



The Worshipful Company of Plaisterers

www.plaistererslivery.co.uk

YEARBOOK 2023-2024



**Masters
since 1570**

1570-1571	Simon Bedaugh	1633-1634	Edmond Waite	1701-1702	John Combes	1764-1765	James North
1571-1572	Cornelys Hand	1634-1635	Martyn Eastbrand	1702-1704	John Tooley	1765-1766	(James Wise
1572-1573	Raffe Bettes	1635-1636	William Whiting	1704-1705	John Edmondson		(Jabez Reed
1573-1574	Thomas Kelley	1636-1637	Edmond Lake	1705-1706	Thomas Walker	1766-1767	Walter Scott
1574-1575	Cornelys Hand	1637-1638	Williant Walters	1706-1707	Robert Powell	1767-1768	William Willat
1575-1576	Raffe Bettes	1638-1639	George Eatchell	1707-1708	James Tucker	1768-1769	Thomas Palmer
1576-1577	Thomas Kelley	1639-1640	John Taylor	1708-1709	Richard Flye	1769-1770	John Baker
1577-1578	(John Bettes	1640-1641	William Willingham	1709-1710	Francis Handley	1770-1771	George Wellings
	(Raffe Bettes	1641-1642	Robert Langley	1710-1711	Robert Shann	1771-1772	James Palmer
1578-1579	Simon Bedaugh	1642-1643	Edward Lucas	1711-1712	John Cordey	1772-1773	Humphrey Wilmott
1579-1580	Thomas Kelley	1643-1644	William Beteaugh	1712-1713	Nicholas Roberts	1773-1774	Thomas Brooks
1580-1581	Cornelys Hand	1644-1645	John Hubbard	1713-1714	John Grinsell	1774-1775	Euclid Harrison
1581-1582	Thomas Warbishe	1645-1646	John Walters	1714-1715	William Hayes	1775-1776	Joseph Rose
1582-1583	Raffe Bettes	1646-1647	George Ubancke	1715-1716	John Crouch	1776-1777	Joseph Cooper
1583-1584	Thomas Warbishe	1647-1648	William Shute	1716-1717	Robert Mabbs	1777-1778	John Cloudes
1584-1585	Simon Bedaugh	1648-1649	John Smith	1717-1718	Henry Beale	1778-1779	John Cheek
1585-1586	John Laycock	1649-1650	Bartholomew Clarke	1718-1719	John Bunce	1779-1780	Francis Edwin
1586-1587	Raffe Bettes	1650-1651	Edmund Perwich	1719-1720	Thomas Combes	1780-1781	Euclid Harrison,Jnr
1587-1588	Thomas Kelley	1651-1652	Martyn Eastborne	1720-1721	William Pope	1781-1782	John Davis
1588-1589	Thomas Warbishe	1652-1653	Henry Chippine	1721-1722	John Winterburne	1782-1783	Thomas Cogan
1589-1590	Richard Barfeild	1653-1654	Charles Daves	1722-1723	Robert Greene	1783-1784	William Wamsley
1590-1591	Raffe Bettes	1654-1655	Miles Steede	1723-1724	Chrisostome Wilkins	1784-1785	John Simmons
1591-1592	William Bottom	1655-1656	Joseph Kinsman	1724-1725	(John Silver	1785-1786	William Green
1592-1593	Edmund Essex	1656-1657	Edward Goodenough		(Nathaniel Hutton	1786-1787	William Sydenham
1593-1594	Robert Burton	1657-1659	Abraham Stanyon	1725-1726	Richard Peak	1787-1788	Edward Stroud
1594-1595	Henry Willis	1659-1660	Thomas Lycense	1726-1727	James Ellis	1788-1789	Thomas Cope
1595-1596	Richard Barfeild	1660-1661	William Hollins	1727-1728	Richard West	1789-1790	William Roberts
1596-1597	John Jackson	1661-1662	Edmund Perwich	1728-1729	Randal Stanley	1790-1791	Joseph Pope
1597-1598	John Jackson	1662-1663	Arthure Toogood	1729-1730	Richard Burgiss	1791-1792	John Brown
1598-1599	Robert Button	1663-1664	William Musgrove	1730-1731	William Clarke	1792-1793	Thomas Clarke
1599-1600	Henry Willis	1664-1665	John Smith	1731-1732	John Gregory	1793-1794	Richard Delannoy
1600-1601	Hugh Cappe	1665-1666	Robert Doegood	1732-1733	John Withers	1794-1795	(John Vincy
1601-1602	Richard Dongan	1666-1667	Daniell Morris	1733-1734	William Tooley		(James Palmer
1602-1603	Jackson Guest	1667-1668	John Martyn	1734-1735	William Lord	1795-1796	John Wilmot
1603-1604	Hugh Cappe	1668-1670	Henry Strode	1735-1736	Thomas Wise	1796-1797	Thomas Willats
1604-1605	Richard Dongan	1670-1671	John Blunt	1736-1737	William Smith	1797-1798	Edward Rogers
1605-1606	Edward Essex	1671-1672	Richard Watle	1737-1738	Joseph Turner	1798-1799	William Dyer
1606-1607	Richard Dongan	1672-1673	Stephen Clay	1738-1739	William Bayly	1799-1800	John Jackson
1607-1608	Richard Ratcliffe	1673-1674		1739-1740	John Simons	1800-1801	John Dawson
1608-1609	Richard Browne	1674-1675	Daniel Morris	1740-1741	Thomas Bridge	1801-1802	Thomas Palmer
1609-1610	Raphe Guest	1675-1676	Thomas Griffith	1741-1742	Thomas Baker	1802-1803	John George
1610-1611	Henry Standly	1676-1677	John Stevenson	1742-1743	William Willats	1803-1804	William Bickerton
1611-1612	Hugh Cappe	1677-1678	Edward Langley	1743-1744	Richard Scarr	1804-1805	William Bates
1612-1613	Richard Browne	1678-1679	William Floyder	1744-1745	Andrew Eales	1805-1806	Samuel Bostock
1613-1614	(Raphe Guest	1679-1680	Stephen Clay	1745-1746	Edward Holloway	1806-1807	William Roberts,Jnr
	(Richard Ratcliffe	1680-1681	Henry Gardiner	1746-1747	Edward Jones	1807-1808	Edward Halsey
1614-1615	Henry Stanley	1681-1682	Henry Hodsdon	1747-1748	Joseph Lister		Bockett
1615-1616	Richard Terrey	1682-1683	John Dolphen	1748-1749	Thomas Meekes	1808-1809	Ralph Hall
1616-1617	Randall Clarkson	1683-1684	Christopher Tompson	1749-1750	Henry Gartrup	1809-1810	Thomas Creser
1617-1618	Ellis Piggin	1684-1685	Samuel Smith	1750-1751	(Edward Everard	1810-1811	John Brotherton
1618-1619	John Longforth	1685-1686	Thomas Townerow		(William Harrison	1811-1812	Henry Flower
1619-1620	John Allen	1686-1687	John Combes	1751-1752	Benjamin Glanvill	1812-1813	John Wyett
1620-1621	Henrie Briggs	1687-1688	Andrew Hatt	1752-1753	Thomas Cogan	1813-1814	James Mayor
1621-1622	Thomas Atkinson	1688-1689	John Stevenson	1753-1754	Arthur Stanley	1814-1815	Richard Delannoy,Jnr
1622-1623	Richard Browne	1689-1690	Thomas Newburn	1754-1755	Thomas Fletcher	1815-1816	Thomas Jackson
1623-1624	John Allen	1690-1691	Stephen Cowford	1755-1756	Thomas Seagood	1816-1817	George Dowse
1624-1625	Richard Fisher	1691-1694	Andrew Hatt	1756-1757	William Cutter	1817-1818	John Watts
1625-1626	Thomas Widmore	1694-1695	Henry Gardiner	1757-1758	Charles Rogers	1818-1819	(John Bell
1626-1627	Robert Whiting	1695-1696	(Edward Hollingshead	1758-1759	Richard Wingfield		(Francis Bernascom
1627-1628	Edward White		(Thomas Buttler	1759-1760	(Thomas Wise	1819-1820	James Johnson
1628-1629	Thomas Atkinson	1696-1697	John Willeye		(Thomas Chooke	1820-1821	Samuel Hough
1629-1630	Richard Rawlidge	1697-1698	Abraham Crisp	1760-1761	George Fewkes	1821-1822	Thomas Daplyn



YEARBOOK 2023-2024



INTRODUCTION

BY THE CLERK

The Worshipful Company of Plaisterers have had a successful year with events in the Hall and the Master championing the Company within the City and wider. Our assistance to various charities has continued and this year we supported a few new local charities with one off donations.

As with most Livery Companies, retaining and gaining new members is an area that always needs attention, but over this year we have seen 18 new Freeman joining and seven Freeman progressing to Livery. Much of this has been due to the good work of Members actively recruiting, please continue to do so.

It was a great pleasure to be invited to attend the City Freeman ceremony for three of our Industry Members and served to remind me of the importance of maintaining a strong link with our Industry.

As always, this Yearbook shows the best of what we as a Company do, I do hope you enjoy it.

Garth Manger
Clerk



CONTENTS

The Master's Year.....	6
The Consort's Year	14
Committee Reports.....	20
Industry Committee.....	22
Finance & Investment Committee	24
Livery Committee	27
Marketing Committee	30
Membership Committee	34
Robing Ceremony	36
Nominations Panel.....	38
Charitable Trust	40
Master's Charity 2023-2024	44
Plaisterers' Platinum Jubilee Fund	48
Brotherly Love in Action: Faith, Service & Charity	49
Plaisterers' Hall Limited.....	50
The Court 2024-2025.....	56
Military Affiliations	58
Company History.....	64
The Armorial Bearings	66
The Company prior to 1940.....	68
The Company from 1940.....	74
The Company in the Third Millennium	82
Royal Charters.....	86
The City of London.....	88
The Livery Companies in order of precedence	93
Calendar and Events	94
Plaisterers' Lodge	100
Plaisterers' Marketplace	102
In Memoriam	104
Members' List	104



THE MASTER'S YEAR: TRAVELS WITH MY BADGE

.....
Tony Mitchell 2023-2024
.....

At Common Hall this year, I spoke about my "Travels with my Badge" which seems a good way to approach this article. In that presentation, I tried to present an overview of my year as Master and what has been a very busy, but very rewarding, year.



THE MASTER AND CONSORT AT THE COMMANDO TRAINING CENTRE WITH THE COMMANDANT, COLONEL INNES CATTON, ALONGSIDE THE PICTURE OF THE 'WHITE WHALE' COMMISSIONED BY WENDY'S FATHER, RALPH VICKERS, IN 1982.

The first thing to say is that I have always realised that none of this is about me.

Sadly, nobody has written to Garth or Ali and said, "I would like to invite Tony to this, or that, event."

They always invite "The Master", and what they expect is, the Badge of the Worshipful Company of Plasterers and for the past year, I have been its chauffeur.

"Where the Badge
gets invited I follow."

For Wendy and me, the year started at the Robing Ceremony which, this year, was complicated by a national rail strike. We seem to be fated to have these challenges over the past few years!

To overcome this particular challenge, we split the usual sequence: Common Hall, Robing of Officers and new Freemen and Liverymen, followed by our church service and then dinner; into two parts, run on two separate days. We also used Zoom to broadcast the Installation of the Master and Wardens to those who could not get into London for the ceremony. The Wardens and I were installed on Thursday 20th July, instead of a Tuesday and then Common Hall, followed by the Robing of Liverymen and Admittance of Freemen, our Church service and Dinner, was held on 5th September.

The wooden boards recording the past Masters of the Worshipful Company, hang in the Court Room. It was very strange to see my name added to the list and it caused me to do some calculations.

As the Company has existed since 1501, you would expect me to be Master number 523.

However, as you will know, there were eight years in the 17th and 18th centuries, when we had two Masters in one year, so I am actually Master number 531.

Some Masters served more than one year...so I am also the 467th person to serve as Master.

In this year, I have attended and enjoyed 56 dinners representing the Worshipful Company. I have also been to 25 lunches, some on the same day as a dinner. It has been quite hard work and taken a lot of stamina to keep up!

Either I, or Wendy and I, have supported 30 events with our Charities.

And, as part of my work to build stronger links with the Plastering Trade, I have gone to 10 events supporting the Plastering Trade and to school Careers Events.





More often, as I near the end of my year, I am asked, "What is the most memorable thing that you have done?"

In truth, I cannot compare most of the things that I have been involved in because they are each so very different. However, if pushed on this, I would pick out four events that give a taste of the many memories that I will keep with me:

1: Meeting the Queen

In October, I attended the Lord Mayor's Dinner for their Majesties and was introduced to Queen Camilla, at Mansion House. I, of course, pointed out that she did not attend enough of our events, and then briefly touched on our common support of the Special Reconnaissance Regiment.

2: Strengthening links with the Marines

One of the most striking things about our links to the Armed Services is the strength and depth of our link to the Royal Marines. Throughout the year, Wendy and I have spent a number of days with different parts of the Royal Marines, learning about them and being treated as part of their organisation. Inspecting

the Kings Squad as they completed their training was definitely another very unusual experience that will stay with me.

3: Grayson Perry in person

Grayson Perry came into many of our homes during Lockdown with his whimsical Arts series. This only cemented his place in Wendy's list of idols and so, when train strikes stopped Garth from attending a talk with me, by Grayson, Wendy was forced to step in. She got to speak with Grayson and had a great evening.

4: Enjoying City life

Dressing up and attending the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress's Bavarian Ball at Mansion House certainly underlined that City life, and wearing gowns and badges, is not all that Masters and Mayors do. The Masters and Consorts worked so hard at enjoying this event that the Beer ran out!!

There have of course been many other events that we have attended, and Wendy has had her separate, very busy, social life as Consort, which she writes about on another page in this book.

Before my own installation, Wendy and I attended the installation of the new Master of the Watermen & Lightermen, in July, as his personal guests and were sat next to the incoming Lord Mayor, Michael Mainelli and his wife, Elizabeth. While this was unexpected, it gave us both a chance to get to know Michael and Elizabeth and I think this stood us in good stead as we met again throughout the year at different events. As the Lord Mayor, Michael attended our Training Awards lunch in November and presented the awards.

In September I met our new chorister, Alfie, who we are providing a bursary for, at St. Paul's Cathedral. Wendy and I have had other opportunities to visit both the Cathedral and the school to see, hear and meet Alfie, throughout the year and can report that he is doing very well at the school and won an award for his musical skills at the school Speech Day in July.

The Plasterers have made a connection with Kingsford Community School in Beckton, who are associated with 282 Squadron, in East Ham. The Headteacher, Joan Deslandes OBE, is a Freeman of the

Company. With help from members, we set up a trip to the Old Bailey for a group of students and also arranged a visit to the RM base at Wandsworth, where another group of students had an exciting afternoon that included marching with a troop of Royal Marines.

At our October Dinner, I stated that I had two themes for this year:

- To work closer with the Plastering trade
- To support the Plasterers' Charity.

Working with the Plastering Trade

We are The Worshipful Company of Plasterers. Some Livery Companies only accept members who are in their trade. We do not have such a rule. But, without a link to our trade, you could say that we have no purpose. Out of 380 members, 65 are connected to the Plastering Trade.

I have been told by two plastering companies of the challenges of finding suitable candidates for training as plasterers. One has even told me that when they advertised for trainees earlier this year, they did not have one single response.



WITH OUR ROYAL LIVERYMAN



PLASTERERS RUN THE PANCAKE RACES



WITH PAST MASTERS DE BRADSHAW & MARGARET COATES



THE BAVARIAN BALL AT THE MANSION HOUSE



With the new government aiming to increase house building, one of the unspoken obstacles to that is the shortfall in construction staff.

So, how can this Worshipful Company help?

- **We now run the Training Awards in partnership with FIS.** This annual event celebrates both the trainees and the colleges and training companies that deliver the training.
- **This year we have been attending the National Skill Build Heats with FIS.** Together we have stands, a banner and printed handouts to help us tell people about our trade.
- **We have also taken the news that Plastering can be a great career to Schools.** This year, we have formed close partnerships with some of our members companies; Locker & Riley and George Jackson Limited, and also with the UK main supplier of Plastering Materials, British Gypsum. These companies have been setting up stands at Career Events in schools and demonstrating the skills of plastering, in its different forms, and generating a huge amount of excitement by getting the young people to try their hands at plastering.
- **We have also expanded our connections with different organisations across the sector.**
- **We have made a connection with the Skills Centre who have four training centres round London.** They teach general building skills and ran a course focusing on Plastering in April. Then, in November, we hosted a group of their students celebrating their achievements and collecting their CSCS cards here, in the Hall.

- **We have also got involved with the City & Guilds Heritage Group and attended a conference where we met representatives of other like-minded organisations.** We have started to form new relationships with a range of organisations that are working to support and grow heritage skills which, for us, includes lime plastering, as well as decorative plastering.

- **Keith Langton has been engaging with York Minster.** Through them, we have been connected to Nidaros Cathedral, in Trondheim, Norway and to a lecturer who runs lime plastering workshops for MA courses in Architectural Conservation, in Singapore.

Nidaros Cathedral is built over the tomb of St. Olav, the Viking king who converted Norway to Christianity and became "Norway's Eternal King". Throughout the Middle Ages this was a symbol of religious faith. In the early 1800s, after several fires and lack of maintenance, the cathedral was in very poor shape. In 1868 it was agreed that the cathedral should be rebuilt as a national symbol and work began the following year. The restoration of Nidaros Cathedral has been going on for 150 years and the work continues on various projects including areas of plasterwork.

Maybe we could arrange a trip there in the future?

- **We have also been exploring other opportunities.** We are talking to both St Paul's Cathedral, who are setting up a Heritage Skills Centre, and with the Building Craft College in Stratford, on how we might work together.





There is so much more that we could do.

Attending school careers events is great, the young people love the chance to have a go, but our members have businesses to run. We cannot hope to scale this up enough to make a sizeable difference. CITB and FIS both have web sites with information about careers in Plastering, but that is only as good as the publicity that drives people to those sites.

- Together with FIS, we are looking at other ways to reach out to schools and to young people to spread the message that Plastering can provide both a reliable career and the opportunities to set up and run your own business if that is what you want to do.
- Maybe we can develop a "kit" for teachers to use in school Art or Design & Technology classes which will give pupils a taste of Plastering?
- With the Skills Centre, we are exploring how we can make the results of each course better, by engaging more employers.
- We are continuing to develop new relationships to see how we can support training and apprenticeships.

My year of travelling with my Badge came to an end as quickly as it started. A year as Master of this Worshipful Company cannot be condensed into a few paragraphs. Wendy and I have had opportunities to visit places that would not have opened their doors to us as individuals, but they have all been very welcoming to my Badge and the two of us. We have met the most amazing people - even Queen Elizabeth I was at the Guildhall Pancake Race to greet us. Or was that Liveryman Phillip Cowen?

I must end by thanking the Court and all the Members of this most Worshipful Company for the support that Wendy and I have had throughout this year and, of course, to Garth and Ali for their guidance and advice. Thank you.

Tony Mitchell
Master Plasterer 2023-2024

Thank you to all those who have been helping in these areas, and to the Industry Committee for their support and help.

Our Plasterers' Charity

The Plasterers' Charity is, by Livery Company standards, a small charity. In 2023 it distributed £59,788 and in 2024 it distributed £79,300, which is about the most that it can afford at the moment.

Funds go to our affiliated Armed Services organisations, and to our Heritage Skills organisations, as well as to St Paul's and Peterborough Cathedrals, to support a Chorister at each.

The Charity tries to focus on areas where our contribution can make a difference. But we could make much more of a difference, if we could build up our funds.

This year, our Company fund-raising activities contributed £11,750 to the Charity. This included the Sapphire Dinner and Dance which was a great fund-raiser, which everyone who attended enjoyed.





THE CONSORT'S YEAR

Wendy Mitchell

"We have been proud to represent the Plaisterers' Company in our roles as Master and Consort and we have been treated to a warm reception wherever we have been."



Our lives are richer for having met with a broad spectrum of people, from different walks of life and our time has been divided between City functions, our Charities, Military connections and bursary recipients. The only problem is, I have forgotten how to cook!

Maintaining our busy schedule, has only been possible thanks to the dedication of our Clerk, Garth and Assistant Clerk, Ali and the Catering and Management team at Plaisterers' Hall. Everything has gone to plan which has made the year magical and memorable.

In December we travelled to Loughborough School for their "Tableaux Carol Service." Students portrayed the Christmas story on the stage, while the choir sang. Our bursary student, Florence, sang a solo, which captivated everyone.

In January we arrived for the Eucharist at St Paul's Cathedral and to our surprise Julie Cook came and welcomed us! Julie was there in her role as a volunteer at the Cathedral. Will Bruce had brought along, for the first time, the St Paul's

Whitechapel Primary School, children's choir. It was lovely to see their wide eyes scan the magnificent Cathedral as they sat fidgeting, waiting for their turn to sing. We were invited to visit the school for an afternoon in May and it was fascinating to watch Will capture the children's attention and give them the confidence to sing out. Their next performance at the Plaisterers' Hall in July, was polished and a credit to Will. Everyone was impressed.

On another occasion, we toured St Paul's Cathedral School. It was great to see our past Clerk, Nigel, there, in his role as a Trustee of St Paul's Chorister Trust. Alfie, our chorister, met with us for a relaxed chat and Tony placed his Master's badge on Alfie, who then had the biggest smile.

A member of staff took Alfie's photo to send to his family. Later we sat in the



CHOIR CHURCH AT ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL



Quire for the Eucharist and watched as Alfie confidently processed in with the choir. At the United Guilds Service, I sat with other Consorts, under the dome and had a full view of Alfie as he entered. One week before our year end, the School Speech Day was held in St Paul's Cathedral. What a wonderful occasion this was and a proud moment, as Alfie collected his Junior Instrumental Prize.

Earlier in the year a small group of Plasterers accompanied Tony and I to Peterborough Cathedral. Here we witnessed the premiere of the musical, written by Alexander L'Estrange "To be a Saint," which had been funded by the Plasterers' Charity. This was performed by local school children. It was fantastic and the air was filled with their energy and song.

I had been looking forward to our day at Buckingham Palace for a Garden Party. It was unforgettable and we were fortunate the sun shone. For me it brought back many happy memories of my time there in days gone by.

Tony and I have been fortunate to have spent time with the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress earlier in the year, before either couple took up our roles. So it was splendid to join a small group of Consorts, to take lunch with the Lady Mayoress in her private quarters at Mansion House. We were treated like Royalty.

After coffee we took the tiny lift to the basement. As we stepped out, we were overcome with the smell of silver polish! I think the staff are continually cleaning

and I understood why, as we viewed the numerous gold and silver treasures on display. What a privilege!

A few months later, we attended the Bavarian Ball at Mansion House. There we were, dressed in traditional Bavarian costume, drinking beer and dancing to the Ompah band well past the normal 10.30pm curfew of Mansion House. It certainly was a Ball!

As Consort, I have had a wonderful opportunity to see so many places behind the scenes and one such, is the Old Bailey where I have been a frequent visitor! Christmas Carols under the Dome gave us a warm start to the Festive season.

Then in the New Year I was invited to lunch with Sheriff's Consort, Mrs Jane Masojada at the Old Bailey. Lunch was followed by an interesting tour and I was allowed to sit in on a case. On another occasion, Tony and I attended the production of "Trial & Error." Seated in Court Number 1, we watched the story of the role of the Old Bailey forging the laws of the UK. This was brought to life by Old Bailey staff, including Judges. It was amazing.

Another trip to the Old Bailey followed our Charity auction, at the Sapphire Dinner Dance. We, along with six friends, enjoyed a more in-depth visit, with our Livery member His Honour, Judge Anthony Leonard KC. It was interesting to hear how, with technology, the process of gathering of evidence has changed. Anthony also showed us the cells and we were relieved to be allowed out at the end of the evening!

Tony and I were very proud of the performance of our 282 Squadron Air Cadets as they completed at Frimley Cadet Training Centre, outdoor pursuits competition. The Master and other guests competed in archery and our Master won with a score of 40. More recently we visited 282 Squadron Cadets in East Ham. On this evening everyone present witnessed our Past Master, Margaret Coates and our Master, officially open the new "Plasterers' Room." The Cadet's store their musical instruments here and it also houses their flight simulator.

Before the sun went down we were able to enjoy the polished efforts of the Cadets band. The Master and I were happy to donate a trumpet to add to the instruments available to the cadets and we are pleased to know it will be put to good use. Chris Booty and his colleagues are tireless in their dedication and time they devote to these young people.

In support of the Plastering trade the Master and I attended a lime plastering course, run by Sean Wheatley, at the National Trust centre at Coleshill and we both enjoyed being students for a day. We also visited Dumfries House and met with our bursary student Karen Skeats. Here, the King's Foundation offers endless opportunities for heritage craft students and the site is outstanding. It is well worth a visit and we will be back!

My Consort Lunch was planned for June. The day was a great success and I was delighted to welcome 138 guests including our Lady Mayoress, members of the Plasterers, Consorts, family and friends.



PLASTERERS AT THE 'TO BE A SAINT' PREMIER AT PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL



We enjoyed the company of Pikeman, Major Robert Quain, in full uniform and were entertained by a harpist during our delicious meal. I was delighted that our Beadle, Jamie was able to be present and he was a good sport as he announced, to my surprise, a few of my Ballet friends as "Margot Fonteyn," "Anna Pavlova," and "Ginger Rogers!"

Our time with the Royal Marines has definitely formed the highlight of our year. Garth and his Royal Marine officers, proudly showed us round the Commando Training Centre at Lympstone. Whilst there, the Master and I, were honoured to officially open the new "Plasterers' Room" and I had the pleasure of cutting the ribbon! It was also special to be VIPs at the King's Squad passing out parade. I, along with their family members and guests, watched patiently as each Royal Marine was praised and spoken to by the Inspecting Officer and our Master. It was a proud day for all.

Then at Plymouth, we were invited to board a landing craft. What an amazing experience. I was even allowed to steer the craft for a short while.

In March we attended the "Mountbatten Royal Marines Festival of Music" at the Royal Albert Hall and once our group was settled in our box, Garth kindly said a few words honouring my late father

who in 1983, as Master Plasterer, began the tradition of booking a Box at the Royal Albert Hall. He would be thrilled to know this evening is still supported by the Company.

It was a fitting moment, at our Court dinner, to witness General Robert MacGowan and our Master sign the Armed Forces Covenant. We met again at our last event of our year, "Beating Retreat" by the Massed Bands of His Majesty's Royal Marines, held at Horse Guards Parade. We were seated centre stage in the VIP marquee for the spectacular performance, followed by a Reception at Lancaster House.



We are proud to have been able to represent the Worshipful Company of Plasterers' and strengthen our connections to the services. Long may the associations continue.

Both my father, Past Master and Past Clerk Ralph Vickers and my mother, Doreen would be proud of our achievements and involvement as Master Plasterer and Consort and I cannot thank the Plasterers' Livery Company enough for this unique and memorable year.

Wendy Mitchell, Consort





2024 ANNUAL BANQUET

COMMITTEE REPORTS

2023-2024

Industry Committee.....	22
Finance & Investment Committee.....	24
Livery Committee	27
Marketing Committee	30
Membership Committee	34
Nominations Panel	38



INDUSTRY COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN Jon Riley

Your Industry Committee has spent a busy year supporting the Master's mission to "increase our engagement with the Plastering Trade, in all its forms".

To this end closer ties continue between the Industry Committee and the FIS, which provide a much broader engagement, and it was great to see Philip Brown, the President of the FIS, attend the Autumn Dinner as Guest Speaker expressing his passion for the sector.

The FIS is now represented at each Industry Committee meeting by Beena Nana, Head of Skills & Training, and together we have developed many new initiatives to promote and celebrate the plastering and interior fit out sector throughout the year.

Armed with new pop-up banners, the WCP and the FIS jointly supported a 4-week "Introduction to Construction" course and a 3-week "Introduction to Interior Systems Careers", both at the East London Skills Centre. In addition, "hands on" demonstrations were provided at The London Careers Festival, the regional heats of Skillbuild, and most recently at the STC Careers event. Special thanks go to Liveryman David Serra and his company George Jackson & Son together with Freeman Steve Plummer of Locker & Riley who generously provided the "hands on" plastering demonstrations.

The London Careers Festival also promoted the WCP and the plastering sector to over 300 children who attended. Further representation was also made at the City & Guilds Heritage Skills conference at the York Minster Skills Workshop. Again, special thanks go to

The Master, Liveryman Ray Deeks, and Freeman & Master Plasterer, Keith Langton for promoting the craft and making "connections".

A highlight for the Company is the Training Awards, jointly hosting the event for the second year running with the FIS. Awards were presented by the Lord Mayor, the Master & the FIS President.

This celebration included 6 Livery Companies, 14 Colleges/Training Providers and 25 FIS Companies, including for the first time two female apprentices winning both the Plastering and the Interior Trades Apprentice of the year. Special thanks go to Past Master Terry Wright for his continued support with this event.

The Industry Committee is extremely proud of the Master Plasterer Award and this year seven Master Plasterer Certificates were awarded. Six of the recipients were presented with their certificates by the Lord Mayor at Mansion House.

As a committee we are also extremely delighted with our continued support for the King's Foundation and this year welcomed our sponsored Heritage Plasterer, Karen Keats, and the Lime & Plastering course held at Coleshill, run by Marianne Suhr together with the National Trust, and supported by the WCP charity. It is always great to see our Master Plasterers teaching their plastering skills and a special mention goes to Freeman Sean Wheatley and Freeman Michal Wolf for their continued support towards training.

2023-24 COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: JON RILEY



JON
RILEY



RAY
DEEKS



MATTHEW
MORGAN



ELIZABETH
KITSON



STUART
BROWN



DAVID
SERRA



KEITH
LANGTON

2024-25 COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: JON RILEY

RAY DEEKS
MATTHEW MORGAN
DAVID SERRA

KEITH LANGTON
TONY MITCHELL

INVITED TO ATTEND
JAMES MINETT
JOHN TELLING
JON RANDALL
GARTH MANGER
FIS REPRESENTATIVE



FINANCE & INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

JOINT CHAIRMAN **Jon Randall & James Minett**

The Finance and Investment Committee is under the joint Chairmanship of Jon Randall and James Minett. The Finance Committee and the Investment Committee were merged in 2021/22 to improve the management of, and visibility over, the income and expenditure of the Livery.

Finances

The Committee has the important job of assisting the Court and the Clerk in managing the finances of the Livery. The Livery's financial year more or less coincides with the Master's year.

The finance work of the Committee includes; the preparation of an annual budget, oversight of the production of quarterly and annual accounts, ensuring we comply with our tax obligations, and monitoring the levels of income and expenditure.

It is usual for the Livery to realise an operating deficit each year which is covered by drawdown from the Livery investment portfolio. The size of the deficit is proportionate to the level of activities, events and sponsorships undertaken in the year.

Thanks to work undertaken by the Clerk's Office, despite increasing external costs and the resumption of a full calendar of events, the expenditure of the Livery has been carefully managed. The Livery therefore retains a healthy cash balance, and we will continue to maintain a lower level of drawdown from our investments compared to pre-Covid levels for the immediate future, thus helping to preserve the real value our investments against a backdrop of investment market volatility and inflation.

The Livery balance sheet remains reasonably strong, and we continue to consider the long-term objective of safeguarding the financial future of the Company.

To assist the administration undertaken by the Clerk's Office, the Committee encourages members to consider setting up standing orders for the payment of Quarterage.

Investments

2024 has seen economies stabilise around the world after the post Covid bounce in economic activity. High rates of inflation, which had been exacerbated by the invasion of Ukraine, have also subsided. However, interest rates have remained close to post pandemic highs as central banks seek to prevent inflation from returning.

Consequently, stock markets have produced limited gains outside the largest US technology stocks. With one month to go before the end of the Livery Company's financial year on 30th July, the investment portfolio has

gained approximately 6%. Whilst this return is above the long-term objective of CPI+3.5% for this year, the portfolio has remained behind its long-term objective over the last few years, and now lagged its comparative stock market benchmarks over the past 5 years.

The income generated by the portfolio, however, has remained consistently strong and remains above the current level of annual drawdown to support the running costs of the Livery, of £55,000. This was reduced from £75,000 per year during Covid and at this point, due to good financial management of the Livery, has not needed to be increased again.

This year marked the 10th Anniversary of the appointment of Rathbones as investment manager. The Finance and Investment Committee had previously agreed to conduct a formal investment manager review this year, but also the underwhelming performance recently, and the distraction of the merger with Investec Wealth and Investment, added to our concerns.

From a long list of 38 investment management firms with the appropriate capabilities, eight firms were asked to provide detailed tender documents. Of these, three firms were asked to present in person.

A committee composed of representatives from the three entities of the Plaisterers (the Livery, PHL and the Charity) conducted the interviews and were unanimous in their conclusion that we should transfer the management of our portfolios to Waverton.



Waverton has a more focused institutional style of investment

management and has demonstrated consistently better returns over the past five years. They also manage investments for a number of larger Livery Companies, so understand our requirements. The portfolio will continue to be well diversified, invested in higher quality investments and our ESG requirements will continue to be taken into consideration. The transfer process has already started.

Geopolitical tensions and political uncertainty could increase over the next few years and stock markets could become more volatile. In which case, a more focused and actively managed approach may be required to navigate this landscape.



2023-24 COMMITTEE

JOINT CHAIRMAN: JON RANDALL & JAMES MINETT



JON
RANDALL



JAMES
MINETT



KEVIN
HOPWOOD



RICHARD
ATKINS



TIM
FUSSELL



ED
COWDREY



TIM
BUTCHER



DAVID
JARMAN



TIM
COOKE

2024-25 COMMITTEE

JOINT CHAIRMAN: JON RANDALL & JONATHAN FRY

KEVIN HOPWOOD
RICHARD ATKINS
RICHARD WALKER
TIM FUSSELL

ED COWDREY
TIM BUTCHER
DAVID JARMAN
DAVID EDMONDS
TIM COOKE
(REPRESENTING PHL)

INVITED TO ATTEND
JAMES MINETT
JOHN TELLING
GARTH MANGER
MARGARET COATES

Organised by the Livery Committee, the Sapphire Dinner & Dance was a fantastic evening and a great way to enjoy the Hall in a different way.





LIVERY COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN John Telling

With the continuing overall objective of encouraging greater fellowship across the livery the Committee decided to split its activities down into five distinct areas.

We are pleased to report that it has been a productive year with several initiatives coming to fruition and a commitment to others.

The Committee supported the Master and Consort in their deliberations for the Sapphire Ball and was pleased to see that their hard work resulted in an excellent event that raised a substantial sum for the Plaisterers' Charity.

Engagement with the Charity is ongoing and the intention for the next year is to work with the Charity to increase the levels of regular giving from Liverymen and Freeman.

The Young Livery Group has had a year of transition but now has good plans for future events that the Livery Committee will be pleased to support.

A briefing document which succinctly summarises the various elements of the Plaisterers' Livery, its objectives, partners,

annual schedule of events, dress codes and opportunities for engagement has been produced and is available in the members section of our website.

The Committee has reviewed how guests and new members are welcomed and looked after at events. The Stewards have now updated their approach to hosting and the Members of the Court have committed to enhancing their awareness of people who are left on their own during receptions and to introducing them to other members and guests.

A visit to 282 Squadron was arranged and members of the Committee and other visitors were treated to an insight into the training activities of the cadets and a marching display by the band.

The Committee will continue to develop opportunities for improving fellowship in the Company in the year ahead.

The objective of the Livery Committee is to encourage greater fellowship across the livery.

2023-24 COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: JOHN TELLING



JOHN
TELLING



IAN
HAWTHORNE



TIM
FUSSELL



CHRISTINE
HAWTHORNE



JULIEN
SAMPSON



ANITA
BARTON



SIMON
HINKS



JOANNA
CADMAN

2024-25 COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: JOHN TELLING

IAN HAWTHORNE
TIM FUSSELL
CHRISTINE HAWTHORNE
JULIEN SAMPSON

ANITA BARTON
SIMON HINKS
JOANNA CADMAN

INVITED TO ATTEND
JAMES MINETT
JON RANDALL
GARTH MANGER



MARKETING COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN Sue Spurling

With an objective of helping to broaden awareness both internally to members and externally to a variety of audiences, the Marketing Committee have met regularly throughout the year and helped support the Company in a number of ways by promoting and communicating Livery, City and Industry events and activities.

Strategic Plan Priorities

All the committee activities throughout the year have helped to ensure we meet our strategic plan priorities of:

- Improving awareness and understanding of the Company, and City of London courses
- Having the website as the most authoritative source of Company information
- Ensuring that, by 2024, news is delivered to target audiences via digital channels.

The Plaisterers Online Website

The launch of the new website last year was positively received and we have continued to develop the information and content. The public facing site - plasistererslivery.com - continues to be our external face and main source of information for those who want to find out more about the Company.

Through the review of analytics, we're pleased to see that the password-protected Members' Area is frequently used as a reference point for Members. An addition this year is a list of members' hobbies – you're encouraged to log in

and add your interests, or view ones that fellow members have.

Along with the Event diary, information and paperwork for Committees, Members can read all current and past Clerk's newsletters, as well as booking events. We always welcome any feedback or ideas regarding content and ways in which it can be developed. If you're not sure how to access the Members' Area, please contact the Clerk's office.

Social Media

Our regular posts on key social media accounts – LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook and X – continue to inform audiences about various Company activities. From Industry information, Livery news and City events through to Military affiliate activities and Hall updates they show a comprehensive account of the life of the Livery throughout the year.

We're pleased to see that engagement and interaction is positive and follower numbers continue to grow. If you don't follow the accounts already see the back cover for our social usernames. It's an easy way to keep up to date with news all year round. And please tag #theplasisterers in any relevant posts on your own social accounts.

One of the more popular posts this year was when the Master and Liveryman Lt Gen Sir Rob Magowan, KCB, CBE signed the Armed Forces Covenant on behalf of the Company, Plaisterers' Hall Ltd and The Plaisterers' Charity.

The Covenant is a promise that together we acknowledge and understand that those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces, and their families, should be treated with fairness and respect in the communities, economy, and society they serve with their lives.

SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS ANNUAL FOLLOWER INCREASES

LINKED IN
1133 followers
36% annual increase

INSTAGRAM
981 followers
19% annual increase

FACEBOOK
812 followers
9% annual increase

X (WAS TWITTER)
1872 followers
1% annual increase





Supporting the Charity

The Master's Charity this year has been The Plaisterers' Charity. During the year we've been able to communicate the wide variety of activities the Master and Consort have taken part in to support and raise awareness of the Charity activities through the newsletter, website and social media.

The Committee were also very happy to support the Sapphire Ball fund-raising dinner and dance with the marketing of the event and organisation of the online auction. The event was a fun-packed night of dancing and laughter - and a different way for members to enjoy the Hall.

With an increasingly cashless society, in order to make donations easier to the charity, there is now a Just Giving page for The Plaisterers' Charity. You may have seen the QR code directing to this page in the back of menus or on banners in the Hall - we hope this will make donations to the Charity easier.

Many thanks to the members of the Committee for their time, support and contributions throughout the year, as well as to the Clerk and Assistant Clerk for their support and advice.

We're hoping that the coming year will give us more opportunities to

communicate Company activities, develop new routes to keep members up to date, as well as helping to raise awareness of the Charity and the work it does to support the Industry.



MISSION STATEMENT

"The Plaisterers are a lively and inclusive Livery Company that promotes our industry and fellowship through heritage, charitable endeavour and diverse affiliations."

2023-24 COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: SUE SPURLING



SUE SPURLING



MIKE HANNIBAL



ANTHONY LEONARD



ADAM BINNS



PHILIP FOSTER



PHILLIP COWEN

2024-25 COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: SUE SPURLING

MIKE HANNIBAL
HHJ ANTHONY LEONARD
ADAM BINNS

PHILIP FOSTER
PHILLIP COWEN

INVITED TO ATTEND
JAMES MINETT
JOHN TELLING
JON RANDALL
GARTH MANGER



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN Tim Cooke

The Committee continues to work hand-in-hand with the Clerk's office and with members of the Company in attracting a steady number of new freemen, several of whom seek to progress to full livery status. We are also exploring new ideas to attract a wider range of applicants and deepen the connection with our historic trade.

In the 2022/23 Yearbook the committee reported on the benefits of a stable environment after the hiatus of the Covid years. The pandemic had strained the relationship between individuals and the organisations they belong to and it is to the credit of this Company that it emerged with its membership intact. However, in retrospect the Company did not escape unscathed as it inevitably lost momentum in securing interest from prospective members and taking them through the admissions process.

But any hiatus has been resolved and, at the Robing Ceremony in July, 18 freemen and 7 liverymen were admitted. We warmly welcome them all to the Company and hope that in addition to enjoying the renowned camaraderie of events, they will establish ways in which they can engage with our aims and objectives as this will deepen their sense of being part of a historic organisation.

Thanks to some deft footwork by the Master we were ready to respond to the decision by the Guild of Traditional Plasterers to close down and invited its members to join the Company. Some are already freemen of the Plaisterers, a few joined us in July whilst we remain optimistic that others will sign up, particularly as they develop understanding of the importance of the connections with our industry.

In that spirit the committee has also been examining the opportunity to offer corporate membership to companies within the sector.

During the course of the year we have hosted two successful new members' evenings, attracting an appealing mix of prospective members, several of whom have since applied to join the Company. Those liverymen acting as hosts have a key role to play in responding to the interest generated at the event and the committee is grateful to a small number of members who are particularly supportive. At the same time a number of previously active liverymen have retained their membership but now attend our events more infrequently which elongates the timescale for their friends and associates who are interested in joining the Company.

The committee wholeheartedly welcomes the initiative to establish the Livery Committee which will develop and implement enhancements to the proposition to all members of the Company, be they long-standing or newly-robed, ancient or in their prime.

May I close with renewed thanks to the members of the committee who give their time and expertise at our meetings and also when interviewing the steady stream of new members?

2023-24 COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: TIM COOKE



TIM
COOKE



DAVID
HILL-KELLY



HEATHER
DIX



ROSS
ASHWORTH



LUKE
SEHMER



JIM
TAPPER



IAN
HAWTHORNE



ANDREW
YORK



RICHARD
GROVE

2024-25 COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: TIM COOKE

HEATHER DIX
ROSS ASHWORTH
LUKE SEHMER
JIM TAPPER
IAN HAWTHORNE
JULIAN SOPER

EX-OFFICIO
ANDREW YORK
RICHARD GROVE

INVITED TO ATTEND
JAMES MINETT
TONY MITCHELL
JOHN TELLING
JON RANDALL
GARTH MANGER



ROBING CEREMONY

JULY 2024

The robing ceremony saw a bumper crop of new members with 7 liverymen, 18 freeman and 2 apprentices.

LIVERYMEN

Back row left to right:
Dilipkumar Patel, Glen Harding,
Brian Geddes, Mark Price

Front row left to right:
Steven Lee, Master, Deputy Master,
Dr Tom Barton, James Foster

FREEMEN

Back row left to right:

Maurice von Bertele, Major General
Jeff Mason MBE, Alistair McQuater,
Alexander MacNeil, Ben Butcher,
David Honey, Cara Hepburn,
Gary Jones, Anthony Codd,
David Hicks, Glynn Tebbutt

Front row left to right:

Lorraine Howard, Grace Smyth,
Ingrid McCleave, Master,
Deputy Master, Manjit Kaur, Joan
Deslandes OBE, Mary-Havana Little

ALMONER 2024/25 Richard Grove

The role of the Almoner is to communicate with Liverymen and Freemen and their wives, husbands, partners and families, plus Companions of the Company, when sickness, operations or other needs may arise.

Richard Grove
3 The Limes, Oakley Road
Bromley, Kent BR2 8HH

Email richardgrove48@hotmail.com
Telephone 020 8462 8810



NOMINATIONS PANEL

CHAIRMAN **Stephen Gilbert**

I like most of my predecessors have served on the Nominations Panel for two years the first as Master and this year as Deputy Master.

The Panel has a wide role within the company – it is there to identify and recommend to the Court liverymen and freemen within the livery that the Panel feel should:

(a) fulfil the roles of Stewards, Committee members and Chairmanship of the Committees and those who are future leaders and who should become members of the Court, when space on the Court allows and

(b) ensure that the progression of members of the Court to the offices of Renter Warden, Upper Warden and the Master all works smoothly for the foreseeable future.

In addition it makes recommendations regarding governance; our 5-Year Strategic Plan (which was last settled in 2021) and any other matter that the Court may ask it to consider.

I am fortunate that the list of progression to Master in recent years has not had too many difficulties and there are a sufficient number of liveryman who have indicated their wish to progress in the years ahead.

However, the Chairman of the Panel always has to keep in contact with those who are looking to progress. This is to ensure that the Panel feels those on the list are on track and also to ensure that

the timing of progression is one that the liveryman and the Panel feels will work as there is a limited time for a Court Assistant to progress to Master and those timetables always have to be taken into account.

The Chairman also has to speak with the newer Court Assistants to understand their aspirations and timing for progression as nothing is a given and no dates are fixed.

This year we have again identified liveryman who we have recommended for all the various roles in the Company and have extended our list of those we will continue to monitor to see if they should be considered for progression or for other roles within the Company.

I believe we have many talented and committed liverymen and freemen who will be able to take the Company forward in the years ahead so we should have great confidence about the future.

As always if any member is interested in serving on a Committee, please contact the Clerk.

I enjoyed my two years on the Panel and will miss serving on it. I wish Tony well as the next Chairman and thank all the other members of the Panel for their support and commitment throughout.

2023-24 COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: STEPHEN GILBERT



STEPHEN
GILBERT



GARTH
MANGER



TIM
COOKE



PETER
BAKER



ROBERT
DALRYMPLE

2024-25 COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: TONY MITCHELL

JAMES MINETT
GARTH MANGER

TIM COOKE
PETER BAKER

ROBERT DALRYMPLE



THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF PLAISTERERS' CHARITABLE TRUST

'THE PLAISTERERS' CHARITY'

CHARITY STEWARD & MANAGING TRUSTEE **Peter Baker**

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 281035

The Plaisterers' Charity has enjoyed another successful year during 2023-24 in support of the Livery Company's charitable aims, with the Managing Trustees administering the Charity in accordance with the terms of the Trust Deed dated 1 July 1980 and Charity Law.

The Charity's Objects may be briefly summarised as follows:

To provide assistance to necessitous Liverymen or Freemen, their spouses or dependents

To support the education and training of individuals or organisations connected with the art and craft plastering in all its forms

To award bursaries or grants for any other charitable purpose

Financial Status

The income required to support the Charity's Objects is derived from single or regular donations by Liverymen and Freeman, one-off gifts, legacies, and investment income. The professionally managed investment portfolio comprises:

The net funds comprise:

- **Unrestricted Funds** (£2.1m, circa 84%)
- **Restricted & Designated Funds** (£400k, circa 16%)
 - The Manchester & Salford and

Restricted Training Fund (supports specific education and training awards in plastering)

- The Spurling Bursary (supports a plastering student at the King's Foundation)
- 500th Anniversary Fund (supports a chorister at St Paul's Cathedral)
- Harry Humber Fund (supports a music student bursary at the Loughborough Schools Foundation)
- Henry Mott Fund (supports a chorister at Peterborough Cathedral)

The value of the Charity's investment portfolio at the Charity's financial year end on 5 April 2024 increased by 7.3% to £2.50m (2023: £2.33m), with a similar increase in its net assets after adjustment for debtors and creditors.

Investment income increased during the year by 16.8% to £68,571 (2023: £58,732), whilst income from donations, one-off gifts, legacies, and other voluntary contributions slightly increased by 2.5% to £49,065 (2023: £47,865).

The Master, Liveryman Tony Mitchell, chose to support the Charity as his Master's Charity this year and organised a series of events, including a Livery Halls Walk and a highly successful Sapphire dinner dance and silent auction in March. His Consort, Wendy, also chose to support the Charity with the excess proceeds from her Consort's luncheon held in June. All these events were enjoyable and successful occasions,

and together they raised approximately £11,750 of additional income for the Charity, which is greatly appreciated by the Trustees.

Strategic Plan for 2021 – 2026

The Trustees regularly monitor the Charity's 5-Year Strategic Plan for compliance and to ensure the Charity continues to meet its agreed priorities and remains 'Fit for Purpose' in the 21st Century and continues to 'Punch above its Weight'.

They are satisfied that The Plaisterers' Charity is well positioned to continue to provide appropriate charitable support for its various beneficiaries and grantees during the forthcoming financial year.

The Trustees' aim, within the current and next 5-Year Strategic Plan, is to grow the Charity's capital assets to £3m and to annually yield a sum of £100k to support the Charity's Objects.

Conclusion

This year I retire as a Trustee of the Charity and as the Livery Company's Charity Steward and Chairman of the Managing Trustees for the past 13 years and 7 years, respectively. It has truly been a privilege and pleasure to have been appointed by the Master and Court of Assistants to serve in this role and to witness the development and growth of the Charity.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to my fellow ex-officio and appointed Managing Trustees for their advice and support and to welcome Past Master Margaret Coates who will succeed me in this role.

Finally, I also wish to express my gratitude to our Gallant Clerk, Colonel Garth Manger, OBE, RM, and the Assistant Clerk, Ali Mackey, for their unstinting help and support in administering the affairs of the Charity for the benefit of our various beneficiaries and grantees.

Past Master Peter Baker
Charity Steward and Chairman of the Managing Trustees



Bursary & Grant Awards

During the financial year, the Trustees considered applications and awarded or distributed bursaries or grants totalling £79,300 (2023: £59,788).

19%

IN THE FURTHERANCE OF
EDUCATION & TRAINING
IN PLASTERING

- Training awards to individuals, colleges, and training providers
- Coleshill heritage plastering courses (via SPAB)
- The King's Foundation heritage skills plastering courses

30%

IN BURSARIES TOWARDS
THE EDUCATION OF
CHORISTERS

& in the provision
of financial support
for musical
education initiatives
within schools

- Loughborough Schools Foundation (Harry Humber Fund)
- St Paul's Cathedral (500th Anniversary Fund)
- Peterborough Cathedral (Henry Mott Fund)

13%

TO SUPPORT
OUR MILITARY
AFFILIATES

- Royal Marines Association
- SRR Association

5%

TO THE MASTER'S
NOMINATED CHARITY
FOR 2022-23

- Music Masters

1%

TO SUPPORT A
TERMINALLY ILL
LIVERYMAN

(who subsequently
passed away)

32%

TO OTHER REGISTERED
CHARITIES IN THE
CITY OF LONDON AND
GREATER LONDON AREA

- Aid to Ukraine (Fr Paul Kennedy at our Parish Church of St Vedast-alias-Foster)
- Blind Veterans UK
- Bonny Downs Community Association (LB of Newham)
- Choir Church Foundation (St Paul's C of E Primary School, Whitechapel)
- First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (FANY)
- Prior Western School (Farms for City Children)
- Samaritans (London City Hub)
- The Children's Magical Taxi Tour to Disneyland Paris (Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers)
- The Lord Mayor's Appeal

2023-24 TRUSTEES

CHARITY STEWARD & CHAIRMAN: PETER BAKER



PETER
BAKER



MARGARET
COATES



ADAM
EDWARDS



SAMI
STEINBOCK



TONY
MITCHELL



STEPHEN
GILBERT



GARTH
MANGER

2024-25 TRUSTEES

CHARITY STEWARD & CHAIRMAN: MARGARET COATES

STEPHEN GILBERT
ADAM EDWARDS
SAMI STEINBOCK

IN ATTENDANCE
JAMES MINETT
TONY MITCHELL
GARTH MANGER
ROSS ASHWORTH



A WORD ABOUT YOUR PLAISTERERS' CHARITY

REPORT BY THE MASTER



FLORENCE COCKERILL: THE PLAISTERERS HARRY HUMBER MUSIC SCHOLAR FROM LOUGHBOROUGH SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

Image credit: Jake Hilder for Loughborough Schools Foundation

I think that it is important that we all understand just what our Charity does, all through the year, without making any fuss.

At the Royal Marines base, at Lympstone, Wendy and I visited two places that the Plaisterers' Charity have helped to create.

On camp, the Royal Marines Association (RMA) has an office from where they run their day-to-day activities, providing support to serving members. The RMA have used money, contributed by the Plaisterers' Charity, to refit a room, which is sound proofed and provides privacy. They use this room to sit down and talk to Marines (rank not relevant) to discuss issues they have and to try to come to a plan to address these problems.

Across the road, outside the camp, is the Gordon Messenger Centre. This is situated outside the camp so that all the families, as well as retired, invalided out and serving members, can come and meet. They can talk to staff, who volunteer their time, about any issues. The staff will then work with the RMA to try to resolve any problems that the families are facing.

Again, I have attended events with the SRR. I have met volunteers from the Special Reconnaissance Regimental Association (SRRA). Your Plaisterers' Charity regularly supports the SRRA.

This year, your contributions have helped many people including:

- 4 children to participate in overseas educational visits
- 1 child to take part in a rugby trip to South Africa
- 2 children to join scouting trips overseas

But also your money has funded support for a child when health issues prevented their attendance at school. Your money allowed home schooling to be provided, to help with GCSE and A Level studies for this child, and so help reduce some of the pressures that the family were going through.

We have also travelled to Dumfries House, to the King's Foundation, where Wendy and I met Karen Skeats on her Heritage Plastering course. All her costs are met while on the 9-month course, which means that she can concentrate 100% on the opportunity that the course gives her, to learn and develop her skills as a plasterer.

In our newsletter I have mentioned 9-year old Alfie who is following the chorister course at St Paul's Cathedral.

Charity donations can still change lives and the changes that we have seen and heard about, from the people receiving this support, is truly inspiring.



He's a lovely lad who is making the most of the chance that we have given him to develop his singing and to also add piano and trombone playing to his musical skills!

Both Alfie and Karen, and others whose lives are touched by the Plaisterers' Company, can only follow these dreams because of the support that they receive through your Plaisterers' Charity.

Wendy and I have been privileged in this year to meet these two, plus youngsters of 282 Squadron, veterans of the Royal Marines and of the SRR. Every meeting brings home to us how grateful the individuals are for the support that they get, because you support the Charity, which enables this Company to stand beside these amazing people.

In March, Wendy, Garth and I visited Peterborough Cathedral to see the premiere of the Cantata written for the Cathedral by Alexander L'Estrange. The work has been commissioned by the Cathedral's Director of Music, Tansy Castledine, and funded by a grant from the Plaisterers' Charity to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the relationship between the Worshipful Company of Plaisterers and Peterborough Cathedral. The concert involved over 200 local school children and the music is being made available to schools worldwide to use in their collective worship gatherings, assemblies, music lessons, and concerts.

Also in March, Garth, Rachel, Wendy and I, together with Hubert and Sue Lacey, attended the Loughborough Schools Foundation's Spring Concert at De Montfort Hall. There we were treated to a night of wonderful music but the highlight for us was to hear our bursary student, Florence, singing a solo from "Arise My

Love", by Nigel Hess. She is a gifted singer and we hope that she might come to our Hall to sing for us. Florence has a place at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, to start from September, and we wish her the very best in her future.

Thank You for all that you are doing for these people when you contribute to our Plaisterers' Charity.

Local to our Hall, your Charity supports the school choir of St. Paul's C of E School at Whitechapel. Their teaching is funded through St Paul's Cathedral outreach programme from funds that you have donated. Wendy and I have watched the children grow through this year, in confidence and stature through their singing.

The Charity also gives to Prior Western Primary School in Whitecross Street, the other side of the Barbican. We have assisted in paying for the school trip to Nethercott House in Devon run by Farms for City Children. This is the first time that most of these children have ever left central London. We also fund some prizes for "Effort" for each of the classes at the school.

These opportunities might just be the inspiration that one of these people need to set them on course to a new and more fulfilling life.

But our Charity is small and the support that we can give is limited by our small funds.

In March, we held our Sapphire Dinner & Dance in the Hall, our first such event. 152 people attended and we raised about £5,000 for the Plaisterers' Charity. Thank you to those who attended and brought along their friends.

We have seen how our limited charity donations can still change lives and the changes that we have seen and heard about, from the people receiving this support, is truly inspiring.

This year, our Company fund-raising activities contributed £11,750 to the Charity. However, our Members donations have only increased by £2,000 this year.

At each of the dinners in the past year and in the monthly newsletters (which I know you read as soon as it arrives in your email!) I have been highlighting the positive impact that your Charity makes by focusing on these areas.

It really does change people's lives.

This year, our Company fund-raising activities contributed £11,750 to the Charity.



THE
PLAISTERERS'
CHARITY





JUBILEE FUND



The Plasterers' Platinum Jubilee Fund, set up in 2022 in honour of the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee, has now donated all but a tenth of the fund.

The last donations were to **Peterborough Cathedral** for the world premiere performance of 'To Be a Saint', which a number of members attended, and to **282 (East Ham) Air Cadets** to help set up their 'Plasterers' Room'; continuing to strengthen our links with both organisations.

Over the three years the fund has been in existence it delivered £90,000 to our Affiliate organisations.

Also, now that **HMS Dragon** is back, breathing fire, at sea we hope to be able to help them with the final donation, and thus close the fund.

The Charity Trustees thank all members for their support to this fund which has delivered much more than originally envisaged.



BROTHERLY LOVE IN ACTION: FAITH, SERVICE & CHARITY

HONORARY CHAPLAIN **Simon Springett**



Dear Fellow Plasterers,

"Let brotherly love continue" is more than just our motto; it's a call to be kind and serve others, both within and outside our livery.

Today, the term "brotherly" might seem outdated, especially as we have equality between men and women in our group. We might consider saying 'Let brotherly and sisterly love continue'. However, brotherly love, whether shown by men or women, is actually a specific thing: theologically and psychologically a 'masculine' activity involving "risk and reward, accomplishment, heroic sacrifice, action and adventure".*

What matters is that this love drives us. It's not just a motto or an ideal but a commitment to act, based on our core values and faith. Over the years, we have supported schools, music, and the Armed Forces together. Individual Plasterers also support their own charities. We find the full richness of our livery membership when we go beyond social gatherings and dinners, actively participating and honouring our heritage while making a meaningful impact in society.

Let us continue to be known not just for our magnificent hall, hospitality, and friendliness, but as a beacon of selfless service and charity.

Thank you for your dedication and support.

Yours in fellowship,
Simon Springett
Honorary Chaplain

*I'm indebted to Leon Podles, an American Roman Catholic theologian, for this insight.



PLASTERERS' HALL LTD

REPORT FROM CEO ROBERT DALRYMPLE



This year has been in almost equal amounts as challenging as it has been interesting for PHL. A year where we started to see an increase in business for the first time in five years and saw the coming to an end (December 2024) of a long-term and extended contract with our events and catering partner CH&Co, now operating as Company of Cooks, resulting in a tendering process for the contract to sell, run and cater events in the hall from January 1st, 2025.

We inhabit a very different world from the one we left behind before Covid and we are still experiencing extraordinary costs in running events in our venue and running the venue itself.

We were hopeful that after Covid was long behind us that events would return to a level they were before, and in quantity. In quality and quantity of bookings they are getting there but with a very much reduced profit margin. This is a double-edged sword because as we take a rental, which has saved us from no income in some months that saw no profit last year, but at a very much reduced rental rate. So, taking the year over all, it has worked as well as it could for us is but the rental does not fully cover our ever increasing costs. This presents itself in two separate ways.

Firstly, the busier we are the higher the running cost of the Hall becomes and, secondly, our plant and equipment is used more regularly as it gets ever older and in need of more and more maintenance and repair. The 'make do and mend' policy PHL has been operating for the last five years is getting harder and harder

to achieve and running a hand to mouth budget is achieving nothing in the way of a profit. We have had to adjust our expectations on what financial returns can be achieved from the venue. The cold truth is that the profits, and hence rental income, of 2019 are no longer attainable. PHL runs the Hall primarily for the benefit of the livery and for the livery's enjoyment. Therefore, it would be good to see the membership attending dinners and events in the Hall in greater numbers. Otherwise we will become in danger of running an events venue for the benefit of corporate clients and private hire, not for liverymen.

PHL maintains the Hall to the highest of standard which involves substantial costs and effort. Please come and ask those you know who are not attending our own dinners and functions to support and enjoy events in what is after all YOUR Hall.

In May 2024 the Compass Group takeover of CH&Co and all its subsidiaries was ratified, increasing Compass's already extensive portfolio. Before they added the 400 or so venues in the CH&Co group, their (Compass) 2023 turnover was over £32 billion.



Although very pleased with the team we have helped build with CH&Co who operate the Hall under their Company of Cooks organisation, and who also handle other like organisations as ourselves, from sister livery companies to the Buckingham Palace Garden parties, our duty of care is to the Livery, our shareholder. This meant that, after six years since we last went out to obtain tenders for the contract at the Hall, the process needed readdressing so as to be sure we are obtaining the best deal for us that is available in the market place today, and ensuring there was no complacency from the incumbent events and catering partner.

We identified eight organisations that we invited to tender, all of which we scrutinised as being able to financially fulfil our requirements. Their ability to produce food and service we took as a given at the point of first tender. (This would be examined later). Our expectations on what can be achieved by an events partner has had to be adjusted. The process is ongoing, but we will have appointed an event and catering partner, or reappointed Company of Cooks for the next term, well before the end of 2024.

On a practical basis we are up to date with all our legal requirements and have started the process, which is the most draconian of everything we do, of renewing our wedding license. This is for 2025 for an additional five years. In many respects it is a great exercise as it examines all aspects of the halls procedures, health and safety and management systems. We usually feel fully cleansed, polished and proud of what we accomplished at the end of it. Lee White and Josh Bailey, our Hall Managers, never fail to impress the inspectors with their records, systems and procedures.

We have seen a rich tapestry of clients renting and utilising the venue. From AGM's conferences, balls, leavers proms, charity galas, weddings, parties, promotional events, to filming. *Slow Horses*, an Apple TV hit, used the venue for dressing rooms and make-up when they filmed a scene on the London Underground at Bank station. Also a film used the Great Hall for a black tie banquet with 200 extras. It took them four days to set up the Hall with round tables. I have to say they should have used the Gallant Clerk and Ali, our Assistant Clerk, who can do this in a matter of hours and then just filmed the livery having a dinner!!

They also asked permission to use a floating sausage in the Hall. This required some investigation first. We hadn't seen one of these before!! It is a helium filled contraption that looks for all the world like the base of a children's bouncy castle, the underneath of which, built in, were a number of stage lights and this floated



around the ceiling of the Great Hall, by remote control, with superb precision in and out of the chandeliers. It was somewhat nerve racking to watch!!

On the day of the shoot the director didn't like the beautiful floral displays that had taken days to put together. He said there were not enough roses in them so he sent out for more. They purchased £10,000's worth to scatter liberally in the amazing bouquets. Look out for *My Fault* on Amazon Prime... it will probably need your support in watching it just to break even after that! They should have take financial advice from Alan Sugar when an episode of *The Apprentice* was filmed in the Livery Hall - some of you may have seen it when it aired at the beginning of 2024.

We are regularly promoted on LinkedIn, Instagram and other social media platforms, including Go Ask Eve and our own. Many thanks to assistant Sue Spurling for all she does posting on our

media platforms, promoting and giving news on all the three companies - Charity, Livery and PHL.

We have also hosted British and foreign royalty, politicians and dignitaries too numerous to list.

TFL held two large seminars here and an unnamed rail network company had to postpone their annual dinner for 280 employees and guests as there was a rail strike on the day of their event and so their staff couldn't get into London to attend!! So it wasn't only the Clerk's office who felt targeted by rail industrial action.

Since this time last year there have been nearly 100 events staged in the venue, in comparison to only 46 in the previous comparable period.

Our garden has prospered with the additional attentions of the City of London Gardens & Parks Department. The excitement was fired by the appearance of three Bee Orchids and two Pyramid Orchids not recorded as ever being seen in the City before.

Bee Orchids look as if they have a bee collecting nectar in the petals. Not being able to mow the grass for fear of destroying them, it was decided to try to develop an urban meadow. Nearly 3000 bulbs were planted and we operated a 'No Mow May'. The meadow, despite some reservations at first, looked fabulous with an array of flora and fauna producing a plethora of colour. The reintroduction of bees to the beehive in the southern end of the ground will further enhance the garden. A suitable swarm is now making their home there and looking very busy. This was enabled with the kind help of the Worshipful Company of Wax Chandlers.



We continue with our long-term plan to replace the lights in the venue with LED's which is in line with our eco policy to be energy efficient, along with other eco efficient and friendly initiatives.

We will have to replace the glass in the huge window in the stairwell in the entrance to the Hall as, on Tuesday 25th June, we found a crack in the middle of the glass from top to bottom. This is an interesting problem as the glass was installed during the Millennium rebuild and then the structure in that area was built around it. The glass is 15ft high and 8ft wide, not including the 3 inches all around where it is set into the wall, and over 17mm thick. We have no idea what caused it to crack, age probably, and the constant vibration from the traffic on London Wall. Initially we feared this would have been an insurance claim on

our policy but we have persuaded the building management company JLL that it is a building structure issue and now their insurance policy is to cover it.

We are not yet where we want to be, but we continue to operate the venue - it is a venue and events space that is a Livery Hall, it is not a Livery Hall that happens to do an event or two.

We are all reliant on it to produce revenue and PHL is abundantly aware of its responsibilities. Things will get hopefully get even better but costs will not and we all need to be aware of this as we move into the next five years of contract with a new event and catering partner, or with a new contract with the incumbent one.

As ever with PHL we continue to work to preserve, protect, progress and promote the asset...our beautiful Livery Hall.

May I finally thank the PHL team of Lee White and Josh Bailey for their continued commitment and hard work in running and maintaining the infrastructure of The Hall.

My thanks to the Directors of PHL, along with Ali Mackey and the Master, for their support, and Garth Manger for constantly going the extra mile to protect and maintain the standards and good name of Plaisterers' Hall, along with the assistance he always gives as Company Secretary to PHL.

Robert Dalrymple
Chief Executive Officer, Plaisterers' Hall Limited

PLASTERERS' HALL LIMITED

NON-EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN: TIM COOKE



TIM
COOKE



ROBERT
DALRYMPLE



TIM
STOKES



ADAM
EDWARDS



ROHIT
NATHANIEL



GARTH
MANGER

2023-24 DIRECTORS

NON EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN: TIM COOKE

ROBERT DALRYMPLE
(CEO)

TIM STOKES
ADAM EDWARDS
ROHIT NATHANIEL

GARTH MANGER
(COO)



THE COURT 2024-2025



JAMES MINETT

JOHN TELLING



JON RANDALL



TONY MITCHELL

The Court

Master

James Minett

Deputy Master

Tony Mitchell

Upper Warden

John Telling

Renter Warden

Jon Randall

Clerk

Colonel Garth Manger OBE

Honorary Chaplain

Rev Simon Springett

Assistant Clerk

Ali Mackey

Beadle

Jamie Wallis

Assistants

Peter Baker*

Gary Morley*

De Bradshaw*

Michael Jones*

Bill Mahony*

Terence Wright*

Richard Hanney*

Timothy Cooke OBE*

Alderman Alison Gowman*

Margaret Coates*

Stephen Gilbert*

David Hill-Kelly

Rohit Nathaniel

Adam Edwards

Heather Dix

Sue Spurling

Timothy Butcher

Jon Riley

HHJ Anthony Leonard KC

Lt Gen Ed Davis CB CBE KStJ

James Tapper

Past Masters Emeritus

Ronald Jordan*

Julian Dalrymple*

Hugh Kersey*

Bryan Lincoln*

Robert Faulkner*

Christopher Towlson*

Peter Cook*

Reginald Denby*

Alan Turner*

Robin Doran*

Michael Lepper*

Michael Hall*

Robert Dalrymple*

J Hubert Lacey*

*denotes Past Master

Assistants Emeritus

Graham Withers

John Mills

Christopher Money

Andrew Popat

Phillip Holliday

David Botley

Clerks Emeritus

Hilary Machtus

Nigel Bamping

Chief Steward

2023-2026

Professor Andrew York

Stewards 2022-2025

Zoe Boys

Charmaine Etienne

Jim Tapper

Stewards 2023-2026

Luke Sehmer

Phillip Cowen

Stewards 2024-2027

Anita Barton

Martin Spurling

Almoner

Richard Grove

Plaisterers' Hall Limited

Directors

Timothy Cooke OBE

(Non-Executive Chairman)

Robert Dalrymple (CEO)

Tim Stokes

Adam Edwards

Rohit Nathaniel

Colonel Garth

Manger OBE (COO)

Royal Liveryman

HM The Queen GCVO

Honorary Liverymen

Nicholas Anstee

Past Alderman of the

Ward of Aldersgate,

Sheriff of London

2003-04,

Lord Mayor of London

2009-10



MILITARY AFFILIATIONS



AIR TO AIR REFUELLING AT RAF BRIZE NORTON



MILITARY AFFILIATIONS

REPORT BY THE CLERK, COLONEL GARTH SC MANGER OBE

Our links with the Military remain strong and both the Master and Clerk have had the privilege of representing the Company at various military establishments throughout the year. It has also been a pleasure to host a number of servicemen from our affiliate organisations in the Hall.

While we have been unable to visit HMS Dragon this year it has been good to see that she is now back with the Royal Navy after two years of deep refit in the Dockyard. The new Commanding Officer and Weapons Engineering Officer attended the Banquet in May and we hope to get on board at some stage in the forthcoming year.

As always, the Royal Marines have hosted visits to 47 Commando and the Commando Training Centre where the Master was able to hand out prizes to the Landing craftsmen and the Communicators respectively.

This military link is now in its 42nd year, having been started just after the Falklands War by the Master's Consort, Wendy Mitchells' father, Ralph Vickers, when he was Master. This link was not lost on the RM Units we visited over the year.



The links with our military affiliations are as strong as ever.

282 AIR CADETS

REPORT BY SQN LDR CHRIS BOOTY, OC



What a year for 282 TopCrew! A year of many successes and opportunities for all the cadets and staff at 282 (East Ham) Squadron.

The end of 2023 and first half of 2024 saw the cadets take first place in many competitions. It started off with the winning of 'Best Band' and 'Best Drill Team' at the London & South East Region Activity Day. So much training went into this competition and the cadets were determined to win. They beat off the best of Middlesex, Surrey, Sussex and Kent to take the top prize. This was following the successes at the London Wing event the week before.

Leading on from this, and to finish the year in 2023, the squadron took part in

the annual cross country competition, and this has been an area the squadron previously didn't do well in. However, it was golds all around, winning four out of five categories and winning the overall competition, again fighting off some very competitive and historically strong squadrons. A first for 282 Squadron and it was a great end of a successful year.

The cadets were most pleased to have the opportunity again to visit RAF Brize Norton to fly in both a RAF Voyager and A400M, all pulled together by Wing Commander Foster, a Liveryman with





our Livery Company. Cadets were glued to the windows watching the fighter jets hooking onto the aircraft to refuel. A new venture was the flight in the A400M where cadets got to watch out the loading bay other aircraft approaching – such a unique experience!

Following on from the success of the London Wing Athletics competition in 2023, the squadron put forward an even bigger team for the 2024 competition. 282 could easily have been Team GB, winning multiple medals and first position in four out of five categories, again taking the overall competition trophy! Another first for 282 Squadron. Many cadets got selected to go onto the Regional Competition, again winning many medals.

The squadron received a substantial grant from the Plaisterers' Charity during HM The Queens Platinum Year, to support the band further with instruments, tuition, and the creation of a Band Storage room. The room was officially opened by Master Plaisterer, Tony Mitchell, in late Spring 2024 at the squadron, surrounded by other

Liveryman, squadron staff and cadets. The room is continuously in use by the band, but also used to store the flight simulator which introduces many cadets to the world of aviation. The flight simulator was also funded by the Plaisterers' Charity a few years ago.

282 continues to flourish and grow in size. Many senior cadets are coming up to the age where they can choose to stay on within the organisation as an adult volunteer. Cadet Warrant Officer Kyle Ravi (Plaisterer Apprentice) aged out in May 2024 and is now a uniformed member of staff.

Many more are ageing out in the coming months which should see the staff team grow and offer so much more to cadets. The last year have not only seen the squadron take first place in competitions, it has also seen an increase in flying and gliding opportunities. Cadet Sergeant Nistor (another Plaisterer Apprentice) gained his Advanced Gliding Wings and is working towards becoming a Glider Instructor within the RAF Air Cadets.

Such an amazing opportunity.

Finally, after 17 years of service as Officer Commanding 282 (East Ham) Squadron, Squadron Leader Chris Booty will be stepping down as the units Commanding Officer. He took over in 2008 and has seen the squadron grow considerably into the success story that it is today.

Hundreds of young people have come through the doors of the squadron and gone on to achieve many great things. From pilots, to doctors, to engineers and serving military personnel, Chris has made such a positive impact to so many lives of young people living in East London.

Chris will not be a stranger to the squadron as he has taken up the post of Deputy Officer Commanding London Wing, supporting the current Wing Commander in developing the squadrons within London (27 squadrons).

As a Liveryman, he will also maintain the close link between the squadron and the Livery by being the point of contact between the Livery and squadron. The new Officer Commanding will be announced in the coming months, but the squadron will be in good hands.

The Plaisterers' Education Fund



The Special Reconnaissance Regiment remains one of the most deployed units in UK Defence.

This not only places its operators under extreme pressure, but places significant stresses on those family members left behind; particularly the children, many of which do not really understand why their mother or father have disappeared again, let alone where they have gone, or indeed when they will return.

The Regimental Association and Welfare Team are continually looking at ways to better support the families, however nothing has proved to be more successful than the Plaisterers' Education Fund.

Since its inception in 2022 this scheme has already helped 12 children. It has assisted the parents fund attendance at the South Korean Scouting Jamboree, school trips to Spain, Iceland, Costa Rica, Uganda and South Africa, and crucially helped to deliver home schooling to an Operator's child suffering with mental health issues caused by their parent's continual absence.

The PEF, as it has become known, helps to keep the train on the tracks, and for that we thank everyone involved.



MEMBERS OF 282 ON THE RAF VOYAGER





A HISTORY OF PLASTERING & THE PLAISTERERS





THE ARMORIAL BEARINGS

A HISTORY OF PLASTERING AND THE PLAISTERERS

The original patent, which in part is worn and difficult to decipher, is now framed and hung in the foyer of the Hall, together with the blazon inscribed by the late Mrs Margaret Wettern, and reads as follows:

"Azure on a chevron engrailed argent a rose gules budded or, stalked and leaved vert, between two fleurs de lys azure; in chief a trowel fessewise between two plasterer's hammers palewise all argent handled or, in case a plasterer's brush, of four knots tied argent handled or."

Crest

On a wreath argent and azure an arm vested bendy of four gules and or, holding in the hand proper a plasterer's hammer as in the arms.

Mantling

Gules doubled argent.

Supporters

On either side an opinicus vert winged, membered and eyed gules, the throat and belly purfled or.

(Granted by Thomas Hawley Clarenceux - 20th January, 1545/6)

Motto

Let Brotherly Love Continue.

Glossary of Heraldic Terms

Argent: Silver.

Azure: Blue. Any shade of blue.

In the Company's Arms, as can be seen from the original Grant hanging in the foyer, it is dark blue.

Gules: Red.

Or: Gold.

Vert: Green.

Opinicus: An heraldic beast having the head, neck and wings of an eagle, except that the head has prominent ears, and the body and legs of a lion, but with a bear's tail. The modern version of an opinicus varies in certain respects from that of 1546, which is described in the Armorial Bearings.

There is also, hanging in the Hall, a beautiful banner worked by Mrs Wettern, depicting on the one side the Arms as in the original patent, and on the reverse a copy of the Arms as sometimes used.



THE COMPANY PRIOR TO 1940



A Brief History of Plastering

Pre 12th Century

Although plaster was often used by the Romans, Anglo Saxons and even by early cave-dwellers, there is little recorded history of the Craft until the 12th century.

Middle Ages

Nowadays, the term 'pargetting' refers to specialist tasks such as plaster decoration in relief on exterior walls, or flue-lining. In the Middle Ages, however, all plasterers were pargettors, and their main function was to protect outside surfaces from the weather and to prepare interior surfaces for painting.

1189

Already, in 12th century London there were so many cook-shop fires that Henry Fitz Alwyn, the first Mayor of London, ordered all such places to be plastered and limewashed for protection.

1212

The order must have had some success, because in 1212, King John endorsed the edict further, allowing shop-owners

on the Thames and London Bridge just eight days to whitewash and plaster, inside and out, any house covered with reed or rush, at pain of having their property demolished.

1254

In fact, it was rare for plastering to be used for ornamental purposes in Britain until 1254, when Henry III, on a visit to France, was so taken with the fine, white qualities of Plaster of Paris that he introduced it here.

Yet the first references in writing to our Craft record the fire-proofing, rather than decorative qualities of plaster and limewash. Ironically the first two Company of Plaisterers' Halls would later be destroyed by fire, the first of them in the Great Fire of 1666.

The 76 Crafts Practised in London

An entry in the Brewers' records, documenting the 76 crafts practised in London from the 12th century lists 'Plasterers' at number 20. At the time of this listing there is no record of how the order was agreed, but it is interesting to

note that, of the first 13 names on this list, ten remain in the Great Twelve City Livery Companies to this day, the first five in exactly the same order.

Mercers

Armourers

Saddlers

Drapers

Weavers (linen)

Girdlers

Goldsmiths

Dyers

Haberdashers

Skinners

Tailors

Grocers

Weavers (wool)

Ironmongers

Fishmongers

Fullers

Cordwainers

Vintners

Plasterers

Cutlers

Much later, in 1515, the Court of Aldermen of the City of London would agree an order of precedence for Livery Companies based on their economic or political standing.

Typical Work in the Early Days

An indication of a typical plasterer's work can be seen in an entry in the City archives for 1317.

This records an agreement by Adam le Plaster, citizen of London, to 'supply Plaster of Paris and to repair therewith the walls, within and without, and also the flues, of the Earl of Richmond's hall in the neighbourhood of St. Paul's Cathedral, in eight weeks on security of all his goods'.





The Mystery of Gipsars

Despite its existence as a recognised craft as early as the 12th century, it was not until 10 March 1501 that the Company of Plaisterers received its first Charter, granted by Henry VII. The Charter gave privileges to the Company of Plaisterers but also duties and obligations. These included:

"Authority for ever to search and try, and on making and exercising the search both in, on and of any stocks touching and concerning the art or mystery of Gipsars within the City of London, commonly called Plasterers, and in, on and of all workers and men working in the same art or mystery, so that their works in this way may be just faithful and legal without any deception and fraud.

And to duly correct the defaults and deceptions which in this manner they shall have found and to duly punish all persons in this manner offending according to their demerits and faults, or to cause them to be punished by the survey of the Mayor of the said City of London for the time being".



The Charter

The Charter of 1501 hangs in the foyer of the Plaisterers' Hall, along with a transcription of the translation from the original Latin by Mrs Margaret Wettern, the late wife of Past Master Patrick Wettern, who died in July 2017.

It refers to Mary as the Company's Patron Saint, and describes the Company as: 'The Master of the Guild or Fraternity of the Blessed Mary of Pargettors, commonly called Plaisterers, of the City of London'.

It bears the following legend: 'Sigill: Artis Mist: de Daubers nunc nuncupat: Plaisterers Civitatis London'. This translates as: 'The Seal of the Art or Mystery of Daubers, now called Plaisterers, of the City of London'.

'By the Discreyson of the Wardeyns'

Although the first Charter was granted in 1501, and there is a record of donations to the Crown to arm men for the French War of 1513, the earliest proof that a petition for Livery had been accepted by the Court of Aldermen of the City of London was in 1538.

On 9 April 1538 the Wardens of the Company of Plaisterers asked the Court of Aldermen to establish the following articles of the Company:

"they that have bene on the lyverey and hath not bene wardeyn to have but one apprentice" and "they that bene owt of the lyvery yf the wardeyns thynke that he be hable [able] and of habilite [ability] to kepe hym by the dicresyon of the wardeyns shall have one apprentice".

The Company was granted its Armorial Bearings in 1545/46. In 1560, when the Court of Aldermen decreed that no further companies should assume a Livery without its consent, the

Plaisterers stood at number 46 in order of precedence, just as it is today.

Early Livery Halls and Accommodation

In 1556 William Elder, Citizen and Plaisterer, died and bequeathed to the Company its first known Hall. It may have previously been the Hall of the defunct Pinners' Company.

It was destroyed, like so much of the City, in the Great Fire of 1666. The second Hall, designed by Sir Christopher Wren, was built in 1669. It contained a Great Room, called the Common Hall of the Company, and some 15 other rooms including kitchen, buttery, cellars, parlours and chambers.

The first Plaisterers' Hall was situated at the corner of Addle Street and Philip Lane (close to London Wall), neither of which have survived into the 21st Century. This property too was destroyed by fire, in 1882.

The next building erected on this site was destroyed by enemy action in December 1940. In 1956, exactly 400 years after William Elder bequeathed our first known Hall, the site was compulsorily acquired by the Corporation of the City of London.



Conflict with Other Livery Companies

While our Motto is 'Let Brotherly Love Continue', there have been, during the course of our long history, occasional disputes with other companies and fraternities.

For example, after many years of dispute, the Company of Painter-Stainers resorted to an appeal to Parliament to restrain plasterers from using oil colours on enriched work.

In 1603, Parliament found in favour of the Painter-Stainers and an Act was passed forbidding plasterers from using colours on enriched plasterwork in London or its suburbs, though they were permitted to distemper and use blacking, whitening and ochres provided the mixed colours had no oil content.

The Act of Parliament did not prevent George Fewkes and Humphrey Willmott, both of whom would later rise to the position of Master within the Plasterers' Company, completing the elaborate moulded plasterwork decorations and enriched plaster ceilings of the Mansion House when it was built between 1739 and 1752.

Discipline within the Livery

These entries from the Work Quest Book don't just illustrate the zeal with which the Company carried out its duty to preserve high standards of workmanship, they are also evidence that female plasterers were not uncommon in the 18th century.

Search Day

24 May 1726

Randolf Stanley for very bad workmanship in lathing and setting greene and bore and bad gurcks. Fined 10 shillings.

24 May 1726

Mary Smith for bad lathing not being lapped and not being nayled and or ends cut off. Fined 5 shillings.

20 August 1742

Thomas Parks for bad workmanship in washing stopping and whitening at His Majestys palace of Saint James. Fined 40 shillings.

20 August 1742

Hamerton widow of Thomas Hamerton for bad workmanship and repairing of plasterers work and washing and stopping and colouring of the outside of six houses in the strand. Fined £1.10.0.

31 July 1753

Wooldridge Plasterer of Carters Rents for bad whitewashing at the Merchant Taylors Hall. Fined 40 shillings.

7 August 1760

Francis Edwin, a Master Plasterer and Liveryman of the Plasterers' Company having made use of bad materials and having mixed and used hay & straw with haire. Fined 40/-

5 August 1761

Humphrey a Master Plasterer and Liveryman of the Company for bad and imperfect workmanship in the cleansing and whitening of Plasterers' work by him done. Fined 42 shillings.

The Founding of The City and Guilds of London Institute

By 1860 the Company of Plasterers comprised just 46 Liverymen and the Company's income was a mere £120.

The last Apprentice Charles George Ive was 'bound' on 21 January 1840 to Joseph Staynes (Master 1852) yet in 1877, Past Master S.M. Hubert represented the Company at two meetings of those Livery Companies which had promised to contribute to the proposed scheme for a national system of technical education.

In November 1877 the Plasterers were one of the original eight Companies that formed an association for the purpose of united action in the promotion of technical education by means of a City Guilds University. This became the City and Guilds of London Institute.

By the time the Institute was finally incorporated under the Company Acts in 1880, a further eight Livery Companies had joined as founder members.

The Plasterers have contributed to the City & Guilds of London Institute every year since helping to found it in 1877, with the exception of a few years following the destruction of its property in 1940 and the consequential loss of its income.

Donations to the Armed Forces Prior to 1940

By 1884, the Company's income had increased by some £340, primarily due to increases in rent on our Addle Street premises.

In 1900 we were able to respond to the Lord Mayor's appeal with a donation of 50 guineas to the 'Transvaal War Fund' for the Boer War.

The money was to be applied in such a way as the Lord Mayor in his discretion might think most advisable for the relief of distress arising from the War. The Company made a further donation of 50 guineas to the City of London Imperial Volunteer Fund.

In the foyer of our Hall there is a letter from the Under Secretary of State, War Office, thanking the Company and enclosing a medal with clasps to signify those earned by City of London Volunteers during the War.



CITY AND GUILDS OF LONDON INSTITUTE, 1881



THE COMPANY FROM 1940

The Plaisterers' Company during World War II

During the Second World War the Court continued to meet in spite of the difficulties.

At the beginning of 1940, the then Master, John Bellman died during his year of office. No one was available to take his place during hostilities other than Past Masters. Past Master Percy Mott was elected Master and held office until Henry Mott returned from active service overseas in time to be elected Master in July 1945.

Before the War, the Company's premises in Addle Street were let and Court Meetings were held in the Cordwainers' Hall. After its destruction by enemy action, the Court met in the Master's office for all its proscribed Meetings. On only four occasions did the number attending fall below nine, the number previously required for a quorum.

The Company suffered considerably during the War. The Clerk's office was badly damaged by bombing on two



occasions, but luckily none of the Company's records was lost, although the Master's chair was destroyed. The Carpenters' Hall, where the Company's safe was housed, was also destroyed. The safe remained underground until recovered by the Clerk in 1949, fortunately the contents were undamaged.

The most disastrous blow came when the Company's property was destroyed on the night of the 29 December 1940.

The tenants, Foster, Porter & Company, disclaimed the lease and no rent was thereafter received. This required the Company to sell a total of £1,200 of its 2% Consols to keep the Company running for the rest of the War and until the War Damage money was paid. Therefore in the years immediately following the War the Company's annual income after tax was only £13.14.6d. (£13.72), and the number of the Livery had fallen to 28.

Post War Compensation and Compulsory Purchase

When the War Damage was paid in December 1947, the bulk was invested in replacing the Consols, various Bonds and a few smaller stocks.

Despite food rationing, that started at the beginning of the War and continued for some years afterwards, a dinner for 12 was held on 19 October 1948.

A presentation was made to Alfred Mott on his retiring from the Clerkship. He and his father, Henry Mott, who had been appointed Clerk in 1848, completed 100 years in that Office.

At about the same time, the Common Council of the City of London applied for an Order that the Company's freehold land should be subject to compulsory purchase. The acquisition of the freehold site the Company had owned for 400 years took place in 1956.

In 1948 membership level dropped to 29 but in January that year the resurgence of the company began with the admission of freeman Doris Mary Oates.

The Building of the Plaisterers' Hall

At the Court Meeting on the 7 April 1959, the then Master, Harry Humber started the most momentous and far reaching event in the history of the Company by suggesting that the Company should acquire a site in the City to erect an office block and a Hall.

To safeguard the Company against any loss which might arise through the building of a new Hall, Plaisterers Hall Limited was incorporated on the 21 January 1960. In March 1961 the Clerk gave the City Planning Officer the Company's requirements for a Hall and ancillary rooms and offices, etc. as 10,000 feet super with headroom of at least 20 feet, that being the minimum required for a hall to seat 300 persons.

At a meeting on 17 March 1961 the Planning Officer stated there was a site available on the south side of the corner of London Wall and Aldersgate Street. To get the outline planning permission from the City, Messrs Ronald Ward & Partners were appointed architects, and by April 1964 permission was obtained.

Past Master Derek Robinson was a member of the firm and was closely involved in developing the design. Past Master Ernie Pilgrim, an engineer, was also involved.

Harry Humber, as a builder and a qualified plasterer, made many helpful amendments to the plans in order to get the greatest amount of lettable space out of the office block and the best layout for the Livery accommodation. It was also he who insisted that the decor in the accommodation should be in the Adam style.

The final plans were eventually agreed by the City on the 19 March 1970, and tenders for the work invited.

The tender of G.E. Wallis & Sons Limited for a fixed price contract of £923,797 being accepted, and work commenced on the 8 June 1970.



Plasterers' Hall Takes Shape

The foundation stone was laid on the 27 May 1971 by the Lord Mayor, Sir Peter Studd. During the entire building work Harry Humber attended at the Hall frequently to check the progress and to ensure that the work on the Livery accommodation was carried out to the high standard Adam demanded.

Harry Humber masterminded the decor throughout the Hall, oversaw the design of the purpose made chandeliers, tables and chairs, chose the pattern for the carpet from one designed by Robert Adam, and supervised the purchase of all the other fittings and equipment. In recognition of Harry Humber's huge contribution, the Court commissioned a portrait of him from J. Hughes Hallett to be hung in the Hall.

In 2005 the old Court Room was renamed the Humber Room in honour of Past Master Humber's outstanding contribution to the Company and the portrait was re-hung there.

By now the number of the Livery had increased to 159. When the Hall was nearing completion, a fund was set up to purchase chairs or silver and over 90 Liverymen contributed.

The Clerk approached the City Corporation to see if they would loan the Company paintings to hang in the Hall.

At first they showed reluctance, but on seeing the Hall they not only loaned the portraits of four former Lord Mayors, two of whom were Past Masters of the

Company, and the Four Virtues painted by Thornhill, but even arranged for their hanging. Now all was ready for the opening on the 29 November 1972 by the Lord Mayor, Lord Mais.

The Interior of Plasterers' Hall

The accommodation in the Hall consists of the Great Hall – the largest Livery Hall in the City, the Livery Hall, the Humber Room, the Mott Room, the Ambulatory and reception areas and a large kitchen.

The decor of the principal rooms is of the neo classic style created by Robert Adam in the 18th Century. His various designs have been faithfully reproduced in great detail both in plaster and wood.

The Great Hall

The decorations and plasterwork are at their grandest in Great Hall. The magnificence of the work is rarely attempted in this age, and provides a superb setting for the traditional banquets that the City of London is renowned for. Pairs of pilasters with capitals in early Corinthian style as first used on the Tower of the Winds in ancient Athens, arcade the walls, with sunken panels between them terminating in 'three centred Plasterers ovals'.

A full entablature, richly ornamented and subtly picked out in colour, conceals lighting which illuminates a grand coved ceiling rising to a clear height of over 27 feet. The three chandeliers are purpose made, each being approximately twelve feet high and eight feet in diameter.

The Livery Hall

The Livery Hall is quite different in style and design from Great Hall. The ceiling consists of ornamental fibrous plaster coffer illuminated by ten basket type

chandeliers and the walls are panelled in rich mahogany with an ornamental plaster frieze. This Hall will seat 80. The names of Past Masters were inscribed on the wall panels in 2017.

The Humber Room

Adjoining the Livery Hall is the Humber Room, named in memory of Past Master Harry Humber, whose energy and enthusiasm ensured the realisation of a new Plasterers' Hall.

It is an elegant room decorated in dove grey with the plaster enrichment picked out in gold. Portraits of Past Master Harry Humber and Past Master Peter Cook (Sheriff 2009-2010) hang in this room.

The Mott Room

Facing the Livery Hall and adjoining Great Hall is the Mott Room, named as a tribute to the Mott family. Three generations were Clerks to the Company for 147 years – portraits of them hang there. The delicate enrichments of the plaster ceiling and frieze have been picked out in the traditional pastel shades of the Adam period.

Entrance Hall Enhancement Project

Following a generous legacy bequest from Liveryman John Robinson the Entrance Hall work commenced in late 2020 and was completed in June 2021.

The work has brought the Entrance Hall up to the standard of the remainder of the Hall and serves to draw members and visitors into the Hall showcasing the grandeur of the plasterwork and decoration throughout the Hall.

The work was completed by PHL in conjunction with Locker and Riley and is in keeping with Robert Adam style.

The portraits now hanging on the south west wall of Great Hall, reading from the windows, are those of:

Lord Mais

Honorary Liveryman and Lord Mayor 1972/73

Nicholas Anstee (below)

Honorary Liveryman and Lord Mayor 2009-2010

Sir John Pirie

Master of the Company 1828/29 and Lord Mayor 1841/42

Thomas Kelly

Master of the Company 1831/32 and Lord Mayor 1836/37

Sir Peter Gadsden

Honorary Liveryman and Lord Mayor 1979/80

Harry Humber

Master of the Company 1958/59/60





Number One London Wall

The office block of 11 storeys and 50,000 square feet of lettable space, was finally completed on the 14 February 1973, and the Lease from the City to the Plaisterers Hall Limited was completed, signed and exchanged on the 23 March 1973.

The creation of Plaisterers Hall Limited meant the Plaisterers' Company was protected if anything went wrong, but benefited if Plaisterers Hall Limited was a success.

Shortly before the Hall was opened the Beadle, H.G. Herbert, resigned after having served in that office for 52 years. H.G. Herbert had followed four other members of the Herbert family, who had been Beadles continuously since 1825.

The Mott and Herbert families, who served the Company as Clerk (1848-1995) and Beadle (1825-1972) respectively, both achieved 147 years of unbroken service. Without doubt this must be a record in the Livery Companies.



Jubilee Garden

In 1977 to mark the Queen's Silver Jubilee, Plaisterers Hall Limited obtained a licence from the City to create a formal garden in stone at the east end of the Great Hall, with two fountains and steps leading up to a balustrade over the old Roman Wall.

This was supervised by the Chairman of Plaisterers Hall Limited, Harry Humber and architect, Godfrey Gilbert.

Many challenges arose as consents had to be obtained from not only the City Surveyor, the City Architect and Planning officer, the City Engineer and the Comptroller and City Solicitor, but also from the Consultant to the City Corporation on Ancient Monuments, the Department of the Environment, the Museum of London, the City of London Museum, and the Trees, Gardens and City Open Spaces Committee!

Three years later the City agreed to extend the licence to the strip of land between the Jubilee Garden and Noble Street running to the old watchtower further along.

The garden is now a lawn and wild flower garden and the annual licence fee of one Jubilee Crown is presented by the Master to a representative of the City of London Corporation at a suitable event during the year.

A beehive, in the care of the Worshipful Company of Wax Chandlers, was installed in the garden in 2016.

Social Activities

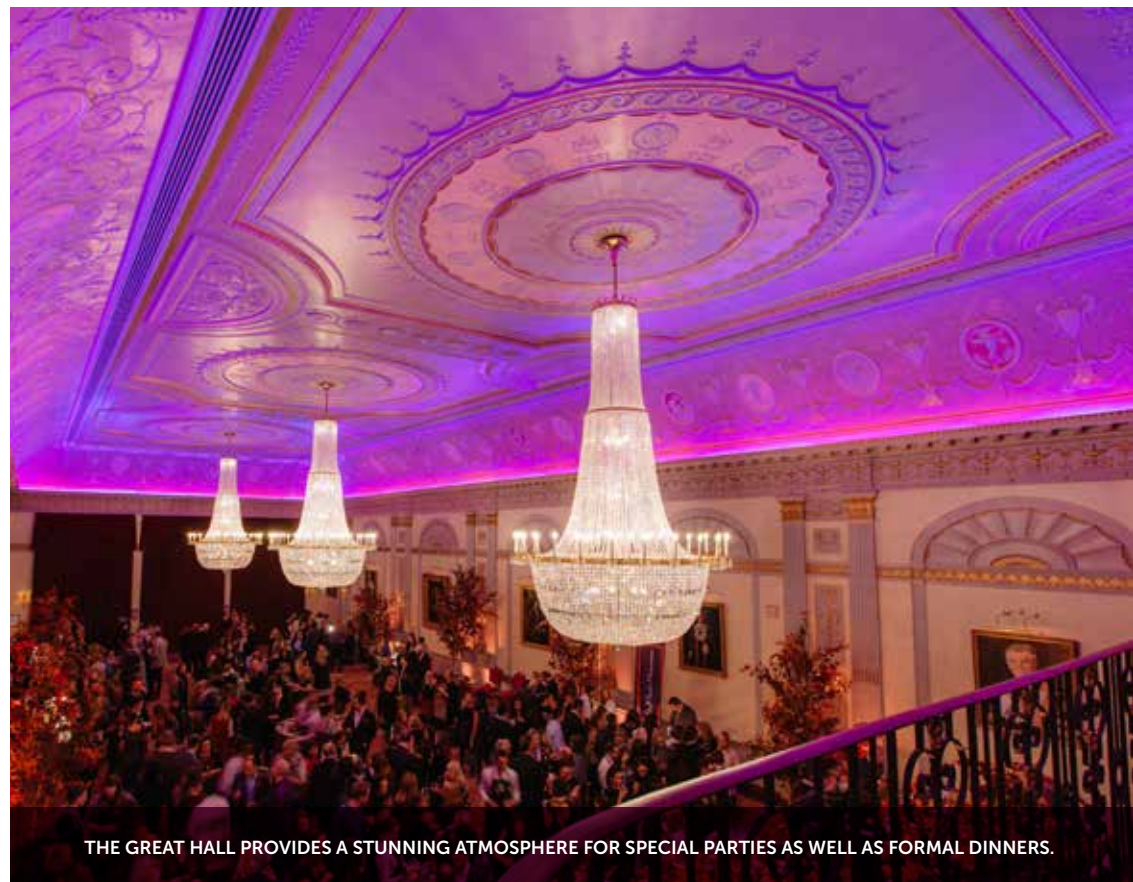
The only social activity before World War II was one dinner a year for the members of the Livery and their ladies. The last dinner, in October 1938, was attended by 18 members and 55 guests. There were no dinners during the War.

Since the War the number of functions has increased greatly. The first Annual Banquet, took place in February 1950, during the Mastership of Ashe Lincoln. It was attended by 18 members of the Court and Livery and 61 guests.

The Charitable Trust

In 1980 the Company started its Charitable Trust. While the Company had never had such a Trust before, it regularly supported the City & Guilds and other education projects out of its meagre corporate income. It also paid pensions to a number of widows and Freemen, amounting in some years to over £100, a not inconsiderable amount in the middle of the 19th century.

In the 21st century the Trust focuses on needs outside of the Company.



THE GREAT HALL PROVIDES A STUNNING ATMOSPHERE FOR SPECIAL PARTIES AS WELL AS FORMAL DINNERS.



Quincentenary Celebrations

The 500th Anniversary celebrations of the Company in 2001 started with a special Service of Thanksgiving in St Paul's Cathedral followed by a Reception in Great Hall on 9 March. On that day in excess of 1,000 people were present in St Paul's including the Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, Dean and Chapters and choirs of both St Paul's and Peterborough Cathedrals, Royal Marines trumpeters and the Masters and Clerks of 63 other Livery Companies.

Christopher Gower, the Director of Music at Peterborough Cathedral at the time, wrote a special Anthem for the occasion and has since become a Liveryman of the Company.

At the following champagne reception, nearly 800 people gathered to witness a brilliant moment of theatre. With a fanfare of trumpets from the Royal Marines, King Henry VII swept in with his

entourage to re-present our Charter and make clear the duties and responsibilities of the Company. The Master, Peter Cook responded on behalf of the Worshipful Company, who once again undertook all the directives placed upon it in 1501.

On 28 June 2001, a Gala Banquet took place in Guildhall in the presence of the Lord Mayor, Sheriffs and some 60 Masters of fellow Livery Companies. The glittering evening was rounded off with the Royal Marines Beating Retreat in Guildhall Yard.

To complete a very exciting year for the Worshipful Company, in November the Livery sponsored a horse-drawn Landau in the Lord Mayor's Procession. The Landau carried the then Master, Alan Turner, accompanied by the Clerk, Ralph Vickers, the Upper and Renter Wardens and the Beadle, Michael Coyle, on a most enjoyable journey around the City.

Redevelopment

Only fifteen years after the opening of the Hall, concerns were raised about the office block at Number One London Wall and redevelopment was suggested.

Thirteen years after that in late 2000, Heads of Terms were agreed between Plaisterers Hall Limited and the developer, a partnership between Kajima, a Japanese Bank, and Hammersons Limited.

The redevelopment agreement required the sale of our Head Lease from the City Corporation, to the Developers and a new lease from the Developers to Plaisterers Hall Limited allowing occupation of our Livery accommodation and offices for 150 years at a peppercorn rent. The effect of this agreement was that the Company would no longer be supported by income from the office development, as it had been since 1972.

During this time Livery functions were held in different Livery Halls around the City. Liverymen were very fortunate in being able to visit many Halls during this period including the Mansion House, which was used for the Annual Banquets.

The Livery returned to Number One London Wall on 15 March 2004. The Annual Banquet in May of that year was held in the Great Hall amid much celebration.

Bursaries from the Charitable Trust

Harry Humber Bursary

Following the death of Harry Humber in 1993, a Bursary was set up at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, in recognition of his love of music and his

enormous contribution to the Livery over more than forty years. In 1994, the first bursary for £1,000 was given to Julian Milford, a post graduate student on an advanced Solo Studies Course. Since then many young musicians have greatly benefited from the Humber Bursary.

Since 2016, the Humber Bursary supports the work of Voces Cantabiles Music.

Henry Mott Bursary

The death of Henry Mott in 1999, only four years after his retirement from the Clerk's duties at the age of 91, allowed the Company to fund a further Bursary.

The Mott Bursary commenced in 2000 and sponsors a chorister at Peterborough Cathedral. The award of a Bursary to Peterborough Cathedral reflected the great pleasure provided by the Peterborough Choir at their annual visit to the Livery Carol Service.

500th Anniversary Bursary

In 2001, as a result of a special request to all members of the Livery, on behalf of the Charitable Trust, the 500th Anniversary Bursary was set up.

The Bursary sponsors the education of a chorister at St Paul's Cathedral who is presented with a ribbon and special medallion carrying the Company Crest.

Spurling Bursary

In 2017, to mark the Spurling family's 200 year involvement with the Company, Liveryman Andrew Spurling endowed a new Bursary. It will, initially, be used to support The Prince's Foundation Bursary Student.



THE MASTER (2000-2001), PETER COOK, PROUDLY HOLDS THE RE-PRESENTED CHARTER BY KING HENRY VII, SOME 500 YEARS AFTER THE ORIGINAL VERSION WAS GRANTED.



THE COMPANY IN THE THIRD MILLENNIUM



Female Liverymen

Past Master Ralph Vickers took over the mantle of Clerk in July 1995. During his tenure perhaps one of the most radical moves was in April 1999, to allow women to become Liverymen in their own right for the first time since the 18th Century. The first women to be elected to the Livery were robed in July 2002 and by July 2023 the number of female Liverymen has risen to 23, with 22 female Freemen.

Industry Committee

In 1997 the Court approved the setting up of an Industry Committee with the aim of promoting effective support of the plastering industry. In the first year of the Committee's existence, the Chairman, Past Master Paddy Wettern, discussed with colleges specialising in plastering courses how the Company might encourage expertise with prizes to students and colleges.

Register of Associates

In 1997, Past Master Peter Cook, as part of the Industry Committee, directed the

Company in setting up a new register of Master Plasterers. A register of Certified Plasterers had been set up by the Company in 1929 but became defunct.

The idea was well received in the Industry and the first Register of Associates containing sixty members who had been elected Associates of the Company was available in 1999.

In November 2000 the first printed Register of Associates was issued to some 6,000 Architects, Developers, Contractors and Specifiers and contained almost 100 names. The Company is currently examining further ways in which this initiative can be developed.

Awards for Student Achievement

October 1999 also saw the first presentation to colleges of awards for student achievement in plastering qualifications, with the reintroduction of the Harmer, Crombie and Clanrye Trophies and the Regency Vase.

The ceremony now encompasses awards to commercial training providers and to the top ACA students in the country for both solid and fibrous plastering.

2023

In 2023 the Plasterers Training Awards joined forces with FIS to encompass training across the Finishes and Interiors Sector.

Governance of the Livery

1501

In 1501 the Company received its first Royal Charter from Henry VII, allowing the creation of a Guild with legal status, governed by the Master and Wardens, to manage the trade and includes an interesting reference to: **'the Master and Wardens and brethren and sisters of the Guild'**.

1765

The Company's current Rules, Orders, Constitutions and Ordinances (ROCOs) were approved by the Chancellor and two Chief Justices. There are some 13,750 words of rather old fashioned English in the ROCOs and significant parts have become outdated but they remain a fascinating historical document.

2001

A Strategic Plan was presented to the Court which suggested that the Company should embark upon governance by objectives.

A Committee structure was drawn up to address and report on matters which affected the progress of the Livery towards achievement of its objectives.

A Lifetime Contribution to Training is recognised with a silver salver given by Past Master David Holliday.

Website

Near the end of 2000, the Company's website went online.

www.plastererslivery.co.uk

The Livery really was in the 21st Century and just about to celebrate its Quincentenary.

This was approved by the Court and resulted in Committees being set up to concentrate on Public Relations, Membership and Functions to work alongside existing Committees of Industry, Investment and Finance and the Company's Charitable Trust.

2003

The Company re-introduced Common Hall calling all members together to discuss matters of interest to the Livery. Arising from the original medieval Guild assemblies, the Plasterers' Common Hall is now an annual event held prior to the Robing Ceremony in July.

2004

The Court agreed to the re-introduction of Quarterage, starting from 1 January 2004. Quarterage had been charged to all Liverymen until January 1865 when the minutes of the Court Meeting stated that the Court will 'remit charges until further notice'.

The Court agreed that the minimum age for election to the Livery be reduced from 30 to 25, and the minimum age for admission to the Freedom was set at 21.



2006

The Strategic Plan was reviewed by the Court for the five year period 2006-2011 and has the following Mission Statement:

- **To ensure the positive development of the ancient values of the Company in a modern environment and create a vibrant, sustainable future for the Livery and its membership.**
- **To make a difference in our support of the industry we represent, the charities we assist, our affiliations, the Lord Mayor and the City of London.**

2008

Following the Court's decision that the ROCOs should be reviewed new Rules and Procedures (RaPs) have been written.

At 2,680 words The RaPs are rather shorter than the ROCOs, largely because the new document is deliberately more general. There is very little new in the RaPs – they simply reflect the operation of the Livery in 2008 and provide an understandable set of Rules and Procedures.

2011

The Court embarked on the preparation of a 5-year Strategic Plan for 2011-2016. The Clerk sent a Questionnaire to all Members in February 2011 and the responses were used to identify relevant membership and other issues needing to be addressed in the Plan.

The Master Plasterer Certificate was introduced for the first time.

De Bradshaw was elected Renter Warden, the first recorded Lady Liveryman to hold the post.

2012

A new 5-year Strategic Plan was adopted in October 2011 and important issues relating to membership, finance and the growth of the Charity were addressed. The Company held its first 'Open Day' in June 2012 as part of the "Celebrate the City" weekend linked to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the London 2012 Olympic Games.

2013

The Company's first Lady Master, Ms De Bradshaw, took office on 16th July 2013.

2014

First Apprentice "Bound" since 1840.

2015

Her Majesty The Queen Consort, Honorary Liveryman, visits Plaisterers' Hall for the first time.

2016

A new 5-year Strategic Plan was approved by the Court in October 2016. After the flood on Good Friday 2016 the Hall reopens in November 2016.

2019

Alderman Alison Gowman becomes the first sitting Alderman to serve as Master since Thomas Kelly in 1831.

2020

All physical events for the Livery Company cease as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing lockdown. However, the Company rises to the challenge and embarks on a series of virtual events, including committee and Court meetings and the 2020 Robing Ceremony, all held via Zoom. Three of the Company's Apprentices are admitted to the Freedom of the Company.

2021

Following over 14 months of lockdowns and COVID-19 restrictions the Hall finally re-opened in June 2021 allowing Members to attend the 2021 Robing at which the Master and Wardens were re-installed for a second year.

2021

A blue plaque noting the location of Plaisterers' Hall in Addle Street

The Clerk and the Beadle 1996

The retirement of Henry Mott, ending the family's 147 years of dedicated and unbroken service to the office of Clerk made way for Past Master Ralph Vickers to become Clerk. Holding office till 2002 Ralph's term of office included the reintroduction of female members and ended with the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the first Charter.

2002

Hilary Machtus was elected to office as Clerk having served as Assistant to both the previous Clerks. Her Clerkship saw the Company 'itinerant' during the reconstruction of the offices above the Hall and the substantial review of the governance of the Livery.

2003

Michael Coyle our Beadle retired in July 2003. Michael joined the Livery staff as Hall Keeper and Beadle in 1972 when the Hall opened, retiring from Hall Manager's duties in 1995. During this time he served 31 Masters and three Clerks. Following his retirement Michael was invited to become a Liveryman of the Company and was subsequently robed in July 2004. The Beadle's duties were taken

from 1556 to 1940 was placed in Aldermanbury Square.

2022

The Company, in partnership with the Plaisterers' Charitable Trust, establishes 'The Plaisterers' Platinum Jubilee Fund' to commemorate the reign of HM Queen Elizabeth II. The fund would support the Company's various affiliations with grants ranging from £10,000 to £45,000.

over by Jamie Wallis who has acted as Toastmaster for a number of years.

2010

Hilary Machtus retired as Clerk and was appointed Clerk Emeritus. The new Clerk, Nigel Bamping, a Past Master of the Worshipful Company of Solicitors of the City of London took office at the Robing Ceremony on 20 July 2010.

2020

Nigel Bamping retires as Clerk after 10 years and was appointed as Clerk Emeritus. The new Clerk, Colonel Garth Manger OBE RM, took office on the 21 July 2020, following a long and distinguished career with the Royal Marines.

2024

Mr Jamie Wallis, the Company's Beadle (pictured below), marked 20 years as a loyal and professional Beadle.





ROYAL CHARTERS

The Company has been granted five Royal Charters since 1501.

FIRST CHARTER

Granted in 1501, this allowed the creation of a Guild with legal status to manage the trade.

SECOND CHARTER

The second Charter has been lost.

THIRD CHARTER

The third Charter, granted by Elizabeth I, requires that the Rules and Ordinances shall be approved by the 'Chauncellor and two Chief Justices'.

FOURTH CHARTER

The fourth Charter has been lost.

FIFTH CHARTER

The fifth Charter, granted by Charles II, restates the previous authorities, distinguishes various trades and extends the jurisdiction of the Company.

HOW DID THE 'I' GET IN?

How did the 'i' get in?

The original Charter of 1501 is written in Latin. However, the Charter granted by Elizabeth I about 1596 is in English, and the Company's name is spelled 'Plaisterers' and the word 'maister' is spelt with an 'i'.

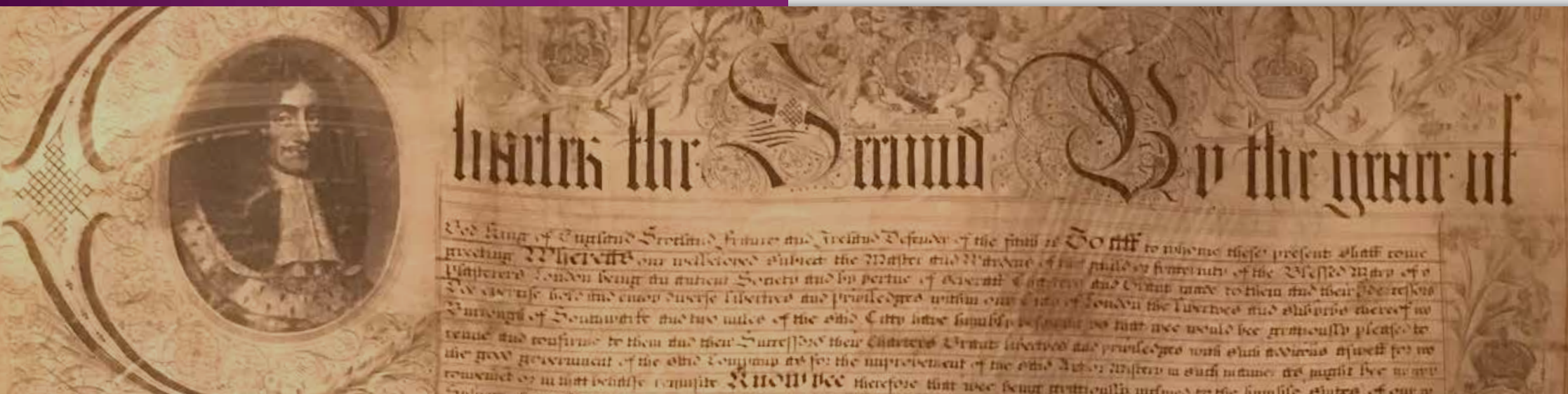
Then in the Charter granted by Charles II in 1667, the Company is referred to as the 'Guild or Fraternity of the Blessed Mary of Plasterers London', and the word 'master' is spelled without the 'i'.

The next reference appears in the engraving on the Loving Cup presented to the Company by Past Master Thomas Kelly on his election to the office of Lord Mayor in 1836, here the name is spelled without the 'i'. The letter written by the Under Secretary of State, War Office, dated 30 August 1901, thanking the

Company for their contributions towards the campaign against the Boers, spells it without the 'i'. It would seem, therefore, that from at least 1667 the pronouncing of the name has been a reflection of the origins of the Company – Plasterers.

The Clerks since 1848 have used that pronunciation when admitting Freemen to the Company. However, in the 1950s more members were themselves plasterers or closely involved in the industry and preferred to distinguish themselves from other members of the trade by saying they were members of the Plaisterers' Company that is, pronounced with the 'i'.

In 1960, the Court resolved that the pronunciation would be left to each member to decide which he/she preferred.





THE CITY OF LONDON

Local Government

The Constitution of the City of London Corporation differs from that of other municipalities in a number of ways. The voting rights of the Liverymen of the City Companies is perhaps the most striking example.

In the City of London, local government is exercised by the Court of Common Council, consisting of the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Common Councillors.

- Aldermen and Common Councillors are chosen by the electors of the twenty-five Wards of the City.
- The electors are the residents and individuals nominated by businesses in the City.
- The number of electors per business reflects the total number of employees based with that firm in the City office.

Although Aldermen are appointed to hold office for life, subject to surrender or disqualification, they now offer themselves for re-election every six years.

By custom they retire at the age of 75, in line with the retirement age of Judges (Aldermen were previously all JPs). Common Councillors face Ward elections every four years with the next being in March 2025.

The Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, and certain officers, however, are chosen each year by another electoral body, consisting of the liverymen of the City's Livery Companies, known as Common Hall.

There are 111 Livery Companies having some 40,000 liverymen, making this the largest gathering of citizens for any municipal purpose.

Such an assembly places the election of the Lord Mayor on a far wider basis than the usual appointment by a Council.

The custom whereby the liverymen in Common Hall select two persons for submission to the Court of Aldermen for the final choice of one of them as Lord Mayor was firmly established in 1406.

Before a citizen can attain to the office of Lord Mayor, he or she must submit him or herself to election on three occasions and finally to scrutiny by the Court of Aldermen.

Firstly

The voters of the Ward for which they are a candidate for the office of Aldermen.

Secondly

The Liverymen in Common Hall assembled, on election as Sheriff.

Thirdly

The Liverymen in Common Hall, on nomination for Lord Mayor.

Finally

The Court of Aldermen, select one of the two persons nominated by the Livery.



As many Aldermen serve their apprenticeship on the Common Council, an earlier election by Ward voters can usually be inserted at the head of this list. The Elections of both the Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs require the subsequent approval of the Sovereign.

In the City, the Lord Mayor has precedence over every subject and takes his or her place immediately after the Sovereign. Traditionally, when the

Sovereign enters the City, the Lord Mayor awaits at the City boundary. On ceremonial occasions the Lord Mayor surrenders the City Sword point downwards and on receiving it back bears it erect in procession before the Sovereign. This ceremony is now only occasionally performed.

Outside the City, the Lord Mayor takes position next below Privy Councillors.

Freedom of the City of London

For centuries the Freedom was essential to every man or woman who desired to exercise a trade or handicraft within the City.

Among the privileges were immunity from toll at all markets and fairs throughout England, freedom from impressment into the armed forces, exclusive right to trade both by wholesale and retail within the City, and the right to vote at Ward and Parliamentary elections.

As long ago as 1275 Andrew Horn, a City Chamberlain, wrote,

'It should be known that there are three methods by which a man acquires the Freedom of the City; first that he be a man born in the City lawfully from his father, secondly, that he be an apprentice with a freeman for seven years and not less, and thirdly that a man may compound the Chamberlain for his freedom before the Mayor and other Aldermen'.

These three methods, known as Patrimony, Servitude and Nomination, still apply today:

By Patrimony

For children of Freemen – provided one parent was a Freeman prior to the applicant's birth.

By Servitude

For apprentices who have served a full apprenticeship to a Freeman.

By Nomination

Persons of any nationality may apply for the Freedom by nomination of two sponsors who will be Common Councillors of the City of London, Aldermen or members of a Livery Company.

Applicants may also be presented by a Livery Company. In addition, there is another specialised category open to those people who wish to stand for election to the Court of Common Council and who do not have ready access to the Nominators outlined (i.e. the Lord Mayor, Sheriff, Aldermen, Common Councillors of the City of London or Liverymen).

In such a case an applicant can be supported by any two electors registered in the City or by two persons eligible to sign an application for a passport.

The Present Day Privileges Enjoyed by Freemen and their Dependants

Freemen of the City may take apprentices without the intervention of a livery company, according to the Custom of London, to serve a bona fide apprenticeship. Such apprentices must be bound before the Chamberlain and enrolled in his or her office, and at the expiration of their indentures will, on proof of faithful service, be entitled to the freedom of the City by servitude.

Freemen of the City in distressed circumstances are eligible, subject to certain conditions, for admission to one of the Corporation's Almshouses, which provide accommodation for married couples and single persons. The widow, widower or child of a deceased Freeman is, in certain circumstances, also eligible for admission.

The children of Freemen of the City are, as far as possible, given preference on a waiting list for admission to one of the Corporation's schools.

The orphan children of Freemen or Freewomen of the City are, subject to certain conditions, eligible for admission to the City of London Freemen's School, where they are maintained and educated. The fee payable for admission to the Freedom of the City are devoted to the upkeep of this School.

Widows or widowers of Freemen of the City are eligible to receive small sums of money annually at Christmas time (on application).

There are certain charities administered by some of the Livery Companies and other trustees applicable generally to necessitous Freemen and their dependants.

The Freedom of a Company may entitle a person to privileges within that Company and confer rights in respect of its charitable funds. The Freedom both of the City and a Company is a prior requisite to the admission to the Livery of that Company.

COVID-19

During the pandemic the Freedom ceremonies, that are usually conducted in person, stopped. However the City Corporation arranged for the ceremony to go online and the first such ceremony was a special freedom given to Captain Tom Moore on 12 May 2020 for his incredible fundraising effort to raise over £32million for NHS charities. They continued in this way for several months.



LIVERY COMPANIES OF LONDON

The Origins

Guilds were common all over Europe during the eleventh and twelfth centuries. They started as religious and social fraternities and the craft element grew almost accidentally, largely because people of the same craft tended to live in the same neighbourhood.

The first definitive mention of a London Guild was of the Weavers. Their dues to the Crown are recorded in the Exchequer Roll of 1130.

Having no meeting place, a Guild attached itself to a neighbouring church or hospital, whose patron saint it adopted. Legend has it that St. Bartholomew was adopted early in Christian history by the plasterers of Rome. His Saint's Day is 24 August.

The religious side of the fraternities influenced the character of the Guilds and in particular gave them their Liveries. These distinctive costumes were common in the higher grades of life in the Middle Ages. All great households provided their dependants with a livery.

Another aspect of the fraternities that was perpetuated in the Guilds was the encouragement of good fellowship and hospitality. Meetings of the fraternity for funerals or masses were followed by feasts that grew more elaborate until they

finally became the entertainments for which the Companies are famous today.

Survival

In 1835 the Common Council decided that membership of a Company was no longer necessary for the Freedom, or full citizenship, of the City of London causing fears that the end of these ancient corporate bodies was in sight.

These fears were groundless. Today over 30,000 people are entitled to wear the Livery of their respective companies, well over double the number in 1882 when the Royal Commission on the Livery Companies was held. However from 1842 to 1860 the number of Freemen in the Plaisterers Company fell from 140 to 67 and that the number of liverymen fell from 79 to 46.

Livery Companies have amalgamated or fallen by the wayside throughout the years, leaving 111 remaining today.

The Merchant Taylors and Skinners Companies take it in turns yearly to be sixth and seventh. The Parish Clerks, the Watermen and Lightermen's Companies are without Livery.

In 2023, following a petition to the Court of Aldermen, the Nurses were granted Livery status and took their place as number 111 in the order of precedence.

LIVERY COMPANIES IN ORDER OF PRECEDENCE

1	Mercers	41	Joiners & Ceilers	79	Solicitors
2	Grocers	42	Weavers	80	Farmers
3	Drapers	43	Woolmen	81	Air Pilots
4	Fishmongers	44	Scriveners	82	Tobacco Pipe Makers & Tobacco Blenders
5	Goldsmiths	45	Fruiterers	83	Furniture Makers
6/7	Merchant Taylors	46	Plaisterers	84	Scientific Instrument Makers
7/6	Skinners	47	Stationers & Newspaper Makers	85	Chartered Surveyors
8	Haberdashers	48	Broderers	86	Chartered Accountants
9	Salters	49	Upholders	87	Chartered Secretaries
10	Ironmongers	50	Musicians	88	Builders Merchants
11	Vintners	51	Turners	89	Laundrers
12	Clothworkers	52	Basketmakers	90	Marketors
13	Dyers	53	Glaziers	91	Actuaries
14	Brewers	54	Horners	92	Insurers
15	Leathersellers	55	Farriers	93	Arbitrators
16	Pewterers	56	Paviors	94	Engineers
17	Barbers	57	Loriners	95	Fuellers
18	Cutlers	58	Apothecaries	96	Lightmongers
19	Bakers	59	Shipwrights	97	Environmental Cleaners
20	Wax Chandlers	60	Spectacle Makers	98	Chartered Architects
21	Tallow Chandlers	61	Clockmakers	99	Constructors
22	Armourers & Brasiers	62	Glovers	100	Information Technologists
23	Girdlers	63	Feltmakers	101	Tin Plate Workers
24	Butchers	64	Framework Knitters	102	Water Conservators
25	Saddlers	65	Needlemakers	103	Firefighters
26	Carpenters	66	Gardeners	104	Hackney Carriage Drivers
27	Cordwainers	67	Tin Plate Workers	105	Management Consultants
28	Painter-Stainers	68	Wheelwrights	106	International Bankers
29	Curriers	69	Distillers	107	Tax Advisers
30	Masons	70	Pattenmakers	108	Security Professionals
31	Plumbers	71	Glass Sellers	109	Educators
32	Innholders	72	Coachmakers	110	Arts Scholars
33	Founders	73	Gunmakers	111	Nurses
34	Poulters	74	Gold & Silver Wyre Drawers		
35	Cooks	75	Makers of Playing Cards		
36	Coopers	76	Fanmakers		
37	Tylers & Bricklayers	77	Carmen		
38	Bowyers	78	Master Mariners		
39	Fletchers				
40	Blacksmiths				



CALENDAR & EVENTS

2024-2026





2024	
SEPTEMBER	
Tue 03	Charity Trustees: 1:30pm
Wed 04	Membership Committee: 5pm
Thu 05	Finance & Investment Committee: 11:30am
Thu 05	Industry Committee: 3pm
Tue 10	Marketing Committee: 1pm
Tue 17	New Members 2023-24 Drinks: 6pm
Fri 27	Admission of Sheriffs
Sun 29	Sheep Drive Southwark Bridge (TBC)
Mon 30	Election of Lord Mayor & Informal Lunch
OCTOBER	
Tue 01	October Court & Autumn Livery Dinner
Wed 02	Musicians' Company Evensong - St Paul's
NOVEMBER	
Mon 04	Garden of Remembrance St Paul's Churchyard
Tue 05	Past Masters' Meeting & Lunch: 11:30am
Fri 08	Silent Ceremony Guildhall
Sat 09	Lord Mayor's Show & Luncheon
Sun 10	Remembrance Sunday
Tue 19	Marketing Committee: 1pm
Wed 20	Membership Committee: 5pm
Thu 21	Industry Committee: 3pm

Tue 26	Finance & Investment Committee (joint with Charity Trustees): 11:30am
Tue 26	Charity Trustees: 1:30pm
DECEMBER	
Tue 03	Carol Service & Christmas Supper
Thu 05	WCP/FIS Training Awards 2024

2025	
JANUARY	
Tue 14	January Quarterly Court & New Year (M&C) Dinner
MARCH	
Tue 04	Inter Livery Pancake Race
Wed 05	Charity Trustees: 1:30pm
Wed 05	Membership Committee: 5pm
Thu 06	Marketing Committee: 1pm
Tue 11	Finance & Investment Committee: 11:30am
Wed 12	Industry Committee: 3pm
Fri 28	United Guilds' Service & Lunch
APRIL	
Tue 08	April Quarterly Court & Spring Livery Dinner
Fri 18	Good Friday
Mon 21	Easter Monday
MAY	
Tue 20	Plaisterers' Banquet

JUNE	
Tue 03	Finance & Investment Committee (joint with Charity Trustees): 11:30am
Tue 03	Charity Trustees: 1:30pm
Wed 04	Marketing Committee: 1pm
Wed 04	Membership Committee: 5pm
Tue 05	Industry Committee: 3pm
Tue 24	Election of Sheriffs & Informal Lunch
JULY	
Tue 01	Quarterly Court & Court Dinner
Sun 06	Kelly Service – Chelsham (TBC)
Tue 15	Audit Court, Common Hall, Robing, Service & Dinner
SEPTEMBER	
Tue 02	Membership Committee: 5pm
Wed 03	Finance & Investment Committee: 11:30am
Wed 03	Industry Committee: 3pm
Thu 04	Marketing Committee: 1pm
Tue 09	Charity Trustees: 1:30pm
Fri 26	Admission of Sheriffs
Sun 28	Sheep Drive Southwark Bridge (TBC)
Mon 29	Election of Lord Mayor & Informal Lunch
OCTOBER	
Tue 07	October Court & Autumn Livery Dinner

NOVEMBER	
Tue 04	Past Masters' Meeting & Lunch: 11:30am
Fri 07	Silent Ceremony - Guildhall
Sat 08	Lord Mayor's Show & Luncheon
Mon 10	Garden of Remembrance - St Paul's Churchyard (TBC)
Tue 18	Finance and Investment Committee (joint with Charity Trustees): 11:30am
Tue 18	Charity Trustees: 1:30pm
Wed 19	Marketing Committee: 1pm
Wed 19	Membership Committee: 5pm
Thu 20	Industry Committee: 3pm
DECEMBER	
Tue 02	Carol Service & Christmas Supper

2026	
JANUARY	
Tue 13	January Quarterly Court & New Year (M&C) Dinner
MARCH	
Fri 20	United Guilds Service & Lunch
APRIL	
Fri 03	Good Friday
Mon 06	Easter Monday
Tue 14	April Quarterly Court & Spring Livery Dinner



Inter livery sport, social and other events

There are an increasing number of annual (or sometimes occasional) inter-livery sporting contests, or other activities, exhibitions etc. They are usually organised by one Livery Company, but open to all others (though this may not always be the case).

Some examples are below.



Art Exhibitions organised by the Painter-Stainers' Company



Sheep Drive organised by the Woolmen's Company (September)



Bridge organised by the Makers of Playing Cards Company (first Monday in March)



Shooting (clays) organised by the Environmental Cleaners' Company (May)



Golf organised by the Coachmakers' Company (May, the 'Prince Arthur'). Other golf competitions are also arranged.



Shooting (rifle) organised by the Bakers' Company



Skiing organised by the Ironmongers' Company (January)



Pancake Races organised by the Poulterers' Company (Shrove Tuesday)



Tacitus Lecture organised by the World Traders' Company (fourth Thursday in February)



Pewter Live Exhibition organised by the Pewterers' Company (June)



Tennis organised by the Feltmakers' Company (September)



Sailing organised by the City Livery YC (offshore)



Wizadry in Wood Exhibition organised by the Turners' Company

The above are, more often than not, advertised in the Clerk's Newsletter. If you are interested in receiving more information about any of the events listed, please contact the Clerk's Office.

City Briefings

These are aimed particularly at new Liverymen and Freeman; partners are also welcome, as are Court Assistants and Liverymen of longer standing, who have not previously been to a Briefing, who are also encouraged to attend.

They give a short introduction to the work of the Corporation, especially the relationship with the Livery Companies.

The presentation is given by an Assistant Town Clerk and a member of the Livery Committee. There is opportunity to ask questions of the speakers and the Briefing is followed by a light finger buffet, which provides the chance to mix with other Liverymen and Freeman.

Location

Livery Hall
Guildhall
71 Basinghall Street
London EC2V 5DH

Cost

There is a non-refundable charge of £20 per person for the course.

For dates and bookings visit:

www.liverycommittee.org/courses

Wardens and Court Assistants City Course

Learn how the Civic and financial City works. This all day course is intended for Senior or Upper Wardens due to take the chair over the coming 12 months. Their spouses, partners and consorts are also very welcome to attend.

The course covers how the City Corporation and key office holders operate and interact, the working of the City and financial services and the role of Master. There is a special session for Consorts.

Location

Guildhall
71 Basinghall Street
London EC2V 7HH

Cost

The course costs £75.

For dates and bookings visit:

www.liverycommittee.org/courses



PLASTERERS' LODGE

FOUNDED IN 1955

The Plasterers Lodge was founded in 1955 by several Past Masters and Liverymen of the Worshipful Company of Plasterers. It celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2005 with an open meeting to dedicate a new banner.

There are some 38 members of the Plasterers' Lodge including eight Past Masters of the Livery, who meet, by kind permission of the Master, Wardens and Court of Assistants of the Worshipful Company, in Plasterers' Hall four times each year. Some 20 or more Sister Livery Lodges meet in the City and regular inter-visiting takes place between them, especially by the Worshipful Master during his year in Office, which fosters good relations between the Sister City Livery Lodges.

Freemasonry is one of the oldest and largest secular fraternal societies. It is a society concerned with moral, social and spiritual values, and its members are taught through a series of dramas using the tools of a stonemason in a symbolical or allegorical way.

During the 18th Century, a period known as the Age of Enlightenment, a great many scientists and other notable men became Freemasons including Sir Isaac Newton, Benjamin Franklin, William Hogarth, George Washington and Sir John Soane. Among those of the 20th Century who were Freemasons were HM King George VI, Sir Winston Churchill, Sir Ernest Shackleton, Captain Scott, Archbishop Geoffrey Fisher, Rudyard Kipling, Duke Ellington and Clive Lloyd.

Freemasonry expects from its members a respect for the law. Its principles do not in any way conflict with its members' duties as citizens. Indeed it should strengthen them in carrying out their public and private responsibilities.

Freemasons undertake to follow three grand principles in their lives, which are expressed (in 18th Century language) as:

Brotherly Love

Showing tolerance and respect for the opinions of others and behaving with the same kindness and understanding towards others as they would wish to be treated themselves.

Relief

Practising charity and caring for those less fortunate than ourselves, not only our own members and families, but also for the community as a whole, both by charitable giving, and by voluntary service.

Truth

Developing high moral standards of truth and honesty, which we aim to achieve in our own lives.



Freemasonry is also a lot of fun and in the Plasterers' Lodge we enjoy evenings together with the opportunity to get to know other members of the Livery and entertain masonic guests in the wonderful surroundings of the Plasterers' Hall.

For further information about Freemasonry or becoming a member of Plasterers' Lodge, please contact the Lodge Secretary, Alan R Bostock. E: plasterers7390secretary@gmail.com M: 07715 581093

The dates for future meetings are:

2024	9 September
	11 November
2025	10 March
	9 June
	8 September
2026	10 November
	9 March
	8 June



PLAISTERERS' MARKETPLACE

We are now able to offer items of merchandise for purchase by members of the Company. Please contact the Clerk's Office to place an order.



LADIES SCARF*
£15



COMPANY TIE*
Red or blue
£15



LAPEL PIN
£15



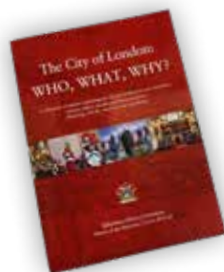
PLAISTERERS' PORT
Taylors First Estate
Reserve £45



LARGE UMBRELLA
£30



FULL LENGTH APRON
With front pocket &
adjustable ties
£20



THE CITY OF LONDON:
WHO, WHAT, WHY?
by Alderman & Past Master
Alison Gowman CBE £10

*These items are only for Liverymen/Freemen.

All prices are inclusive of VAT. Postage can be arranged at an additional charge.



IN MEMORIAM

The company records with sadness the deaths of the following Liverymen/Freemen during the past year:

The Very Revd Charles Taylor (Chaplain Emeritus)

Liveryman Ronald Haydon

Mrs Mavis Hills (Companion, Widow of PM Ronald Hills)

The Very Revd Dr John Moses KCVO (Chaplain Emeritus)

Dr Nicholas Godfrey

Liveryman John Brown CBE

MEMBERS' LIST

The Members' List, detailing all contact information for current members, is now available in the password protected Members' Area of the Plaisterers' website.

KEEP UP-TO-DATE

Along with the Yearbook, we now have a variety of ways you can keep up-to-date with the Company throughout the year.

Newsletter

The monthly Clerk's Newsletter will keep you informed of news and events and throughout the year.

Social Media

Find and follow us on LinkedIn, Instagram, X and Facebook.

Website

www.plaistererslivery.co.uk

Our refreshed website has everything you need to know about the Company, its History, work with Charity and Industry, plus Latest News.

Scan the QR code to go directly to the website.



1822-1823	Olive Hall	1888-1889	Henry Urquhart	1961-1962	Richard Kersey
1823-1824	Peter Mitchell	1889-1890	Samuel Messiter	1962-1963	Harold Cadman
1824-1825	Benjamin Willats	1890-1891	Robert Taylor	1963-1964	Walter Horrocks
1825-1826	John Allnatt	1891-1892	William Stoner	1964-1965	Frederick Turner
1826-1827	Thomas Palmer	1892-1893	Rufus Workman	1965-1966	Walter Forrest
1827-1828	Thomas Pritchard	1893-1894	William Connell	1966-1967	Harold Cowan
1828-1829	John Pirie	1894-1895	Arthur Hammack	1967-1968	William Wylie Harris
1829-1830	John Spurling	1895-1896	George Mee	1968-1969	Evan Jenkins
1830-1831	William Willats	1896-1897	Henry Wild	1969-1970	John Jeffree
1831-1832	Thomas Kelly	1897-1898	Aubrey Spurling	1970-1971	William Bell
1832-1833	John Williams	1898-1899	Samuel Stacey	1972-1973	Alfred Telling
1833-1834	John Stayner	1899-1900	Samuel Walker	1973-1974	Albert Powley
1834-1835	William Little	1900-1901	Llewellyn Hammack	1974-1975	Jack Godfrey Gilbert
1835-1836	Thomas Skinner	1901-1902	Arthur Spurling	1975-1976	Andrew Roberts
1836-1837	John Tanner	1902-1903	Wesley Marshall	1976-1977	Peter Schryver
1837-1838	James Hoole	1903-1904	Frederick Capron	1977-1978	John Fleming
1838-1839	John Cooper	1904-1905	Edward Nisbet	1978-1979	Alfred Castell
1839-1840	John Charrington	1905-1906	Cuthbert Spurling	1979-1980	David Mott
1840-1841	Grantham Gace	1906-1907	Henry Holt	1980-1981	Gordon Infield
1841-1842	Richard Mott	1907-1908	Arthur Fox	1981-1982	Patrick Wettren
1842-1843	William Tozer	1908-1909	Richard Johns	1982-1983	Ralph Vickers
1843-1844	Alexander Thomson	1909-1910	Henry Phillipps	1983-1984	Douglas Tribe
1844-1845	Michael Hall	1910-1911	Frank Griffith	1984-1985	Ronald Hills
1845-1846	William Butterfield	1911-1912	Waiter Payne	1985-1986	Derek Robinson
1846-1847	William Shott	1912-1913	Arthur Lacey	1986-1987	Norman Goldwater
1847-1848	Edward Lacey	1913-1914	Herbert Walker	1987-1988	Trevor Spicer
1848-1849	Daniel Norton	1914-1916	Frederick Costello	1988-1989	Roy Beavis
1849-1850	Henry Walmsley	1916-1918	Frederic Hudson	1989-1990	Philip Girdle
1850-1851	James Smallbone	1918-1920	Percy Mott	1990-1991	Julian Dalrymple
1851-1852	Thomas Evans	1920-1921	Francis Goldsmith	1991-1992	Horace Warrell
1852-1854	Joseph Stayner	1921-1922	Edwin Clark	1992-1993	Ronald Jordan
1854-1855	William Hopkinson	1922-1923	John Roper	1993-1994	George Grover
1855-1856	John Furze	1923-1924	William Stearns	1994-1995	Hugh Kersey
1856-1857	James Hoole	1924-1925	Frank Bishop	1995-1996	Raymond Wakeham
1857-1858	Samuel Little	1925-1926	Charles Brown	1996-1997	Bryan Lincoln
1858-1859	Arthur Longley	1926-1927	Frank Griffith	1997-1998	Robert Faulkner
1859-1860	Thomas Brewer	1927-1928	William Watson	1998-1999	Ernest Pilgrim
1860-1861	Henry Hammack	1928-1929	Arthur Harrison	1999-2000	Christopher Towlson
1861-1862	George Roffey	1929-1930	Arthur Pinney	2000-2001	Peter Cook
1862-1863	Samuel Hubert	1930-1931	Percy Edwards	2001-2002	Alan Turner
1863-1864	Percival Spurling	1931-1932	William Costello	2002-2003	Robin Doran
1864-1865	James Vining	1932-1933	William Hepden	2003-2004	Michael Lepper
1865-1866	John Walker	1933-1934	Stanley Palmer	2004-2005	David Holliday
1866-1867	Arthur Cawthorn	1934-1935	George Ellis	2005-2006	Michael Hall
1867-1868	Henry Phillipps	1935-1936	Geoffrey Mott	2006-2008	Nicholas Carr
1868-1869	Christopher Ellerby	1936-1937	William Symmons	2008-2009	Reginald Denby
1869-1870	William Hagell	1937-1938	Adam Brown	2009-2010	Robert Dalrymple
1870-1871	Edward Bacon	1938-1939	Walter Pollock	2010-2011	Hubert Lacey
1871-1872	James Hammack	1939-1940	John Bellman	2011-2012	Peter Baker
1872-1873	William Alexander	1940-1945	Percy Mott	2012-2013	Gary Morley
1873-1874	Joseph Surr	1945-1946	Henry Mott	2013-2014	Deirdre Bradshaw
1874-1875	Henry Wild	1946-1947	Rudolph Brunner	2014-2015	Michael Jones
1875-1876	Charles Wild	1947-1948	Cuthbert Spurling	2015-2016	Bill Mahony
1876-1877	Frederick Carritt	1948-1949	Ernest Millwood	2016-2017	Terence Wright
1877-1878	William Brook	1949-1950	Ashe Lincoln	2017-2018	Richard Hanney
1878-1879	George Summers	1950-1951	Horace Palmer	2018-2019	Timothy Cooke OBE
1879-1880	Frederic Hall	1951-1952	Aubrey Ellis	2019-2020	Alison Gowman
1880-1881	Thomas Burrowes	1952-1953	John de Savary	2020-2021	Margaret Coates
1881-1882	James Howes	1953-1954	Douglas Abbott	2021-2022	Margaret Coates
1882-1883	Robert Ransom	1954-1955	Terriss Bowler	2022-2023	Stephen Gilbert
1883-1884	Percy Spurling	1955-1956	Archibald Lightman	2023-2024	Anthony Mitchell
1884-1885	Robert Durham	1956-1957	William Warne	2024-2025	James Minett
1885-1886	James Harrison	1957-1958	John Harmer		
1886-1887	John Billingham	1958-1960	Harry Humber		
1887-1888	George Pepler	1960-1961	Thomas Taylor		



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www.plaistererslivery.co.uk #theplaisterers



The Worshipful
Company of Plaisterers



plaisterers
company



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Official Livery photographs: Phil McCarthy. www.philmccarthyphotography.smugmug.com

Front cover: Master with the King's Foundation bursary student Karen Skeets.

Back cover: The Master & Consort with 282 Air Cadets at the Elsworth competition.