

# The Builders' Merchant

Newsletter of Worshipful Company of Builders' Merchants



Worshipful Company  
of Builders' Merchants

SUMMER 2024 - ISSUE 38



The Master Alan Hawkins and  
his Mistress Madeline

## A whirlwind of events and experiences

I don't think I have ever known six months pass as quickly as that since my first newsletter as Master in December, which finished with the ever-popular Carol Service at the Tower of London and Trinity House supper.

The Court gets a full list of all the events I have attended, as well as Madeline who has an equally busy Consort's program to select from. You just can't do everything but then again, it's all so tempting.

A highlight must include the Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in May. We had two options and luckily choose the one with both King Charles and Queen Camilla and, with the blessing of exceptionally good weather, we have some very good close ups for our photo album.

Mansion House is quickly becoming my second home, with numerous dinners (sometimes white tie) and invites from other Masters. Other visits have resulted

from being part of the team handing over a new delivery vehicle to the Livery Food Initiative, or the Lord Mayor's City & Livery Awards, both of which the Company contributes to.

A personal favourite was an exclusive lunch at the Old Bailey, hosted by Dame Susan Langley, with around 15 sitting judges during their lunch break. Plus, we were given access to a high-profile trial to see the process of law at work. My interest in murder trials has always slightly worried Madeline.

I thought our own City and Awards Luncheon at Butchers' Hall was particularly good this year, with an intentionally younger guest list celebrating all aspects of our charity work, from builders' merchants' trainee awards to our recognition of the armed forces we support, plus a delightful and well-kitted-out very young recruit from the Beckingham and Penge Sea Cadets. Perhaps our new award to Nourdeen Al-Gharib, an ex-offender, as part of our support of the No Going Back initiative produced the winner with the happiest smile. Without our support, and we were high-profile at the Mercers' event for promoting this work, this ex-offenders' initiative may stall.

It was with deepest sadness that just after our annual visit to the BBMF at Coningsby, which was top class as ever, we heard of the Spitfire crash and passing of Squadron Leader Mark Long. He was a welcoming and generous host and an expert in his field – what a cruel loss to his family and the whole unit.

The PWRR has also kept me busy with the Albuhera Officers' dinner at Woolwich Barracks and the Beating of the Retreat at Dover Castle.

The Master's Weekend in Bath proved popular and was very well attended. I am sure this world heritage site added to its appeal, and I am grateful for the superb planning from our Mistress.

At Company level, the influx of new

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members this year augurs well for the future, so very well done to our Election Committee, led by Past Master Andy Williamson. An excellent lunch at Cutlers' Hall welcomed some of our new Liverymen and Freeman while, not to be outdone, the Lunch for those retired from the industry included many Past Masters and attracted a very good gathering, including our oldest-back Past Master, David Gandy.

Some of our newer members are now stepping up to the plate to take over or are preparing to take over from retiring office holders, such as Steve Dunkley, who is taking over from Past Master Williamson on our fairly new, but much respected, Environmental, Social and Governance Committee.

Also, Charles Ledigo is soon to take over from John Poore as our tireless Almoner. John is leaving behind an incredible term of office with record giving and, thanks to the Trustees of our charitable funds, investments at an all-time high, led by a broker change, carefully orchestrated by Chairman Howard Grant.

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I am in danger of mentioning some names and leaving other hard workers out, but with our new Company Handbook soon to be launched, plus our new website, which has involved hard work by many teams of people – you know who you are.

All our Committees are the heartbeat of this Company and you all do amazing work. If you're not yet involved but would like to be, there is plenty of room for new faces.

I said when I became Master that I planned to spend my year concentrating on promoting friendship and trust, and I will

spend the rest of my year continuing in that vein.

Traditionally August is quiet in the City, but after that I shall be back to have an extremely busy two months before handing over to Steve Boyer, who will become our new Master at Mansion House on 18<sup>th</sup> October.

I hope he and Pauline are well rested in preparation; this job is not for the faint hearted!

**Alan Hawkins  
The Master**



Senior Warden Steve Boyer and his wife Pauline.

## For your diary!

Our Summer Newsletter is packed full of pictures and updates on the many events our members and their guests have enjoyed so far this year. But there's still lots more to come! So make a note in your diary and don't miss out on our upcoming events.

### Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024: Court Consorts' Lunch at Pewterers' Hall

This annual event is to thank our Court Consorts, but the Master is very keen to welcome all members, particularly newly joining members who wish to meet others and make new friends.



### Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024: Installation Court General and Reception at Mansion House

The Installation of our new Master will be at Mansion House with a white-tie reception and evening of entertainment. This event is open to Liverymen, Freemen and Guests.



### Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024: Carol Service at HM Tower of London followed by Christmas Dinner at Trinity House

A favourite event on the Calendar, the Company gathers at the Tower of London for a Carol Service, before an entertaining Christmas Dinner.



## Thank you to our Sponsors

We are very grateful to those who have sponsored the current Master's year. If you are interested in sponsoring a Master's year please contact The Clerk at [info@wcoBM.co.uk](mailto:info@wcoBM.co.uk)



# Member News

## Meet our new Liverymen and Freemen!

Since the last newsletter we have welcomed many new Liverymen as WCoBM continues to grow.

## Welcome to you all!

We look forward to seeing you at a WCoBM event very soon.

### Our new Freemen:

- Jonathan Boland, Kestrel Building Products
- Richard Campbell-Drew, AkzoNobel
- Julie Chandler, Chandler Material Supplies
- Martin Culley, Etex Building Performance
- Ben Davies, LBS Builders' Merchants
- Rachel Davies, LBS Builders' Merchants
- Chris Dawson, Brett Martin
- Simon Fleet, W Howard Group
- Ben Giddings, Huws Gray
- David Grace, Kilwaughter Minerals
- Timothy Hanlon, Fernco
- Chris Maityard, Moorgate Management
- Daniel McKane, YMS Insulation
- David Millward, Fernco
- Martin Moran, MP Moran
- Mark Morris, Breedon Group
- Ciaran Morton, Lawsons
- Glenn Paddison, H&B Group
- Neil Sabey, Harlow Timber Group
- Nicholas Sharpe, Global Stone (Colchester)
- Duncan Thomson, Builders' Merchant Company
- Jane Thomson, Builders' Merchant Company
- Krystal Williams, Pavestone
- Louise Williams, Alsford
- Jamie Wyatt, Consultant.



David Millward has received the Freedom of the City of London.



Martin Moran received his Freedom of the City surrounded by many family and friends....



...and even got his picture in the local paper – The Mayo News!

### Freedom of London for Martin Moran

THE son of a Mayo man presented with Freedom of London as a company in the Guild Hall in Westminster on July 18. Martin Moran, who is a member of the City of London, was presented with the Freedom of London by the Lord Mayor of London, Sir John Rowland, at a ceremony in the Guild Hall in Westminster. The ceremony was attended by many family and friends of Martin Moran. The article mentions that Martin Moran is a member of the City of London and that he was presented with the Freedom of London by the Lord Mayor of London, Sir John Rowland, at a ceremony in the Guild Hall in Westminster. The article also mentions that Martin Moran is a member of the City of London and that he was presented with the Freedom of London by the Lord Mayor of London, Sir John Rowland, at a ceremony in the Guild Hall in Westminster.



**Congratulations to Andy Gamble, Tony Pontin and John Ryszkowski who were clothed Liverymen of the Company on 24<sup>th</sup> April!**

## British Empire Medal for Liveryman Robert Erith

**Robert Erith has received a British Empire Medal in the King's New Year's Honours List for Services to the Environment in Dedham Vale in Essex and Suffolk.**

Robert has been President of The Dedham Vale Society for the past 20 years and was Chairman of The Dedham Vale AONB & Stour Valley Partnership, the official body which cares for the whole Stour Valley, for 11 years. The Society works with its partners to preserve and protect the stunning landscapes, built heritage and biodiversity of the area, made famous by the artist John Constable.

Robert grew up on a small farm in Ardleigh near Colchester, Essex. On leaving School he worked for a year on his father's farm before being called up for National Service on his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. He was commissioned as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the 10<sup>th</sup> Hussars, a famous cavalry regiment, and commanded a troop of tanks in Aqaba, Jordan. Later he served as a reserve officer in the regiment for three weeks a year for 20 years in Germany, South Arabia, Hong Kong and elsewhere, ending up as a Major and being awarded a Territorial Decoration.

After his National Service Robert spent two years at Writtle Agricultural College, spent two years working in London and then emigrated to the USA, living first in Washington DC and later in San Francisco. He travelled extensively, working in Western Australia and then, with three friends, spent six months driving a Landrover home through Africa and the Middle East.

Back in England, Robert joined stockbroking firm Savory Miln,



eventually becoming Senior Partner and enjoying a 40-year career in the City and business. He was appointed High Sheriff of Essex in 1997 and a Deputy Lieutenant for the county two years later.

For 18 years he was a Director and Vice-Chairman of Erith Builders' Merchants, a public company founded by his great-grandfather in 1847.

In 1966 Robert married Sara Muller and bought a farm in the Stour Valley. In the 1980s they bought the surrounding land and once again Robert began to farm. The land had suffered from modern farming methods – the hedges had been ripped out, ponds filled in and the wild corners removed. The couple created a 10-year plan to restore the landscape, planting several miles of hedge and about 5,000 native hardwood trees. Ponds and other features were restored and, 30 years later, animals, birds and plants considered scarce or endangered have returned.

Congratulations Robert!

The Company is once again pleased to be sponsoring the 'Best Performing Student – BMF Diploma in Merchant Management' award at the upcoming Builders' Merchants Federation Members' Day Annual Conference and Awards in September. Sponsoring the award is part of our work promoting education and training within the industry, helping to encourage the next generation of builders' merchants.



## Our Court

**Master**  
Alan Hawkins

**Senior Warden**  
Stephen Boyer

**Junior Warden**  
Lucia Di Stazio

**Keeper of the Roll**  
Kevin Fenlon

**Immediate Past Master**  
Richard Hill

**Clerk**  
Jane, Lady Hilliard

**Bursar & Assistant Clerk**  
Julie Langford

**The Secretary**  
Denise Llewellyn

**Almoner**  
John Poore, BEM

**Court Assistants**  
Steve Durdant-Hollamby  
Julian Milligan

**Fixed-Term Assistants**  
Fiona Russell-Horne  
Howard Grant  
Simon Lawson



**In July, Past Master Andy Williamson and his wife Shelley, spent a fantastic night representing WCoBM at the City Livery Club civic dinner with The Lord Mayor of London at Stationers' Hall.**

## Member obligations

The Livery Company is a charitable organisation, with funds to support our industry, our affiliates and the Mayoralty. Donations from our members are therefore very important so that we can continue to support individuals and organisations in their time of need. Below is a short reminder of the obligations for Liverymen and Freemen that join our Company:

- All Freemen when joining the Company pay a Fine (Entrance Fee).
- All Freemen and Liverymen also pay an annual Quarterage (Subscription), usually in April via our GoCardless system. If you have not yet completed the online authorisation or would like help to progress it, please contact the Clerk.
- When you join the Court or become a Warden or Master a further Fine is paid for the Honour! All Fines and Quarterages are agreed annually by the Court.
- On entry to the Company, all Freemen are asked to make a donation to our Charities Fund by personal Standing Order – the amount varies depending on personal circumstances, with a suggested donation of a minimum of £250. The current spread of donations is £200 to £1,200pa from Freemen and Liverymen. Gift Aid is extremely important to our efforts in raising funds so we encourage personal donations rather than company ones as the Gift Aid is claimable against personal donations, but it is not against company ones.

Please remember to advise the Clerk of any change of address. This is very important for when we make a claim to HMRC for Gift Aid repayments. The address of every donor needs to be submitted and our Almoner is legally responsible for that data. If you have recently moved but not informed the Clerk, please do so as soon as possible. Email [info@wcoBM.co.uk](mailto:info@wcoBM.co.uk).

## Improving self-confidence through nature

Many of our Liverymen and Freemen give their time to support charities and their local communities. Here, we speak to Liveryman Alistair McAuley about his many years of charitable work and fundraising for the Outward Bound Trust.

Interacting with nature and spending time outdoors is proven to help young people develop new skills and grow in confidence, as well as tackling issues such as anxiety and depression.

That's why Alistair McAuley has been supporting the Outward Bound Trust (OBT) for well over a decade, both by fundraising and donating his own time to mentor and support young people.

The OBT is an educational charity that was first established in 1946. Its mission is to inspire young people aged 10-22 to believe they can achieve more than they ever thought possible through discovery and adventure courses in the UK's wildest mountains and landscapes.

OBT partners with schools, colleges, employers and youth groups to run courses at residential centres in the Lake District, North Wales and the Highlands, translating experiences in the mountains, sea, lakes and rivers into lessons for life. Through a bursary programme, courses are open to all young people regardless of their financial circumstances.

Alistair first learned about OBT while working at AkzoNobel, which was a supporter of the Trust. In 2021 Alistair left that business to set up TradeKart, but has continued to support the Trust's work. Over the years, Alistair has participated in a huge number of fundraising events, as well as OBT's Mentoring programme, and has been involved in raising well over £1 million for charity. He has participated in the London Revolution cycle event, cycled from Land's End to John O'Groats (and back again!) and, last year, the TradeKart team ran the London Marathon, with all proceeds going to OBT.

Alistair explains: "Much of the fundraising we've done previously has gone to the development of the residential centres, by providing equipment and funding new coaching facilities. It's amazing to see the impact that these courses have on young people. As an example, we hosted a school from inner city



Birmingham and one of the young girls had never seen the sea or a sheep before. Just to witness that moment was really powerful.

"We always see a remarkable improvement in the confidence of the young people who attend the courses as they learn new skills, step out of their comfort zones and tackle the challenges we set for them."

Alistair is continuing to support OBT through TradeKart because he strongly believes in the work of the Trust. So much so that his own daughter has been on the courses. And, in September, he and his daughter will be joining together to climb Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, again to raise funds for the Trust.

"I believe that OBT is a really relevant cause, especially post-pandemic, which has had such a significant impact on young people," Alistair continues. "We believe it's so important to help people grow their confidence. It was wonderful to have seen the benefits it offered my own daughter, and now to be able to give back with her as well."

This year, Alistair is hosting a charity Golf Day, as well as many other fundraising events. To celebrate Clean Air Day on 20 June, TradeKart planted a tree for every delivery it made.

Alistair explains: "I think businesses have a responsibility to invest in communities, no matter what that looks like, whether it's at a local or national level. We've chosen an area that really means something to us; at TradeKart we're supporting the next generation of tradespeople and bringing technology to builders' merchants, and nothing would give me greater pleasure than to help young people through Outward Bound Trust and support them in getting careers in the construction industry. I firmly believe it's our responsibility to give something back."

You can learn more about the Outward Bound Trust at [www.outwardbound.org.uk](http://www.outwardbound.org.uk)



## Use our Grants to help your team build their careers

Funding is available from the Worshipful Company of Builders' Merchants to help support training and skills development in the building materials industry.

Up to £2,000 of financial support, available through the WCoBM Training and Education Fund, is open to individuals looking to enter the building materials sector for the first time, as well as to those already working within it who wish to develop their skills and learning. As a Livery Company, we recognise the importance of encouraging an environment in which employees can learn, develop and fulfil their career ambitions.

Grants are available for school leavers, college or university graduates, students and apprentices. Builders' merchants and building material suppliers can benefit as well, subject to meeting the relevant criteria.

WCoBM grants can be used for a range of needs, ensuring the financial support benefits individuals or organisations where it matters the most. For example, you can use it to cover the cost, fully or partially, of relevant learning materials and practical tools, through to supporting dedicated qualifications, learning modules, training platforms or apprenticeship programmes.

Lucia Di Stazio, Chair of WCoBM's Education & Training Committee, explains: "Training and Education is a core tenet of WCoBM and the Company is extremely pleased to be able to provide dedicated grants to support the development of individuals in our sector.

"At a time where construction is experiencing an extreme skills shortage, it's vital we do all we can to encourage individuals to see the building materials sector and recognise it as an attractive opportunity to develop their learning and expertise and explore the vast career prospects that exist within."

WCoBM Master Alan Hawkins adds: "The building materials sector is an attractive proposition for school-leavers, apprentices and graduates and for those who have already



“It's vital we do all we can to encourage individuals to see the building materials sector and recognise it as an attractive opportunity to develop their learning and expertise.”

embarked on their journey in the industry. The wealth of job opportunities and the chance to train, learn new skills, experience different roles and advance your career is reflective of our sector's motivation, agility and passion to support professional development."

Grant applications are considered on a case-by-case basis. For more details, including how to apply, visit: [www.wcoBM.co.uk/grants-and-funding](http://www.wcoBM.co.uk/grants-and-funding)

**We will soon be embarking on an industry-wide awareness campaign and we need your help to spread the word.**

**Do you know someone in your business or a young individual looking to join our sector who would benefit from a grant? Make sure everyone knows this support is available.**

## No Going Back

The Worshipful Company of Builders' Merchants is helping a Livery charity support ex-offenders in securing worthwhile employment and learning new skills.

The No Going Back (NGB) charity was formed in June 2020 as a groundbreaking collaboration between Livery Companies and the Bounce Back Project to reduce re-offending rates, and has since become a standalone charity. The rehabilitation programme helps people through their journey in prison, preparing them for release and for job opportunities.

WCoBM has been supporting NGB financially since its creation, providing an annual contribution from its charitable fund. Past Master Steve Turner is a Trustee of NGB and received the 2023 Master's Award in recognition of his work with the charity.

He says: "Whatever a person's views, no one can deny the common sense of trying to break the cycle of re-offending, thereby saving the taxpayer the cost of over £40,000 per annum to keep someone in prison. Everyone gains; society in general, and the individual concerned who has the chance to get their life back on track. The City has a tradition of involvement in the welfare of prisoners and NGB was initiated by the Livery movement five years ago. The WCoBM has been in the vanguard of support for NGB from day one, something that I, as a trustee of the charity, am both proud of and immensely grateful for."

Over the past four years NGB has helped almost 2,000 participants prepare for or find work placements, including Nourdeen Al-Gharib, who was this year's recipient of the WCoBM NGB Rising Star Award at the Company's Awards Luncheon.

At the awards, Nourdeen was praised for his resilience and ambition post-release, and WCoBM caught up with him to learn more about his journey and how support from the Company and NGB has contributed to his learning, gaining new qualifications and, ultimately, a role where he can excel. Nourdeen learned about the Bounce Back charity on leaving prison, when he was referred to them by a mentor.

He says: "When I had my first interview and met my case manager, Emma George, I saw a lot of young, vibrant people, and also met Francesca (NGB's Executive Head, Francesca Findlater OBE). It was so different from what I was expecting."

The team helped Nourdeen secure a position with building and civil engineering company Sir Robert McAlpine, where he began working as a dryliner, having completed a Level 2 Suspended Ceilings and Wall Partitions course while in prison.

Nourdeen says: "Since I was released I've also earned my City & Guilds Level 2 and another NVQ Level 2 in passive fire protection. I've recently completed a Site Management Safety Training Systems qualification, paid for by my current employer, which means I can be a site manager, and I've just started college to gain a level 5 qualification in Business Management, which I'm funding myself, so I've really hit the ground running. Of the nine guys who first attended the trial drylining skills taster with Bounce Back, I was the only one to complete the process."

Nourdeen had no previous construction experience, but he finds his work very fulfilling. He explains: "You get a really worthwhile feeling because you're seeing things being created and coming to fruition from the ground up. You get satisfaction and pride from physically creating something – it's very rewarding."

Nourdeen's journey since he was released hasn't all been plain sailing, and he has had to overcome significant challenges along the way. Initially, he was placed with a company called FireClad, and was supported by Bounce Back, which helped Nourdeen purchase his first set of drylining tools, including a drill, pad saw, pouch and Stanley Blade. Unfortunately, FireClad went into administration, and Nourdeen was out of work for a number of months. NGB was able to work with Sir Robert McAlpine and a new placement was arranged with partition and ceiling contractor PlattReily, where Nourdeen has now been working for more than two years.

He explains: "Each year I look back and try to judge myself to see what I have achieved. I want to get back to the level of entrepreneurship I had in 2017, before I lost my business and went to prison. Once I've completed the multi-year management course I've just started, I'll have a more in-depth knowledge of the managerial responsibilities required to be a project manager and, eventually, I want to venture out on my own."

Nourdeen is doing what he can to give back to others, working as an NGB ambassador. Through them he works with the Finishes Interior Sector and is a board panellist on a project called Fit Out Futures, which comes together every quarter to help generate a more positive image of construction to the wider community.

He concludes: "I just want to give a big thank you to Francesca and the team in helping me. When I got the Rising Star Award from WCoBM I felt like I don't deserve it, because No Going Back has given me the blueprints to get where I am."

You can learn more about NGB at [nogoingback.uk](http://nogoingback.uk)



## RAC Club welcomes WCoBM



In July the Summer Social brought around 70 Liverymen, Freemen and their guests to the prestigious Royal Automobile Club on Pall Mall for an entertaining evening in the sunshine. Music was provided by familiar faces from the Royal Academy of Music.



## Going back in time...



In February there was a Roman-themed guided tour of London, including visits to the Billingsgate Roman House and Baths in Lower Thames Street with guide Murray Craig, former Clerk to the Chamberlain's office.



# City & Awards Luncheon

Recognising young talent & industry achievements

On 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2024, our Company hosted its annual City & Awards lunch at Butchers' Hall in London. The popular event celebrates the achievements of those in the builders' merchant industry, as well as within those organisations WCoBM supports with training and education through its charitable fund.



Liverymen, Freemen, award winners and guests gathered to celebrate the success of young achievers in the industry and among the Company's affiliations. Members are also encouraged to invite 'rising stars' from their businesses to network with senior industry figures and learn about City Livery Companies.



## The Master's Award

This prestigious award was presented to Past Master John Poore BEM for his dedicated work as Bursar of WCoBM, and for his personal charity work for the Lord Taverners and the Wooden Spoon Society, which helps to transform children's lives through the power of rugby.

Everyone was in good spirits at Butchers' Hall as the Company gathered to celebrate excellence across the industry, as well as the rising stars who will form the next generation of builders' merchants.



The Guest of Honour was Alderman Alastair King DL who, subject to election, will become the 696<sup>th</sup> Lord Mayor of London in November 2024. Alastair said:

“It's really wonderful to see so many young people here today, and to see so many being celebrated. It's a remarkable thing for the Livery Company to do; congratulations to all the winners for their hard work, and to the Livery for commemorating their achievements.”

### Our Master said:

“It is a delight to see so many people here today at our Company's occasion to celebrate success within the builders' merchant industry. It is my great pleasure to be able to present the winners with their awards and, of course, it gives us all hope that many of the young winners here will go on to thrive within the builders' merchant industry and be able to join this Company themselves in a few years' time.”



# City & Awards Luncheon cont...

## Award winners

This year's event recognised students from the Builders' Merchants Federation, the City & Guilds of London Art School; individuals from affiliated organisations, namely HMS Forth, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (PWRR), Beckenham and Penge Sea Cadets, and the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight (BBMF); as well as young achievers working with the Build Up Foundation, a charity that focuses on regenerating community spaces in deprived areas of London.

The event also recognises wider achievements including environmental best practice with its **Caring for the Environment** award, and the coveted **Master's Award**. The inaugural **No Going Back Rising Star Award** was introduced this year to highlight the work of the NGB charity, which aims to rehabilitate ex-offenders, helping them to secure employment.



### BMF student winners:

The Outstanding Diploma Student award went to Ashley Rice (left) of Howarth Timber who secured a commendable 85% Distinction. Apprentice of the Year was named as Owen Sutton (middle) from Keyline, for being a role model for young people. Best Online Student was awarded to Jamie Baines of NP Group (right) for completing an array of online courses.



### No Going Back Rising Star Award:

The award was presented to Nourdeen Al-Gharib, who was praised for his resilience and ambition post-release, despite personal setbacks.



### 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment (PWRR):

The Best Soldier prize was presented to LCpL Anthony Bass (above left) and Best Recruit to Private Ezme Tiley (above right).



### HMS Forth:

Petty Officer Alan Curtis (above left) was recognised for his Outstanding Service. Petty Officer Michael Green (above right) received a Joint Award for his All-Round Contribution to Unit Effectiveness.



### Battle of Britain Memorial Flight (BBMF):

Diane Law-Crookes was presented with the BBMF Excellence Award and Air Specialist (class 1) Technician Thomas Jarvis was named BBMF Aviator of the Year.



### Beckenham and Penge Sea Cadets:

Cadet Adam Ogidel, age 10, stole the show at the Awards Luncheon when he received the award for Outstanding Service.



### Build Up Foundation:

Shyanne Ugboma (14), and Jamie Austen (20), received the Build Up Award for turning an unloved area of the Hughes House Field Estate in London into a new community garden. The Foundation runs practical construction projects to transform local communities.



### Caring for the Environment Award

This award acknowledges companies or individuals in the Livery whose efforts in areas of waste management, manufacturing processes, packaging or product development have resulted in greater sustainability or resource efficiency. The winner this year was Heidelberg Materials UK, for its proactive and innovative approach to sustainability and community engagement, with demonstrable carbon and waste reduction.

# Election Court General



One of our Livery's main events each year is the Election Court General. All Liverymen and Freemen are expected to attend as it is an important occasion where our new Master and Wardens are elected for the ensuing year.

**In April, Senior Warden Stephen Boyer was elected as WCoBM's new Master-Elect. He will be supported by Senior Warden-Elect Lucia Di Stazio and Junior Warden-Elect Kevin Fenlon.**

**Stephen's Installation Ceremony will take place on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October, 2024 at Mansion House.**

## Divine Service and Reception

This year's Election Court General and Supper was at Bakers' Hall, where Principal Guest Brigadier Andrew Jackson talked about his role as Governor of the Tower of London, as well as his time in the Army. His speech was particularly timely given that Liverymen, Freemen and Guests had earlier that evening enjoyed the Company's Annual Divine Service at the Chapel Royal of St. Peter ad Vincula in HM Tower of London.



A toast to a wonderful evening!



# Master's Weekend

In May, the Master hosted his Master's Weekend in the historic City of Bath, where Liverymen, partners and guests relaxed and enjoyed the City's fascinating history.



The weekend began with a visit to No 1 The Crescent, the most prestigious address in the City.

On the Friday evening, everyone enjoyed dinner at Woods, one of Bath's best restaurants that occupies the ground floor of five Georgian town houses.



## Did You Know?

The first ever stamp to be mailed was sent from Bath. On 2 May 1840, four days before the official first day of posting, an item of mail left Bath Post Office with a Penny Black stamp.

Master Alan Hawkins was on hand throughout the weekend with lots of fun facts about the City.



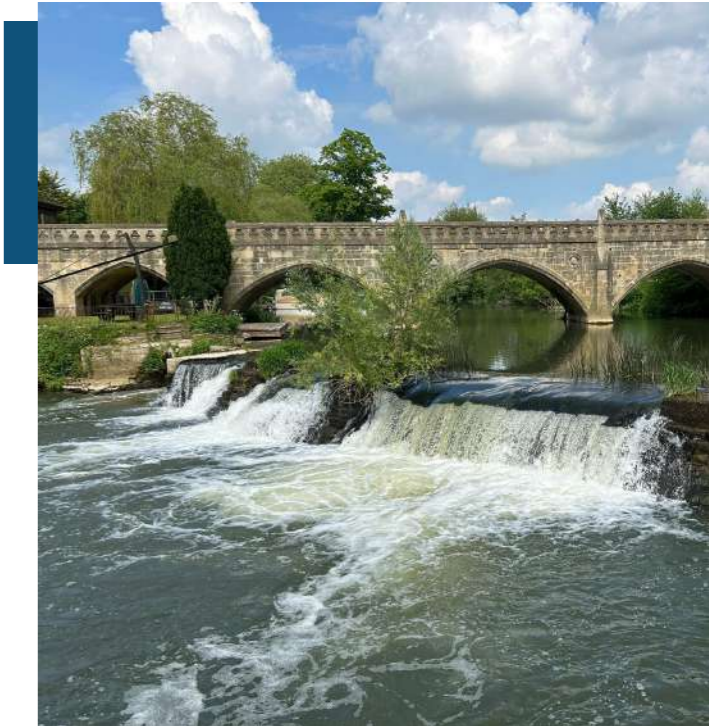


# Master's Weekend

On Saturday morning, guests enjoyed an Open Top Bus Tour of the City, before visiting the Holbourne Museum to see a fine collection of art and sculptures, including more than 2,000 items in a collection bequeathed to the City by Sir William Holbourne in 1874.



Immediate Past Master Richard Hill enjoying the tour of Bath.



On the Saturday evening, the Company was privileged to enjoy dinner at the World Heritage Roman Baths, where there was a tour of the ancient baths before entering the famous Pump Rooms for a delicious meal and wonderful entertainment.



# RAF Battle of Britain Memorial Flight

In May, our Livery was again honoured with a special visit to the Royal Air Force Battle of Britain Memorial Flight (BBMF) in Coningsby. The BBMF's main mission is to maintain the priceless artefacts of our national heritage in airworthy condition in order to commemorate those who have fallen in the service of our country. It also serves to promote the modern day Air Force and inspire future generations.



## Squadron Leader Mark Long

It was with deepest sadness that WCoBM learned of the tragic death of pilot Squadron Leader Mark Long (pictured left) from the BBMF during a Spitfire accident on 25<sup>th</sup> May.

We were fortunate to spend time with Mark a few weeks before during our recent visit to RAF Coningsby, where his passion for and knowledge of flying shone through.

On behalf of the Company, The Master has written to BBMF Squadron Leader Mark Sugden to express our deepest condolences, and to offer our assistance wherever possible. Everyone at the Worshipful Company continues to hold the entire BBMF team, and Mark's family and friends, in our thoughts and close to our hearts.



# What else...?

2024 has been another busy year for the Master and our Company! Here's a quick round up of other City events we have enjoyed.



## Inter-Livery Rifle Shoot

The Inter-Livery Rifle Shoot took place on 7<sup>th</sup> June in Bisley. Pictured are Liverymen Dave Moore and Mike Rigby.



## Albuhera Dinner at Woolwich Barracks

The Master represented WCoBM at The Silent Toast, an important part of the remembrance of The Battle of Albuhera. The annual toast is made on 16<sup>th</sup> May in a tradition carried out by The Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment.



## The Master and Mistress visit Buckingham Palace

The sun shone when the Master and his Mistress, Madeline, were fortunate to be invited to attend a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in May this year with King Charles III and Queen Camilla in attendance.



In July the Master attended an exclusive lunch at the Old Bailey, hosted by Dame Susan Langley, spending time with around 15 sitting judges during their lunch break and seeing a high-profile trial.



# And finally...

## Check out our brand-new website!

The Worshipful Company of Builders' Merchants (WCoBM) is delighted to announce that we have a brand-new and updated website.

The site has been completely redesigned to include new features for all our members, as well as to better represent the Company to the industry and the wider public.

On the site, visitors can learn more about the history of the Company and the Livery movement as a whole, as well as details of the Company's current Master, Court and Officers. The website also features details of the Company's latest news and events, charity work, and the grants and training support the Company offers to individuals and companies within the builders' merchant sector.

As a WCoBM Member, you can login to your personal account and view your Member Profile, as well as get more information about the Livery Company's accounts and events programme.

The website is our Members' first port of call for all Company news, as well as a place where you can find contact details for all other Company Members. Please take a moment to login to your profile and check that your contact details are fully up to date.

### Logging in for the first time

When you first log in to the new site, you may need to reset your password as follows:

- Go to [www.wcobm.co.uk](http://www.wcobm.co.uk)
- Click '**Members Login**' at the top right of the screen
- Enter your existing login details and click '**Login**'.
- If you don't remember your password, don't worry! Just



[www.wcobm.co.uk](http://www.wcobm.co.uk)

click 'Forgot your password?' and follow the instructions on screen

Once you have logged in, you will be taken to a new page that includes links to 'The Plain Guide to the Livery', as well as details about the WCoBM Officers and Court, our Committees, and more news about the company.

At the top of the screen you will also see additional links now visible which are only available to logged-in members, including a database of our members, their contact details, and our Charters and Byelaws. You must be logged in to the site to access these features.

Please explore the site at your leisure – we hope you find it useful! We will be continuing to update and expand the website over the coming months.

The website and its contents were designed by Agency 53 and JKW PR & Marketing.

## Livery accessories – do you have yours?

Whether you have recently joined the Livery, or have been a member for some time, make sure you speak to the Clerk about our range of Livery accessories. We have ties, pins and cufflinks. Ties are £20 each, Cuff links are £20 per pair and the Pins are £1.

Email our Clerk at [info@wcbm.co.uk](mailto:info@wcbm.co.uk)

