The Worshipful Company of Ironmongers

ANNUAL REPORT 2018 - 2019
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THE COURT, MASTER’S DAY 2019


Middle Row: Colonel C P H Knaggs OBE (Clerk), J E H Farquharson, E D Wauchope, HH R Hone QC KStJ, The Lord Garvagh, Maj Gen P A J Cordingley DSO OBE, J P Hudson, M A Hudson, R C R Twallin, D Tudor-Morgan (Warden of the Livery and Yeomanry), S Walby (Beadle)

Front Row: H S Johnson, R H Hunting CBE, B J Livingston, A G Wauchope (Senior Warden), J A Biles (Master), J Verden (Junior Warden), R H Stedall, T P C Oliver, M J Crickmay
JOHN BILES, MASTER

John Biles was born in Norwich, Norfolk, in 1947 and then lived in Birmingham and London. He read Chemistry and Physics at the University of Exeter where he graduated with a Combined Honours degree in 1968. He decided to train as a Chartered Accountant and joined Price Waterhouse in 1968, qualified in 1971 and left in 1976 to join EMI, a major conglomerate. In 1981 he was headhunted by Racal Electronics plc and became successively financial director of three of its defence businesses. In 1991, Racal fought off a hostile takeover bid by promising to de-merge its security businesses as Chubb Security plc and John was appointed its Group Financial Director. Chubb’s interests included electronic security, manned guarding and the ironmongery related safes, locks and fire extinguishing businesses. Following its takeover in 1997, John became Group Financial Director of FKI plc, an engineering group, which also included ironmongery businesses in the US. In 2004 John decided to become a non-executive director and chaired audit committees for twelve mostly FTSE mid-250 companies.

After university, John joined the Honourable Artillery Company and spent seventeen years soldiering until work commitments made it impossible to continue in an active role. In 1976 he married Françoise and they have two daughters, Caroline (40) and Nicola (37), who are both married, and have four grandchildren. He enjoys travel, gardening, collecting antiques and Victorian paintings, walking, shooting and fine wine. He and Françoise live on the outskirts of Reigate, Surrey.

John became a Freeman of the Company in 2008, a Liveryman in 2011 and joined the Court in 2012. In addition to other roles, for four years he chaired the Property sub-committee, charged with investing the Company’s funds in commercial property, and later chaired the Financing sub-committee which raised debt for the Company on favourable terms.

ANDREW WAUCHOPE, SENIOR WARDEN

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, where they were in the same house (The Knoll) as Richard Carden (Master 2004) and our former Clerk Hamon Massey, although not at the same time!

Andrew then went to Queen Mary College, London University to do 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 is now at Psigma Investment Management in a similar role. Psigma have supported both the Inter-ivery Sailing and Real Tennis this year. He is a 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, who 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. They have two sons, George (17) and William (14), who are both at Harrow.

Andrew’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 Ironmonger Foundation Committee, Julian spearheaded the company’s “Serious about Schools” 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.

Julian Verden became a Freeman by re-demption 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.

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As well as being an Ironmonger, Andrew is a trustee of the Masonic Charitable Foundation, the Sir Halley Stewart Trust and 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.

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MESSAGE FROM THE IMMEDIATE PAST MASTER
The Rt Hon the Lord Garvagh, Master 2019

Writing this report has been a much greater challenge than I had thought, mainly because I want to try and convey not simply what I did as Master during my year in office, but also to try and give the reader an insight into what it feels like to fulfil the role, mainly because of the lifelong impression it has left on me and on my wife Catherine.

That could sound rather sinister, but let me immediately assure you that the impression is entirely favourable. The lead up to the role is familiar ground to all and the new Master John Biles with his two Wardens, Andrew Wauchope and Julian Verden, are all well versed in what is expected and how to deliver results. To be frank, I thought that I, too, had a reasonable grasp of what was in store during my Mastership year, but it very quickly became evident that I had fallen into my old school ways of not paying enough attention in class! I did not want to find myself at the bottom of the class again and it was then that I found out something about myself at the bottom of the class again and it was then that I found out something about myself.

I started the year consciously deciding not to introduce anything new in terms of either the social side of things or the running of the Company, but was instead keen to help consolidate the huge gains that have been made over the last three years during the Masterships of George Bastin, David Worlidge and Richard Slade. The reasons I decided to “hold things steady” were manifold, but principally because there were already a great many initiatives already in train and the last thing our new Clerk, Charlie Knaggs, needed right now was a Master adding to the list of challenges facing the Company. Before I go into a little more detail on those challenges, I will give you a whistle-stop tour of what I got up to and the impressions I have gathered along the way.

Like the Masters before me, the first event that made a big impression was the trip to Sir Robert Geffery’s School at Landrake in Cornwall. As is customary, we gathered the evening before at a lovely family run hotel and the following morning made our way to Landrake to be welcomed by children playing a huge array of musical instruments with great gusto. At prizegiving in temperatures of over 30 degrees I melted in my gown; it was worth every second as the children were fantastic and it was an absolute pleasure to give each of them their award. The bonus was that I lost weight as well!

This first foray of experiencing the Ironmongers’ charitable activities brought home to me what an extraordinary contribution the Company makes to so many young lives. Our support is also just as important to the teachers, since our efforts help provide a means for them to fulfil their potential as well. This proved to be a theme I witnessed time and again throughout my year. Visiting Oxford to hear about the amazing research that students are undertaking and which really push the boundaries of science (and my understanding!); welcoming 60 school children to our Hall for Making Materials Matter; seeing the drill and tug-of-war at the Army cadets’ camp at the Crowborough training ground in East Sussex; and then the sleep-over of the Landrake children at our Hall in June. The work of the Charities and the effect that even modest sums of money can make on peoples’ lives is humbling. The fact that our funds are so well targeted and accounted for is a great credit to Charities Manager Helen Sant, the various chairmen and their committees and the involvement of the Younger Mongers, who join in by visiting some of the locations and people where our donations make such a difference. The Company, under the stewardship of our new Clerk, can be proud of what it achieves in administering our many charitable contributions.

This year our Charities distributed just over £600,000 and this figure somehow grows year on year. As Master, one sits on all the committees and as the year progressed so my knowledge of the intricacies of the running of the Company grew. Our Clerk has had to hit the ground running – probably something he’s used to doing, having come from the Irish Guards and having seen action at home and abroad. The agenda that...
The Worshipful Company of Ironmongers 2018-2019

he and I have tried to work our way through has been in part various processes started by the Immediate Past Master, Richard Slade.

The topics covered at Court meetings have included a close examination of the workings of the Court itself. Questions were asked of it such as: is it fit for purpose, does it operate efficiently and is it fit to tackle the challenges of the future? It is healthy to ask such questions and they led to lively debate.

The good news is that the Court rises to the challenges asked of it with finesse and alacrity. However, the debate continues and the current Master will be looking at the challenges of introducing younger voices into the Court Room on occasion.

I have continued the process of trying to erode the persistent trading deficit of the Company and once again progress has been made. The letting of our offices helped hugely and attention has now swung towards the hiring of our Hall and how this might be improved. We remain with Fare (now CH&Co) and early in the year the Clerk handled a readjustment of our arrangements with them which has led to an already discernible upturn in monthly income from hiring and hospitality.

So, our Charities and the Company are in good shape, and Charlie Knaggs is now well settled in to his incredibly challenging role of running the Company’s affairs and its charitable giving. This leaves me to comment on two other aspects of my year which loom large in terms of my experience and how I now feel as I look back over the past 12 months.

The first is the impact that David Tudor-Morgan as Warden of the Livery and Yeomanry has had in maintaining a healthy social calendar for Younger Mongers. He has introduced innovative ideas, both for the better use of Hall facilities, but also for the creation of open and active communication amongst all members of the Company. The skiing and sailing continue to triumph as places to meet and enjoy each other's company in a relaxed and informal atmosphere. David’s encouragement during the skiing was admirable, even to those like me who have zero technique and rely entirely on gravity to help me down the mountain one way or another! Many livery companies have the same agenda of wanting to attract younger members and none do it as well as the Ironmongers’ Company. As a consequence, we now have 242 Freemen and 117 Liverymen (excluding the 37 members of the Court). We have now reached the point of having just over 20% of Freemen who are women and with just over 16% of Liverymen who are women, I know we all await with impatience our first female Master.

The second significant influence over my year was the fact that Peter Estlin, who is a Court member, is currently Lord Mayor of the City of London. He and Lindy, his Lady Mayoress, have been very generous hosts and have entertained Catherine and me on numerous occasions at Mansion House.

Looking at the Lord Mayor’s schedule made gravity to me the Great XII Britska with our Immediate Past Master, the Lord Garvagh.
me realise how lightly I escaped in my role as Master of the Ironmongers’ Company. The highlight of the year was our Combined Court, Livery and Yeomanry Dinner at Mansion House on 23 May. The venue was spectacular, but it was the Ironmongers and their guests who made the evening so special.

I was also hugely privileged to witness the Lord Mayor’s Show from a britzka drawn by four greys. For once the rain stayed away and the day was a complete triumph, not least because the then Warden of the Livery and Yeomanry, Kate Hughes, had worked wonders with the Ironmongers’ float. Of course, I’m biased but I reckon it was head and shoulders above any other float and it was finished off perfectly with a small army of Ironmongers in bright green Salamander costumes and others dressed as robots who caused quite a stir along the processional route.

The most consistently discussed and important projects on our agenda remain the future of our Homes in Hook and Basingstoke, and also the future of our wonderful Hall. The latter may well become part of the extensive proposals for a new Centre for Music being championed by Sir Simon Rattle and the London Symphony Orchestra.

Plans are now well underway to rationalise the Homes in order to ensure that the accommodation conforms with standards and offers our residents a good level of comfort. Like all things relating to property, it will not happen quickly but steady progress suggests that we are now much closer to understanding the actions that are needed to deliver this important upgrade.

On the Centre for Music, some early outline plans have been prepared by internationally renowned architects, Diller Scofidio + Renfrew. These are now being worked up in greater detail and we should shortly see just how this new structure may sit next to our Hall. Co-operating with the stakeholders, particularly the London Symphony Orchestra, is opening up exciting opportunities for the Company to gain financially from the proposed redevelopment, as well as to achieve a huge improvement in the built environment around Ironmongers’ Hall.

I leave the year as Master with a much better idea of just how wonderful the Ironmongers’ Company is, thanks to the time, treasure and talent that is bestowed on it by our members. Long may this remain the case. I have every confidence that our new Master, John Biles, will enjoy a hugely successful year.

It leaves me to thank my Wardens and fellow Court members, our Clerk and all the staff at the Hall including Fare our caterers, plus the Warden of the Livery and Yeomanry, members of the Company generally and finally my wife Catherine, for all the support I have received. With your help over the year, I hope the Company has maintained its vigour, its unique welcoming character and its effectiveness as a means of administering its Charities.
I am honoured and excited to be installed as Master for the coming year. Each Master’s year is an opportunity to make further progress in our 556-year history. I say make progress because the first thing that each new Master is required to do is to swear that “I will arrear no new custom, nor bind the Commonalty to any new changes”.

During my career I had often thought that I would like to join a livery company and joining the Ironmongers’ was an obvious choice for me because some of the businesses with which I have been involved have included ironmongery related activities. At a friend’s wedding, I talked to a friend and fellow member of The Honourable Artillery Company, Peter Oakden, also an Ironmonger, who told me more about the Company and agreed to take me to a Subscription Lunch where Ashley Boddy and Harry Charnaud agreed to sponsor me to become a Freeman of the Company.

Our principle aim remains to increase the scale of our charitable giving and to help improve as many lives as possible. We must also have fun and enjoy the social activities, which have been so well organised, and encourage more people to join us.

Much of our work is done by committees on behalf of the Court and I have found that sitting on all committees for the last two years has ensured that I am up to speed with the Company’s activities. This Annual Report provides information about our activities and within its pages you will find a report from the chairman of most committees about what they have achieved over the past year.

CHARITY
When most of our benefactors left funds for us to manage there was no social housing, no old-age pension, very little free schooling and if you were a sea-going merchant, Barbary pirates might capture you and sell you into slavery. By his will of 1725 Thomas Betton left money for education, for relief in need and for the redemption of British captives from these pirates. Sir Robert Geffery and other benefactors had earlier left money for the building of almshouses, for education and for relief in need. Today the main charities that we administer provide sheltered housing for elderly people, support for education and grants towards relief in need.

The Homes Committee is working on a plan to move all of our residents to one site and a number of decisions will be taken over the next year to advance this project.

The Betton’s and Appeals Committee, the Ironmongers’ Foundation Committee and the Iron Committee deal with our grant making and they, and the Homes Committee, are ably supported by our Charities Manager, Helen Sant, and her assistant, Ruth Eglesfield, who vet the many appeals that we receive and liaise with those to whom we give funds. Rather than giving money and forgetting it, we try to form a partnership with our beneficiaries by visiting them not only to ensure that funds are well spent, but also to demonstrate that we are interested in these projects and to provide encouragement and advice where appropriate. We support nine Church of England primary schools around the country with funds for various projects and provide fees to educate children at a number of other schools around London. Secondary school-age children who are interested in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects may also be supported and we make grants available to the materials science departments at six universities. We also support many other charities around the country. Committee members visit each school, but we need more members to help us liaise with those charities which currently do not have a dedicated Ironmongers’ contact.

Sir Robert Geffery’s will of 1704 made provision for a teacher at Landrake, Cornwall, and we have continued to provide school governors for Sir Robert Geffery’s School and other assistance since those days. The school is rated one of best primary schools in the country.

We do not forget our roots and the Iron Committee contributes towards conservation projects involving historic ironwork and creating new works of art in iron, especially for churches and schools.

Additionally, our committees make grants to the Sea Cadets and the Army Cadet Force which both do an outstanding job of giving young people a sense of discipline and purpose, at the same time as allowing them to have fun and enjoy new experiences. We also have affiliations with the London Regiment and the Grenadier Guards and contribute to the latter’s Colonel's Fund which helps physically and mentally injured soldiers.

THE HALL
The redevelopment of the Museum of London and some of the surrounding area has reached the stage when final decisions will be taken. In the interests of continuity, I am delighted to say that the Immediate Past Master has agreed to continue to chair the Hall Site Working Group for at least the next year. It is vital that we seize any opportunities that the redevelopment may present.
MEMBERSHIP, INVOLVEMENT AND RE-ENGAGEMENT

Membership now totals 396. We continue to encourage members to introduce relatives and friends who have an interest in what we do and, as Colonel Charlie Knaggs, our Clerk, says to prospective members, “give freely of their time, talent and treasure”.

We want to recruit more younger members and more women of all ages. New freemen will continue to be placed on committees, provided they have the time, and the Charities’ committees especially want people who are prepared to help with annual visits to our beneficiary partners around the UK.

Just over 37% of our members under the age of 40 are women which augurs well for the future and I hope will ensure that we can identify suitable women to join the Court in due course. Our focus is not only on new members; we are keen to encourage existing members to re-engage with our affairs when their career and family commitments allow them to do so and, in the meantime, to keep in touch. The Dinners and Subscription Lunces are an ideal opportunity for members to meet generally and to entertain family or work colleagues. The Monday Luncheon Club has also been very successful, and the Hall and its rooms are an ideal venue for entertaining or for a group reunion or meeting.

Teams of Ironmongers have competed in sailing, skiing, golf, croquet and shooting competitions during the past year and their captains are always looking out for new talent.

The Warden of the Livery and Yeomanry and his committee have organised some very enjoyable activities over the last year. My wife and I joined 50 other Ironmongers to visit Pentonville Prison where we were allowed to go into a wing and talk to prisoners, enter cells and visit kitchens and other facilities. We all came away with far more respect for prison officers and the work that they do under amazingly difficult conditions. They answered our many questions and then released us to visit a local pub for some well-organised refreshments. Visits to other venues are planned and I encourage you all to join in these activities.

COMPANY FINANCES

Over the last few years some important actions have been taken which have improved our finances. The Charity Commissioners allowed us to present consolidated accounts for our Charities which now show the overall picture of their finances and show a more substantial and meaningful balance sheet. This enabled us two years ago to take advantage of relatively low interest rates to borrow £15m at fixed rates until 2032 and 2042. These funds, which have strengthened our finances and enabled us to plan for the future, have been invested in commercial properties.

The Court’s decision in 2011 to form a Property sub-committee under the Finance and General Purposes Committee (FGPC) in order to switch listed investments into commercial property has stood the test of time. Nearly 60% of the Charities’ and Company’s funds are now invested in commercial property resulting in a significant increase in income. Two properties have been sold for good profits and the Charities’ assets net of borrowings have increased by 50% since 2012. We continue to look for suitable investments but this takes considerable time and the committee welcomes new members who have the time and expertise to help.

The FGPC’s Investment sub-committee has continued to monitor the performance of our fund managers which over the last year has exceeded the benchmark.

Our Chief Accountant, Andrew Harrison, and his small team have continued to do an excellent job of keeping our accounts and providing timely information. I am looking forward to the many engagements that the Master undertakes during the year and in particular visiting some of the organisations to which we make grants. I also look forward to meeting up with as many fellow members as possible over the coming year. Remember, the more you put in, the more you will get out.
MESSAGE FROM THE CLERK

Colonel Charlie Knaggs OBE

2018/19 – THE NEW CLERK’S OBSERVATIONS

WHAT A WELCOME!
WHAT A COMPANY!
WHAT A TEAM!
WHAT A YEAR!
WHAT NEXT?

The shock of capture has all but subsided. It is just over one year, and Georgie and I continue to appreciate the generous and warm welcome that we try to ensure is extended to anyone who ventures into the Ironmongers’ influence. I have loved my first year serving a modern livery company and being kept on my toes with the variety of interesting and plentiful challenges that entertain the office of the Clerk; all made the more enjoyable owing to the patient understanding, advice and guidance of many, but especially the Master, Ironmongers, the staff, professional advisors and fellow clerks.

What a Company! I must admit that it has taken a little time fully to appreciate the complexity and intricate workings of the “mystery or art of Ironmongers of London (1463),” as a picture on the wall of my office describes it, and to understand the depth of good works that the Company’s output generates in the City and further afield. The Company adds real value in society. Its role has evolved over centuries, but it appears to me that there is still much “mystere” that veils many members’ and much of the public perception. When I speak with Ironmongers

and those without the Company, I have yet to find a clear, simple, and common understanding or explanation of the livery companies in general and the Ironmongers’ in particular. Here, from my limited perspective, are my initial observations:

The Company:
- The Ironmongers’ Company is a corporate body in its own right – well governed by a committed Court and its committees with a view to remain relevant, now and in the long term.
- The Company is increasingly focussed and effective, with a preference for considered evolution and an eye on the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of the Company.
- The Company’s Charities – seven individual charities, each with their own scheme and all administered by the Company.
The Ironmongers’ Trust Company has a vital role to play in coordinating as sole trustee of the Charities and focussing to best effect the workings and output of the individual charities.

- The Company really is a fellowship of like-minded people – each of whom has committed to give generously of their time, talent, and treasure to the works of the Company and its Charities. Members appear to be increasingly engaged at all levels; they enjoy the engagement and camaraderie. Many would like to see more opportunities for formal and informal social interaction. I have seen generosity in no small measure from a wide variety of individuals, and I sense that members do wish to give more, if only they knew how. There is a strong move to increase membership in size and diversity. We need to find ways to optimise ‘giving’ and to maintain focus on the Company’s needs.

- The Company is well supported by a team of dedicated officers and staff. They feel appreciated and value the part they play in running the day-to-day business of the Company, Ferroners PLC, and the Charities. They in turn enjoy the support of professional experts and contractors who seem to enjoy being part of an extended Ironmongers’ Team. How fortunate to have such an experienced and patient team to help a new Clerk settle in!

- The purpose of the Company has evolved over six centuries from a trade organisation with professional and welfare responsibility for the business of ironmongery; now focussed on efficient administration of its Charities.

- The purpose and good works of the Company need to be understood more clearly by all. Work has already started in several ways to get the message out there in a variety of ways best suited to a wide-ranging audience.

WHAT A TEAM!
Teamwork is key to the success of the Company. The Company has a strong welcoming and family feel to it, and anyone entering through the front gates would find it hard not to be captivated by the Hall and its atmosphere; this is the Ironmongers’ unique selling point. The Court, and the Livery and Yeomanry Committee have done much to increase transparency and effective engagement by members (see the Warden of Livery and Yeomanry’s Report). The Hall Staff have made a real effort to ensure that professional advisors, contractors and clients feel that they a part of the wider Ironmongers’ Team. This “One Team” concept has begun to show dividends within the Hall catering and Hall hire business. I have inherited a long-serving and dedicated team of officers and staff who are the bedrock of this successful team. I have visited other livery companies and I consider us to be most fortunate in our team. We may have little redundancy; the professionalism may be dependent on single areas of expertise; and our staff may feel appreciated and well supported; but we should not take such teamwork for granted.

WHAT A YEAR!
This report reflects a successful year for the Ironmongers’ in many ways. The year of an Ironmongers’ Lord Mayor; progress on the four key priorities - decreasing the operational deficit; increasing membership (size, diversity and engagement); the Homes redevelopment; and planning for the future of the Hall Site in light of the City’s plans for the Museum of London. Both the Company’s and the Charities’ asset management and investments have performed well and grants have increased. There is no room for complacency though.

WHAT NEXT?
The Company’s priorities for next year remain much the same, but I sense much more work will be required to instill a common understanding of what a livery company is, and what the Ironmongers’ Company does to add value to society. This in turn should help the Ironmongers’ increase in size and relevance, and encourage members to optimise their giving to the Company and the Charities. The Officers and staff remain ready to support the membership, our partners, and our clients in every way possible and we will continue to work hard as a team to deliver the day-to-day business as effectively and efficiently as possible.

**The Clerk’s Timepiece**
The Clerk on the slopes at the Inter-Livery Skiing Championships
THE BISHOP OF LONDON
Sermon preached by The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE

A special service to mark the work of the Livery Companies in the City of London was held at St Paul’s Cathedral on 29 March 2019. This 75th Service of the United Guilds of the City of London, at which the Bishop preached, saw representatives of London’s 110 Livery Companies pack the Cathedral for a service of great ceremony and beautiful music. Her sermon was delivered as follows:

JEREMIAH 31:10-14 AND MATTHEW 25:31-END

I am told that my predecessor standing in this pulpit at this event proclaimed that this was one of the few occasions he ever felt underdressed – from my predecessor that is quite a claim but I understand where he was coming from.

With a very different look in this Cathedral is the only memorial to survive the Great Fire. It is in the Dean’s aisle to John Donne. The statue was claimed by Izaac Walton in his biography to have been modelled from life by Donne in order to suggest his appearance at the resurrection; it was to start a vogue in such monuments during the course of the 17th century. There is also a more conventional bust of the poet and former Dean by Nigel Boonham outside in the Cathedral churchyard, unveiled in 2012.

Donne died on 31 March 1631 and maybe his most famous quote is:

No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent. Any man’s death diminishes me, because I am involved in Mankind.

Followers of Jesus Christ believe that every human being is created in the image of God - The Imago Dei and as such we are not made in isolation – we are dependent on others.

As my colleague the Bishop of Kensington, Dr Graham Tomlin, has said recently, in responding to the tragedy of Grenfell Tower:

The Christian view of social relations tells us that my neighbour is not so much a threat, or a limitation, but a gift. If my own individuality is constituted by my relationships, not my own inner elusive personality or choices, then without my neighbour I cannot become my full self.

Throughout Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus has been telling everyone who would listen what the Kingdom of God is like. It is a kingdom which is built on the values and beliefs which at times seem foolish in the eyes of this world. It is not a kingdom where Jesus now crowned at the right hand of God the Father uses his authority and power for his own end. Rather it is a kingdom where Jesus counts others better than himself, a kingdom built on mercy, compassion, justice and the generous love of God.

The kingdom of God is marked out by compassion and Jesus calls us to be marked out by the same, it should be one of the identifying marks of authentic Christian people.

And Jesus uses the reference, which has its roots in Ezekiel, of the sheep and the goats and to the shepherd who divides them up to help us understand.

In the Middle East, to this day, sheep and goats regularly graze together, but need to be separated at night because the goats being less hardy can be kept warm. It is often difficult to tell them apart.

The mark of an authentic faith is not in the way a church worships, nor is it the way people talk about faith... The mark of a living faith is a heart marked by compassion.

Compassion lies at the heart of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ. The lesson from Matthew today tells us just how central the quality of compassion is in the eyes of Jesus Christ.

In every case when Jesus was moved with compassion it was a stirring within the depths of his being. The Greek word that is used is bowel or intestine, in Hebrew – womb. The response was not academic, Jesus didn’t discuss the theology or reasoned about the business plan required to deliver it; he was stirred in his depth, motivated and acted. Compassion demands action.

Jesus’s compassion always led to appropriate action on behalf of others because he had asked or listened to them. He asked the man by the pool what he could do for him,
he listened to the blind man by the road side cry out, and Christ’s demonstration of love was not because of what the recipients could do for him but because of his great love and care. In each case it involved the range of society, the rich, the outcast, the orphan, the widow and the sick.

The 110 guilds of the City of London give away £65 million pounds a year supporting education, prisons, young people, the armed forces and the Church; and we are very grateful for your compassion in action.

However, the compassion which Jesus speaks about goes beyond our modern-day understanding. What would compassion look like if we were to give not just to those whose values we can sign up to? What would compassion look like if it was given not just to projects we can measure the output or impact on? What would compassion look like if we gave to those who were different to us, to those who maybe are our enemies?

Jesus shows compassion and heals the man by the pool of Bethsaida and never knows if it had an impact on his life. Jesus sits with the Samaritan women by the well and touches the leper’s hand and risks social disgrace; he tells the parable of the man who is set upon by robbers with the purpose of telling us that our neighbours are our enemies.

Jesus tells us that to love our neighbour as ourselves not only demands us to be compassionate but requires us to recognize others as our equal partners with a mutuality so that both parties find value.

To see Christ or God in the stranger, the hungry or thirsty, the prisoner, those who are sick or naked, requires us to see them as our equals – all made in the image of God. Every human being before God with an unavoidable dignity.

What does compassion look like if we see the face of Christ in others, to see people, lives and relationships from his perspective? What does compassion look like if we think and act beyond boundaries?

What does compassion look like if we lived out with commitment the words of John Donne that No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent. Any man’s death diminishes me, because I am involved in Mankind?

Jesus says to his disciples ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’

I will end with the prayer by W R Matthews (1881-1973), Dean of St Paul’s, 1934-67, sung at the first United Guilds’ Service on 25 March 1943:

Thou hast a work for me to do; O Lord, show it to me.

Thou hast a place for me to fill; Give me grace to fill it to thy glory. Thou hast given me a soul to make; Make thou it for me, And build me into thy spiritual temple for Jesus’ sake. Amen.

Amen
THE GRENADE GUARDS IN 2018 - 2019
By The Regimental Adjutant, Major (Retired) James P W Gatehouse
(formerly Grenadier Guards)

The average length of service for young men joining the Infantry is little more now than four years, so the three operational deployments by members of the 1st Battalion to Afghanistan, Iraq and South Sudan over the second half of 2018 were, for many guardsmen, their first overseas tour. Just over 150 Grenadiers from Battalion Headquarters, Number two Company and elements of Support Company were based at three locations in Iraq and the Kurdish region on Op SHADER, the UK’s effort to support, empower and develop the Iraqi and Kurdish Security Forces in their combined fight against Daesh.

Camp Taji is about 40km north west of Baghdad on the River Tigris and the home of the Iraqi NCO Academy, where a small group of Grenadiers set up, prepared, delivered and mentored drill, fieldcraft, weapon handling, tactical exercises and train-the-trainer lessons alongside Iraqi instructors. On the other side of Baghdad, members of Support Company were based at FOB Gran Capitan, a Spanish-run camp in Besmaya. This is a large desert-run range complex and home to the Iraqi Bomb Disposal School, dedicated to training and preparing the Iraqi Security Forces to overcome the constant threat posed by improvised explosive devices. Finally, based outside Erbil in the Kurdish Region, others delivered training to the Kurdish Security Forces to overcome the constant threat posed by improvised explosive devices. Finally, based outside Erbil in the Kurdish Region, others delivered training to the Peshmerga forces. The Kurds proved a highly receptive audience and clearly appreciated the British training they received, delivered in the breath-taking surroundings of the Kurdish mountains. One of our training teams even occupied a fort built by Saddam Hussein as part of his campaign to subjugate the area in the 1990’s, sharing it with both Italian and Hungarian training teams. There may not have been Wi-Fi available but the guardsmen enjoyed the perks of having European coalition partners, particularly a sauna in camp!

The Queen’s Company and the other elements of Support Company were attached to the Welsh Guards and based in Kabul on Op TORAL. This required a different mindset that many used to the past deployments to Afghanistan might have been surprised by, with guardsmen taking high levels of responsibility as small independent teams working closely with the Afghans. The Company also provided force protection for the trainers at the Afghan Officer Training Academy, enabling the British instructors to develop the skills of young Afghan officers, critical as they continue the struggle to ensure the future stability and prosperity of their country.

Meanwhile the Inkerman Company and Corps of Drums spent their six months in South Sudan on Op TRENTON, a United Nations mission. They were attached to a British Engineer Regiment and split between two Internally Displaced People (IDP) camps at Malakal and Benitu, which contained 25,000 and 115,000 people respectively. The Guardsmen and Drummers provided local protection and assault pioneer support to the engineer taskings. Everyone deployed with an issued pair of wellington boots in preparation for the rainy season and the sea of mud that quickly followed, but no one anticipated a swarm of African killer bees which resulted in a number of hospitalisations, one man sustaining more than 100 bee stings. Fortunately all are now fully recovered.

In November, the Ironmongers’ Company hosted and provided a delicious lunch at the Hall for about 45 members of the Battalion’s families on a day trip to London. Wives and many small children were wonderfully entertained by the Master and Clerk, including Teresa and Catharine and, for most, it was a great opportunity to find out more about the Ironmongers’ and to run around and explore the Hall.

The prevailing themes of all three overseas tours have been capacity building and working within and developing relationships in multinational coalition forces. Nurturing these relationships has been crucial for all, whether it is cajoling and persuading a myriad of international UN logistical staffs in the middle of Africa, or local Sudanese groups; or developing training opportunities through engagement with both Iraqi and Kurdish security forces; or working with the Welsh Guards and other coalition partners in Kabul. All have provided new experiences, fresh challenges and ultimately they have been professionally rewarding and enjoyable.

Upon the Battalion’s return to Aldershot and after some well-earned leave, the three Company Groups then spent a very exciting but chilly week in Val Thorens on an adventurous training package, learning cross-country skiing as well as practicing their downhill skills, mostly upright. Concurrently, Alex Wilson, a young Grenadier officer was capturing the British Army ski team in Meribel.

In early March the 1st Battalion resubordinated to London District and there followed a frantic period of measuring up and fitting all ranks with their Home Service Clothing. The Tailors Shop is never busier as green turns to red! On 22 March, in glorious sunshine, there was a much acclaimed Medals Parade, held in the Quadrangle of Windsor Castle, with operational medals presented to 397 Grenadiers and attached personnel, watched by the families and
many friends. The Colonel, HRH The Duke of York, addressed the parade and presented medals to a selected few.

This was followed by a photograph of the entire Regiment (so the Battalion, Nijmegen Company and the Regimental Band) on the East Lawn. HM The Queen and The Colonel both joined the Regiment for this and the resulting photograph is big and spectacular. Afterwards all went on to a Reception nearby in Victoria Barracks and The Colonel met many members of the Battalion and their families, making it a memorable day for all who attended.

The Major General’s Inspection, a week later in Aldershot, was cut short as, having attended the Medals Parade, he had already been most impressed by the standard of turnout in the Battalion. Only the Corps of Drums and the young officers were re-visited and they were found to be, generally, in very good order. Three members of the Corps had participated in the annual and much anticipated Major General’s Silver Bugle Competition shortly beforehand had been placed 1st, 2nd and 4th overall, so the standard of musicianship is very high. It’s amazing what skills can be practised and honed in the Sudan!

Thereafter, the Battalion focused entirely on preparation for and the build up to the Queen’s Birthday Parade in June, finding the Escort and Numbers Two to Four Guards. It’s a very busy time for all, particularly the Commanding Officer, Senior Major and Adjutant who are all required to ride on the parade but are not natural horsemen. There were many early mornings spent doing circuits of Hyde Park, but fortunately the effort paid off. The Master Elect and members of the Ironmongers’ Company joined the Regimental Lieutenant Colonel for dinner and Beating Retreat by the Massed Bands at Horse Guards and then two days later for the Queen’s Birthday Parade, which was judged by many to have been the best in years.

Following the Birthday Parade, the Battalion switches its attention towards preparations for Exercise MAYAN STORM, a six-week exercise in Belize, which runs from late August to mid October. This will be company-level focused, with an emphasis on low-level section and platoon tactics, with live firing and adventure training packages on the Cays. A section from the Canadian Grenadier Guards will join the Battalion, as part of an overall effort to foster closer links with all our affiliated regiments and two members of the Ironmongers’ Company will also visit the Battalion.

The Battalion has now been resident in Lille Barracks, Aldershot, for over 8 years and this stability has been good for the families who are well established in the local area. Retention is good and the Grenadiers continue to be the best manned Regiment in the Foot Guards, but we can never be complacent.

Nijmegen Company, based in Wellington Barracks, is also fully manned and now, with an increased establishment, able to furnish a large Guard of Honour. It has recently done so, in the gardens of Buckingham Palace, as part of the state visit in June of President Trump. All young guardsmen, on completing their training, are posted directly to Nijmegen Company and they remain in the Company for up to 12 months, before moving on to the Battalion.

In September the Company will send a small party to Pont-a-Marcq in France, to commemorate the fierce and costly battle fought there by the Kings Company in 1944, and then the entire Company will move on to Bruges for commemorative events to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Liberation and the Regiment’s close affiliation to both the City and the Guild of St Sebastian. The Colonel will join us for this.

Finally, the Regimental Band continues to support state ceremonial and public duties commitments in London District. It is well led and the best recruited band in the Corps of Army Music. The standard of musicianship is very high and a tour to South East Asia, including South Korea, Japan and China, is being finalised for October.
I was surprised but delighted when Teresa Waller-Bridge, Assistant Clerk, asked me to write an article for this Annual Report and explain how I manage to be a deputy headteacher of a large multi-cultural academy, as well as be the Cadet Commandant for the City of London North East Sector Army Cadet Force. Teresa thought that these two roles are each technically a full-time job and mentioned that members of the Ironmongers’ would be interested in hearing how I manage to juggle both so well.

So I suppose I better start at the beginning.

Born during the early hours of 12 July 1966 at Queen Mary’s Hospital, Newham in East London, I suppose the thought or probability of me wearing any form of military uniform would have been extremely rare. My mother would from time to time remind me of my father’s two-year stint doing National Service with the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers and her overall resentment of him doing so. As I was growing up, she would say to me, “Whatever job you choose to do, don’t wear a uniform.” So you can imagine that as I contemplated what my future would look like and the type of jobs that I thought I might do, it would be everything other than what I am doing today. I can still recall my mother’s words to me about being blessed with an unlimited ability to find success in anything that I undertook, as long as I faithfully applied my efforts to it. So true.

In October 1986 I walked unaccompanied through the gates of the 4th Battalion Royal Green Jackets Territorial Army Centre, situated next to West Ham Park in East London. So it was partly due to sheer curiosity that I found the ingredient that was missing in my life, and my future could not have become clearer. I enjoyed the feeling of motivating, supporting and inspiring others, as well as being part of an overall team. I enjoyed learning from outstanding leaders who demonstrated a passion, resilience and commitment to shape an organisation from within.

Promotion came quickly – to corporal in my first year, to sergeant by the second, to company sergeant major by the ninth, commissioned in the nineteenth year as a lieutenant on probation, and I reached the rank of major some five years later. During this period, I attended numerous courses and also completed two successful operational tours, serving in both Kosovo and Iraq, and receiving commendations for my service. Promotion in the military also coincided with my civilian role as a teacher. Initially I was a sports instructor and then became head of several year groups, then senior headteacher, assistant headteacher and associate deputy headteacher before reaching my current appointment as a deputy headteacher with responsibilities for personal development, welfare and safety.

My initial assignment as a senior teacher was to create the right ethos to help improve this difficult inner-London secondary school by creating an environment of high standards and high expectations, a place where both teachers and students were supported to enable effective teaching and learning. The school, Southfields Academy, located in Wandsworth, South-West London, is approximately 23 miles from my home in Walthamstow, East London. I have an early start of 8:20am, which has meant that I have had to leave home by 6:00am to avoid the usual manic traffic. After some twenty years at the academy, I am used to getting by on four hours’ sleep; in fact I think I have been doing this ever since I could walk.

In order to create significant changes, I remember building a supportive relationship with our local community by inviting them to the academy for various events, and I also attended local community meetings. As a direct result, the community’s complaints started to reduce and a strong connection between the local community, the parents and the academy started to form.

But that was not enough. I needed to have a better understanding of what local issues were affecting our students in order to assist them directly. So I was grateful when the Police Borough Commander said that he was looking for several individuals to become ‘Independent Advisers’ who were to act as critical friends to him and future commanders. I am now advising my twelfth Borough Command Unit Commander. The Independent Advisory Group (IAG) is currently in its sixteenth year and I have been its chairman for some fourteen-and-a-half years.

Alongside the IAG, I set up a joint police and community ‘Stop and Search Monitoring Group’. This was something that young people felt was an issue and they lacked a basic understanding regarding their own rights and general responsibilities. Again, I find this a comfortable area in which to offer advice, support and feedback.

I was very pleased when I was recently asked to become a member of the Metropolitan Police’s newly formed Directorate of Professional Standards IAG. The formation of such a group that can give external feedback on any abuse of their position by the police, or any police corruption or other police misconduct has been something that I have been requesting for years.

So by the time December 2016 arrived, I was already prepped to assume, in my view, one of the most prestigious appointments – the Cadet Commandant for the City of London & North East Sector. It had been something which I had initially shunned as a reservist, because I felt a responsibility to be a role model for my peers and to show them that it was possible to work through the ranks to achieve a dream. I also felt that I still had a lot to offer as a member of the Territorial Army, now Army Reserve.

But I suppose what changed my mind...
was the overall scale of the challenge – the force comprised 20 detachments supported by three company locations and a very tired Sector Headquaters that had responsibility for approximately 620 cadets and 108 adult instructors. All these were in need of a little direction and some light spring cleaning, and the Sector especially needed help to focus and take control of its upward journey of continuous improvement.

And then there is my own family. I am the father of two boys, a 21-year-old who is making his own future and a 4-year-old who wants to start reception early. I have a supportive wife who understands the commitment of both jobs; I can hear her muttering as I type this, “You can always find the time to help others” and “You always have something to do!”

So how do you manage it all and why have you taken all of this on? I sense this might be your next question.

The truth is I thoroughly enjoy doing this. I enjoy being that critical friend to newly promoted borough commanders and indeed being part of a process that determines the suitability of police officers. I enjoy enhancing the cadet experience by leading individuals and groups at a strategic level. I enjoy being responsible for continuous professional development across both organisations. I enjoy solving complex issues and, dare I say so, in doing so producing excellent outcomes. I enjoy the friends, associations and experiences that I have acquired along the way.

But in reality, it is nothing less than what members of the Ironmongers’ Company do. Nelson Mandela once said, “As we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.” As members, you have helped to reconnect the lives of many a cadet, some of whom have spoken openly about their difficult journeys, others who just require a little understanding and encouragement for them to fulfil their true potential. Your support makes my role a little easier, enjoyable and definitely memorable as we support both adult volunteers and cadets to progress through their own journey.

It is for times such as these, when giving up my own personal time like playing that good game of tennis, is worth sacrificing.
As I hand over the chair of the Betton's and Appeals Committee after seven very happy years working with an immensely enthusiastic committee, Charities Manager and Charities Assistant, it seems a good time to review our activities. The starting point is not 2012, when I took over from Hugh Johnson, but 2002 when as chairman he started a process that has transformed the way the Company supports charities and schools in disadvantaged areas, as well as and those in need.

In this year Hugh persuaded the Court that any surplus income in Sir Robert Geffery’s Trust should be spent on grants through Betton’s for ‘Relief in Need’. These extra sums would transform the Betton’s Committee’s grant-making ability. It could adopt a new strategy to develop long-term partnerships with charities working in deprived areas. The Company started with three main partnership charities and currently has four. MakeBelieve Arts and Lyric Hammersmith use creative arts to deliver literacy and basic skills to children and young people who struggle to learn by conventional methods and are at risk of exclusion from education or employment. St Vincent’s Family Project provides support to parents of young children in challenging circumstances. Fourthly, at QPR Community Trust, our funding is focused on using sport to deliver employment skills and opportunities to young people with learning difficulties.

The Committee also set about forming a relationship with several Church of England primary schools that needed financial support and encouragement. Over the years, this very successful project has led to the formation of a group of nine schools located across England from Shildon in County Durham to Bournemouth, Dorset, on the south coast. The communities in which the schools are based vary considerably, but all face the same issues of under achievement, low aspirations and limited life skills. By making annual grants over a period of years, the Company has helped its partner schools improve educational standards, funding work such as literacy programmes, counselling and emotional support, and nurture groups and family liaison. In addition, the Ironmongers’ Company has offered a supportive role, allocating individual members of the Company to each school as an interested and impartial friend and bringing the headteachers together each year for a meeting at the Hall.

In 2015 we introduced for these schools the Curiosity Conference. Those on the committee will argue that this is the most significant event held in the Hall each year! Devised and run by MakeBelieve Arts, the project introduces children to the skills of writing and presenting short talks or ‘curiosities’, showing them how to think creatively and research their chosen topics.

Thanks to the extra funds we are now able to support over 50 charities each year. The number of requests rises every year, so we have developed a selection system designed to help the very hard-working Charities Team, Helen and Ruth. Currently some 35 members of the Company are involved in Betton’s work, visiting the charities we are helping, touring the Betton’s schools and taking part in the complex business of deciding whom we wish to support in the future. The number of members who might like to be involved could be larger.

Thanks to the hard work and foresight of Hugh Johnson some 17 years ago, Betton’s is the most effective of all the Charities’ grant-making bodies, achieving the greatest impact in changing lives for the disadvantaged living in deprived areas. It has been a privilege to be part of this process and I hope to remain on the Committee for many years to come. I also hope that even more members of the Company will get involved with the work of Betton’s.

Finally my thanks go to Helen and Ruth for their hard work. They never seem phased by the level of work required. And also to all the committee members and school visitors I have been lucky enough to serve with over the last seven years.
The year 2018-2019 has been another highly successful year for Sir Robert Geffery’s School (SRGS). The ‘Key Stage 2’ test results were excellent and the Year 6 students can be very proud of their attainment and progress. They are well prepared and in a good position to move on to secondary school this term. We congratulate them all and wish them every success.

Those who are familiar with the School or have visited the website will be well aware that academic work is just part of the many activities in which the children take part, including music, art, nature and many varieties of sport.

The children’s musical achievements were evident at Speech Day in mid-July. In addition to performances by each year group the school orchestra, brass group and choirs performed to a high standard which was very impressive and much enjoyed by everyone present. We (governors, staff, parents and children) were very grateful to the Master and Mrs Biles for presenting the prizes and awards, and to the Master for his inspiring speech. The Master’s presence at Speech Day is always a highlight in the school year, providing a visible link to Sir Robert Geffery and the School’s foundation.

Another very important annual event is the visit of the Year 6 class to London which includes the customary ‘banquet’ and sleepover at Ironmongers’ Hall. The Assistant Clerk and Banqueting Manager showed the group around the Hall. Then, after the meal, we were treated to several impromptu piano performances by the children – further evidence of their talent and accomplishments.

Some readers may well be aware of Ofsted’s expectation that schools should now pursue a wide curriculum which includes non-academic activities – the objective being to help develop pupils’ character, resilience and values which prepare them for success in life. That Sir Robert Geffery’s School is, and has been for several years, following such a curriculum is a tribute to the vision and innovation of our wonderful Headteacher, Mrs Julie Curtis, and her equally excellent team. The Company and School owe them an enormous debt of gratitude.

I would also like to take this opportunity of paying tribute to and thanking my fellow governors. As can be seen from the School website the group which comprises the Governing Body includes a number of ‘foundation governors’, who are Ironmongers and appointed by the Company; local representatives, typically current or past parents and teachers; and appointments by the Local Education Authority and Truro Diocese. The local governors work particularly hard, spending time at the School, chairing and/or serving on the committees (Finance, Premises, Personnel, Pupils and Admissions, Curriculum) that also meet regularly throughout the year and enable the Governing Body to function effectively.

Sir Robert Geffery’s wish was that the children of Landrake should not only be educated but also receive religious instruction. Christian values and beliefs are fundamental to the School’s mission and vision, reflected in the School Song and the daily collective act of worship which all children attend.

Last year Revd Malcolm Griffiths, a former vicar of the local church, retired from the Governing Body, having been involved with the School for twenty years. Malcolm’s contribution, particularly his Christian leadership and example, has been immense and we are all most grateful to him and wish him a long and happy retirement.

In closing, I reiterate my sentiments from last year that despite the past year’s achievements we are not complacent and remain committed to maintaining standards and seeking continual improvement. The governors and I much look forward to the coming year, maintaining Sir Robert Geffery’s vision and meeting children’s and parents’ expectations that SRGS should continue to be a leading ‘school for enthusiasts’.

SIR ROBERT GEFFERY’S SCHOOL, LANDRAKE, CORNWALL
R C R Twallin Esq, Master 2006, Chairman of Governors
IRONMONGERS’ FOUNDATION REPORT
H J Charnaud Esq, Master 2009, Chairman

Thank you for ‘stopping’ and making time to read this article. To hark back a year … I asked you, the Freemen of the Company, to review your giving. It is with great pleasure that I can report that this year you gave more than ever before. Thank you. Thank you for reading and taking action.

The reason we both want and need more donations is simple. The Ironmongers Foundation (IF) is YOUR charity. It was created initially in 1963 as the Quincentenary Charitable Fund (QCF) and is free of the giving restrictions that govern our other charities.

The greater the fund size, the greater the amount we can distribute. The greater the giving, the greater the activity in which Ironmongers can participate, which for many of you will have been one of the reasons you joined the Company. And through our collective action we will achieve more in support of Iron, Education and Relief in Need across the UK.

This year, accompanied by Freeman James Newman, I visited the Work-Wise ‘Get Up To Speed’ (GUTS) careers event at the Magna Centre in Rotherham. The Work-Wise Foundation, a hugely worthy recipient of our giving, works to inspire young people into necessary industrial skills and employability. At GUTS on 27 March, 68 local schools attended, pupils and teachers numbered 2839 and there were 98 employers/exhibitors.

That is magnificent, especially as we know that employers are not the most energetic of people at trying to engage with their future workforces, as highlighted in a Sunday Times article on 18 December 2018. We are also going to support another of Duncan’s initiatives called ‘Materials under the Microscope’. This will involve the IF funding the purchase of an optical microscope for secondary school students, along with typical samples to analyse, guidance instructions and a box to keep the kit in. If the pilot is successful, we will roll this out to many more schools giving more young people the facilities to which they would not otherwise have access – stimulating their curiosity and ability to engage in these critical subjects.

And so we go on – with these and other really worthwhile projects – and all because of you. Although I know you have all done well and contributed, I cannot but recall my headmaster’s comments of so many years ago. Good. Could do better!

Our involvement with the Smallpeice Trust continues to support the Arkwright Engineering Scholarships. This scheme is designed, through education, to boost the brightest pupils in their future careers. We also support the Smallpeice’s ‘RISE’ project in its valuable work in schools. Up to 120 students from two disadvantaged schools in Manchester and Newcastle-upon-Tyne benefitted from an inspirational STEM day. A further 60 pupils did the same in Shoreditch, London, and it is encouraging to read that 50% of the participants were girls.

Our work with Oxford Materials led by our Freeman Duncan Johnstone continues to, well, … forge ahead! (Forgive the pun). The project is called Making Materials Matter or MMM. It aims to inspire students to become the next generation of materials scientists and engineers. It does this through a partnership between the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, Imperial College London and Sheffield University and provides early and sustained engagement with Year 8 to Year 10 students (approx. 12-15 years old).

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Work-Wise GUTS

Thank you to all who gave and financially supported the Foundation and to those who have served on the IF Committee and have left after making a significant contribution to our shared endeavour. Also a big welcome to our new Committee members – you are very welcome, there is much to do!

To everyone - remember it is YOUR charity and I hope this update has offered an insight into the hugely valuable work we have done this past year with YOUR support.
The Worshipful Company of Ironmongers 2018-2019

HOMES COMMITTEE
R J Patteson-Knight Esq, Master 2013, Chairman

This has been a year of careful progress of our proposals for the Company’s Almshouses. The professional team employed by the Committee have engaged with Basingstoke and Deane Council and we have a clearer idea of what works would be acceptable to the Planning Authority. We have retained Knight Frank, Chartered Surveyors, to advise on the financial viability of the alternative schemes and are awaiting their formal report. This report will be carefully considered by the Homes and General Purposes Committees, as well as the Court, before further action can be taken. The residents remain at the heart of our decision-making process and will be consulted as a part of this progression.

Many matters have come to the attention of the Committee, including the conservation of the significant statue by John Nost II of Sir Robert Geffery, located in the garden at Geffery’s House, Hook.

Sir Robert Geffery was a remarkable man, who lived in unsettled times. He was the son of yeoman farmers, raised in the village of Landrake, Cornwall, and became a self-made man, prominent in 17th-century London. His career spanned the Civil-War period, the execution of Charles I and Oliver Cromwell’s Protectorate; then the Great Plague, the Great Fire of London, and a war with France.

The young Robert Geffery was apprenticed by Richard Peate in August 1637. He took up his Freedom of the Ironmongers’ Company in the same year, during Isaac Walton’s term as Warden of the Yeomanry. Geffery became a Liveryman in 1646. He married Priscilla Copley, a mercer’s daughter in 1651, which undoubtedly introduced financial and social openings. He was a shipowner and merchant trading in Africa, America, Europe, India and as far away as China. He joined the Levant or Turkey Company in 1653, and was also a member of the Royal African Company and a substantial shareholder in the East India Company.

Sir Robert was a distinguished Steward of the Honourable Artillery Company, Governor of the Honourable The Irish Society and President of Bridewell and Bethlehem Hospitals. Sir Robert was Master of the Ironmongers’ Company in 1667 and 1673, an Alderman of the City in 1676, knighted in 1673 at the beginning of his shrievalty and became Lord Mayor of the City of London in 1685.

Sir Robert was a religious man, but also a hearty companion. He was a familiar figure to many of the notables of his time, including Samuel Pepys, John Evelyn (the diarist, gardener and merchant), Robert Hooke and Sir Christopher Wren, as well as the infamous and resolute Judge Jefferies. And he garnered a reputation for fairness and compassion. In the last years of his life, Geffery was President of Bridewell and Bethlehem Hospitals. The two institutions fulfilled separate purposes: Bethlehem housed mentally ill or ‘distracted’ persons, while Bridewell (where he sat as a magistrate) was primarily a short-term prison for punishment, discipline and training of vagrants, destitute children, ‘strumpets’, disobedient servants and ‘night-walkers’. The governors acknowledged his exceptional contribution by commissioning his portrait to be painted by Sir Godfrey Kneller in 1693. This portrait was acquired by the Company from King Edward’s School Witley in 2008 and now hangs above the staircase landing at Ironmongers’ Hall.

Sir Robert Geffery died on 26 February 1704. The extent of his philanthropy was revealed in the range and size of his bequests. Beneficiaries included the inmates of London hospitals, poor widows, the poor inhabitants and children of Landrake and its church, and relatives and friends. Above all, he is remembered for his almshouse endowment. In 1707, the Clerk of the Company calculated he had £9,420 (the equivalent of £1 million in today’s money) in hand for the purchase of land and construction of an almshouse. The Kingsland Road purchase was completed in 1712 and the buildings occupied in December 1714. The homes sheltered between 40 and 50 pensioners, each couple or single person having their own room with a fireplace and closet.

In 1723, John Nost II was commissioned to make a statue of Sir Robert standing in his aldermanic robes and holding the sword of the City of London, designed for the niche above the entrance to the chapel of the almshouses on Kingsland Road. The agreed fee of £40 included the provision of a polychrome model, which the Ironmongers wanted to display at their Hall.

John Nost II (sometimes referred to as John Nost the Younger) inherited the family workshop in Stone Bridge, near Hyde Park, from his cousin John Nost I in 1710. Nost II was left £50 and an extra £10 “towards discharging” his debts. He managed to...
retain some of his cousin’s patrons, including Sir Nicholas Sherburn of Stonyhurst, who bought several garden figures in 1714 and 1716. Among his new clients was Edward Dryden of Canons Ashby, who owed the sculptor £65 and 5 Shillings for a gilt gladiator in 1713. John Nost II continued to run the workshop until his death in 1729. The business was chiefly the manufacture of the garden figures in lead, but also included a number of large-scale equestrian statues of George I. Frances Nost, John Nost I’s widow, died in 1716 leaving him “all the marble goods and figures at his house which belongs to me”. Also, she released him from all debts and monies from him to be due and owing at the time of my decease”, which suggests that his finances had not improved.

By 1717 the business was evidently prospering. Nost received a commission for a bronze statue of George I from the Corporation of Dublin. It agreed in that year to pay the sculptor £1,500, and a part payment of £500 to “Mr John Nost of London, statuary” was made in August 1721. Nost cast the figure of the horse from moulds made from Le Sueur’s statue of King Charles I at Charing Cross and went on to use the cast to produce several more lead versions for other patrons, including the Duke of Chandos, whose gilded statue with handsome pedestal carved with trophies of war, was erected at Canons Ashby. The statue, which completed a vista in the gardens, was singled out for appreciative comment by an anonymous Frenchman visiting in 1728. Leading Whigs such as Lord Cobham and the Duke of Boulton acquired versions of the George I equestrian statue for their houses at Hackwood and Stowe respectively.

In April 1718 Nost made an agreement with Sir John Germaine to supply to Drayton House, Northants “two leading statues six foot high from the plinth”. Clearly Nost had acquired a good reputation for his craftsmanship. He supplied several statues for the first Earl of Hopetoun’s gardens at Hopetoun House, near Edinburgh. He is likely to have provided several other figures for the Duke of Chandos’s house at Canons such as Hercules with his club, History with a table and candle in her hand, and Fame sounding a trumpet, with all these subjects being associated with the Nost workshop.

By 1723, Nost had an established reputation and a notable client base, of which the Ironmongers’ Court would have been aware. He was an obvious craftsman to approach, in particular because the statue was to be formed in lead, which is highly malleable and lustrous blueish white metal, resistant to corrosion. Nost agreed “to perform the statue” of Sir Robert Geffery six-feet high in “hard metal” in a workmanlike manner and put it up in front of the chapel of the Company’s almshouses in Shoreditch.

The magnificent statue of Sir Robert Geffery was moved to its current location in the garden of Geffery’s House.

Our colleagues in the Heritage Committee arranged for the statue to be surveyed by Messrs Taylor Pearce, leading conservators and restorers of statuary. Happily, its project manager reports that the “original sculpture appears to be in good condition with no obvious signs of internal armatures corroding and splitting of the lead”.

The Kingsland Road almshouses were sold in December 1912. A replica statue was presented by the Company to London County Council, the purchasers, and left in-situ at what is now the Geffrye Museum. The residents moved out of Shoreditch to a new building in Mottingham Park, Eltham, which opened in 1914. John Nost’s statue of Sir Robert was packed away carefully and re-sited above the entrance and below the clock and bell tower. The peace was shattered by the Second World War, and on 10 September 1940 Mottingham was partially destroyed by bombs dropped during an air raid and damaged again by the blast of a V-1 flying bomb in 1944. Mottingham was sold in 1971 and the money raised used to acquire a site and build new almshouses in Hook. Sir Robert Geffery’s statue was moved to its current location in the garden of Geffery’s House.
EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES AT GEFFERY’S FIELDS AND GEFFERY’S HOUSE
R J Patteson-Knight Esq, Master 2013, Chairman

The Social Club at Geffery’s Fields is now in its eighth year. Weekly events include Keep Fit sessions in the morning and Bingo in the evenings on Tuesdays, and a coffee morning on Wednesdays. Social evenings with drinks are held twice a month.

A few years ago, Bright Horizons Nursery in Basingstoke asked if they could put on a pantomime to entertain the residents. The Nursery now regularly visits Geffery’s Fields and the residents love seeing the children, who are all aged under four.

At Geffery’s House, coffee mornings are held on weekdays and Sundays and there’s a monthly quiz in the lounge. Residents are invited to a monthly lunch at St John’s Church. Some residents attend the Young at Heart Club at Hook Community Centre, which is run by members of The Base Youth Club with the idea of encouraging young teens to interact with older generations. Some residents belong to the Women’s Institute and the Hart Health Walks Club, run by Hart Voluntary Services, is also popular. Walks in the local area happen every weekday and on alternate Saturdays.

Tony, the gardener, works hard to make sure that the grounds at both Homes are a pleasure for all to enjoy. Residents who tend the allotments at Geffery’s House provide the Home with an abundant supply of vegetables and flowers. The orchard yields a generous amount of apples of different varieties and everyone is encouraged to help themselves.

Below are some social highlights from the past year.

2018 - SUMMER
- Geffery’s Fields residents celebrated the Men’s Finals at Wimbledon in July with strawberries, cream and Pimms.
- The weather was beautiful for the summer barbeque at Geffery’s Fields on 4 August. Residents from both Homes attended along with the Clerk and his wife, Georgie. Later in the month, the Bright Horizons Children’s Nursery held a tea party at the Home.
- On 13 September, Geffery’s Fields residents invited residents from Geffery’s House to join them on a coach trip to Worthing. The outing was a great success.

2018/19 - AUTUMN/ WINTER
- In October there was an evening of “Play Your Cards Right” at Geffery’s Fields with prizes, tea and cakes. Later in the month, the Bright Horizons Children’s nursery arrived for their Halloween party. Their Children’s Christmas Party was held at the Home in December.
- In November, residents of Geffery’s Fields celebrated the life of former resident and Club Chairman Ray Willis with an evening of live 60’s and 70’s music from the local popular duo ‘Lipstick & Lace’.
- In December there was a Christmas raffle and residents of Geffery’s Fields went to their annual Christmas lunch at the Red Lion Hotel in Basingstoke and arranged a New Year’s Eve party. Residents of Geffery’s House arranged their own Christmas lunch and party at the Home.
- In January the Geffery’s Fields organised a fish and chips lunch at the Home and in February a horse-racing themed quiz.

SPRING/SUMMER
- In March, residents enjoyed a curry night at Geffery’s Fields. The food was prepared by residents Mr and Mrs Caramchand, who are originally from Goa. A Grand National sweepstake was held at Geffery’s Fields in April. There was an Easter Sunday raffle and the Bright Horizons Nursery held their Easter Bonnet Competition.
- On 11 April the Residents’ Lunch, which is held at the Hall every two years, was a great success. Eighty people attending the lunch.
- In May, twenty-six Court members joined the residents of Geffery’s Fields for a service at St Mary’s Church followed by a delicious buffet lunch at the Home.

On July 15th, Geffery’s Fields resident Mrs Webb celebrated her 100th birthday. Mrs Webb came to Geffery’s Fields 4 April 1985. All the residents were invited to a party at the Home.

USE OF HALL COMMITTEE
M J Crickmay Esq, Master 2003, Chairman

Another interesting and challenging year and yet at times uncertain, what with the political uncertainty of Brexit, the nervousness of the City, an FT wobble in October/ November and the closure of some high class restaurants seeming to fail, and finally the trend of companies leaving final confirmation of bookings of the Hall to the last minute.

All this may sound rather depressing but I am pleased to report that through very hard work, perseverance coupled with great enthusiasm we have experienced another very successful trading year in the letting of the Hall.

Some 11 City Livery Companies have used our Hall for their lunches and dinners, including the Butchers who have been rather restricted in the use of their own hall due to the refurbishment thereof.

Other uses to which the Hall has been put vary widely from the graduation ceremony for university of Durham, a dinner to promote Sipsmith gin distillery and Edward Crutchley fashion show. As in previous years film location finders are attracted to the uniqueness of the Hall including, Pennyworth, filming the pre-sequel story for Batman’s loyal servant, Alfred Pennyworth and recently for the American TV series based on the original movie of Four Weddings and a Funeral.

During the year we have had a rearrangement of staffing with our catering contractors CH and Co. and are now incorporated within their “livery team” to further promote the Hall. Gabor Mocsar has been promoted to Banqueting Manager and Alina Gevorgyan is responsible for the sales and marketing. Our Beadle, Steve Walby, has the luxury of an office from which to administer the duties of, not only a ceremonial nature, but ensuring we are up to date with all the necessary health and safety certificates and other matters pertaining to the successful running of the Hall.
ESTABLISHING OUR RECORDS
Justine Taylor, our Archivist, has spent a considerable time during the year in setting up and logging details into AtoM, an online catalogue of our archives and possessions, which is now working well. This is, in a sense, a follow on from the book of our hundred treasures published in 2016, and it is intended to provide a description of every possession, most with an image, as a resource for the future. Access to the system is controlled so that it can only be used by authorised personnel. A part of this process will also involve labelling items of plate so that they can more easily be identified. The project has also involved editing and updating the list of library books held by the Company and the re-ording and cleaning of those in the bookcase in the drawing room. This dusty process was undertaken by Justine with help from George Pellatt. A second exercise has involved the scanning by the London Metropolitan Archives of the large volume of archaeological drawings made by John Walker Baily (Master, 1862). These depict Romano-British and medieval items found during Baily’s excavations in the City of London from 1863 until 1872. The original objects are now in the collection of the Museum of London.

PORTRAIT OF SIR JOB HARBY
Perhaps the most interesting project that has arisen very recently has been research into a portrait thought to be of Sir Job Harby who was Master of the Company in 1635 and again in 1643. The portrait, which was painted in 1644, shows that he was then aged 56, suggesting that he was born in 1588. This ties in with his admission to the Company for future generations. As in every year, items are identified that are in need of repair and conservation. These have included the conservation and movement of the lead statue of Sir Robert Geffery at Hook, which originally stood outside the homes in Kingsland Road, Hackney. There is a view that once conserved and cleaned it should be installed under cover when it is ultimately moved to Geffery’s Fields at Basingstoke. This will provide better security and protection.

Nevertheless, its condition is not currently giving cause for concern and it would be extremely heavy to move, making the risk of theft unlikely. The committee also looked at the possibility of providing a digital three-dimensional image of the statue, although research has shown that the cost of such a scan would currently be prohibitive.

One of the silvered sconces providing lighting in the Banqueting Hall has been in need of repair for some time, and it is pleasing that this has now been satisfactorily completed. It has been established that they are manufactured of silver-coloured metal. The brass plaque on the statue of Sappho at the top of the stairs had become worn over succeeding years and this has now been replaced.

HERITAGE COMMITTEE
R H Stedall Esq, Master 1989, Chairman

There are plans underway:
- to restore and frame a banner showing the coat of arms of the Company and its frame (Luncheon Room);
- to improve the display cases in the entrance hall with museum-quality cotton/linen backing in place of the existing wool felt and to provide low voltage lighting to prevent damage to case contents.

At the initiative of the Senior Warden (now the current Master), a more regular check of the inventory of our plate has been undertaken. There has not been a critical problem in recent years, but teaspoons and other smaller items disappear from time to time to the distress of all concerned.

The Junior Warden advised us that ‘Mayflower 400’ was organising events in 2020 to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the landing of the Mayflower in America. It had been established that Thomas Weston, a member of the Company was the treasurer for funding of the voyage as a business venture, although he did not sail on the ship. Weston was admitted to the Freedom on 21 March 1611 after servitude to Rowland Heylin, who was Master in 1614 and 1625.

At the instigation of Richard Hunting, efforts are being made to pull together copies of the Annual Newsletter begun by the then Clerk, Richard Brayne in the 1970s, but greatly enhanced by succeeding Clerks and Company staff into the magnificent annual report that you are now reading! These newsletters or annual reports provide an excellent insight into the workings of the Company for future generations.

REPAIRS AND CONSERVATION
As in every year, items are identified that are in need of repair and conservation. These have included the conservation and movement of the lead statue of Sir Robert Geffery at Hook, which originally stood outside the homes in Kingsland Road, Hackney. There is a view that once conserved and cleaned it should be installed under cover when it is ultimately moved to Geffery’s Fields at Basingstoke. This will provide better security and protection.

Sir Job Harby, Master 1635 and 1643
Before I provide my report, I would like to thank Sam Apsley, who served on the Iron Committee for a remarkable 32 years and served as Chairman for the last 11 of these years. Having had close links with the foundry industry for most of his working life his knowledge and experience were invaluable to the Committee in assessing the merits of applications and making sure our limited funds made the maximum effect. His guidance will be sorely missed.

I was delighted to be asked to take on the chairmanship of the Iron Committee last year, particularly as it was the first committee I sat on after I joined the Company in 1991. At the time, the Iron Committee was chaired by John Harris and I was closely involved with him in arranging the setting up of the Medal for the Ironmongers’ Oxford Prize, which is still awarded annually to the best presentation by a fourth-year student in the Materials Department at Oxford University. Since John’s death, his wife Mary has attended the two days of presentations and I was delighted when she accepted the invitation to join the Committee earlier this year.

The Iron Committee meets once a year (although with effect from the current Master’s year it will be meeting twice a year) and at the meeting held in April 2019 it was noted that projects which had been given grants in previous years at the Therapy House, Nelson Garden Preservation Trust, Friends of Valley Gardens, Gilbert White’s House, Nelson Garden Preservation Trust, Crossness Engines Trust and the National Trust’s Berrington Hall had been completed.

Through its historical links with several organisations connected with the iron and steel industries, the Committee considers a number of regular annual grants and this year it noted that the Foundry Industry Jubilee Award 2018 of £3,500 had been put to good use by the recipient to attend the World Foundry Congress in Kraków, Poland last September and the Committee approved a grant of £4,000 for the 2020 Jubilee Award. For many years, the Iron Committee has supported the Materials Departments of the Universities of Birmingham, Cambridge, Imperial College, Manchester, Oxford and Sheffield by giving grants to assist students to conduct iron-related projects and frequently to enable them to travel overseas to attend courses or conferences to further their knowledge and experience. This year we approved grants of £5,000 to each of the universities, although each university then has to revert to us with an explanation of how the grant was spent within a set period and only if we are satisfied that the money have been used in accordance with our criteria, do we actually remit the funds.

Our aim is to promote the craft of ironwork. The Company seeks applications for grants for the conservation of historic iron work or the creation of new decorative iron or steel work and this year we had 16 applications to consider. The Committee decided to award grants to six of these, with sums of between £1,800 and £7,000. We assisted three churches with restoration of chapel gates, a reredos and some new handrails to improve access. We also supported the Maritime Archaeology Sea Trust for the restoration of five swivel guns from HMS Invincible, which sank off Portsmouth in 1758, the Slough Fort Preservation Trust to restore a World War I era 12 pounder naval quick firing gun and also Charterhouse for the restoration of the Victorian water pump in their gardens.

The Committee had been approached by Historic England last August to get involved with the restoration of ironwork at Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings. Normally the Ironmongers would not get involved in such a massive project, but the mill was the first iron-framed building in the world and the Committee felt we had to get involved if we could find some specific projects to fund. With the assistance of an additional grant from the Ironmongers’ Foundation, we were able to support the restoration of the bellcote and an exterior staircase. A more detailed report on this fascinating project by Ruth Eglesfield, Charities Assistant is set out on page 30 of this Annual Report.

In May, the Master, the Clerk, Mrs Mary Harris and I travelled down to Oxford for a day and a half of presentations for the Oxford Prize, mentioned above. We were joined on the judging panel by Prof Keyna O’Reilly, who organised the talks for the Department of Materials. We listened to 31 twelve-minute presentations on various leading-edge materials projects. A lot of the science was way beyond most of the judging panel but what was really being assessed was the quality of the delivery and content of the presentation. After some discussion, the winner was declared as Brandon Severin, who spoke on hybrid cavities for the study of nanoparticles. Subsequently, he attended the June Court Meeting to give an abbreviated talk and receive his prize (the medal and £450) from the Master.
NEWS AND SNIPPETS
Mrs T M Waller-Bridge JP, Assistant Clerk

OUR CHAPLAIN
Our Honorary Chaplain, The Revd Penny Seabrook, has been promoted from being Associate Vicar of All Saint’s Fulham to being the Vicar. She was installed on 26 June 2019. She went through a competitive and rigorous interview process and it’s a great tribute to her that she came out on top. Generally it is unusual that Associate Vicars get promotion within their own parishes.

PRESENTEE AT CHRIST’S HOSPITAL
Matt Tilbury cycled from his home in Surrey to meet his new Christ’s Hospital Presentee, Abraham Ogunmasa, and his parents near their home.

GREAT XII QUIZ
The year 2018 was surprisingly successful for the Ironmongers’ Quiz Team (known as the Pig Ignorants) as they won the whole event. On winning the Master announced ‘the Clerk is going to kill me for this’! Winning is a double-edged sword as the following year the winning livery company has to host the next competition. The Social Secretary is already keyed-up with quiz masters, menus, libations etc.

WE HAVE ONE TOO…
As a comparison with the 1667 maquette of Edward IV in the Court Room by Gaius Gabriel Cibber, we have received images of a similar small statue of Edward III, also by Cibber, at theSkinners’ Company from its Beadle, Philip Ludgrove.

(The Skinners’ Company additionally has a second small painted terracotta statue of Sir Andrew Judd, also thought to be by Cibber.)
A NEW ACQUISITION
A portrait thought to be of Sir Job Harby, Master 1635-36 and 1643-44, and a benefactor to the Ironmongers’ Company, has recently been purchased by the Company at auction. We await a conservation report and its hanging in the Hall for all to enjoy.

THE COMPANY BELL
One hour before the City Dinner the Junior Warden, Mr A G Wauchope, single-handedly wrestled the bell around to show off our coat of arms and the seized-up clanger. Unfortunately the stand it had been resting on for the last 25 years disintegrated. However, it is now on a temporary stand with its clanger well lubricated. The bell now sounds beautiful. Thank goodness for strong Junior Wardens.

LOOK UP AND GET PLASTERED...
The modelled plasterwork of the Court Room ceiling is being refurbished. This, along with other plasterwork for the new Hall in 1924-25, had originally been created by Messrs George Jackson and Sons. The pattern in this room follows that of some Tudor ceilings at Crewe Hall into which the arms and supporters of the Company have been introduced.

OUR BELOVED SAPPHO
A new engraved brass plaque for the statue of Sappho has been made to replace the original plaque, the wording of which has long since been worn away. Mrs Annabel Clark, who remembers the Mottingham almshouses when her late mother, Mrs Anne Dodge, was matron there during the years 1957-1971, visited the Hall with her daughter and grandson on 22 October 2018 to see Sappho; she also kindly purchased a copy of the Treasures Book.

Other artists were employed to make the Hall’s stained glass (Reginald Vell) and the carved stonework and woodwork (under
The Worshipful Company of Ironmongers 2018-2019

Glasgow-born sculptor George Alexander). When you are next in the Court Room you may like to look above the paneling to see the carved frieze of 31 ‘masks’ or faces symbolising such subjects as Law, Justice, Medicine or Music and also occupations, including the Tailor, the Fisherman, the Turner, the Carver, the Blacksmith and the Ironmonger. These faces were carved by Alexander’s craftsmen according to their own imagination and design. Alexander himself was later remembered by William Gregory, a young apprentice on the carving team, as having had a penchant for pineapples and also having been ‘a teetotaller, a non-smoker and a lover of cats’.

GUESS WHO …?

This picture is of a Liveryman and his godmother, Kirsten Longmuir, at Yeoman’s House, Headley, for his christening in July 1963. Who do you think this could be? He is a handsome little boy.

EARLY COMPANY NEWSLETTERS. HELP PLEASE!

Richard Hunting Esq. raised the issue of whether we had a complete run of the Company newsletters during a recent Heritage Committee meeting.

The then Clerk, Richard Bolding Brayne, had started a single page news sheet some time before 1989/1990 when Mr James Oliver became Clerk. James Oliver and Mrs Sue Andres, Freeman, had developed this into a multi-page format by the later 1990s. Colonel Hamon Massey, Clerk 2005-2018, and the Assistant Clerk, Mrs Teresa Waller-Bridge, developed it further into today’s more comprehensive ‘Annual Report’.

No early newsletters have yet been found in obvious Company files, but some PDFs of early years are now available thanks to Richard Hunting (for 1997, 2002 and 2006) and James Oliver (for 2001). The search is continuing for earlier years. Do you have any at home covering the years 1989-2000 and 2003-2005 that you would like to donate or could scan and send to the Archivist? Thank you!

DUTIES OF OFFICERS, 1883-1891

Members might be interested in a few images from the ‘Duties of Officers’ book which recorded the duties allotted to various members of Company staff and salaries paid in the late-nineteenth century – the Clerk, the Chaplain (also an Honorary Chaplain), the Surveyor, the Land Agent, the Beadle, the Under Beadle, the Porter (also an Under Porter), the Butler, the Housekeeper, the Matron, the Apothecary, the Gate Keeper and the Marsh Bailiff. The pages of the book also lists Christmas gifts of wine to staff and the residents of the almshouses and record costs for freedom admissions, and dinners and luncheons at Ironmongers’ Hall (then in Fenchurch Street).
YOU CAN’T TAKE HER ANYWHERE...
Following a dinner at Mansion House (thankfully not an Ironmonger official dinner!) the wife of a Past Master was spotted nicking the flowers.

MAYFLOWER 400 AND IRONMONGER THOMAS WESTON
The Senior Warden is keeping in touch with ‘Mayflower 400’, a body co-ordinating events in 2020 to celebrate the landing of the Mayflower in Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1620. An Ironmonger and merchant adventurer, Thomas Weston, had been the treasurer for the funding of this potentially profitable Atlantic voyage. Research shows that Weston was admitted to the freedom of the Ironmongers’ Company on 21 March 1611 after servitude to Rowland Heylin (who had Welsh connections, had been admitted in 1584 and was Master in 1614 and 1625).

Thomas Weston’s name is noted in the list of freemen admitted for 1610-1611. He had previously himself written and signed the apprenticeship oath to Heylin on 5 August 1602.

More on Weston and his contribution to the funding of the Mayflower’s voyage in 1620 will appear in next year’s newsletter to mark this 400th anniversary.

YOU DON’T TAKE HER ANYWHERE...
Following a dinner at Mansion House (thankfully not an Ironmonger official dinner!) the wife of a Past Master was spotted nicking the flowers.

Peter and Lindy Estlin, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, have had an outstanding year. They have kept the Ironmongers’ involved along the way, and I am sure that we have all bristled with pride at the mention of our own Lord Mayor. He has had a particularly challenging year with the current political situation but has managed it all superbly and with panache, as well as keeping the City of London together in its close community. It is thanks to both him and his wife that we had an exceptional Company dinner at Mansion House in May when he and Lindy were our guests of honour.

It also turned out that the dinner was held on Lindy’s birthday and the Company were honoured to be able to give her a celebration birthday cake.

Kate Hughes, Past Warden of the Livery and Yeomanry, for arranging the Ironmongers’ float at the Lord Mayor’s Show. Her enthusiasm, patience and energy were un-stinting. Our float was spectacular (possibly the best in show) and her unbelievable hard work, together with that of her volunteers, resulted in a truly splendid day. Apart from this, she continues to encourage members to engage in the Company and we are blessed to have her as one of our Livemyns.

Thank you, Kate.

David Tudor-Morgan, current Warden of the Livery and Yeomanry, also has unbounding energy and his brain and ideas never seem to stop. He has driven our office mad at times; however his charm, enthusiasm and sense of humour have kept us all on our toes and more than amused. He really has turned the Livery and Yeomanry around and he will be hard to replace but we hope he will never be allowed to leave its committee. During this year, he has also learnt to wear and tie a tie! A first!

Lorraine McHugh, our housekeeper, has looked after the Hall and kept it and us clean for some 25 years. Her eyes and ears are in exceptional working order and she misses nothing. She received a presentation from the Court earlier in the year but it is now our time to say thank you for looking after all of us workers in the Hall so well.

Catharine Melville, Secretary of State for Social Affairs. It is universally agreed that without Catharine at the helm of all the parties and pleasures, the Company would not exist in its current format. In theory she works three days a week, however she actually works considerably more and the Ironmongers are constantly at the forefront of her mind. She is very definitely a ‘can do’ person and, having ‘seen it all before’ after working in the Hall for 16 years, nothing phases her. Her choices of food and menus never fail to please. Her warmth when greeting guests is un-bounding and her sense of humour is wicked. She never makes mistakes or errors (is she human?) and she never gets into a bad mood with anyone (apart from occasionally sounding off at the Assistant Clerk!). Catharine, thank you for being an exceptional person.
MILTON LILBOURNE BELLS RE-DEDICATION

Notes from Bells Re-Dedication Service at St Peter’s Church, Milton Lilbourne on Sunday 20 January 2019.

St Peter’s Church was full to bursting for the Milton Lilbourne Bells Re-Dedication service, with over 100 people attending this special ceremony to mark the return of the newly tuned bells and new bell frame, which had been away being refurbished at Taylor’s Bell Foundry in Loughborough since September 2018.

As well as villagers and people young and old from the local community, there were representatives at the ceremony from many of the grant-giving organisations who have been fundamental in getting together the money for this major project, eg the Pewsey Area Board, the Ironmongers’ Company, the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust, Llewellyn Edwards Bell Restoration Fund, and of course the Heritage Lottery Fund which was the largest benefactor.

During the service, the Archdeacon of Wiltshire, The Very Reverend Sue Groom, spoke eloquently about the role of the bells in calling people to worship and also about how the sound of bells moves everyone who hears them, both believers and non-believers. Having blessed the bells, she ceremonially handed over a bell rope to Tower Captain Chris Wardell.

After the service, the ringers rang the bells to accompany the congregation as they left the church and walked down to Lower Farm House, where Canon Gerald Osborne and his wife Emma kindly hosted a drinks reception. Arriving at Lower Farm House, guests were delighted to see monuments and old oak bell frame by local craftsman Richard Oakman. Both of these will be displayed in the ringing chamber to mark the significance of this project for future generations.

Ringers from the Milton Lilbourne band who rang for the Bells Re-Dedication service, including representatives from the Salisbury Diocesan Guild of Ringers

Treble bell dedicated in memory of the late Barbara Westerberg

THE EXTRAORDINARY SCIENTIFIC, SOCIAL AND MILITARY LIFE OF ELIZABETH ALEXANDER BY OUR OWN MARY HARRIS, FREEMAN (UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION, UK)

Many women scientists, particularly those who did crucial work in two world wars, have disappeared from history. Until they are written back in, the history of science will continue to remain unbalanced. This book tells the story of Elizabeth Alexander, a pioneering scientist who changed thinking in geology and radio astronomy during WWII and its aftermath.

Building on an unpublished diary, recently declassified government records and archive material adding considerably to knowledge about radar developments in the Pacific in WWII, this book also contextualises Elizabeth’s academic life in Singapore before the war, and the country’s educational and physical reconstruction after it as it moved towards independence.

This unique story is a must-read for readers interested in scientific, social and military history during the WWII, historians of geology, radar, as well as scientific biographies.

Born in Singapore in 1939, Mary Harris née Alexander was evacuated to New Zealand in 1942, eventually arriving in England in 1947. She attended Oxford High School then University College Ibadan Nigeria, where she read for the London University BSc. Following the death of her mother in her final year and unable to complete her degree when her father remarried, she returned to England. She married in 1960, and inspired by her daughter’s learning disabilities, she took a London University B.Ed, taught and did curriculum research in special then mainstream mathematics education. Her work constantly interrupted by the needs of her daughter, her son and her husband, who had been a Far East prisoner-of-war, she was unable to complete her PhD but continued to develop her career in mathematics education at the University of London Institute of Education until her retirement.

For many years she has been an active member of 3 charities which research the lives of individuals caught up in the fall of Singapore in 1942 and its aftermath. In her rare leisure time she continues to pursue a life-long interest in archaeology and ancient history of Africa and the Middle East. Her professional research and publications are mainly concerned with mathematics in everyday life, particularly the unacknowledged mathematical content of the traditional work of women. She lives in North Kensington in London, deeply embedded in her community at the foot of Grenfell Tower.

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SHREWSBURY FLAXMILL MALTINGS
By Ruth Eglesfield, Charities Assistant

In April 2019 the Company’s Iron Committee awarded a grant of £18,500 to The Historic England Foundation for the restoration of ironwork at Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings. Of this, £12,500 will be used for the repair of the bellcote. The remaining £6,000 is to restore an ornate iron staircase.

A unique piece of England’s industrial heritage, Shrewsbury Flaxmill Maltings is a collection of eight listed buildings that are being restored following a long period of disuse. These include the flax mill, the apprentice house, a dye house and a malting kiln. This major project is being led by Historic England in partnership with Shropshire Council and the Friends of the Flaxmill Maltings.

The Grade 1 listed mill is one of the most important buildings from England’s industrial past. It was constructed in 1797 for Yorkshire linen magnate John Marshall and brothers Thomas and Benjamin Benyon. The three men had recently suffered £10,000 worth of damage from fire at their mill in Leeds and hoped to avoid further financial setbacks. Structural engineer, Charles Bage, was also a partner in the venture.

Instead of using timber, Bage’s pioneering design involved a combination of cast-iron columns and cross-beams. The strong, lightweight construction limited the risk of fire, which had caused so much devastation in the mill trade, and the design enabled new levels of floor space and larger windows. A forerunner of the modern skyscraper, the mill was the world’s first iron-framed building and the first multi-storey building to have a complete iron internal frame assembled from pre-fabricated components. These were cast by William Hazeldine at his foundry in Shrewsbury.

The noise of machinery, steam billowing from the chimneys and the glow of gas lighting (before its use in London) led to the new state-of-the-art mill becoming known locally as the “dragon on the hill”. Hundreds of men, women and children – some as young as ten – would be summoned to their long days of toil by the on-site bell. The bell tower is now in poor repair and a search is underway to find the original bell.

The flax business failed in 1886 and the building became a maltings in 1897 – adaptations to its new purpose included blocking in two thirds of the windows. It served as a barracks for soldiers during WWII, resuming as a maltings in the postwar period. In 1987 the maltings closed and the site fell into disuse and disrepair.

In 2005 Historic England (then English Heritage) took over the site, stabilising the deteriorating buildings and carrying out urgent repairs. With the help of grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the European Regional Development Fund, a new visitor centre opened in 2015 in the former stables block. This is now run by the Friends of the Flaxmill Maltings.

Restoration of the mill and the adjacent Kiln started in 2017. The conservation work is being supported by Historic England’s Heritage Skills Programme. This will offer hundreds of training and professional development opportunities to learn specialist carpentry, brickwork, pointing and masonry.

When complete in 2021, the revitalised mill will provide a destination for community activities and offer a range of education programmes for schools. There will be a café, a learning area and four floors of commercial space for the region’s creative industries and small business start-ups. It will provide a much needed economic boost to the local area of Ditherington, which falls within the top 20% in terms of national deprivation.

Iron Committee member Mary Harris visited Shrewsbury in May. She saw the bellcote and iron staircase, which had just been removed to a local workshop specialising in heritage projects where they are being restored to their former glory.
THE LORD MAYOR’S SHOW
By Miss K J Hughes, Liveryman

In 2018 our very own Alderman, Peter Estlin, was elected Lord Mayor of the City of London. His year began in November 2018 with a party to end all parties: the Lord Mayor’s Show. Were we there? Hell yes!

As the immediate past Warden of the Livery and Yeomanry it was my very great pleasure to be involved in organising our part in the Show, a huge event comprising 6,500 participants, 70 floats, 20 military and civilian bands, together with dozens of horses and carriages, and the magnificent Gold State Coach. After the initial excitement died down, it dawned on us that this was no small task and the then Lord Mayor Elect, the Immediate Past Master and I sat down to discuss the best way to approach it. We wanted to celebrate the occasion, make it fun and also try to raise awareness about what we as a Company do, as well as involve Company members and their children as best we could.

I had already been contacted by the Pageantmaster’s Office about paying for our share of road space in the parade (£7,500) and issued with several instructions about the health and safety of taking part in such an event. It seemed that floats in the parade were more heavily regulated than foodstuffs for sale in the EU. I knew that we needed professional help and had been recommended an events company that specialised in floats for the Show. Its staff knew the rules, logistics and timetabling like the backs of their hands and had lots of great creative ideas to boot.

After a coffee at the Guildhall (Peter was getting used to his new offices), we broached the idea of getting the professionals involved. We had 10 months to get this Show on the road, and between us our event planning included several children’s parties (them), several big birthdays (all of us) and a cute pet competition (me; a tortoise won). Best to get the big boys on board then!

Once I had the total budget confirmed (£40,000) and the events company, Opycon, locked down, it was all systems go. The first big decision to make was what kind of transport did we want to use to get us around the 1.75 mile route and then how did we want to present it? I was told several times that we had mere seconds to make an impact on a bystander and possibly only 10-15 seconds of live BBC coverage.

Ironmonger Robots

Salamanders ran riot through the City of London

The Lord Mayor’s carriage
So it had to be bold, it had to be on message and it had to be on budget. And so it was that I found myself in the cellars of Ironmongers’ Hall fishing out Salamander outfits that looked like they hadn’t stopped partying since the last time we used them in 2001. I also learned that the average size of a salamander had increased by an average of 30% in that time. Who knew? Fortunately the seamstress was not fazed by the task of making ‘cut and shut’ outfits with what we already had, and on the day no one would have guessed about the grand gusset rejig that had gone on behind the scenes.

As for the float itself, we plumped for an enormous moving see-saw, which would have 16 children on it dressed as robots with the strapline, ‘The Ironmongers’ Company, raising the bar in metal technology’. Adult robots and salamanders flanked the float on both sides and a steel band completed the set.

On the day itself, the gods were smiling down on us, delivering a beautifully sunny autumn day. The atmosphere was electric and months of planning really did pay off. We met all sorts of people and really felt like we were part of a special party as we made our way around the City with our Ironmongers’ message. The bystanders loved it and I’m sure you’ll agree from the photographs that it was pretty spectacular. Some of our sponsors watched from the stands, proud to be associated with us and seeing their names emblazoned on our float.

Afterwards it was back to the Hall for the after party, organised with fantastic attention to detail by the Clerk and Hall staff. We will be hosting lunch again this year for the Show on Saturday 9 November 2019, so do be sure to join us. Whilst we will not be participating in the parade, it really is a fabulous day out for all the family and truly a day to remember.
THE IRONMONGERS’ GOLFING SOCIETY

By Lt Cdr ME Pearson, Liveryman

As Golf Secretary I am delighted to report that our golf season 2018-19 has shown extremely positive results. The season began last September with a convincing win in the annual 4-Way Livery Competition held at the beautiful Tandridge Golf Club which sits amongst the rolling Surrey Downs. This annual event saw us pitted against our usual rivals of Drapers, Leathersellers and Coachmakers.

The year 2019 began with the challenging Great XII Competition at the New Zealand Golf Club near Woking. A minimum playable handicap of 18 is indeed a great challenge to the Ironmongers but our illustrious four ball of Richard Patteson-Knight, David Worlidge, Noel Haynes and Ian Bendell achieved our best overall position for a number of years. Well done team.

This match was closely followed by a most enjoyable Ironmongers’ Golf Day at the watery Pyrford Golf Club. Watery as almost every hole has a water hazard which saw a number of very good golf balls go missing! However, Peter Swanson rose above the challenges to become our Golf Champion for 2019. Congratulations to Peter. With the continued support of the Company there were a number of side competitions on the day which saw a number of members and guests go home with a variety of prizes.

Our golf day helped us to prepare for our enjoyable challenge at the Kingswood Golf Club against our neighbours from the Shipwrights Company. Again we came out winners, wrestling back the Decanter that had slipped from our grasp in the previous two years.

We now prepare for our final two games. First the annual 4-Way Competition at Tandridge, which incidentally was the home course to our past Clerk, Richard Brayne, and where we hope to retain the trophy. This match is closely followed by the Lord Mayor’s Charity Golf Day at Hadley Wood Golf Club when, with the generous financial contribution from the L&Y Committee, we hope to put a sparkle in the eye of our own Lord Mayor!

Before I close I would like to thank the Company for its continued support, as well as to all those players who have turned out, whatever the weather. Despite our successes, we still require support from all our golfing members, including any lady golfers amongst us! If interested, please contact your secretary at pearsonmichaele@btinternet.com.

Mike Pearson and Peter Swanson

Wood Golf Club when, with the generous financial contribution from the L&Y Committee, we hope to put a sparkle in the eye of our own Lord Mayor!

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WARDEN OF THE LIVERY AND YEOMANRY
Mr David Tudor-Morgan, Liveryman

What is the Livery and Yeomanry Committee which the Warden of the Livery and Yeomanry chairs? It was formed to provide a link between the Court and the wider Company; that is, the Livery and Yeomanry, or more simply, all members not on the Court. It supports broader engagement across our Company and it’s your place to suggest ideas, highlight what you like and perhaps more importantly suggest how we could, as a Company, be even better. It’s a friendly place to ask an obvious question or join us at an event, especially if you are new to the Company or perhaps you haven’t been to the Hall for a while (which was me a couple of years ago, but more of that later). We then try and find a way to make your ideas happen.

So, what have we, with the support of the Hall team and you, achieved over the last year? Well, it’s been a fun time. You challenged the L&Y Committee to focus on three areas which you said were most important to you:

1. More great events and engagement across the Company;
2. Better openness and transparency – providing more information generally;
3. More inclusivity – helping to build a future that is rich and diverse for the next 500 years and beyond.

Here is a summary of what we’ve achieved against your priorities:

ENGAGEMENT AND EVENTS

1. The Cloisters – we have introduced a work/meeting room, a sitting room and a bedroom for members to use. Full credit to the Hall team for this. Our own workspace and our home-from-home in London. We just need to introduce an honesty bar next.

2. Pentonville Prison visit – a fascinating behind-the-scenes tour of the prison for over 60 members and their friends, followed by drinks in a local pub, all provided at no cost to members courtesy of the L&Y Fund. I am delighted to report that everyone was allowed out at the end of the tour and that no one has been back in since.

3. Communications survey – you told us generally we’re doing the right stuff and that you welcome the changes over the last few years. You are passionate about our family feel, charitable elements and the rich history of our Company. You said you expect us to not be pompous or too old fashioned and we should continue to embrace using multiple ways of communicating (including email, WhatsApp, YouTube and summary newsletters rather than sending out too many individual emails), but equally not to change too much and lose our uniqueness and much-loved traditions.

4. Online shop on the Website – a new line of Ironmonger clothing for casual and sports teams including an Ironmonger umbrella, soft-shell jacket, polo shirts and weekend bags. All items are customisable for sports teams with member names or the event name. We also re-launched the Hall shop providing ties, books and a fabulous (and affordable) Salamander brooch.

5. Summer drinks – we had a fantastic turnout for our summer BBQ with copious amounts of rosé enjoyed (and an unplanned visit from the fire brigade). We went through a bottle of wine per person, so look forward to exceeding that next year. Thank you to the Hudson family for the use of their fabulous venue.

6. Inter-livery ball – Khush Cooper has led a ball committee to organise an inter-livery ball for next year - watch this space!

7. Grenadier Guards – Hadley Newman is building stronger links with the Grenadier Guards - watch this space for some unique joined-up events and more information generally on the Grenadiers.

8. Sporting teams – there has been much fun and success across our teams including sailing, croquet, golf, skiing and shooting, to name but a few. We are keen to continue to subsidise all inter-livery sporting competitions, so please send through requests to the Warden of the L&Y (see ‘Notes for Ironmongers’ for more info).

9. Members website survey – your feedback asked us to improve the user experience, look and feel as well as adding photographs of members on the members’ website. Whilst we haven’t managed to implement the changes, we are working with the Company’s IT company to deliver them.

Looking ahead … a new improved website to drive more Hall bookings and therefore income? Continued focus on all types and price points for events? Some unique events with the Grenadier Guards? What else would you like to see?

OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY

1. Notes for Ironmongers – we have created a 60+ page guide shedding light on the Ironmongers’ inner workings and secrets, including what the Clerk really does, the history of the loving cup, details of all committees and sports teams and much more. Available via the members’ website.

2. Notes for Guests – this is a short guide that you can send to guests to answer any
INCLUSIVITY AND DIVERSITY

1. Gender split - it is re-assuring that the membership under 40 is becoming more diverse, providing a more inclusive pipeline to ensure the future of our Company;
2. Free and lower-priced events – we appreciate that some of our events can be expensive so we have continued to provide free events such as the Pentonville prison visit and the Saville Club drinks. We have also subsidised a number of events such as the Summer Drinks (£15) and the Lord Mayor’s Show to ensure we offer a range of inclusive events.
3. Financially supporting our sports teams – Elizabeth Squire established a policy so that we can support all sports teams in inter-livery competitions which has benefited skiing, sailing, shooting and golf this year. See the ‘Notes for Ironmongers’ for details.

Looking ahead … continue to build the pipeline for a diverse company and Court membership? Continue to subsidise sports team to ensure they are inclusive? Continue to provide free events every year? What would you like to see?
There are a few areas where we haven’t succeeded (yet), like introducing an aspirational website (to drive more Hall bookings and therefore income) which reflects the beauty and uniqueness of our Hall, as well as actually managing a face-to-face L&Y Committee meeting (it’s all been done on WhatsApp). We haven’t yet introduced an honesty bar into the Cloisters (could you donate a cabinet and I’ll provide some drinks?) – imagine a G&T in the courtyard with the gentle murmur of the fountain on a hot summer’s day - sounds perfect to me. I’ve personally failed to go to as many meet- ings at the Hall as I would like, as they are in the daytime, this could be a challenge for others who are working or who not based in London and something I think we need to consider as more younger members get involved with the Company.

Looking forward, I personally would like to see more diversity in our membership and in particular on the Court to ensure we are sustainable for another 500 years, something that, I’m pleased to report, the Court are supportive of too. As with the corporate world, openness and transparency is critical to highlight the great work we do, as well as sharing the challenges we face so we can benefit from the wisdom across the Company.

All of the above has been huge team effort from the incredible L&Y Commit- tee (Isla Kennedy, Kate Hughes, Eliza- beth Squire, Charlie Morgan and Hadley Newman), the Hall team (including our fabulous Clerk, Tree, Helen and Catherine), as well as the brilliant extended working group, the Master and Wardens, and of course you for your support in coming along along to events, attending committees and gener- ally being such fun and interesting people to spend time with. This year has built on the strong foundations laid from previous L&Y committees and their Wardens and I look forward to supporting our new Warden of the L&Y later this year. Thank you to all.

The important thing for me is to have fun – luckily, this is something that has never been in short supply this year – from late-night dancing at the Inter-Livery Ski Championships in Morzine, to afternoon tea at Buckingham Palace, to speaking at Mansion House, to trying to charm the fire brigade into allowing us to continue with the summer BBQ, to numerous dinners and meetings at the Hall, to an educational impromptu wine tasting, to the look on the Clerk’s face when I turned up to a Court meeting (having just come from another Board meeting) in chinos and a shirt without the obligatory Ironmongers’ tie! The one thing I really want to do is the sailing next year and I’m off to Greece to get my Day Skipper qualification soon in preparation (although I’m told no experience is neces- sary). Do you fancy a long weekend eating, drinking and sailing with a great bunch of people? If so, the Inter-Livery Sailing could be for you.

Lastly, a few years ago when my children were young, I admit that I hardly visited the Hall for a good number of years as the combination of family and work made it challenging, but it’s been easy and fun to re- connect, so if you haven’t been to Ironmongers’ Hall for a while then do come along. If the timing isn’t right for you at the moment, then we look forward to seeing you back when it works better. The Hall is at its best when we have a full house of both familiar and new faces.
The year 2019 was a milestone for the Inter Livery Ski Championships organised by the Ironmongers’ Company. It was our tenth year and our own Lord Mayor arrived in time to hand out the prizes on the final evening. We also set new records for numbers attending, with some 198 racers taking part and a total of around 290 including supporters. We had 35 livery companies participating and there were representatives from about 38 companies generally present. The Ironmongers were very well represented with 14 racers, including the Master and the Clerk.

Events kicked off on Wednesday 25 January with a new initiative called the Team Distance Challenge. This was a charity event in which teams of four or more compete to travel as far as possible in a three-hour period. They must stick together and one member must carry a GPS tracker. Altogether we had about 120 individuals in 29 teams. It began with a Le Mans style start with everyone running together and trying to find and then to put on their skis. Despite rather dull snowy weather, we all agreed that it was a huge success and it will become a permanent fixture. In total we raised over £14,000 for Snow-Camp (www.snow-camp.org.uk) of which the Ironmongers raised the largest share of over £2,500. So, well done to everyone and thank you to all who supported us. This event was followed by an informal indoor-outdoor barbecue party at the Hotel Aubergade.

Thursday’s Parallel Slalom was, as usual, a seeding race for the Giant Slalom on Friday. Most people got down safely with our Team Captain, Will Stephenson, clocking tenth place and Ben Gillen coming eighteenth. On Thursday evening the Ironmongers again hosted drinks and canapés in the Palais des Sports. It was a terrific party and possibly our best yet. For the first time, we all wore our smart and distinctive Ironmonger gilets which were much admired. There was also a champagne table hosted by Psigma, our corporate sponsors.

Friday produced near perfect weather conditions for the main event, which was the Giant Slalom. This year we were able to persuade the ESF (Ecole du Ski Français) to run it on the Nyon side. This meant a longer course with a much better view for spectators.
tors and, more importantly, a chance to race in brilliant sunshine. It was almost universally agreed that this was a lot more fun than the course at Pleney.

Our racing results this year were rather mixed, but the Ironmongers managed to collect a few medals and awards. Notable among these were:

- Fastest Lady Skier (outright): Katie Hudson (21st overall)
- The Stationers’ Prize for the fastest team of three skiers whose combined age came to over 200: 1st, Leathersellers; 2nd, Ironmongers; 3rd, Actuaries; (the Ironmongers’ team comprised Christopher Hudson, Richard Hunting and George Bastin with a combined age of 212!)
- The Vintners’ Trophy for the fastest overall livery team: we came 4th (having had Will Stephenson at 13th, Katie Hudson at 21st and Ben Gillen at 28th)

The full tally can be seen on the ‘Results’ page of our website www.liveryskiing.com.

The final dinner and prize-giving on the Friday night were again held at the Hotel Club Le Cret which did a grand job as usual. This year we were honoured that our own Lord Mayor, Alderman Peter Estlin, dropped in on his way home from the World Economic Forum in Davos. He was joined by his wife Lindy for the prize-giving and dinner and they very kindly helped with handing out the medals and trophies.

As was the case last year, we are very close to maximum numbers, but we are always looking for new Ironmonger skiing talent. If you are interested in finding out more, or in joining us in 2020, the dates and contact details are on the website above. The event will again begin on the Wednesday with the sponsored Team Distance Challenge on the afternoon of Wednesday 22 January in aid of the charity SnowCamp. Why not come out for the full week from Saturday 19th? Please do get in touch if you are interested in taking part.

Finally, I would like to thank our main Corporate Sponsors, Psigma Investment Management, for their financial support which helped us to contribute a record donation to the Lord Mayor’s Appeal.
GREAT XII SAILING COMPETITION
By Mr M S W Lee, Liveryman

As the Ironmongers’ team and guests assembled in Seaview, Isle of Wight, on a sunny Friday afternoon in June we were all ready to take on the other Great XII livery companies and challenge them for the various trophies and prizes on offer, or at least to enjoy ourselves. Alastair Smith, Ian Bendell, Noel Haines and Sahra Evans formed the Young Guard, whilst Philip Pascall, David Coates, Georgie Knaggs and I, the Old.

Our select band got out on the water early for a practice sail on Friday and learnt the dark art of flying a spinnaker. After a bit of practice we were able to get it up and down without twists and tangles. A couple of hours sailing on the Solent, we’d cracked it and were ready to take on all comers the next day. An evening of team tactics and bonding (mostly the latter) over supper in the club house and we were all relaxed and ready. Various non-sailing Ironmongers joined us including our Clerk and his wife Georgie who as an accomplished sailor had been ready to join the crews.

Saturday dawned with a fair sky and a light breeze and we reassembled at Seaview Yacht Club for the race briefing. Our Master and Lady Garvagh arrived and were able to watch the racing from spectator boats, an innovation from the new management as this was the first year that Gavin Park Weir and Henny Maltby had fully taken over organising the regatta without George and Sa Bastin on hand. Many thanks to both for a superbly organised event. The morning’s racing went well and both our crews managed to be in the top six of their heat to get into the winners’ final in the afternoon — the peak of our success for the weekend. After mid-table placings in the finals, we felt we had achieved what we wanted — some enjoyable sport, a respectable finish and entertainment for all.

At the Saturday night dinner in the club house we pushed the records again for the number of people the club had catered for. Henny’s team had decked out the tables and the venue looked stunning. The club’s catering staff did us proud and we enjoyed great company reliving the excitement of the day over a three-course dinner with just the odd glass of wine.

A most enjoyable weekend; thanks to all who came, and I’m sure we’ll see many of the team back next year. The date for your diaries is provisionally set for 29 May 2020, so please keep it free and plan to join us. Sailing experience is not essential, team spirit and a competitive urge (plus a little humour) go a long way, so novices are most welcome. Please speak with anyone who’s participated over the years and I’m sure they will share great memories of the event. We are hoping to get hold of a cruiser next year (typically a 30-50ft sailing yacht) which will give us more space for members, family and guests to take part, so if you know any boat owners who’d like to bring their pride and joy to the party, please let me know and I’ll be able to explain what it’s all about.

Ironmongers’ Sailing Team: David Coates, Mark Lee, Sahra Evans, Ian Bendell, Noel Haines, Alastair Smith, Philip Pascall, Georgie Knaggs with the Clerk.
NEW FREEMEN AND LIVERYMEN

NEW FREEMEN

BEN CATTERMOLE
Ben has been an Army officer since leaving Oxford, where he studied Classics. He was awarded the Ironmongers’ Millennium Prize at the Staff College in 2013. Commissioned into the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards in 1996, his final regimental tour, as Commanding Officer, ended in 2016. Since then, he has mostly been based at the Army Headquarters in Andover. He is temporarily living in his own house in Wiltshire with his wife and family, enjoying all things outdoors.

JOHN HOSKING
After a career spanning three decades, three global investment banks, dotcom and credit booms and the global financial crisis, John founded his own company specialising in supporting start-ups and growing new businesses. He gained a BSc in Engineering before qualifying as a chartered accountant with Price Waterhouse. His interests include skiing, open-water swimming and equestrianism.

FRANCIS LIMING
Francis was educated at Royal Holloway, University of London, graduating with a BA in English Literature and Creative Writing. Out of university, he joined an Islington-based start-up marketing technology. He has spent nearly 10 years with the same company, and now is working as its CTO. He still spends his free time writing creatively and is an avid reader, runner and footballer.

WILLIAM PENDER
Will attended the Royal Grammar School in High Wycombe, before completing his Bachelor’s degree in Archaeology at the University of Bradford. After roles in the charity sector he became an account manager for a communications consultancy. He is currently Parliamentary Assistant to a Labour MP who chairs a Select Committee. His interests include beekeeping, gardening and hiking.

ROLAND WALKER
Roland was born and brought up in Kenya, educated in England (the Dragon School, Harrow School and then the Royal Agricultural College), joined the British Army by commissioning into the Irish Guards, ended up commanding the Grenadier Guards and is now on the General Staff. Married to Kate, with three daughters, his interests are inevitably subordinated to theirs although there is collective enjoyment in most field and winter sports.

RUADHRI DUNCAN
Ruadhri has over 20 years in the fund management industry where he has operated as both a fund manager and a charity trustee. After leaving the Army (Grenadier Guards, 88-97) he started work with Leopold Joseph and Sons where he completed his fund management exams. In 1999 he moved to Newton Investment Management, where he worked within its charities department for over 12 years, managing charitable funds. In 2011 Ruadhri moved to Sarasin & Partners where he is a partner of the firm working within the charities team. Ruadhri is married with four boys. He plays real tennis, tennis and golf, along with most country pursuits and enjoys military history.

HADLEY NEWMAN
Hadley was educated at White Lodge and completed an MSc at Heriot-Watt University. The focus of his PhD is political communications and he is interested in the social impact of artificial intelligence. Hadley works in strategic communications for business and government in emerging markets and lived in the Middle East for over ten years. He has three daughters, is a keen cyclist and enjoys the arts. In 2013 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts.
NEW FREEMEN

James Twallin

James works at RES as a Data Scientist, where uses data to make renewable energy projects cheaper to build and operate. After completing his MSc in Exploration Geophysics at Leeds University, he worked in the oil industry as a geophysicist before re-positioning himself in the renewable sector. James enjoys open-water swimming, skiing, music and art.

Peter Callaghan
(8,94),(230,456)

Peter is originally from Sydney but he has made England his home since 1991. He trained as an Industrial Engineer before gaining his MBA in 1984. His career covering logistics, project management, business transformation and mentoring with substantial periods spent in the steel processing sector. Since 2000 he has been investing in both mature and early stage companies which includes being an active Angel Investor in Cambridge. Interests include travel, studying modern history and his workshop.

Ben Symes

Ben was educated at Lancing College, then Oxford Brookes and City University for his Undergraduate and Master’s degrees respectively. After his MA course he joined CB Hillier Parker, now CBRE, in 2000 where he qualified as a Chartered Surveyor. After CBRE he moved to Jones Lang LaSalle, then two smaller firms before starting his own company in September 2016, to continue to specialise in retail property, primarily representing mid-high end fashion and accessories brands, as well as dealing with office and industrial premises. Outside of work Ben spent just over 10 years with the HAC TA/Army Reserve unit and now spends much of his spare time in the West Sussex countryside, for the various pursuits that it offers.

HH Judge Sarah Munro QC

Sarah was educated at St Swithun’s Winchester and Exeter University where she read Classics. She then converted to Law and qualified as a barrister. She practised in the West Country mainly in criminal law before becoming a QC in 2002. In 2011 she became a Circuit Judge and in 2017 a Senior Circuit Judge based at the Old Bailey and trying serious crime. She is a judicial member of the Sentencing Council.

Kitty Grubb

Kitty was educated at Upminster School and later Wellington College where she moved for Sixth Form. She then went on to study for a French and Spanish BA at Leeds University (spending her year abroad in Montreal and Chile respectively). After graduating with a 2:1, she began her career in Executive Search. Kitty first started working in Private Banking and Wealth Management Recruitment at a small boutique, before becoming a Head Hunter for the non-profit specialists Perrett Laver. She now works as a Head Hunter for both executive and non-executive appointments within Trade Bodies and Membership Organisations at Odgers Berndtson. She is very keen on music, skiing and now running – having recently completed her first marathon in Sierra Leone.

James Potts

James was educated at Bootham School in York before reading Zoology at University College, Durham. He then spent seven years in The Royal Dragoon Guards having commissioned from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in 1999. As a cavalry officer James spent time in Germany, Oman, Canada and Iraq before leaving the army as a Captain to return to University College, Durham to complete an MBA. For the last 12 years James has been an investment banker at Barclays in the mergers and acquisitions division. He enjoys field sports, skydiving and playing the cello and lives in London with his wife Rebecca and three children Isadora, Rupert and Harriet.

Shan Islam

Shan was educated at Pembroke College, University of Oxford, and worked in the City and Switzerland as a physical and derivatives metals trader. He has two boys under the age of four who keep him and his wife, a GP, rather busy! He has a keen interest in history and photography. His volunteering interests include education and mentoring.
NEW FREEMEN

OLI ROSE

Oli studied at Cranleigh School followed by Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. After leaving university he taught at Sherborne School before working as a theatre director for ten years. He has recently moved back into teaching and copywriting, while working on his first novel. He enjoys golf, cricket and shooting and he is a keen amateur chef.

JENNIFER MERNAGH

Jennifer is a professional investor, specialising in alternative investments. She works for Standard Life Aberdeen plc, and leads long term asset allocation research across public and private markets within the Multi Asset Investment division. Prior to Jennifer was a portfolio manager, running money on behalf of Coutts clients. Jennifer currently sits on the Council of the Alternative Investment Management Association. She has a BSc in Investment and Financial Risk Management from City University. In her free time Jennifer likes to listen to classical music and spend time with her children.

ANTHONY HEATH

Anthony was educated at Riverview in Sydney, is a graduate of the Royal Military College Duntroon and commissioned into the Royal Australian Regiment. He holds a Bachelor of Arts; a Master of Management and a Master of Defence Studies from the University of New South Wales; a Master of Science (econ) from the London School of Economics; and a Master of Laws (JD) from Monash University.

Whilst serving in the Australian Army, he undertook several operational tours including Iraq and Timor-Leste. In addition to military service, he has worked as a consultant for an international consultancy; a major US information security company; a UK headquartered multinational industrial services company and is currently the Director of Defence Trade and Investment for the Victorian Government in London.

Anthony is a keen rower, enjoys shooting and watching rugby, is a member of the Travelers (UK) and Athenaum (Melbourne) and the Royal United Services Institute. He has also recently become a magistrate. Anthony is married with two adult children.

KATE COOKE

Kate was educated at Downe House School and then Bristol University, where she read Modern Languages: French and Italian. She subsequently worked in fixed income sales, with private clients in both Italy and Switzerland, first at Morgan Stanley and then at Hambros Bank. She later switched finance for interiors and relocated to New York to study at the New York School of Interior Design. She was lucky enough to secure a position at Mark Hampton Inc. before heading back to London in 1998 to set up her own interiors business ‘Kate Tilbury Cooke’ which she continues to run happily alongside a busy family and social life and three (almost grown up) children. She loves to travel, is a keen skier, and enjoys going to the theatre.

THOMAS FABES

Thomas went to Abingdon School before attending Oxford University. At Oxford, Thomas read Materials Sciences and ran for the university cross country team. Thomas won the Ironmongers’ Oxford Medal for his Part II Talk ‘Interfacial toughness in semi-conductor devices’ in June 2018. After graduating he joined Corporate Value Associates, a boutique strategy consultancy, and is currently on secondment to Dubai working on regional economic strategy. His main hobbies remain running and skiing.

JOHN HAYES

John was educated at Harrow and Trinity College, Cambridge where he gained an MA in Financial Services. In his career at PwC and IBM, John led the introduction of shared services across all management disciplines for one of the UK’s largest county councils, and for a UK Government department. He designed and oversaw the Accounting Services business for Charities and Livery Companies at Ferroners House.
NEW FREEMEN

MICHAEL DAVIS

Michael was educated at The Perse School, then St Catherine’s at Cambridge and then postgraduate degrees from Durham and from London Business School. He has worked worldwide as an executive in and advisor to high-tech businesses, and founded four angel or VC-backed ventures. He also teaches at MIT, and at LBS. He spends his time caring for his four daughters, and loves cooking, wine, sailing and skiing. His father, Sir Graeme (Master 2005-’06) and sister Helena are also Ironmongers.

HENRY CLITHEROW

Henry was educated at Brockenhurst College, graduated from Newcastle University with a degree in Ancient History and has just completed his LLB at City Law School in London. A keen volunteer and team leader with the Libra Foundation working with disadvantaged young people in Romania for the past 4 years. Henry has recently been working with Southwark Council and the Police as an Appropriate Adult. His hobbies include rugby, surfing and snowboarding however his main aim at present is to find a job in the legal world!

NEW LIVERYMEN

KHUSHRU COOPER

Khushru (Khush) grew up in West London, before going on to read Aerospace & Aeronautical Engineering at the University of Leeds. Having spent a stint working abroad, Khush moved back to London, where he now resides with his partner and fellow Ironmonger, Isla Kennedy. Khush worked for many years as a consultant, mainly delivering complex Technology Programmes to large international clients.

He currently manages the portfolio for the London Overground, overseeing the introduction of new trains, infrastructure and network upgrades. Aside from his day job, Khush is a Director of a property development and letting company and a Major in the Army Reserve. He has a great love of the outdoors and in his spare time is a keen shot, adventurous skier and a rusty sailor.

LT COL IAN C M TENNENT

MAJOR (RETD) GRANT V A BAKER

MRS EMMA HALFORD-MACLEOD
GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT

Mr Gabor Mocsar

The recent year has brought lots of changes to Ironmongers’ Hall, both externally and internally.

Peter Martin, after many years working in Ironmongers’ Hall, was welcomed back as Operations Director of CH&Co Livery. We faced the departure of two key team members, Ed Bolling, who worked as General Manager at the Hall for close to a decade. With his hard work, Ed helped to raise the Ironmongers’ Company’s good name and reputation and he set up a successful business where we could contribute towards the Company’s charitable aims. He left quite big shoes to fill, the duty of which has fallen on me as Interim Manager until a permanent replacement is found.

The second team member was Miss Lea Giligny, Sales and Events Manager, who has been replaced by Mrs Alina Gevorgyan. Alina undertook a short-term assignment in our central sales office and returned stronger for her new role as Sales and Marketing Executive. With her commitment and passion, in a short period of time Alina has managed to implement a new reporting system, drive business to the maximum and organise a wedding show case to increase the use of the Hall.

The front-of-house supervisor, Miss Adriana Flore, took a big step up and has taken charge of all front-of-house service and operations, as well as juggling duties in the Events Office. For her efforts, commitment and enthusiasm, the Clerk awarded her “The Salamander Badge”. This badge is awarded by recommendations from all sections of the Company, to a member of staff who has gone above and beyond the call of duty, for their loyalty to the Company and for the preservation and betterment of the Company’s ancient reputation.

BUSINESS

With the integration of Fare with its new mother company, CH&Co, a re-developed business structure has arrived. We now have a central sales office called ITA, which helps all CH&Co venues with enquiries and in the case when a venue is unavailable, allows a customer to be referred to one of a similar style. This central office also looks after business development and marketing.

With its help we now have a new marketing plan to find our target audience and have also re-designed the flyers for our Christmas packages and the Monday Luncheon Club.

EVENTS

I am happy to report that our repeat business levels remain high and feedback from our numerous events is nothing but praise. This success could not happen without the Clerk’s ‘One Team’ concept which has enabled both the Ironmongers’ team and the CH&Co team to work closer and more prospectively together. Our ‘One Team’ has faced many challenges in the past year. A wedding which had to be organised and arranged within only a month, a Sino-European Conference which occupied the entire hall for two days, including hosting high-profile delegations from both China and the UK, with past Prime Minister, The Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP, as the keynote speaker. Additionally we were the venue for another two-day conference with 100 delegates, and where the fire alarm went off in the middle of the first morning’s presentation; thankfully because of the strong team cohesion and communication, the Hall was evacuated within minutes. It turned out to be a false alarm and after the guest and delegates took a short break in the gardens next to the Hall, everybody returned to carry on with the conference. Despite this inconvenience, the client was so happy with the service they received that another booking was confirmed. And last, but not least, the limelight once again shone upon this famous landmark as a film location. The Hall became the backdrop for an American adaptation of the British movie, “Four Weddings and a Funeral”, as well as a new series named “Pennyworth”, which follows the life of the young Alfred Pennyworth, the butler, guardian and confidant of Bruce Wayne, alias Batman (the Dark Knight of Gotham City).

THE BEADLE’S REPORT

Mr S Walby

Signed off my report last year with news of the imminent move of the Hatching Dragons Nursery into Ferroners House. The year has since sped by and the little Dragons have become a welcome addition, bringing the sound of singing and laughter to the Hall every day.

The Beadle’s department gained a third Houseman when my son Liam Walby joined the ranks and under the guidance of Chris Lapworth, our newly appointed ‘Under Beadle’, Liam has fitted in very well. Together with the staff changes at our caterers, CH&Co, I feel we are now fully equipped to compete with other venues in what is a very competitive market. The extra pair of hands also gives me the added luxury of being able to open the main doors for site visits so that our prospective clients can get a better idea of the full experience on their first visit to the Hall.

We also have a better chance of keeping ahead of maintenance issues, which was the case on the evening of the City Dinner when the then Junior Warden decided single-handedly to lift and rearrange the angle of the two-ton bell at the back of the Banqueting Hall just five minutes before the summoning of the guests for dinner; this resulted in the whole wooden base collapsing and the bell having to be placed precariously on a make-shift platform, endangering the Court Room ceiling below. The following day it took five of us to move the bell and Andrew Wauchope is now affectionately known as Clark Kent, but without his underpants over his tights.
OFFICERS AND STAFF 2018-2019

Back Row: Teresa Waller-Bridge, Assistant Clerk; Tracy Weddell, Cloakroom Assistant; Rosie Holmes, Cloakroom Assistant; Radislaw Kutkiewicz, Kitchen Porter; Ruth Eglesfield, Charities Assistant; Marinus Ferreira, Chef; Them Mabodoko, Accounts Assistant; Liam Walby, Houseman; Helen Sant, Charities Manager; Chris Lapworth, Under Beadle; Catharine Melville, Social Secretary; Steve Walby, Beadle; Gabor Mocsar, General Manager;

Front Row: Jackie Holmes, Cloakroom Assistant; Robin Mason, Houseman; Alina Gevorgyan, Sales and Marketing Executive; Lorraine McHugh, Housekeeper; Charlie Knaggs, Clerk; Nisha Jayan, Accounts Assistant; Adriana Flore, Events Supervisor; Justine Taylor, Archivist; David Summerell, Executive Chef.
### SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**Year Ended 31 March 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£'000</td>
<td>£'000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments at valuation</td>
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<td>17,060</td>
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<td>Borrowings</td>
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<td>Investments less borrowings</td>
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<td>12,560</td>
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<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
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<td>Hall hire, catering and wines</td>
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<td>748</td>
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<td>Investment and rental income</td>
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<td>Other income and fines</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1,951</td>
<td>1,627</td>
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<td><strong>EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
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<td>Hall Hire, catering and wines</td>
<td>532</td>
<td>451</td>
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<td>Hall and Company</td>
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<td>1,251</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>152</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1,945</td>
<td>1,854</td>
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<td><strong>NET PROFIT/(LOSS)</strong></td>
<td>6</td>
<td>(227)</td>
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<td>Investment gains</td>
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<td>18</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</strong></td>
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<td>(209)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>THE IRONMONGERS’ CHARITIES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments at valuation</td>
<td>38,226</td>
<td>38,395</td>
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<td>Investments less borrowings</td>
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<td><strong>INCOME</strong></td>
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<td>Almshouse residents’ fees</td>
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<td>628</td>
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<td>Investment income</td>
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<td>1,697</td>
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<td>Donations and legacies</td>
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<td>152</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2,575</td>
<td>2,477</td>
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<td><strong>EXPENDITURE AND CHARITABLE GIVING</strong></td>
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<td>Almshouse and administration costs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest payable</td>
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<td>392</td>
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<td>Grants and donations</td>
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<td>578</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2,007</td>
<td>1,751</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SURPLUS</strong></td>
<td>568</td>
<td>726</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment gains</td>
<td>(169)</td>
<td>1,568</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>INCREASE IN FUNDS</strong></td>
<td>399</td>
<td>2,294</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Following the Uniting Direction of the Charity Commission effective 1 April 2012 the following charities are reported as a single entity:-
Sir Robert Geffrey’s Almshouse Trust, Sir Robert Geffrey’s Landrake School Charity, Thomas Betton’s Charity (Educational),
Thomas Betton’s General Estate, Thomas Betton’s Charity for Pensions and Relief In Need and the Ironmonger’s Foundation.
THE IRONMONGERS’ COMPANY CHARITIES

THE CHARITIES
The Ironmongers’ Company is the Trustee of seven registered charities. Five were formed through bequests in the early 18th century from Ironmongers including Sir Robert Geffery and Thomas Betton and have specific terms of reference in accordance with their wishes. The Ironmongers’ Foundation, was founded by the Company in 1963 to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the granting of the royal charter and has general charitable purposes.

Sir Robert Geffery’s Trust was set up to support almshouses, relief in need and also education in the village of Landrake where Sir Robert was born (through the Sir Robert Geffery’s School Charity).

Three Thomas Betton’s Charities support Church of England education and relief in need.

The Ironmongers’ Foundation is used primarily to re-connect the Company with its historic origins in ferrous metals, i.e. iron and steel.

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

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE
The Ironmongers’ Trust Company (ITC) is the Sole Trustee of the registered charities and has strategic oversight of all the charitable activities. The ITC’s directors are appointed by the Company.

CHARITY COMMITTEES
Expenditure is managed by four committees, each specialising in different areas of activity and allocating funds from the relevant charity.

HOMES COMMITTEE
(SIR ROBERT GEFFERY’S TRUST)
Manages the operation of two sheltered housing schemes, Geffery’s House in Hook and Geffery’s Fields in Basingstoke, providing a total of 102 flats for older people with limited incomes. A major redevelopment project is currently under consideration to make the Homes fit for the future.

BETTON’S & APPEALS COMMITTEE
(SIR ROBERT GEFFERY’S TRUST, THOMAS BETTON’S CHARITIES, IRONMONGERS’ FOUNDATION)
Allocates the funds available for relief in need and Church of England education. The Committee runs an open grants programme for organisations supporting disadvantaged children and young people, but the main focus is on building long-term partnerships with a small number of primary schools and charities, currently:

- Nine C of E primary schools located in areas of significant deprivation across England. The aim is to help raise academic attainment and aspirations through funding projects which, for example, support children’s mental health, social/emotional skills and family outreach.
- Four charity partners operating in key focus areas, namely:
  1. MakeBelieve Arts, and
  2. Lyric Hammersmith – literacy and basic skills through the arts,
  3. St Vincent’s Family Project – parenting programmes,
  4. QPR Community Trust – employability/life skills through sport.

IRON COMMITTEE
(IRONMONGERS’ FOUNDATION)
Encourages continued use of iron and steel, primarily through:

- Funding students engaged in ferrous metals research at the six top-rated university materials science and engineering departments (Birmingham, Cambridge, Manchester, Oxford, Sheffield, Imperial College London)
- Restoration of historic ironwork and supporting best practice in heritage blacksmithing.

IRONMONGERS’ FOUNDATION COMMITTEE
(IRONMONGERS’ FOUNDATION)
Works in partnership with organisations to provide STEM activities that encourage young people to study science subjects at school and go on to pursue engineering-related further education or vocational training. Current partners include the Smallpeice Trust, the Work-Wise Foundation and University of Oxford, delivering projects in Birmingham, Sheffield, Newcastle and London.

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GOVERNANCE AND STRUCTURE

The Company is governed by the Court under UK law and its own statutes, bye-laws, rules and ordinances. The Court (non-executive Board) delegates much of its work to its committees.

The Ironmongers’ Trust Company, whose directors the Court appoints, is sole trustee of the Charities. The Clerk (Chief Executive) and a team of professional officers and staff run the day-to-day business, and are supported by contractors and expert advisers.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:
The aim of the Ironmongers’ Company is to ensure its continued relevance as a livery company in the 21st Century, with due regard to its history, heritage, traditions and values, by safeguarding and growing its asset base, and maximising its income, in order to increase the scope of its influence and charitable activity.

Objectives:
1. Safeguard and grow the capital and income of the Company, its subsidiaries and the Charitable Trusts administered by the Ironmongers’ Trust Company (ITC).
2. Monitor, review and develop the Company’s and the Charities’ policies, priorities and activities.
3. Grow the membership of the Company and encourage the fellowship and charitable spirit of all members.
4. Encourage and support education, research, and training; and provide housing, with support for the indigent, particularly the elderly.
5. Maintain and foster links with the trades and organisations connected to the history, heritage and traditions of the Company.
6. Ensure that all charitable giving is effective, focused and tax-efficient.
7. Ensure that the Company properly discharges its duty as a charitable trustee.
8. Fulfil the Company’s civic role within the City of London and elsewhere in the United Kingdom.
9. Ensure that the Company’s internal decision-making, policies and procedures, and operations are efficient and effective and that professionally trained executive staff are in post.