What sets a Gold award winner above the rest is what that person has contributed to the craft as a whole through his knowledge of the craft and its history, the imparting of that knowledge to future smiths, the promotion of the craft through shows by exhibiting, demonstrating and organizing, and his total enthusiasm and commitment to the craft as a whole over a long period of time.

The one person who fulfills all these criteria in my opinion is Robert Hobbs.

Quote by Hector Cole
The New Prime Warden

John Smith was elected and installed as Prime Warden at the Election Court on Thursday, 28 July. He has shown his commitment to the art and mystery of blacksmithing through his work as Chairman of the Craft Committee. During that time he became well known to the working blacksmiths, not only those with a direct involvement with the Company but also a wider circle, through his regular appearances at the various county shows.

He has shown a great interest in the craft and, to an extent, that is no surprise as he completed a two-year apprenticeship in the shoe machinery industry before going to Clare College, Cambridge to read Engineering.

After Cambridge University John joined the Leicester based family dairy business, Kirby and West. It was established in 1868 but has been under the control of the Smith family since 1919. His brother and sister are also in the business and they have worked together for over 40 years.

John was born in Leicester and went to Oakham School and now lives on a farm five miles outside Leicester with his wife, Louise. Their elder son is also a member of the Livery while their other son works with his father in the dairy business. Their daughter lives in Spain thus enabling John and Louise to indulge their love of travel.

With such a proven commitment to blacksmiths and The Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths another positive year in the life of our Ancient Company is assured and we wish John and Louise a very enjoyable and successful year.

The Outgoing Prime Warden’s Diary

The very last formal Company occasion for the Prime Warden John Shreeves was the Election Court at the end of July but before that there are many other roles to be played. One of the more prestigious is to attend one of the Garden Parties at Buckingham Palace.

Before then the list of important events included:

- Plaisterers Company Dinner
- Founders Company Dinner
- Reception at Mansion House National Inventory of War Memorials
- Ironmongers Company City Dinner
- Masons Company Luncheon
- City visit to Treloars Masters and Prime Wardens
- Mansion House Dinner
- United Guilds Service Dinner
- Chartered Surveyors Company Luncheon
- Wheelwrights Company Reception
- Water Conservators Luncheon
- The Hon. The Irish Society Annual Service
- Plumbers Company Ladies Dinner
- Loriners Company Luncheon
- Sons of the Clergy Dinner
- Vintners Company Pewter Live Exhibition
- Pewterers Company Luncheon
- Guild of Security Professionals Reception
- Mansion House Livery Weekend
- Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust Service and Reception
- Society of Knights Bachelor

(Events in bold type are City wide occasions.)

In his remarks at the Election Court John Shreeves observed that there is a certain feeling of relief mingled with regret in coming to the end of his year in office. He thanked the Wardens and all the Members of the Court for their support and camaraderie throughout the year. He did not list all the events at which he had represented the Company but stated how proud he had been to be Prime Warden on such occasions.
On an extremely hot June weekend The Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths brought to life the art of the blacksmith through a series of live demonstrations at the Wimbledon Village Fair. Billed as one of the village fairs principle attractions the Worshipful Company and their team of blacksmiths helped to attract an estimated 15,000 people to the Wimbledon Guild’s annual fundraising event. The Wimbledon Guild of Social Welfare to give it its full title was established in 1907 as a society to promote what is today the welfare state. It now helps over 5,000 people annually, both old and young, throughout the London Borough of Merton.

Our participation in the fair was made possible through the generosity of our sponsors, Young & Co, Brewery plc, The Ram Brewery, London, and the hard work put in by Peter Begent, the Company is indebted to both of them. We were only sorry that Peter was unable to join us to witness the success in helping the village fair raise over £20,000 during the day’s events.

The Company raised £225 for The Wimbledon Guild of Social Welfare, in the making of a Rams Head Corkscrew which was raffled. The significance of the Ram bore a dual role, it is not only a traditional item crafted by blacksmiths but the Ram is also synonymous with our sponsors. Indeed John Young, the company’s chairman, close affinity to animals gives him a link with the City. Not only does his company keep a Ram at their brewery they also have some of the finest dray horses in England who’s job it is, when they are not carrying hogs of beer, to draw the Lord Mayor’s coach through the streets of London.

It was a most pleasing feeling to see Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths Coat of Arms alongside that of the Corporation of London and to know we were both supporting such a worthy charity. The Corporation has donated substantial funds to the Wimbledon Guild through the Bridge House Trust and their logo is predominately displayed on many of the Wimbledon Guild Vehicles. Consequently we were not only able to promote our craft but to also play our part in helping to raise the profile of the City within a London Borough.

As for our stand a great deal of interest was shown in our smiths as they worked in the scorching heat to produce some fine examples of their craft. However, the most rewarding item produced was not the most sophisticated. The making of nails one of the simplest items attracted a number of small boys who not only left our stand delighted with their new possession but encouraged others to ask for one of their own. It would appear that the making of these nails immediately preceded a medieval awareness week at their school at which our nails were subsequently exhibited.

After a hard days work under a sweltering heat the smiths retired to The Fox and Grapes, for some well deserved refreshment. The Fox and Grapes could not have been a more fitting end to a perfect day. For those of our readers who are not familiar with this particular hostelry it once served to quench the thirst of students and their tutors at COSIRA’s first school for blacksmithing. Therefore, we can assume that Tommy Tucker, who was not only one of the principle teachers at the school but inspired so many within our industry, would have also frequented this establishment.

Whilst sipping our beer it was unanimously agreed by all the blacksmiths taking part that our stand had been a resounding success, a sentiment that was obviously shared by the organisers who have asked if we would be prepared to return next year.

Richard Chellew

Wimbledon Village Fair

Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths
Coming Home

Sue Pennington believed it was the wish of her Father in Law, Alfred William Pennington, to bring home the Freedom Casket to the Blacksmiths Livery Company. Alfred, Prime Warden of the WCB in 1984, acquired the casket through the kind auspices of his successor as Prime Warden, Wing Commander Vere Smyth. As you can see from the photograph it combines the artistic imagination and the wonderful skills of the Blacksmith.

The note inside the Casket says: ‘Presented to Sir William Arrol (1839-1913) by the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths on the completion of his construction of the Forth Bridge, 1889.’

There was a “Special Court” held on 22 May 1890 and the Clerk read the resolution:

‘That the freedom and Livery be presented to Sir John Francis Fowler Bart KCMG Past President Institution of Civil Engineers, Sir Benjamin Baker KCMG Member of Council Institution of Civil Engineers, Sir William Arrol, Member Institution of Civil Engineers, in commemoration of the completion of Forth Bridge.’

The Bridge connects the villages of North and South Queensferry and remains an integral part of the east coast Railway route north. The bridge is a ‘must do’ stop for millions of visitors to Scotland every year and is one of the most photographed heritage sites in UK.

The Illustrated London News in 1889 described the Forth Bridge as: ‘A long stride over space . . . the longest distance between supports yet covered by mechanical means.’

The bridge designer, Benjamin Baker, described the project as: ‘A romantic chapter from a fairytale of science.’

From the Editor

This is my second Newsletter and my vision for the future is to give an opportunity:

> To provide a twice yearly conduit that strengthens information exchange between the Court and the Liverymen.
> For all Liverymen to have a voice in the production of the Newsletter and I would welcome any direct approach. 
> Editor – email: chrischilds10@aol.com Telephone: 01622 831558
> To encourage the support of all our local Blacksmiths by promoting attendance at the County shows and visiting their forges.
> To continue articles on our practising Blacksmiths and encourage open discussion for craft development.
> To run articles on City activities, military achievements and sponsorship work.
> To seek out the interesting stories behind our talented people.
> To write articles on the sporting interests and hobbies of Liverymen.
> To advertise charity events and encourage sponsorship events.
> To advertise the WCB shop – Umbrellas, jewellery, clothing, et al. – all profits help the Blacksmiths cause.
A Working Blacksmith

Rodney Cranwell

In 1998 Channel 4 filmed ‘In the day of a Blacksmith at the Forge’ and Rodney and his father were featured and their contribution to the village life as blacksmiths highlighted. Sadly 3 days after the programme was broadcast his father passed away.

In July 1931 Rodney was born in the house in which he now lives and in 1965 he married Daphne, who has shared his enthusiasm for Blacksmith work. Unfortunately he caught rheumatic fever at an early age which precluded National Service and meant he had to work on a farm. He started working with his father in 1950 and in 1960 it was decided that Rodney would go to R.I.B. in Wimbledon (which later became COISRRA) to train in wrought ironwork and general blacksmithing under the tuition of such well known teachers as Augusta Zanni, Bert Bolland, Tommy Tucker and Frank Day.

When his father retired Rodney took over the business and decided to build himself a new forge nearer to his house. Rodney had no experience at building but with the help of a friend, working weekends and evenings, the project was completed in a year.

In 1978 he was one of four English smiths to be invited, through the Crafts Council to train and work at Hereford; this was a first for blacksmiths. In the same year he was asked to be a founder member of BABA. On returning from Hereford the following year he started to experiment and use the different world wide techniques he had learnt. Rodney’s name as a wrought iron smith became well known country wide. His wide ranging clientele has included Lambeth Palace, National Trust houses, Cathedrals, village signs and The Royal Family both at Sandringham House and Highgrove House. He and Daphne were invited to attend the official opening of the Prince of Wales New Orchard Room at Highgrove and he was thanked personally for his workmanship.

Following a heart attack in 2002, Rodney sold his workshop and enlarged their house to incorporate his parent’s house. Nevertheless he continues to help young blacksmiths to become established and passes on his considerable experience and knowledge at the Dancing Anvil Forge.

In 2003 Rodney received an Honorary Life membership to NAFBAE for 50 years’ continuous membership, an organisation he had served as President and as a founder member of their craft committee. He still found time to be a church warden and a Parish councillor and in his younger days he performed as part of a Country and Western group.
It was brave of the Prime Warden to choose a Friday the thirteenth for his weekend to Bath. 34 people were expected and they started to arrive at the Francis Hotel, Queen Square, following the customary pattern, those from furthest away arriving first except those who had checked in the previous evening. The weather being clement most people decided to stroll around Bath, before dinner and although early in the season the City was quite busy with tourists.

The lounge began to fill up as people assembled for dinner and as usual all the ladies looked stunning. The Prime Warden welcomed everybody by offering drinks and handing them round. Dinner was in a private room and was well cooked, pleasantly served and with a reasonable wine list. The evening held one surprise. At the end Peter Rayner rose to thank the Prime Warden for a most enjoyable weekend as this was the only occasion the group was on its own. It was more a grace, for what we are about to receive may we thoroughly enjoy.

Next day, after breakfast, the first event was a modest walking tour of Bath. We were divided into two groups. One contained our two working smiths, Don Barker and Peter Begent and our archivist who was amazed when the lady guide greeted him as an old friend. This group visited a lady’s hairdresser situated in an old forge located outside the original city walls. The salon contained the 18th. century forge bellows still pointing towards the alcove where the hearth used to be.

Luncheon was a free time so Tim and Cathy Herring, our resident bon viveurs, arranged for a small group, including the Fourth Warden, to eat at The Hole in the Wall.

Later the group walked to the Baths to greet the Mayor of Bath and his Lady at a drinks reception before sitting down to another excellent meal. The Prime Warden said a few words and the Mayor replied with some kind words of thanks. He must have enjoyed himself for he was still there almost an hour after he was due to leave. The terrace restaurant location overlooked the Great Bath, which was lit with gas flares and provided a most fascinating sight when it got dark. Later everyone ambled back to the hotel and despite being in black tie felt quite safe to walk amongst the crowds of merry youngsters.

Sunday dawned and was real Prime Warden’s weather, bright and sunny. After breakfast the group assembled at Dyrham Park and spent a couple of leisurely hours wandering, some to the house, some to the shop and some to the attractive grounds before proceeding to our luncheon rendezvous, Hinton Grange. Rodney Lyons got lost but the Renter Warden had a new satellite guidance system which despite taking him on a tour all round the Park, still located the lunch venue before anyone else. The Hinton Grange is a gem and the whole ambience for the carvery lunch most relaxing. The weekend programme completed, everyone thanked John and Jean for a thoroughly enjoyable and memorable weekend.

The Prime Warden’s weekend next year will be centred on Leicester and it is hoped to encourage some new blood to support the event.

Water Flea
The Annual Banquet at the Mansion House remains one of the most prestigious events in the Company’s calendar. The Prime Warden John Shreeves welcomed 281 people at the reception and without doubt the evening met the expectation of everyone.

The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor, Alderman Michael Savory not only permitted us to use the Mansion House but headed a most distinguished Company Guest List. During the proposal of the Civic Toast, the Prime Warden stressed the strong links the WCB has with the military and presented a cheque for the Lord Mayor’s Appeal 2005. The monies were specifically directed at one of the Lord Mayor’s nominated charities The Soldiers, Sailors, Army and Airmen Association (SSAFA). This charity has been providing care and welfare assistance since 1885 to serving and ex-Service men, women and their families, including widows and widowers in need. The website HYPERLINK "http://www.ssafa.org.uk" www.ssafa.org.uk is most enlightening.

The music provided by Stephen Fletcher and the London Banqueting Ensembles during the evening was second to none, with the highlights being the Fanfare ‘Hammer and Hand’, Coach Horn Gallop and Post Horn Gallop. The acoustic qualities of the Mansion House provide a wonderful environment for these special pieces of music.

The Blacksmiths Song which was written by the Prime Warden, Moses Kipling back in 1828 was sung superbly by Dominic Barrand and roused the usual emotions within our proud Company.

By the time the carriages were called the editor had heard no complaints about any aspect of the evening which yet again reflects so well on the behind the scenes hard work and skill of the Learned Clerk to capture the desires of the Prime Warden, Wardens and Liverymen.

The Guild of Freemen of the City of London

To mark both the election of Liveryman Leslie Lewis and his year as Master of the Guild of Freemen of the City of London, a joint Dinner was held with the Members of the Court of the Guild and our own Court at the Tallow Chandlers’ Hall. It was a most convivial evening and we hope that it will be the forerunner of a very happy year for Leslie so ably supported by his wife, Diana. Leslie joined the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths in 1999.
Thames Barge Driving Event 2005

The race theme for this year's Thames Barge Driving Event was Trafalgar – what else. The crews consist of a maximum of four Freemen and two Apprentices and they use a skilful combination of tide, currents and powerful rowing to transit for seven miles between the Palaces of Greenwich and Westminster. The barges replicate the heavy cargoes that were transported on the Thames and to prove the skill coloured pennants were collected from designated roads en route. The photographs show the immense strength and stamina needed to operate the three paddles. The Editor realises that he is past it.

An extract from the history of the Company of Watermen and Lightermen of the River Thames states: “Another famous Thames waterman was Samuel Shillingford, who was Lord Nelson’s favourite coxswain. He was killed in the Battle of Teneriffe (1797) by the same shot that deprived Nelson of his arm.”

Bob Shillingford is an Honorary Assistant to the Company and he has traced that Samuel was an ancestor of his.

Military Corner

This issue cannot be printed without comment being made of Admiral Nelson and the Battle of Trafalgar (21 October 1805).

As HMS Victory passed astern Vice Admiral Villeneuve’s flagship, she fell foul of the Redoubtable of 74 guns, and her quarterdeck became exposed to the musketry fire from the French Flagship’s tops. Nelson, whilst standing talking to Captain Hardy, fell mortally wounded by a shot on the left shoulder, which striking obliquely downwards passed through the spine. He was carried below and died some three hours later, just as the battle ended in decisive victory for the English. The enemy’s fleet annihilated.

Nelson’s body was brought home, and after lying in state at Greenwich, was interred with much pomp in the crypt of St Paul’s.

An Editorial View

The military connection with the Blacksmiths is so very strong. The Prime Warden presents the Blacksmiths Army Cup to the best REME craftsman at the Awards Luncheon held in October each year. The Company has historic links with the Gunsmiths, Armourers, Wheelwrights, to count but a few areas that deserve exploring. Finally within our midst there are several Liverymen with strong military links and interesting stories to tell from the past and of the future. So we will use our contacts and this wealth of talent to bring interesting new slants to the Newsletter.

A Good Read

Dudley Anderson is one of our respected Liverymen in the Blacksmiths and he has written a book entitled Three Cheers for the Next Man to Die (ISBN 0-7090-7706-X). It is a personal account of the action seen by an 18 year-old conscript who along with a hundred others of his age was volunteered into the Red Devils to form D company of the Glider Battalion in the Sixth Airborne Division during the Second World War.
Lest We Forget

Petty Officer Norman Walton died this year aged 84 and was the only survivor of the 765 crew of the cruiser HMS Neptune, sunk off Libya in 1941, whilst leading Force K, a cruiser raiding squadron sent to intercept and destroy an important Italian convoy carrying Panzer tanks, troops and supplies to Tripoli. Neptune became trapped in a minefield 12 miles offshore, struck four mines in three hours and sank with the loss of 764 officers and men.

Thanks to his courage, tenacity and supreme physical fitness, Walton survived three days in the water and two on a raft before being picked up by an Italian torpedo boat. After 15 months in Italian PoW camps, he was released in 1943.

Walton later gave a dramatic account of the sinking:

"We had been at action stations since 8pm, when soon after midnight there was an explosion off our starboard bow. The captain stopped engines and went astern but we hit another mine, blowing the screws and most of the stern away. Then we were hit abaft the funnel. We were ordered up top and had a bad list to port and were down in the stern. The destroyer HMS Kandahar came up to take us in tow. With seven others, I was asked to go forward to help with the tow, but Kandahar then hit a mine and slewed off. Then we hit a fourth mine and we were lifted up and dropped back again. I got the Petty Officer off the forecastle from beneath the anchor chain but he had broken his back. Four of us – Price, Middleton, Quinn and me – climbed down the anchor. We jumped in, but I wanted somewhere to swim to, not just float around, and when I saw a Carley raft I jumped in and swam to it.

I took the tow rope back to Middleton, who had no lifejacket, and when we got back to the raft it was crowded – about 30 people on and around it. We saw the ship capsize and sink, and gave her a cheer as she went down. We picked up the Captain who was clinging to what looked like an anchor buoy, and he and three other officers finished up on a cork raft attached to ours. The sea was thick with oil and most of us had swallowed a lot of it. A few died around us that night and at daylight there were 16 of us left. The weather was pretty rough, and two officers tried to swim towards the Kandahar, but they never made it.”

Since there was no room on the raft, I simply hung on to it – periodically swimming around it in circles in order to keep warm. By the fourth day there were only four of us left, including the captain, who died in my arms that night. I was in the water for three days before being able to find room aboard the raft. Most of the lads just gave up the ghost, but I was very fit because of playing so much sport and this is probably why I survived.

I had a smashed leg, and by Christmas Eve on the fifth day there was only Price and myself left. I saw an aircraft, waved to it and an hour later an Italian torpedo boat came alongside and threw me a line. I collapsed when I got on board and woke up on Christmas Day in a Tripoli hospital. They told me Price was dead.”

When he was picked up, Walton found that the oil in the water had temporarily blinded him: “On Boxing Day I got my sight back and looked in a mirror. My tongue was swollen to twice its size and my nose spread away. Still, apart from my broken leg I was almost back to normal by New Year’s Day, when I was put on a ship bound for Italy full of German and Italian troops going on leave.”

In 1941, before joining Neptune, Walton served in the destroyer Janus. He was then drafted to the crew of a whaler taking supplies along the North African coast to Tobruk; the boat was sunk by enemy aircraft, and Walton spent several hours in the water before being rescued.

Later that year, he was serving at Alexandria in the depot ship Woolwich. The submarine Tetrarch was alongside and he was invited down “for a wet” to celebrate a friend’s birthday. After a bottle of rum had been consumed, Walton suddenly realised that the submarine had sailed, and he was added to the “next of kin” list. As they left Alexandria harbour, Walton dived in and swam back to the breakwater, returning to his ship undetected.

Tetrarch never returned from patrol, and his parents received a telegram saying that he was missing; Walton had some explaining to do. He joined Neptune on 13 November 1941.

After his release from a PoW camp in 1943, he served in a frigate on Russian convoys and then in the minesweeper Rowena, before being de-mobbed in 1946.

Called up again during the Korean War, Walton served another five years in the Navy.

Two years ago, when he was 82, Walton was mugged by two youths who demanded his wallet. Walton told them: “You will have to get it out of my pocket,” and – as one of the men leaned forward – the former boxer butted him on the nose, then landed a left hook on the second and struck both of them with his stick. As they ran off, what upset Walton most was not being able to chase after them.”

Courtesy of Commander John McGregor – Neptune Association
2005 County Shows

All the county shows this year went without a hitch and by all accounts the attendances at every show have been extremely good. It was most encouraging to see that the Norfolk show was so well attended as it has replaced the East of England Show at Peterborough. Particular thanks must go to Clive Mockford for helping Peter Begent to organise the Ardingly Show. Sadly Peter is no longer with us but he did manage to make the journey in July to judge at the Great Yorkshire Show, which was blessed both by unusually sunny weather during its three day run and a record numbers of visitors.

The Prime Warden made a sterling effort and managed to attend all the shows, even presenting some of the awards. I can say, as a show organiser myself, that this was very much appreciated by all the organisers. Thank you Prime Warden!

The list of show dates for 2006 can be found on the back page of this Newsletter. Liverymen are encouraged to attend at least one of them and make themselves known to the organisers who will give them a warm reception and really welcome the interest.

Assistant, Don Barker FWCB
Steward, Great Yorkshire Show

2006 Show Dates

We all have a great pride in introducing a real Blacksmith to our friends at luncheons and other WCB events, and so the next step is for all of us to support them and their fellow craftsmen at the local County shows. By giving at least 7 months notice it is hoped that most Liverymen could attend one of the shows and thereby help raise our Company profile.

| North Somerset | 1 May |
| Devon County Show | 18-20 May |
| Royal Bath and West | 31 May-3 June |
| South of England | 8-10 June |
| Three Counties | 16-18 June |
| Royal Highland | 22-25 June |
| Royal Norfok | 28-29 June |
| Royal Show, Stoneleigh | 2-5 July |
| Great Yorkshire | 11-13 July |
| Royal Welsh | 24-27 July |
| New Forest and Hampshire | 25-27 July |
| Edenbridge and Oxted | 28-29 August |

New Member of the Court

A further Court vacancy occurred recently after ‘Mac’ Head was granted Emeritus Status. Michael Shepherd had previously been nominated and his candidature was submitted to the Ladyday Court meeting. He was elected as an Assistant. He swore the Oath of an Assistant and took his seat at the Midsummer Court.

Michael is a financial adviser based in Marlow. His Father Brian is also a Liveryman and he has experience of the workings of the Court having been an assistant to a previous Clerk. We look forward to the contribution that Michael will make to the Company.

Royal Ascot in York for 2005

This year Royal Ascot moved to York whilst the Berkshire Course is being refurbished and David and Ann Woodings used the occasion to invite Don and Michael Barker with their wives Barbara and Karen, to join them in the Royal Enclosure. The party saw the opportunity to pose for this photograph in front of the award winning stainless steel gates which Don designed and made for Rowntree Park in 2002. A great time was had by them all but it was perhaps wise that the picture was taken en route to rather than from the racecourse.
Obituaries

**Delwyn Distin Dennis**

It would be possible to fill several pages outlining the achievements of Past Prime Warden, Delwyn Dennis who died on 30th July aged 91.

Born in the West Country he devoted his life and energies to the City of London. He distinguished himself throughout the Second World War both as a member of the British Expeditionary Force and the D. Day landings for which he was awarded the OBE. He rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

After the War he joined Canada Life Assurance and rose rapidly to Vice President and General Manager in London, following his successful development of a sales operation and then was appointed Senior Vice-President on the international Management Board. Commuting between London and Canada became a regular pattern in his life.

He was supported in all his endeavours by his wife Madge who, sadly, died before Delwyn was elected Prime Warden of the Company. In addition to a successful year in that role Delwyn’s financial expertise and judgment have been available to the Company and we have benefited accordingly.

Delwyn’s achievements were manifold but his name will be perpetuated in this Company though the Tonymandy Cup. He donated it to the Company in memory of our Honorary Court Member Viscount Tonymandy (George Thomas former Speaker of the House of Commons). Delwyn always took a great interest in the award and was pleased that it has consistently presented for an outstanding piece of the skill and artistry of the blacksmith in accordance with his stated intention.

**Richard Grafham**

Richard Grafham died suddenly in May this year aged 55.

He became a Liveryman in 1989 the same Michaelmas Court as his brother-in-law, the Fourth Warden, John McCuin. He was a computer systems specialist and had responsibility for major projects, both domestic and overseas. He and his wife Helen had attended many Company events including the Prime Warden’s Weekend and we extend our sympathies to her and their two children.

However, it is to his father, Liveryman Stanley Grafham, that our thoughts turn. As well as losing a son, within one month of that sad event his wife also died. There are times when even the richness of the English language cannot adequately express the sympathy that we wish to extend to Stanley.

**Peter William Begent**

Peter Begent died on Tuesday 30 August just a few weeks short of his 71st birthday and the Company extends sincere sympathies to Janice and their three daughters.

Peter’s commitment to Blacksmithing and the Worshipful Company were immense and very apparent. The Craft Committee benefited from his experience and expertise. He gave of his time freely to help organise County shows and took an active part both with the tools and as a member of the judge’s panel. Peter was admitted to Livery in 1981 and was a strong and enthusiastic supporter of all activities.

Over 200 people attended his funeral at Leatherhead on Thursday, 8 September and the eulogy outlined the wide ranging commitments and respect he commanded from fellow professionals, the community at large and loving family.

New Liverymen

The Midsummer Court witnessed the admission of a third lady to the Livery when Gay Widmer took the Oath. She has long-standing connections with the City as a friend of St. Paul’s Cathedral, a Friend of City Churches and a Member of the Guild of Freemen of the City of London. Gay is also a member of our Publicity Committee and is working on her first article for the Newsletter on ironwork in City Churches.

At the same Court meeting Raymond Fry was admitted to the Livery. While now retired, he worked as a surveyor on many important projects both at home and overseas. He has already shown himself a keen supporter of the Company as a guest at many events.

Apprentice

Annabel Blanche de Mouilpied Chellow was apprenticed to Citizen and Blacksmith Robert Shillingford and completed the Binding Ceremony at the Midsummer Court. The history and traditions of apprentice admission to the Company will feature in a future Newsletter.

We welcome both of our new Liverymen and apprentice and look forward to seeing them at many Company functions.
Company Diary

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<td>27th</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wardens Court</td>
<td>31st</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Election of the Lord Mayor</td>
<td>29th</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michaelmas Court and Awards Luncheon</td>
<td>19th</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lord Mayor’s Show</td>
<td>11th</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wardens Court</td>
<td>23rd</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carol Service</td>
<td>15th</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Lord Mayor’s Show

The Company has a float in this year’s Lord Mayor’s Show on Saturday 12 November 2005. It is planned that up to 20 Liverymen will accompany the Float on foot, and there will be working Blacksmiths on the Float itself.

The four areas of the float will consist of:
1. a static display of items made by Blacksmiths.
2. musicians predominantly brass, to play throughout the parade.
3. the Prime Warden and Wardens in gowns.
4. a live forging area consisting of two fires and three anvils for the three Blacksmiths to work on the move.

A separate Newsletter issue will be produced as a flysheet.

The Lord Mayor

The Company is very proud that Honorary Member of the Court, Alderman David Brewer, was elected Lord Mayor at Common Hall on 29 September 2005. We wish him a very happy and successful year in office.

To celebrate this ‘first’ for the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths, we have entered a Float in the Lord Mayor’s Show. Full details of our participation in the Show and a profile of the Lord Mayor will appear in a special issue of the Newsletter.

We were pleased that ‘our’ Lord Mayor was able to attend this year’s Banquet at Mansion House on Friday 28 April 2005.

Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths’ Shop

Prices:
- Ties £10
- Umbrella £15
- Cuff Links £49
- Brooches £39

All items available through the kind auspices of our Clerk, Christopher Jeal

www.blacksmithscompany.org.uk

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