Marketing Executive

## THE FUTURE OF OUR HALL

We are still waiting to see what plans the City have to replace the Museum of London and neighbouring Bastion House now that they have dropped plans to build a Centre for Music. We are working closely with the London Wall West Project Team so we can secure the future of Ironmongers' Hall as your home and the Company's headquarters.



# ***Beadle's Report***

MR STEVE WALBY

**T**hursday 2 July 2020 was a Master's Day like no other. Although conducted over Zoom, the Hall was made immaculate with the brass gleaming, the wooden panels polished and the flag flying high. The Hall had the smell of Master's Day at least!

We had to believe this would only be a fleeting inconvenience and that the Hall would be back to its past glories sooner rather than later - and so it proved with Master's Day 2021. The church parade gave colour to our part of the City, with the Hall Staff and the CH&Co

team working closely together. We are steadily seeing the return of functions breathing new life into the Hall. Although we are still maintaining strict Covid regulations this certainly does not impede our guests' enjoyment of our Hall and hospitality with gusto. The diary is very encouraging, with Christmas looking good and we will endeavour to carry this trend into 2022 and beyond. It will be brilliant to see all our members and guests returning to make the next few years ones to remember. Please come and see us as much as you can and thank you for all your support.



## **Officers and Staff 2020 - 2021**

**Back Row:** Gabor Mocsar, General Manager; Catharine Melville, Social Secretary; Ben Jeffery, Senior Sales and Marketing Executive; Justine Taylor, Archivist; David Summerell, Executive Chef; Adriana Flore, Events Supervisor; Chris Lapworth, Under Beadle; Liam Walby, Houseman; Chris Hanrahan, Gardeners' Company Beadle; Robin Mason, Houseman

**Front Row:** Andrew Harrison, Chief Accountant; Amy Higgins, Assistant Clerk; Colonel Charlie Knaggs OBE, Clerk; Lorraine McHugh, Housekeeper; Helen Sant, Charities Manager



# Heritage Committee

ROBERT STEDALL ESQ,  
Chairman (Master 1989)

The highlights of the year have been two acquisitions made on the Company's behalf.

The first is a pen-and-ink drawing of the entrance hall of the Ironmongers' Hall in Fenchurch Street by Thomas Robert Way in about 1903. The drawing was originally executed for publication in a book by Way and Philip Norman on the halls of the London livery companies, published by G. Bell and Sons in 1903, of which the Company has a copy. The image clearly shows the "Estrich" in pride of place at the bottom of the main staircase and also depicts the oak table and three of the armorial coachmen's chairs that still grace the entrance area



*Ink drawing of the entrances of Ironmongers' Hall, Fenchurch Street, T.R. Way, c. 1903*

of our current Hall. The lot at the auction also included a preliminary ink sketch for this finished drawing, which is also of a high standard. Both are in the course of being framed, with the larger drawing also being cleaned.

The second and more important

acquisition is a silver snuff box of just 6.2 inches long made by C. Reily and G. Storer, London silversmiths, and dated 1849. It was a gift provided by the Company to Thomas Howard (admitted 1817), who was Master in 1848. It had been put up for sale at Lawrences of Crewkerne. The silver box, which is in excellent condition has the coat of arms of the Company engraved on its lid and the Howard arms on the side below the clasp.

Howard was a civil engineer and inventor, whose father Stanley had been Master of the Company in 1821. The family, who were Quakers, managed an ironworking business, Howard, Ravenhill and Co. This operated "a Flat Iron Rolling Mill" at the King's and Queen's Ironworks in Rotherhithe, specialising in manufacturing the links for chain-link suspension bridges.

Having agreed that members of the Company would fund the purchase, David Worlidge (Master 2016) kindly offered to pay its full cost as a gift to the Company in recognition of his period as Master. This is extraordinarily generous.



*The Howard Snuff Box, 1849*

Other matters covered by the Heritage Committee in 2020/21 continued projects begun in earlier years. The most important of these have been:



*Dr Penelope  
Hunting FSA*

- Work on a new history of the Company being undertaken by Dr Penelope Hunting FSA (admitted to the Company in 2019), an historian of London and chairman of the London Topographical Society. Penny attended a Zoom meeting with the Heritage Committee in April 2021, during which she outlined the proposed structure and chapter headings for the book, with a plan to provide a final outline of chapters by the end of 2021. She has already undertaken a great deal of research and we hope the book will be completed in 2025, to coincide with the centenary of the building of our current Hall in Shaftesbury Place, Aldersgate Street;
- Receiving 150 facsimile copies of the old Company history by Elizabeth Glover (1991) to tide us over until Penny's new history is published;
- Agreeing a budget to improve the display cabinets in the lower and upper hallways, particularly to add museum-quality lighting and acid-free lining, and also to improve the glass fronts of the cabinets in the lower hallway;
- Agreement for the rehangng of pictures at the Hall, particularly to place more recent Lord Mayors and Masters in the Court Room. The paintings are likely to be repositioned by the end of the year, once some conservation repairs and framing have been undertaken;
- Plans to review the content of our silver vaults, with a view to commissioning a piece of contemporary plate to add to our collection;
- Preparation of captions for key pieces of silver displayed during larger luncheons and dinners;
- Continuing work on the AtoM system to ensure that all artefacts are recorded and reference images provided;
- Continuing research into the involvement of former Company members in the transatlantic slave trade.

As always, I need to thank Justine Taylor for her extraordinary contribution to the matters dealt with by the Committee. Without her we would not initiate or achieve all the many things we set out to do.

# The Archivist's Report

MISS JUSTINE TAYLOR

The Access to Memory (AtoM) system which we are using for unified access to our archives, treasures and library catalogues is working well. Entries for all our artefacts in the inventories have been added to the system, so too books in the Drawing Room bookcase and archive material and other books are being loaded as time allows. Biographies of painters and silversmiths, members and other people and organisations (e.g. members) are also being created.

The scanning of microfilms or originals of Company archives is being explored. As well as contributing to the preservation of our archives, such scans will be of great use to Dr Penny Hunting when researching her new history of the Company. Until this is published around 2025, some facsimile copies of the 1991 history by Elizabeth Glover were delivered in February.



We have created some suitable captions and holders which now provide summary details of key pieces of silver on display at luncheons and dinners. Using a special budget approved by the Court, we are planning to refurbish and improve the silver display cases in the lower and upper hallways with museum-quality lighting and materials, a project which we hope will be completed in early 2022. Improvements in picture and other Hall lighting are also being planned.

As well as donating his 2019 portrait by Mark Roscoe, Sir Peter Estlin also very kindly agreed to fund its new frame. The frame chosen is a replica of an old Italian design and this has been completed and was fitted by Mark Mitchell (of Paul Mitchell Framing). A rehang of paintings in the Court Room is now being planned. Work by Helen Draper has begun to clean and conserve the 1919 portrait of Ralph Coker Adams Beck by Arthur Hacker and this portrait's frame is being restored by Tristram Bainbridge.



*The recently framed portrait of Sir Peter Estlin awaiting installation in the Court Room*

The Adams Beck family has also been the subject of two enquiries. One concerned the paintings of Frank Holl RA who painted our portrait of Simon Adams Beck, the first of the Adams Beck family to be Clerk to the Company, serving from 1834 until 1883. The other enquiry concerned The White House in Cheam, Surrey, occupied by both Simon Adams Beck and his son Ralph.



*Above: Portrait of Thomas Michell, a master of Ironmongers' apprentices since 1511 and Company benefactor in 1527*

*Right: Michell's bequest of the Ironmongers' Old Street estate, also known as Cornwall's Croft, as depicted on a Company plan of 1633*



Three enquirers requested information about Margaret Dane and her portrait and we have been able to put them in touch. Julian Reid, Archivist at Merton College Oxford, is planning an exhibition which will include Margaret Dane as an early female benefactor. Christine Warwick, a PhD student at the University of Birmingham, is studying English vernacular Tudor and early Stuart portraits, especially those of female philanthropists. And for her PhD on early drama and performance, Anouska Lester at the University of Roehampton is also researching Margaret and William Dane in their roles as linen drapers and suppliers of linen canvas.

Research into the links between the Ironmongers' Company, the West Indies and transatlantic slavery continues. We have also continued to liaise with a group exploring the Ironmongers' legacy in this regard, especially in the context of the Company's marble statue of William Beckford (admitted 1752 and Master 1753). This statue was donated to the Company in 1833 by his son, also William Beckford, and was made by John Moore who also created the similar statue of Beckford in the Guildhall.

Some time has gone into finding old property deeds for Shaftesbury Place and also Geffery's Fields and another enquiry was focused on Ironmongers' property now long gone. This concerned the ownership history of 115 Old Street and highlighted the generosity of Thomas Michell who in his will of 1527 had bequeathed ten acres of croft land and tenements to the Company. In Michell's time, the area lay within the parish of St Giles without Cripplegate. It was later known as Cornwall's Croft (by 1620) and came within the new parish of St Luke's, Old Street, when this church was built in 1733 for the overflow from St Giles's. By the nineteenth century the area was known as the Company's Old Street Estate and was eventually sold to the London County Council in 1960.

The subject of another enquiry concerned a smaller piece of land in the City, first mentioned in 1461. Although not owned by the Company, this strip created an alleyway and formed the court for real tennis which then adjoined Ironmongers' Hall in Fenchurch Street (see *News & Snippets* for more).



# Simon Adams Beck at The White House; the man who lit London

CLIVE ORTON

Clive Orton has kindly agreed to share with us an edited version of his blog on *The White House at Cheam, Surrey*, for Sutton Archives and Libraries. One of the house's occupants was Simon Adams Beck, Clerk to the Ironmongers' Company 1834-1883.



Portrait of Simon Adams Beck, by Frank Holl RA, painted c. 1880, hanging at Ironmongers' Hall

Simon Adams Beck moved to The White House in about 1847. He had been born in 1803 at Lythwood Hall in Shropshire, the son of James Beck of Allesley Park, near Coventry. In 1829 Simon married Sarah Ann Price, the second daughter of Ralph Price (Master 1834-35). This had implications for Simon's career as a solicitor, which profession was given in each of his census returns until his last in 1881. In 1834 he was elected to the post of Clerk of the Ironmongers' Company, retiring shortly before his death in 1883. This role was only a small part of his business activities, but first let's look at the domestic side of his life.

Simon and Sarah had nine children in a span of 18 years (1831–1848), born in at least four different locations:

**James Price Beck**, born January 1831 in the St Pancras district;

**Charlotte Sarah Beck**, born March 1833 at Doughty St in the St Pancras district;

**Charles Henry Beck**, born 1834 at Ironmongers' Hall [Fenchurch Street];

**Gertrude Lucy (or Savery) Beck**, born 1836 at Ironmongers' Hall;

**Mary Henrietta Beck**, born 1837 at Ironmongers' Hall;

**Margaret Jamima Beck**, born 1839 at Ironmongers' Hall;

**Louisa (or Laura) Sophia Beck**, born 1842 at Ironmongers' Hall;

**Constance Frances Elizabeth Beck**, born 1846 at Norwood;

**Ralph Coker Adams Beck**, born 1848 at Cheam.

I was at first puzzled by the mention of births at Ironmongers' Hall, as this seemed unlikely for a City livery hall, but there appears to have been a Clerk's house within the Hall, then located in Fenchurch Street, and Simon and Sarah may well have lived there until the size of their family made a move necessary. An 1896 OS map shows the Ironmongers' Hall to be a large building around a central courtyard, and I understand that this would have included residences for the Clerk and the Beadle. In the 1841 Census, all of the Beck family, except for Simon and James, were recorded at Park Mansion House, Allesley, Warwickshire, where James Beck (Simon's father) was head of the household. The births of Constance at Norwood in 1846 and Ralph at Cheam in 1848 leads me to suggest that Simon moved to The White House around this date to accommodate his ever-growing family.

So far I have a picture of a well-established City solicitor in a settled post within a livery company, but that is only a small part of the story. For example, from at least 1842 until 1851 he was a director of the Mutual Life Assurance Society. More significantly, Grace's Guide lists him as a "gas industrialist". How did that come about? To follow this up, we need to look at the story of the Gas, Light and Coke Company (GLCC), which I can remember my grandmother calling the "Gaslight and Cocoa" in the 1950s.

The first gasworks in London (and indeed in the UK) was built by the GLCC, founded by Frederick Albert Winsor in 1812 to supply gas for street lighting in Westminster. Many



rival companies were set up in and around London to supply gas for their neighbourhoods. Competition was fierce and take-overs and amalgamations were common. Into this story steps Simon Adams Beck, who stood for election as a director of the GLCC in 1848, as its deputy governor in 1852 and its governor in 1860, remaining in that post until he retired in 1876. He appeared to realise that success in this competitive market could be achieved by (i) manufacturing

Thames, and ample space to manufacture coal gas on a large scale. The site was up and running by 1870, and gradually expanded until it was larger in area than the City of London itself. Houses had to be built for the workers and the area became known as Beck's Town, shortened to Beckton. Beckton remains to this day, but little of its former industry can be seen. The GLCC absorbed many smaller companies, right up to the time when it was nationalised in 1949.

The GLCC was not Simon's only interest in the gas industry. In 1862 he became chairman of the newly-founded Ottoman Gas Company, which built a gasworks to serve the Turkish city of Smyrna (now Izmir) and survived until electricity became the usual form of street lighting.

A less obvious side of Simon's character was revealed by *The Field* magazine of 1863, which reported that he had won the title of Master Forester and a gold medal at the Wardmote of Meriden. This was an annual archery event organised by the Woodmen of Arden and this prize went to the competitor who scored the first gold (i.e. bullseye) in three days' shooting. He must have been a fit man to have won such a competition at about the age of 60. This leads me to see Simon perhaps as a Victorian historical re-enactor, recreating the medieval era of the long bow, possibly in costume.

*For more on Clive Orton's blogs and a picture of The White House, see: <https://pastonglass.wordpress.com/2021/09/27/a-house-through-the-ages-s3-ep-1-the-story-of-the-white-house/>*



An aerial view of the Beckton gas works. <https://britainfromabove.org.uk/en/image/EPW037160/download>

coal gas on a larger scale, and (ii) being as close as possible to the source of its raw material, the coal which had to be shipped down the North Sea and up the Thames. His solution in 1868 was to construct a large gas-works on the Barking Marshes (which just happened to be then owned by the Ironmongers' Company) on the north bank of the Thames just east of London. This gave the GLCC easy access to larger colliers coming up the



# Livery & Yeomanry Committee

DR IAIN REID, Warden of the Livery & Yeomanry 2020-2021



The past year has been a challenging time for the Livery & Yeomanry Committee – but not one that generates much copy for this report. Last October, at the time of the AGM and my election, there was an expectation that life would soon be returning to a post-Covid normal but, within weeks, we were again in a lockdown and thereafter in the complicated system of “Tiers” that restricted all social activities. These restrictions lasted until late June and the result has been, sadly, a year bereft of events.

This was not for want of effort on the part of the Livery & Yeomanry Committee. Our three guiding objectives are: to create events and encourage engagement across the Company; to ensure openness and transparency; and to build inclusivity. Thus, mindful of these objectives, we spent a lot of time planning events which couldn't happen, posting on WhatsApp (and now Signal), considering how we would mentor newcomers we couldn't meet, and monitoring the City and livery company websites for events which might interest Ironmongers. In the Spring, a few Zoom quizzes were organised to accompany the Master's monthly updates – but it soon became apparent that most Ironmongers felt they were already spending too much time in front of their computer screens.

Probably the Committee's main contribution to the Company was in support of the Senior Warden's work in planning the 'New Normal': how the Company might function in the post-pandemic era. Many hours were spent analysing the characteristics of the membership, how to fully utilise the potential of the Hall and the role of various committees. Doubtless the fruits of that labour will become apparent in the coming months.

It was not until the late summer that there was any opportunity to stage events and the two that were arranged both had to be cancelled: the Livery & Yeomanry dinner when the government extended the restrictions on social gathering; and the annual BBQ (like the Warden's outing) repeatedly postponed until it became so late in July that too few booked to make the event viable.

However, there are great expectations for the coming year. The Grenadiers have emerged from their enforced hibernation and early plans are being made for various shared events. We hope to resurrect the Great XII Young Freemen's event which it should have been our turn to host in 2020 and there are other events in the planning – perhaps even the oft-postponed Ball?

I would like to thank the Livery & Yeomanry Committee for their support and participation in numerous Zoom meetings: Charles Morgan; Gavin Park Weir; Hadley Newman; Isla Kennedy and Khushru Cooper. Two enthusiastic members, Elizabeth Squire and Giles Shilson, were obliged to resign when they were promoted to become Court Deputies but then we were delighted to welcome Laura Prieto to join us.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Company for the privilege of serving as your Warden of Livery & Yeomanry. Despite the difficult circumstances, it has been a great opportunity for me to observe the workings of the Company, appreciate the hard work of our excellent staff and understand much better the workings and responsibilities of the Court. A very useful year despite the unfortunate timing!



# ***New Freemen and Liverymen***

## **NEW FREEMEN**

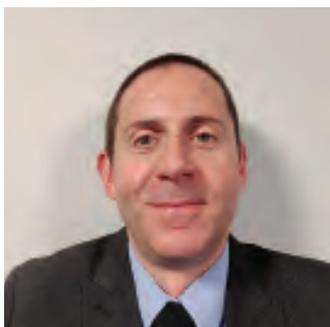
*Left column:*

Henry Butt  
Shaun Burton MBE  
St John Coughlan  
Guy Everington  
Jeffrey Kabel



*Right column:*

James Kahveci  
James Lythe  
Richard Montgomery  
Brandon Severin  
David Williams



## **NEW LIVERYMEN**

*From top:*

Mark Horlock  
Christopher Hudson  
Guy Napier  
Teresa Waller-Bridge



## Obituaries and deaths

**J**ohn Worlidge (Liveryman), father of David Worlidge (Master 2016) and grandfather of Alastair Worlidge (Freeman), died on 30 October 2020, aged 91. He joined the Company in July 1983 by redemption (proposed by Patrick Best) and was an active member through serving on committees and through the Golfing Society.



He served as Warden of the Livery & Yeomanry in 2001. After Marlborough College (where he was 12th man at Lord's in the cricket match against Rugby) and National Service (Royal Engineers), during which he was commended as his entry's outstanding officer, John read Mechanical Sciences at St John's College, Cambridge. Although John had never rowed

before going to Cambridge, he became part of what is commonly accepted as the finest Lady Margaret crew of all time. After humble beginnings in the 6th Medical VIII in 1949 he was in the 1st VIII in 1950 that was twice Head of the River and won the Cambridge Light Fours (being the first time since 1879 that the Lady Margaret Boat Club had won the

Cup) and in 1951 it became the last university college eight to win the Grand Challenge Cup at Henley. John rowed at No. 5 in the winning Cambridge boat in the 1951 Boat Race, which then beat Yale, Harvard, MIT and Boston in America, won a second Grand Challenge Cup in 1952 and represented GB at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics where his team came fourth. His whole working career was with quality paper manufacturer, Wiggins Teape, which took him to Australia and Argentina, becoming Chairman for 1984-89. He enjoyed a long association with Marlborough College as Council Member, Chairman of its Finance Committee and President of the Marlburian Club. He was also a governor at Woolmer Hill, Haslemere for many years.

His strong Christian faith underpinned his belief in family and fairness and John is remembered as kind and generous, an inspirational leader and a thoughtful listener. He supported Alzheimer's Research UK and helped set up the Haslemere Hunter Dementia Centre. He also supported his local church, where he was treasurer of the Friends until the age of 90. In 1955 John married Margot, who died in 2019. They are survived by three sons, David, Nigel and Mark, and seven grandchildren.

**We are sorry to announce the following deaths in 2020-2021:**

Mr Edward John Worlidge

Mr Edward Michael Sweeting

Mr Christopher Thomas Edwards-Stuart

Mrs Mary Ellen McEuen

and offer our condolences to families and friends.



# Affiliated military organisations

## THE GRENADEER GUARDS

Major (Retired) J P W Gatehouse

The Grenadier Guards is the most senior infantry regiment in the British Army. Raised in Bruges in 1656, as a personal bodyguard to the exiled King Charles II, following his restoration in 1660 our position as the First Regiment of Foot Guards with a special attachment to the person of the Sovereign was firmly established.

Since that time we have distinguished ourselves in countless battles and campaigns. Notably, two battalions played a decisive role at Waterloo, helping to defeat Napoleon's elite Imperial Guard. As a direct consequence, the First Guards were granted the unique accolade of being made an entire regiment of Grenadiers – the picked men of the infantry. Further service to the Crown and distinction followed; in the Crimea, in South Africa, then in the First and Second World Wars. Since 1945 the Regiment has been engaged in numerous conflicts, both close to home and further afield, including most recently three operational tours in Afghanistan where 15 Grenadiers made the ultimate sacrifice and many others were badly injured. It was there in June 2012 that Lance-Corporal James Ashworth was involved in an action that earned him posthumously the award of the Victoria Cross, for conspicuous gallantry under fire against a determined enemy. This is one of 14 VCs awarded to the members of the Grenadiers in our long history.

Today the 1st Battalion is based at Aldershot and much of the last year has been devoted to more peaceful activities, especially assisting the civil authorities in Southern England by providing mobile COVID testing teams. In late March 2020 all ceremonial events stopped

in London and Windsor and this enforced break from the normal has allowed the Battalion to focus on green soldiering: marksmanship on the ranges, fieldcraft, and tactics and leadership on training areas across the UK. Also there have been three back-to-back company deployments to the Falkland Islands, a huge, open area which affords us a myriad of opportunities to hone our skills. Smaller groups also went abroad, including one lucky party which headed to the Cayman Islands.

In April we were all saddened by news of the death of HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, who had been our much loved and highly respected 22nd Colonel from 1975-2017. The Regiment was honoured to provide a Bearer Party at the royal funeral at Windsor Castle, as well as many of the troops on parade that day. In June, Nijmegen Company provided Number Two Guard on the Queen's Birthday Parade. The Queen's Company was at Windsor again the following day, providing a guard of honour to mark the visit of President Biden of the USA. The 1st Battalion is now preparing to deploy to Kenya for three months of training and, in September, the Regimental Band will be in Belize



Snipers training in the Falklands



President Biden at Windsor Castle



for the country's 40th anniversary of its independence celebrations.

With all the restrictions on social gatherings over the last year there have, sadly, been few opportunities for us to see and mix with members of the Ironmongers' Company, but we are very proud of the affiliation and we look forward to seeing many more of you over the next few years. In November the officers of the First Guards Club will be holding their annual dinner at the Hall and, in a slight role reversal, we shall then be hosting the Master and Clerk.

### LONDON AREA SEA CADETS

Lieutenant Commander (SCC)  
George Wilson BEM CEng CMarEng  
FIMarEST RNR

The past 18 months has been very challenging for all, no matter what field we have been engaged in. But shortly after Lockdown in March 2020, the corps nationally grabbed the challenge to continue to train our cadets as best we could within the Covid regulations. This required a review of course content and how we delivered this and I'm pleased to say that we managed to continue to deliver Advanced, Intermediate and Basic Marine Engineering courses to our cadets over an online, virtual platform which worked very well!

This was facilitated by Zoom, Teams and "thinking outside the box", with individual written projects replacing the practical tasks. The courses were generally held over sessions two hours' long over six consecutive evenings – I was surprised how readily the cadets and staff gave up their Saturday evenings – but then again there was nowhere to go and nothing to do apart from Sea Cadets courses and where's the harm in that?!

The projects were based on practical tasks so that the cadets had some degree of understanding of the practical adjustments and maintenance tasks of diesel engines and learning some basic electrical skills. I wasn't too sure how the online courses would go down with our cadets, but it appears these were enjoyed by cadets and Instructors alike; by the end of the week-long training courses, I think we had all learned more about virtual communications, which in itself was an unforeseen bonus.

The Covid rules are changing again which will allow residential courses, the Marine Engineering courses being better delivered in that manner, and I am looking forward to getting back into the "proper" classroom soon. All of our virtual courses had very good pass rates, the same as our face-to-face courses which was really excellent too!

### CITY LONDON CADET FORCE

Acting Commandant Lieutenant  
Colonel N Williams

Despite the restrictions imposed upon us by Covid, I'm pleased to report that both the adults and the cadets in the sector continue



to work hard. During lockdown the sector purchased audio-visual equipment to ensure that lessons and other events could be broadcast live over the internet.



*The Master presenting the Ironmongers' Trophy to the winning Company at Ilford Army Reserve Centre*

Adult recruiting has not stood still and we currently have 31 officers in the sector and this number includes three new second lieutenants. We also have 85 adults in our Sergeants' Mess. To highlight just a few of the achievements of our young people, our senior cadet (and the Lord Lieutenant's Cadet for Greater London) RSM Alfie Tucker from 4 Coy leaves us soon and I'm delighted to report that he has gained a place at Oxford University to read French. Cadet Topal from 3 Coy achieved the distinction of becoming one of the best 100 shots in the ACF and Cadet Colour Sergeant Hamilton from 2 Coy was the winner of the senior class in the National Drumming Competition. Annual Camp could not take place, but we held a final parade and competitions day at Ilford Army Reserve Centre and are pleased to report that the Master was able to present the Ironmongers' Trophy to the winning company – not just 2021 but for 2020 too! As we hopefully move away from Covid, the sector continues to live up to the ACF motto "To Inspire to Achieve".



# Sports – an overview



Richard Patteson-Knight, Chris Driver and Matt Tilbury at the annual challenge against the Worshipful Company of Shipwrights

*If you would like to get involved with any of the activities, please contact the relevant sports captain or secretary:*

**Captain of Croquet**  
Martin Hudson

**Captain of Golf**  
Michael Pearson

**Great XII Sailing Challenge**  
Gavin Park Weir, Henrietta Maltby

**Captain of Sailing**  
Mark Lee

**Inter-Livery Skiing**  
Christopher Hudson

**Captain of Skiing**  
William Stephenson

**Captain of Shooting**  
Mark Lee

## **GOLF** **Mike Pearson**

Although COVID has had quite an affect on the golfing fraternity it has not been all bad. Golf has opened up and many are back on the course and playing to local regulations of not touching the flag or raking the sand in bunkers, as well as trying to fathom out the new handicapping system! The Ironmongers' Golf Society has had to rearrange fixtures and the Great XII challenge has had to be moved to October, but we have, to date, managed two games together.

The first was our annual challenge against our friends and neighbours, the Worshipful Company of Shipwrights, held at Kingswood Golf Course, a challenging 18-hole Surrey classic golf course designed by James Braid. A six-a-side competition saw the Shipwrights regain the challenge trophy by the smallest of margins. We aim to get it back in 2022.

Our second get together saw a four-man team head to the outstanding Sundridge Golf Course set in the beautiful and historic landscape of a Grade-I-listed mansion located just seven miles from the City of London. This event was a Loriners' organised charity event held in support of Riding for the Disabled. The Ironmongers' team came in second equal (although relegated to fourth on count back) out of the 19 team event. This credible performance was largely due to Matt Tilbury and Chris Driver who both played exceptional golf on this challenging course. They were supported by Past Master Richard Patteson-Knight and the photographer of the four-ball group above, Golf Captain Mike Pearson.

## **Ironmongers' Golf Day 2021** **Matt Tilbury**

The Ironmongers' Golf Day was played at Chartham Park Golf Club, East Grinstead, on Tuesday 7th September this year. The day had been moved from its usual date in May due to ... well, you all know why!

As it turned out, the later date suited the weather gods and they provided glorious sunshine and 28 degrees. Chartham Park provided the coffee and bacon rolls to start, a challenging course in very good condition (bar the under-repair 15th) and then a tasty two-course lunch afterwards.

Six Ironmongers and five guests teed off (minus one last-minute cancellation due to an abundance of caution regarding a sore throat) for a Stableford format competition.

Ironmonger Chris Driver triumphed on the day winning the prestigious Silver Spoon for a second time. Peter Swanson's guest, Tim McDermott, won best guest score. 'Nearest the pins' were won by our two guests from our Hall caterers, CH&Co, namely Tony Crosbie and Richard Craig.

Thank you to our Golf Captain, Mike Pearson, for organising a fine day out.

Onwards to our next competition, the four-way inter-livery competition at Tandridge, on 22 September and then to the postponed Great XII at the New Zealand on 25 October.



## CROQUET

### Martin Hudson Esq

It was the annual inter-livery croquet competition organised by the founders at Surbiton Croquet Club on 7 June 2021. We had a glorious sunny day and everyone enjoyed themselves enormously, including an excellent lunch. However, the handicaps were fixed based on performance two years ago. Our Association team had a handicap of -3 (Me at -2 and Hugh at -1) – the lowest handicaps in the competition, which we thought slightly unfair as we are not members of the croquet club and have not played since the last competition and some play every week) and the Golf 0 (Ian 0 and Tom Edwards-Stuart 0). People who had not played before were given decent plus handicaps - Hugh and I played the Barbers who had 3 each! So we started 9 free shots behind.



Martin Hudson, Ian Hudson, Tom Edwards-Stuart and Hugh Hudson

## SAILING

### Gavin Park Weir

The Great XII Regatta at Seaview, Isle of Wight, was a casualty of Covid disruption for the second year running. As we entered 2021, and with the UK vaccine roll out going like an America's Cup hydrofoil at full speed, we thought there was hope for the event this year. In Q1 it became clear, despite the excellent progress, that restrictions would not be lifted in time and so with the agreement from the other Great XII livery companies and heavy hearts we cancelled this year's event.

I think 2022 is going to be the year! Mark your calendars for 27–29 May as we will be heading back to the Isle of Wight to run the best event in the livery calendar. It's a fantastic opportunity to get to know both Ironmongers and other companies.

For those who are new to the Ironmongers or have not attended, there are a number of races in the one-design Mermaids and a cruiser race for visiting yachts. We host supper on the Friday and the prize giving and dinner on the Saturday.

There is space on the Ironmongers' team for both keen sailors and novices alike; if you just want to attend the event and not sail that is great as well. It has been a few years since the Ironmongers entered the cruiser race, if you have a yacht of any size or design and can bring her to the event, please let us know.

## INTER-LIVERY CLAY SHOOTING

### Mark Lee

The 2021 Inter Livery Charity Clay Shoot took place on a sunny day in June 2021 at the superb facilities provided by Holland & Holland in North West London. We fielded a dozen Ironmongers over 3 teams of 4, the best turn out seen in recent years. This popular event provided a much missed opportunity to meet up with others outdoors and enjoy what seemed like a day of normality in the teeth of the pandemic.

We shot 8 stands individually and a "flurry" where all 4 guns in the team worked together to shoot multiple targets released over us. An enjoyable time was had by all, finishing with a picnic lunch and a chance to talk through the ones that got away and the plans to shoot even better next year. We look forward to welcoming more members to take part in 2022.



Seated L-R Mark Lee, James Young, Ben Symes, Ralph Booth, Charlie Morgan and Anthony Heath

# News and Snippets



Above: The original 1849 presentation inscription inside the lid of the Howard Snuff Box

Right: Carte-de-visite photographic portrait of Thomas Howard

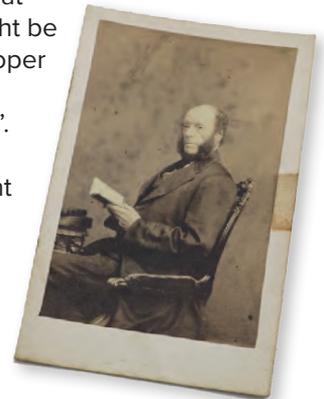
## Thomas Howard and his Snuff Box, 1849

As you will read in the Heritage Committee’s report, David Worlidge Esq (Master 2016) has most generously given an elaborate silver snuff box to the Company to celebrate his Mastership. He presented this to the Court on 7 October. The large snuff box had originally been presented to Thomas Howard by the Company on 26 July 1849 to commemorate his Mastership. It is a beautiful thing and was made by silversmiths Charles Reily and George Storer who operated in London from 1829 until 1855.

Admitted to the Ironmongers in 1817, Thomas Howard (1796-1872) had intended to pursue the business of a manufacturing chemist but after acquiring considerable knowledge in the various departments of chemistry, he turned his attention to steam, especially with regard to its use in steam engines. In 1825 he created his first invention, namely a vapour-engine which he soon improved upon, using a system of condensation. This began to

be used in steamships from 1835 and Howard adapted it for use in “ordinary steam engines”.

In 1840 he joined the King’s and Queen’s Ironworks, his family’s scrap-iron rolling mill at Rotherhithe. In 1845, after a number of experiments, Howard was able to create chain links for large suspension bridges, such as the bridge over the Danube at Pesth (Budapest) in 1849 and the first Chelsea bridge over the Thames in 1858 (originally known as Victoria Bridge and demolished in 1937). Howard maintained his interest in the Rotherhithe ironworks and “strongly advocated the use of superheating and expansion, stating as his opinion that half the fuel might be saved by the proper employment of these principles”. Surely this is a view which might well still be appreciated in our own sudden days of high-priced gas!



## Visitors from Landrake

Whilst we were unable to host the Year 6 students from Sir Robert Geffery’s School at our annual Sleepover this year, the Assistant Clerk was delighted to be visited by two students, sisters Daisy (11) and Pippa (9), and their mother, Clare, on an alternative trip to London in July. We were pleased to be able to show them around the Hall and encouraged them to consider the role of Warden of the Livery & Yeomanry in the future. All the best to Daisy in her next chapter and we look forward to seeing Pippa here at the Hall again in 2023!

Daisy and Pippa Ingram outside Ironmongers’ Hall





Above: Stained glass in the Court Room depicting the coat of arms of Sir Edwin Durning-Lawrence, Master 1887-1888

Right: The quotation from Sir Francis Bacon (1561-1626) in the entrance hall.

### Sir Francis Bacon and Sir Edwin Durning Lawrence

“It is a reverend thing to see an ancient castle or building not in decay or to see a fair timber tree sound and perfect: how much more to behold an ancient noble family which hath stood against the waves and weathers of time! For new nobility is but the act of Power but ancient nobility is the act of Time”. So wrote philosopher and statesman Sir Francis Bacon in his essay ‘Of nobility’. James I appointed Bacon his solicitor general in 1607, attorney general in 1613 and lord chancellor in 1618 but his career ended in 1621 in debt and disgrace. Bacon’s words were chosen as the inscription over the fireplace in the entrance of our current Hall by its designers around 1923.

of the works attributed to William Shakespeare. Durning-Lawrence lectured widely on the subject and dedicated time and money to creating a library to back up his Baconian theories. In our Drawing Room collection of books, we can find his works on the subject, namely *Bacon is Shakespeare* (1910) and *The Shakespeare Myth* (1912).

Born Edwin Lawrence in London in February 1837, he was the youngest son of William Lawrence, Alderman and a builder by profession. Edwin was Master of the Company for 1887-1888, having been admitted in 1859 after servitude to his brother Alfred Lawrence (adm. 1850). During 1867, Edwin was called to the Middle Temple and was also a member of the Metropolitan Board of Works for a short time, as well as a lieutenant for the



Who actually chose this quotation has yet to be researched but a connection with Sir Francis Bacon can be found within the life story of member Sir Edwin Durning-Lawrence (1837-1914). Although he died around ten years before this Hall was built, Durning-Lawrence’s main passion was the study of literature, being especially keen on the mid-nineteenth-century hypothesis that Sir Francis Bacon was really the author of some or all

City of London and a justice of the peace in Berkshire. He had incorporated ‘Durning’ into his surname after he married Edith Jane Durning Smith in 1874, the youngest daughter and co-heiress of politician John Benjamin Smith. After unsuccessfully contesting various parliamentary seats, Durning-Lawrence was finally elected as Liberal Unionist member of Parliament for Truro in 1895, a position he held until 1906.



# 60 Seconds with Kerry Waller

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND  
DRAMA SCHOLAR

## *Tell us your life story in 50 words*

A small-town boy who moved to the big city to play piano for anyone who'll listen.

## *What was your first impression of the Ironmongers' Company?*

Coming from Canada, I had no idea about livery companies and so when I visited the Hall for the first time, I was really blown away by the beauty of the building and the history that goes along with the Company and last, but certainly not least, just how warm and welcoming everyone has been.

## *What is your favourite piece of music?*

That's a tough one. Probably if I had to really choose one piece, it would be Prokofiev's second piano concerto for solo piano and orchestra.

## *How did you occupy your time over Lockdown?*

Funnily enough, by coming to the Ironmongers' Hall, I stayed in London not knowing how severe it was going to be but was really fortunate that, although I didn't go back to Canada and with schools being shut, I still had the piano in the Banqueting Hall to practise on – and that helped keep me going.

## *What is your go-to karaoke song?*

Toxic by Britney Spears.

## *What is your favourite word?*

Brilliant. Since coming to the UK I find it hilarious how so many people use (in my opinion) such a strong and emphatic word so casually. I probably had never used it before in my life before moving here.

## *What next?*

Now that I'm out in the world, I'm giving piano lessons, entering competitions and playing concerts wherever I can!



## **Major and Mrs Cooper**

It is not every day that two Ironmongers get married so we are delighted to congratulate Isla Cooper (née Kennedy) and Major Khushru Cooper, who wed on Saturday 4 September 2021 at Ironmongers' Hall!

Both Isla and Khush are committed Ironmongers and active members of the Livery & Yeomanry Committee. We hope you will join us in sending them every best wish for their future together!



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