



# The Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths

Newsletter  
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Table centrepiece with  
forged figurines

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# The New Prime Warden

**K**eith Gabriel MSc., D.I.C., CGeol., F.G.S., was installed as Prime Warden on 31st July 2008. His election marks a unique occurrence in the history of The Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths; his father, Ralph, who was Prime Warden in 1988/89 is still an active Member of the Court and his elder son, Hugh, was admitted as a Liveryman of the Company at the Michaelmas Court. One of Keith's ancestors, Sir Thomas Gabriel, was Lord Mayor of the City of London in 1866/67.

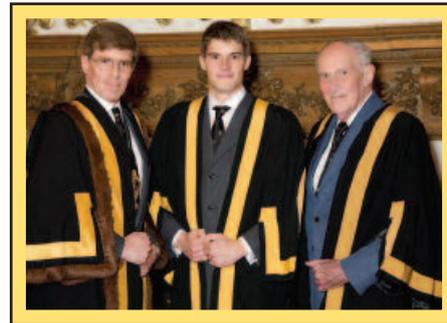
Keith was educated at Oundle where he was awarded a Royal Navy Flying Scholarship and gained his Private Pilot's Licence. After Oundle he gained degrees in Geology at Oxford Brookes and Engineering Geology at Imperial College. He practises as a consultant engineering geologist and has almost thirty years experience in providing specialist advice and services to the construction and building industries. He has

provided expert advice for litigations, arbitrations and public inquiries and has given evidence in the High Court. Keith established his own consultancy in February this year.

He is Chairman of the Ground Forum, an umbrella organisation that brings together the Chairmen and Presidents of associated trade associations and learned societies, which lobbies Government and the wider industry on behalf of the



Prime Warden Keith Gabriel



Three generations: Prime Warden Keith Gabriel, his father, Past Prime Warden Ralph Gabriel, and son, Liveryman Hugh Gabriel

ground engineering community.

Keith lives in the heart of the Kentish Weald in the village of Benenden with his wife, Diana. They have three children; Hugh who works as an environmental scientist, Catherine who is studying at the Royal Agricultural College and John, the youngest, who lives with his parents and is a computer fanatic. Keith's main recreational passion is sailing his own Flying 15 and, in most years, spending a week or two cruising with his family in a chartered yacht.

# The Election Court 2008

**A**t the Election Court held on 31st July retiring Prime Warden, John McCuin, thanked the Wardens and all members of the Court for their support and camaraderie throughout the year.

Mr Keith Ralph Gabriel having previously been nominated as Prime Warden for the year ensuing was unanimously elected to that office.

Alderman Sir David William Brewer was elected Renter Warden, Mr John Spencer McCuin was elected Third Warden and Mr Richard Chellew was elected Fourth Warden.

The Prime Warden then put the following resolution

to the Court "That the grateful thanks of this Court be and are hereby tendered to Mr John Leslie Barber for the very able manner in which he has discharged the several duties pertaining to the office of Warden and for

the great interest shown by him in all matters affecting the welfare of the Company". The resolution was passed unanimously by acclamation.

The Father of the Company, Past Prime Warden Mr P N G Rayner and the Clerk, Citizen and Blacksmith, Mr C R Jeal were both unanimously elected to continue in their respective offices.



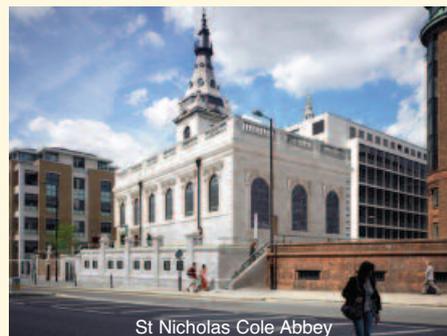
The Indian Necklace traditionally worn by the Prime Warden's wife on formal occasions is passed to Diana Gabriel by Past Prime Warden's wife, Judy McCuin



The Court

# St Nicholas Cole Abbey Past Prime Warden John Barber

**A**s Church Warden of the Blacksmiths' Parish Church, St Andrew by the Wardrobe, I was asked if I would consider becoming the Parish Clerk of one of the parishes held by St Andrew by the Wardrobe. Most of the parishes are dormant and the role of Clerk is merely symbolic. However, I was offered St Nicholas Cole Abbey, which for the third possibly the fourth time in its history, was "rising from the ashes".



St Nicholas Cole Abbey

St Nicholas Cole Abbey in Queen Victoria Street was first mentioned in 1144. It burnt down in 1666 and was rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren. In 1881 church attendance had dwindled to two then, in 1883, a new rector was appointed who installed a bar and arranged a good musical programme and by 1891 the congregation exceeded 450! In 1941 the church was badly damaged during the blitz and remained as a

# Trafalgar Night Dinner 2008 Liveryman Peter Hurford

The “Old Royal Naval College” is not quite as it was. The famous “Chalk Walk”, an underground tunnel linking two wings of Christopher Wren’s buildings containing the main reception room (the bar) and the dining room (the Painted Hall) is suffering badly from damp and in place of the gimlet eyes of many famous admirals which used to stare down from their portraits hung in the alcoves, bare plaster or peeling whitewash gape at the passer-by.

However, like many a faded aristocrat the old Palace carries its worn suit well and its best clothes are very good indeed; the Chapel and the Painted Hall are world class. In these historic surroundings the Prime Warden and 50 Blacksmiths and their guests gathered with 360 others to celebrate Nelson’s great victory and his death at the battle of Trafalgar 203 years ago. Having taken our seats in the breathtaking Painted Hall, we were treated to the full panoply of tradition and ceremony. Military bands are in short supply and the organisers did well to enlist the orchestra of the Royal Artillery. It must be difficult being a bandsman at a dinner such as this, where music competes with conversation and the general goings-on of the serving and consumption of good food and wine, but the balance of volume and content was just right.

Dressed in Nelsonian naval uniform, the Sea Cadets added a great deal of colour to the evening. Lined up at the entrances to the public rooms at the start, they paraded an unlikely looking “Baron of Beef” around the Painted Hall before dinner was served and generally added a very youthful, enthusiastic and traditional naval presence.

There has been so much written and said about Nelson’s life, courage, leadership, morals and tactics that there would seem little new left to say. But originality is not really the aim of the speech dedicated to “The Immortal

Memory” and Vice Admiral Sir Jeremy Blackham did us proud with words not only thought provoking but just as importantly, not too prolific! The dinner had been in full swing for a couple of hours by now, so your reporter’s ability accurately to recall the facts had somewhat diminished! In most cases however, the impression that a speech leaves is more important than its content and this one left a perception of considerable knowledge of the subject and one very different insight into Nelson’s tactics. It seems that Nelson’s famous pre-battle conferences with



The Painted Hall, Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich

his captains had a central theme. In the knowledge that any single RN ship was more than a match for its enemy equivalent, the plan concentrated on how to create chaos in the opposition’s formation in order to maximise the chances of one-on-one contests with the invariable outcome. This worked well even when ship numbers were not in his favour and Nelson’s tactical brilliance was in exploiting his fleet’s advantages irrespective of the deployment of the enemy.

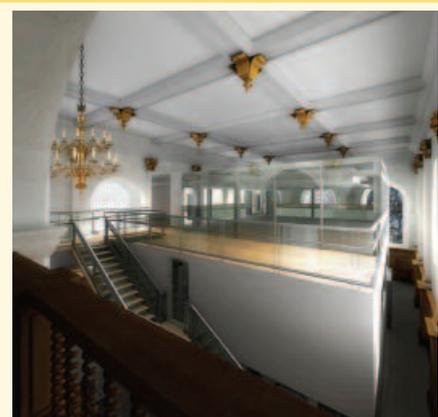
A master class in perfect timing followed, courtesy of five teenagers from the Corps of Drums of the Royal Hospital School, who should have felt at home since their school was based at the ORNC until the Navy arrived in 1869. Their impressively disciplined drumming was given thunderous applause, which only died down when we were led by a delightfully sonorous baritone soloist through a few sea shanties, which at least made us all find our reading glasses before the evening was rounded off by the serenity of a Sunset ceremony, albeit some hours after sunset! It had been a truly splendid evening worthy of any hosted in the Painted Hall during its 124 years of Naval stewardship. It would be hard to better, but the next opportunity should be eagerly anticipated.

shell until being restored to the original plan of Sir Christopher Wren in 1962. Sadly the church was closed some years ago and has remained unused since.

Now, thanks to the efforts of the Culham Institute which has taken a 125 years lease of the building and the generous support of Alderman Gordon Haines and his wife, Caroline, St. Nicholas Cole Abbey has a future. It is to become the National Centre for Religious Education where children and teachers can develop their understanding of Christianity

and other world faiths. It will also become the home base for the Religious Education Council and host national and regional meetings, lectures and seminars.

I am the Chairman of the Fundraising Committee and the only job I have is to raise £7million! Fundraising events are already in full swing and if any member of the Livery would like to visit this wonderful building and or make a contribution towards the cost of its restoration please e-mail me at [johnbarber@lmkendon.co.uk](mailto:johnbarber@lmkendon.co.uk).



Visualisation of the completed interior

## Charitable Trust Chairman: Past Prime Warden John Barber

I last wrote about the Charitable Trust/Bursary Scheme in my capacity as Chairman of the Trust two years ago and believe the time is right to provide a review of the funding.

The Trust has been most fortunate, having been in a position to award five new bursaries following receipt of a donation made by a newly admitted Liveryman and also a generous, anonymous donation – all of which is wonderful. However, the Trust still needs to raise funds if it is to continue awarding bursaries to trainee blacksmiths who might otherwise be unable to continue their studies.

This is an appeal to all Members of the Company. Have you thought about donating £5 or £10 per month to this worthwhile cause? Ten Liverymen, each making a donation of £10 per month to the Charitable Trust, would provide sufficient funds after the Trust had reclaimed the tax under the Government Gift Aid scheme for the Livery to award another bursary.

If you speak to those who have given bursaries they will tell you of their joy at hearing “their” student speaking on Woman’s Hour or seeing Jenny Pickford or Bex Simon, two bursary students, exhibiting at the Chelsea Flower Show and Hampton Court and winning awards.

It is not only bursaries that the Trust provides. There are three categories of grants made to other organisations. There is the ‘standing’ list where the Company supports City charities, such as the Lord Mayor’s Appeal and the City Branch of the British Legion among others.

The members of the Charity Committee will consider other appeals but many have to be disappointed because of lack of funds. Finally, the Prime Warden has funds allocated to him to support causes especially important to him. This may be something like support for a small cancer charity or one of the many charities dedicated to helping children. The annual report shows the breadth of this support.

If you would like to make a contribution these are some of the ways this can be done:

- Small donations under the Gift Aid scheme
- Monthly standing order payments under the Gift Aid scheme
- Remembering the Charitable Trust in your will
- Consider naming a bursary after a loved one
- Naming a bursary after your business.

To help you a combined bank instruction and Gift Aid form is enclosed. Please do support our wide-ranging work by completing the form and returning it to the Clerk.

## The ‘Waverley’ takes members of the Company to see the Tale of two Cities Fourth Warden Richard Chellew

After joining the Prime Warden and his Lady for supper at Zizzi’s in St Katharine’s Dock the Prime Warden’s party made their way down to Tower pier to board the ‘Waverley’. It is difficult to do anything in the City of London without being submersed in the past and this was no exception. Here we were leaving a dock that had been built by French prisoners of war to join a vessel that had been built to replace an earlier vessel with that name that sunk off Dunkirk in 1940.

Once on board this fine paddle steamer I was interested to see how she intended to leave the pier. Vessels of this age often have difficulty in docking or leaving their berth especially in currents as strong as those in the Thames. But I had no reason to fear because as she let go of her bowlines her nose swung round into the centre of the river and with a massive churning of her paddles we were off. Then with that tremendous feeling of excitement and with her decks vibrating to the movement of her engines she signalled Tower Bridge that she wished to pass. It was only then as we made our final approach to pass under Tower Bridge that I noticed a tug making its way in the other direction and I could not help wondering if the Master of that tug had been keeping a weathered eye on us.

It was now time for refreshments and those of us who had remained on deck to witness our departure made our way below to join the others in a saloon that was dominated by loud music courtesy of the jazz band Copperrail Jazz but the atmosphere was fun. We were seated not far from a group of cockneys who whilst not young were energetic and they managed to jive all evening only occasionally stopping to take in alcoholic refreshment.



The paddle steamer Waverley passing under Tower Bridge

However, to my mind the real fun was taking place on deck. Dusk was approaching and as we were given our first glimpse of Canary Wharf, the scale of new buildings becomes apparent. Then on to Greenwich where in addition to the usual setting of the Royal Naval College we were treated to a fully illuminated Ferris wheel and a green laser beam representing the meridian line. I must confess it seemed strange to sail under the meridian line as opposed to sailing over it. From there we passed through the Thames Barrier; another impressive piece of engineering without which parts of London would, on high spring tides, begin to resemble Venice. It was not long after that we found ourselves headed for home.

But the most amazing surprise was passing Canary Wharf on the return journey. It was now late evening and with the lights twinkling from their enormous tower blocks that seem stretch from the stars down to the river frontage I found it breathtaking equalling anything I had seen in New York or Hong Kong. I think that in some way it was a bit of a shock because it is so different from the City I had grown up in and I could not help wondering what the inhabitants of this new conglomeration would have made of the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths.

The evening was now drawing to a close and as we passed under Tower Bridge I noticed that the tug I had seen at the start of our journey was quietly stemming the tide in mid river. As I continued to watch the tug slowly crossed the river to gently nudge us alongside our berth. Safely tied up I now looked up to see the familiar sight of the City I knew and loved, we were home.

# Shepherding Blacksmiths Marion Whitehead

**O**n Friday 19th September the Worshipful Company of World Traders organised a rare spectacle; the re-enactment of the 'right' of a Freeman of the City of London to herd sheep over London Bridge. The Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths provided an impressively large contingent to join in and help raise funds for the Lord Mayor's Appeal.

The excitement started with the Company of Pikemen assembling to the roll of drums, dressed in brilliant red with breastplates gleaming. Their salute to the Lord Mayor (also resplendent in scarlet and with the most extravagantly feathered tricorne hat) was touching as they rested their pikes and muskets and bowed their heads.

The fifteen sheep from Romney Marsh arrived looking bemused by the traffic and the drumming, held on red ropes by their handlers so the lucky Freemen didn't have to do much actual driving – we were told that, if off the lead and frightened,

they were capable of leaping the barriers into the traffic or the Thames – the sheep that is not the Freeman. In black and gold, the Blacksmiths looked imposing and as dignified as possible under the circumstances.



Fourth Warden Richard Chelley leads the Livery with their sheep over London Bridge

Not all the other Liverymen were gowned but many had taken the opportunity to dress up with two

Little Bo Peeps, plenty of lads and lasses in smocks or mop caps, country 'gents' in tweeds with boots or wellies, and one delightful wolf in sheep's clothing.

After the strain of herding their five sheep across the bridge most of the Blacksmiths and their supporters felt the need of sustenance and repaired to Le Coq d'Argent, attracting curious glances as they navigated the work-day City streets to return their robes to Painters Hall clutching, as one was, a large shepherd's crook. Given the turmoil in the financial world around us, the calm serenity of lunch on the roof of No. 1 Poultry amongst vines, trim lawns and manicured box hedges was a surreal experience.

The Worshipful Company of World Traders are to be congratulated on an impeccably organised event which raised £50,000 for the Lord Mayor's Appeal – a truly remarkable result. Later the Mistress World Trader was so kind as to say that had there been a team prize then the Blacksmiths would have won it.

*Photograph by kind permission of Gerald Sharp Photography*

# Singing in the Rain Liveryman Jacqueline Minchinton

**Question:** What combines a religious service, mini-lectures, concerts and an evening stroll in pleasant company.

**Answer:** Beating the bounds of St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe with St Ann Blackfriars.

**T**uesday 29th April found Wardens, members of the Court and Liverymen (ranging in age from 80+ down) in St Andrew's Church being welcomed by the Rector who explained "What We Are Doing – And Why". It was the beginning of a memorable evening.

After the Alderman of Castle Baynard Ward had read the Proclamation we followed the crucifer out of the church. Singing heartily accompanied by pipe and tabor the gathering straggled out to beat the bounds of this ancient parish, which combines more than nine of the tiny ancient parishes of mediaeval London. At key points on the boundaries we learned from experts something of the history of these parishes and its buildings. The office of state that was "the Great Wardrobe", the importance of Doctors' Commons, the place and purpose of the College of Arms. We heard of the plans for the Wren church of St Nicholas Cole Abbey, stopped to reflect on the past by St Ann's Churchyard and thought of Shakespeare in Playhouse Yard. Before we reached our last stopping by St Paul's Cathedral we had paused at Apothecaries Hall, the oldest livery hall in the City, built between 1669 and 1671 and relatively undamaged in the Second World War as a 500lb bomb mercifully failed to explode.

But we were not passive participants. When commanded by the Parade Marshal "Now let us beat this mark" we

ritually beat the ground with our wands proclaiming with conviction three times "Cursed is he that removeth his neighbour's land-mark". We sang with enthusiasm but the singing of the English Chamber Choir was superb and we marvelled at the energetic display of sword dancing by East Saxon Sword at our final halt.

As Robert Frost said "Good fences make good neighbours" and it required no less an adjudicator than the Dean of St Paul's to mediate when the Rector of St Bride's and his supporters contested the rights of the Rector of St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe.

But why "Singing in the rain"? If you were not in the City on the evening of 29th April you may not be aware that it gave new meaning to the description April Showers. The English Chamber Choir sang gallantly from music that threatened to dissolve into pulp. We attracted some stares as this motley gathering; some in colourful costume, others with traditional umbrellas, rain soaked overcoats and a variety of other wet weather gear, traipsed the narrow streets of the City increasingly resembling drowned rats. We looked for any shelter at the various halts and Temple Bar was a welcome sight. But it was enormous fun; there is a certain camaraderie in being totally soaked and I, for one, would be pleased to do it again.

# The Prime Warden's Report

To serve as Prime Warden of our ancient and honourable livery is a fantastic privilege. At the time of writing in late November I am almost a third of the way through my term of office and enjoying every moment!

Serving for several years as a Court Assistant, followed by two years as Fourth Warden and Renter Warden, helps prepare one for the role of Prime Warden but several aspects of the role have come as very nice surprises. Particularly pleasant is the friendliness and family-like atmosphere amongst fellow Prime Wardens, Masters and other Civic Dignitaries. Then there is the enormous variety of events to which a Prime Warden is invited.

I have attended forty eight Livery events in my first four months including thirty eight, hosted by others, representing the Company, as listed, two Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths' social events and seven WCB Court or committee meetings.

If I were to choose a special event from all these it would be our Michaelmas Court and Awards Lunch. Why? Simply because the atmosphere of support by the working smiths for the award winners was quite exceptional; there was rapturous applause for 'Mac' Head on receiving his Companion of the WCB award, and for Michelle Parker, who became the first lady working blacksmith Liveryman when she was admitted into the Livery during the lunch itself. The Master of another Livery Company present as a guest commented more than once on the strength of support between the smiths. I have since received many letters from those present thanking the Company for an outstanding event. A report on the Awards and Michelle's admission appears elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Our two social events to date, the cruise on the paddle-steamer, Waverley, and the Trafalgar Night Dinner, are also reported elsewhere in this Newsletter. Suffice it to say both were very happy occasions which my wife, Diana, and I enjoyed immensely, and both were supported superbly by the Livery, for which I am most grateful.

The events at which the Prime Warden represents the Company fall into five broad categories.

## **Blacksmithing Craft Events**

Supporting our craft and participating in the civic life of the City are the Company's most important functions. The BABA (British Artist Blacksmiths Association) 'AGM', which is primarily a large forge-in combined with a superb exhibition, provided a great first event in my year just two days after the Election Court. It was held at the Weald & Downland Museum, Singleton, where 24 forges had been set up beneath temporary awnings. Despite typical 2008 summer weather – wet – everyone was in high spirits and focussed on the collective creation of a series of trail marker posts for the museum. When a rest from the anvil was required, there were guest presenters, including our own Hector Cole FWCB, bladesmith Owen Bush and Bogdan Popov from the Kiev Folk Museum, describing specialist techniques

Other craft-related events included the last two County Shows on the National Blacksmiths Competition circuit for 2008, the Edenbridge & Oxted and the Dorset County. For the Dorset County Show Simon Grant-Jones pulled out all the stops despite mud-bath conditions (courtesy of more appalling weather) to provide an excellent competition and, in conjunction with the Blacksmiths' Guild, a fine display of ironwork.

As Prime Warden, I was invited to Lucy Quinnell's Fire & Iron Gallery on the occasion of an official visit by HRH the Duke of Gloucester. The Duke was so impressed by Lucy's gallery, where the work of some 200 smiths is displayed, that he requested a private return visit.

In early November the Company hosted a lunch for various members of BABA with the intention of strengthening links between BABA and the WCB, and thanking Terry and Sally Clark for all they have achieved during their tenure as editors of Artist Blacksmith, BABA's superb, world-leading blacksmithing magazine. The occasion also provided an opportunity

to meet the new editor, Proctor Taylor. Our own Newsletter is now being circulated to all BABA members and it is hoped that the relationship will go from strength to strength.

## **Civic Functions**

The election of the Lord Mayor is a grand civic occasion when all Prime Wardens, Masters, Aldermen and other dignitaries process fully robed into Guildhall. The speeches delivered by the Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs gave an insight into the particular challenges of the past year for the Mayoralty.

The most memorable civic event so far was undoubtedly the Silent Ceremony in the Guildhall at which the Lord Mayor takes office. Diana and I were fortunate to be included amongst the Lord Mayor Elect's supporters and were seated on the dais just two rows behind the Lord Mayor so we were very close to the 'action'. Other than the new Lord Mayor swearing the oath the ceremony is conducted entirely in an almost reverential silence. In complete contrast there was a party-like atmosphere afterwards in Guildhall Yard and on the Routemaster buses, laid on by the Lord Mayor, which took us to the West London Synagogue for a service of unity.

"St Paul's will become your second home" I had been told before taking office. What a second home! To date, I have had the pleasure of attending six events there including a special reception in September thanking those Livery Companies which support the Cathedral. The Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths was the second company to be acknowledged, in our case for the donation made towards the cost of refurbishing the gates of the South Churchyard.

The service in the Cathedral marking the 100th Anniversary of the Imperial Society of Knights Bachelor, in the presence of HM The Queen, was another occasion of grand pageantry and included a very powerful address by the Bishop of London.

## **Livery Events**

It would be invidious to select

particular events for special praise. I, together with either Diana or Chris Jeal, have been superbly entertained at all the lunches, dinners and receptions we have attended as official guests. The spirit of fraternity, one of the Livery movement's early principles, is alive and well.

### Events linked to Organisations supported by WCB

Three events warrant special mention. First was the 100th Anniversary Reception for the Reserve Forces and Cadets Association (RFCA), where the host for the evening was our Renter Warden, Sir David Brewer, in his capacity as Chairman of the RFCA. The Reserve Forces are now undertaking not only front line duties in Iraq and Afghanistan, but also the training of regular soldiers.

The Company provided sponsorship for the Elworthy Trophy reported elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Dinner with REME, the Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers, on the evening of our Awards Lunch was another memorable occasion. The Corps entertains in style. We are used to hearing the Posthorn Gallop played on natural trumpets at our Annual Banquet with Steven Fletcher – that is difficult enough – to add an extra challenge, REME's musicians played it on AK47s and Lee Enfields with no modification other than fitting mouthpieces to the muzzles of the weapons! On retiring in the early hours, leaving several officers still in full flow, I made a mental note that there were two more black tie dinners to attend in the next 30 hours. To mis-quote Gilbert & Sullivan, a Prime Warden's lot is a very happy one!

### Charitable Events

Charitable events have included two in support of the Lord Mayor's Appeal. On 19th September, a gloriously sunny autumn day, a party of Blacksmiths, many robed, assembled at London Bridge to take part in the Sheep Drive organised by the Worshipful Company of World Traders, a report of which appears elsewhere in this Newsletter.

The second event was the Grand Finale concert in St Paul's organised by the former Lord Mayor Alderman, David Lewis, to conclude his Appeal. Fabulous violin playing by Catherine

Pike made it an evening to be remembered.

So, having provided a flavour of my activities representing the Company over the past four months, what lies ahead?

The Court has approved a reduction in fines for admission to the Livery for medal holders, Companions and working smiths. It is hoped this will increase further our active engagement with the craft.

The 'Guns and Knives into Roses' event at Odessa Street Youth Club, reported in the last edition of the Newsletter, showed that giving young people an opportunity to try hands-on forging is a way of engaging with them. A similar event is planned for the New Year at Surrey Docks Farm and the concept has been put to Mayor Boris Johnson as it fits well with his campaign against gang violence. The Company cannot fund these events London-wide, but can facilitate them in conjunction with the relevant local authorities and other agencies, so this is seen as an exciting opportunity for blacksmiths to "make a real difference" within London's communities.

An initiative to fund an annual blacksmithing Masterclass for trainee smiths has been launched with details of this elsewhere in the Newsletter.

An Events Committee is being established and, in conjunction with the Learned Clerk, will organise less formal social events. A major objective of this Committee will be to increase the involvement of the Livery in affairs of the Company, so all Liverymen and active Freemen will be contacted in due course to seek their views on the type of events they would be interested in attending.

If you would like to be involved with any of these initiatives please contact either the Clerk or me.

I would also encourage everyone in the Livery to visit at least one of the County Shows next year where the Company is represented; a list of the Shows and their dates will be found on the back page of the Newsletter. The displays of ironwork at the Shows are impressive and the smiths always appreciate the support of the Livery, whether or not the Show is on the National Blacksmiths Competition circuit. You might also find the ideal and unique birthday present for your

nearest and dearest on sale in the blacksmithing display!

I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and prosperous New Year, and look forward to welcoming you to WCB events in 2009.

## List of events at which the Prime Warden has represented the Company

### August to November 2008

BABA AGM & Forge-In at Weald & Downland Museum
Worshipful Society Apothecaries Dinner
Edenbridge & Oxted Show
"The Army for Today" Reception at Skinners Hall
Visit to Jubilee Sailing Trust's TS "Tenacious" at Canary Wharf
Dorset County Show
WC Gunmakers Lunch and tour of Proof House
WC Upholders' Dinner
Sheep drive across London Bridge (WC World Traders)
St Paul's - Recital & Reception for supporters
Election of the Lord Mayor
Reserve Forces & Cadets Association – Centenary Reception at HAC
WC Musicians Evensong & buffet supper at St Pauls
WC Butchers Court & Livery Luncheon
City University – Vice-Chancellor's Address
Elworthy Sword tri-service competition – at Crowborough Camp
WC Painter-Stainers – Art in City 2008 reception
WC Security Professionals Annual Dinner at Guildhall
Guild of Freemen: Reception & Beating Retreat at Guildhall Yard
Fire & Iron – HRH Duke of Gloucester's visit
RAF Benevolent Fund's 90th Anniversary at Imperial War Museum
Construction Livery Group's – Awards Ceremony at Glaziers Hall
REME Dinner
Army Benevolent Fund reception at Household Cavalry barracks
Poppy Appeal Service, St Paul's
WCB-BABA Lunch at Butchers Hall
Lord Mayor's Grand Finale Concert at St Paul's
The Silent Ceremony
Service of Thanksgiving at West London Synagogue
Lord Mayor's Show
WC Clockmakers' Dinner at Mansion House
Imperial Society of the Knights Bachelor – 100th Anniversary service @ St Paul's
Lynn Painter-Stainers' Prize 2008 – Private View
Lord Mayor's briefing at Mansion House
Musicians Benevolent Fund at Westminster Cathedral
MBF Festival lunch @ Banqueting House, Whitehall
WC Cutlers' Court Dinner at Cutlers' Hall
St Paul's 300th Anniversary Appeal Choral Evensong/Reception for Donors

## Requirements for Awards

### Diploma of Merit A.W.C.B

To obtain the Diploma, the blacksmith will have had many years experience and shown competence in making different types of article using a range of techniques. Whilst by this stage in his career the blacksmith will have developed his own 'style' he must also be able to follow accurately the designs of others.

### Blacksmiths' Company Army Cup

Thanks to the enthusiasm of David Waight, an army blacksmithing instructor, the competition for this award has been incorporated into the New Forest Show which he organises. Competition is fierce and we are grateful to the Army for releasing soldiers from postings throughout the world to ensure an effective contest.

### Paul Allen Award

Liveryman Paul Allen was commissioned by the Victoria & Albert Museum to make a bench for its Metals Gallery and chose to pass his fee to the Company so that a cash award could be made to a student on the New Entrants Training Scheme (NETS). The award winner is chosen by Paul Allen as Senior Tutor on the course.

### Stanley Allcard Cup

This cup is awarded to a student at the National School of Blacksmithing in Hereford at the discretion of the tutors. It was presented in memory of Stanley Allcard who was Prime Warden in 1961. His son, Peter, held that office in 2001.

### John Webb Cup

The Cup is awarded to a student at Warwickshire College at the discretion of the tutors. It was presented, by his widow, in memory of Liveryman John Webb, who was a member of the Craft Committee.

### National Championship Blacksmith

The title is awarded to the smith who wins or is runner-up in a maximum number of competitions at designated County Shows. The National Blacksmith Championship Committee approves the participating shows. The winner is presented with the National Championship Blacksmith Cup, a cash prize, a plaque and a certificate. The Reserve (runner-up) also receives a cash prize and a plaque.

### Champion Blacksmith

The title is awarded to the smith receiving the highest total of points from all the County Shows that run a 'hot' or live forging competition. The winner is presented with a cash prize and a plaque. The Reserve (runner-up) also receives a cash prize and a plaque.

### Companion of The Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths C.W.C.B.

This appointment is for men and women who may not be blacksmiths but who have given outstanding service to the craft over many years.

### Licentiate L.W.C.B.

This is an award for teachers who have spent at least three years teaching at a recognised college for blacksmithing. As well as demonstrating skills as a tutor applicants are expected to have achieved Bronze Medal standard for their own work.

### Bronze Medal F.W.C.B.

The holder enjoys the title "Master Blacksmith" and will have produced a wide range of items including larger pieces and demonstrated skill in all forging techniques. Individual design skills must also have been shown.

### Silver Medal F.W.C.B.

The holder enjoys the title "Eminent Master Blacksmith" and will have demonstrated skill in design work and restoration together with knowledge of the craft and its history. Skill and flair in his work will have been obvious before even being considered for this award.

### Presented by The Third Warden

#### STANLEY ALLCARD CUP



Steven Murphy

#### PAUL ALLEN AWARD



Keith Mahoney

#### CAMILLA BOTNAR CUP



Daniel Foreman

### Presented by The Prime Warden

#### DIPLOMA OF MERIT



Christopher Blythman



William Catchside



Graham Collis



James Davies



Ian Moran

# Winnners 2008

*Presented by The Chairman of the Craft Committee, Richard Regan*

**NATIONAL CHAMPION BLACKSMITH**



David Harman

**CHAMPION BEST BLACKSMITH**



Andrew Hall

**RESERVE NATIONAL CHAMPION BLACKSMITH**



Simon Grant Jones

**RESERVE CHAMPION BLACKSMITH**



Richard Jones

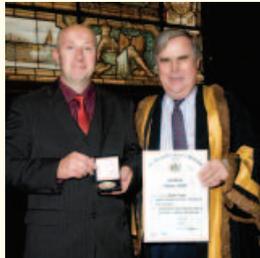
*Presented by The Renter Warden*

**BLACKSMITHS ARMY CUP**



Staff Sergeant Rory Olney

**BRONZE MEDAL**



David Cooper

**BRONZE MEDAL**



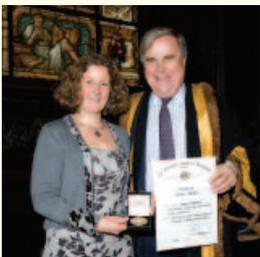
John Creed

**BRONZE MEDAL**



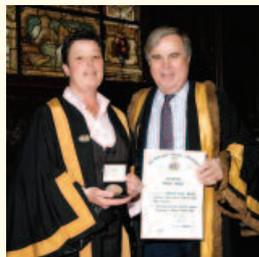
Peter Hill

**BRONZE MEDAL**



Shona Johnson

**BRONZE MEDAL**



Michelle Parker

*Presented by The Prime Warden*

**SILVER MEDAL**



Alan Dawson



Phil Johnson



Pete Oberon



Christopher Blythman

**TONYPANDY CUP**



Peter Parkinson

**COMPANION OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF BLACKSMITHS**



Assistant Emeritus, TFM "Mac" Head

# Paul C Allen FWCB LWCB LCGI *The Paul Allen story*

My first "job" of a morning as an apprentice blacksmith at Cerne Valley Forge was to walk the dogs - around the Cerne Valley giant! My initial experience in forged work was under Frank Day, the instructor from COSIRA (Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas), and I will always remember my first fire weld. Frank, who had been in his office at the time, did not believe it was my own work and made me do it again! He didn't suffer fools gladly but, once accepted, you became one of "Frank's boys". Frank was the driving force behind the forge-work courses at Cannington College and through him I became involved at weekends, helping make the forges and flues and taking material to make elementary forging pieces.

During the three day week I asked to use the free days, supplying my own materials, working on something for the Shows. As my pushbike wasn't quite up to carrying a finished sundial, my Father took it to the Bath & West Show where, to my surprise, I won overall; at that time there was no National Champion Award by the Company. Sir Edward DuCann MP saw the sundial and wanted one for his wife - my first commission.

In 1982, although over age, I was accepted for the COSIRA NETS (New Entrants Training Scheme). Under the tuition of Brian Kendall I achieved "Best Apprentice" and was presented with my Certificate by Colin Bates and Peter Begent, representing the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths. Three years later I was invited to apply for the job as COSIRA Forgework Adviser and my career in training blacksmiths began, carrying on the good work of people like Arthur Elwood, Tommy Tucker and Mick Zani who had been the first Advisers to the Rural Industries Bureau which had been formed in 1920. My area covered the South of England, running open courses in blacksmithing, giving on-site instruction, developing and running NETS courses and providing technical advice; it was daunting to giving instruction, to blacksmiths sometimes twice my age. Eventually I was to cover the whole country following the departure of Joe Hanson and Brian Kendall who retired through ill health.

My first real contact with the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths came in 1988 when I arranged awards for NETS apprentices and then, in 1990, when I was made a Licentiate (assessed by Frank Day and Tommy Tucker) receiving the Diploma of Merit.

Around this time, giving on-site instruction on the Isle of Wight, I gained a wife! Helena was Managing Director of a welding and engineering company and had asked me to train her industrial blacksmiths in the finer points of decorative work. She eventually moved to the "mainland" and we were married in 1996, despite a warning from Tommy Tucker that "blacksmithing is for life - 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year".

To encourage young blacksmiths to display work at

Shows, I made a table during my holidays and won National Champion Blacksmith in 1994. The table now sits within the entrance lobby of the Hall of the Ironmongers Company, who purchased it after the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths' Awards Ceremony which was held there. The proceeds from the sale were used to establish The Paul Allen Award to be presented to the most improved NETS apprentice. This comprises a small bursary and a certificate presented annually at the WCB Michaelmas Court and Awards luncheon.

During this period my work involved me in many different facets of the trade; the Ironbridge Museum had me dressed up in authentic clothing, passing billets of iron through the rollers making lengths of iron; English Heritage asked me to give instruction to their smiths working in the Inner Circle of Regents Park on the making of acanthus

leaves for the gates of Kensington Palace which were being restored, and the Science Museum asked me to design and make an item of forged work demonstrating the processes used in our trade. My Green Man doorknocker was included in its ten-year exhibition of "Materials and Their Uses".

The Goldsmiths Company and the V & A Museum were actively involved in projects helping promote small rural businesses which had apprentices on NETS courses. The former wanted an arch designed and made to complete the landscaping by the Worshipful Company of Gardeners of Zachary Gardens, Gresham Street. By this stage I was a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths and had been

awarded its Bronze Medal so was proud to represent the Company, designing the arch which was then made by four groups of NETS apprentices. One of the features was stylised leopards' head masks representing the London assay mark which gave the apprentices an opportunity to practice their repoussé work. The sample mask I had made and submitted for approval now hangs above the door of the Assay Office (this design is still used by kind permission of the Goldsmiths Company as part of the NETS syllabus to teach repoussé). Fellow blacksmith Steve Rook and Past Prime Warden Hugh Adams kindly assisted with the installation of the arch which happened to be on the day Madonna was filming *Evita*, using the Goldsmiths Hall. Her mobile fitting room was parked next to Zachary Gardens and she could be seen sitting under the hairdryer as the JCB lifted the arch into position!

Shortly afterwards, the Ironmongers Company commissioned me to design a bench seat for the Ironwork Gallery in the V & A Museum. As well as enabling visitors to sit in comfort when looking at exhibits, the bench was to represent the work of apprentice smiths in England. The design incorporated all the main techniques covered in the NETS syllabus and also contained a repoussé motif incorporating the salamander supporters of the



Paul Allen

Ironmongers Company coat of arms.

In 1998 an opportunity arose to buy a cottage in Motcombe, Dorset, with the attached forge still operational. Built in 1857, the forge was originally

part of the Westminster Estate owned by the Grosvenor family. This was a challenging project as the cottage and forge needed much renovation – ceilings were falling in, floor boards were rotten (on the first night our bed fell through the floor) and the chimney of the forge was collapsing. Now 12 years on the restoration is still in progress. This

was also a time of great change in my working life for nothing stays the same. Following its inception in 1920, the Rural Industries Bureau became COSIRA, then merged with the Rural Development Commission, eventually becoming part of the newly formed Countryside Agency. In 2001 the role of the Countryside Agency changed and training was put out to tender. I was made redundant!

Hereford College took over the NETS under the mantle of the National School of Blacksmithing and offered me the role of consultant to continue running the NETS courses.



Table centrepiece with forged figurines

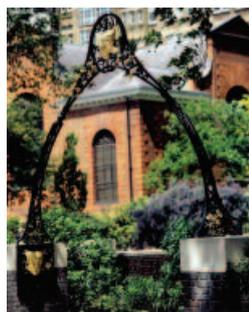


Tiffany lamp

During one training session, I found myself being interviewed by the World Service and Radio 4 (The World Today) in conjunction with the launch of a Report by Professor Collis about rural crafts. Also interviewed were some trainee blacksmiths – a computer programmer, a dairy farmer and a journalist. One of the questions asked was “Why are you down-skilling” and part of the answer given was “This is the hardest thing we have ever had to learn!”

Having my own forge has brought opportunities to accept commissions, the first of which was to make a replica of the City sword on behalf of the Ironmongers Company, to be presented to Sir Michael Oliver on his inauguration as Lord Mayor. I felt very privileged to have been given this commission which was interesting and challenging and for which the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths

subsequently awarded me the Tonyandy Cup in recognition of the work. The Plate Butler stood guard for the full three hours I was taking measurements from the original sword at Mansion House and I remember thinking to myself how tremendously patient he was!



Archway to Zachary Garden, Gresham Street

The second commission was very poignant. The Director of Trusts from The Grosvenor Office felt it was fitting that as a nationally recognised blacksmith working from the original Estate forge, I should be asked to quote for restoring the grave surround of the Marchioness of Westminster in the local cemetery. This Grade II listed monument had been designed in Paris and made by blacksmiths from the Bournemouth area. It was in an advanced stage of decay and many components needed completely remaking, including the coronets which formed part of the Westminster insignia.

The NETS courses and training still play a major part in my life and for the last 23 years I have taken pleasure in training many blacksmiths and apprentices, who subsequently set up their own businesses. It is very gratifying when these self same smiths send their own apprentices to me for training.

I believe that the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths’ motto “By hammer and hand all arts do stand” is where the true skill of our craft lies and sets blacksmiths apart from other metal-working industries. The forging process is unique; the blacksmiths true identity must never be lost.

## New Liverymen

**Colin Peel** was admitted to the Livery at the Midsummer Court. He was sponsored by Assistant Nigel Whitehead, although Colin had been a frequent guest of other Liverymen over the years. He established his own audio visual company and speculated that electronics might be a modern form of blacksmithing.

While he was Prime Warden John Barber was frequently accompanied by **Wendy Anne Thompson** to help him represent the Company. As a result Wendy has a thoroughgoing knowledge of the Company and the City and we were pleased to welcome her into the livery. She

explained that as an Australian she had become fascinated by the City of London and its Livery Companies having, through her professional life, come to know many Apothecaries and Barber Surgeons.

As well as the importance of the Awards luncheon that followed the Michaelmas Court another significant event was the admission to the Livery of a fourth member of the Gabriel family. **Hugh Ralph Gabriel** was apprenticed to his father, the Prime Warden Keith Gabriel, and while the indenture period ended in October 2007 his admission to the Livery was

deferred until his father became Prime Warden. Watched by his grandfather, Past Prime Warden Ralph Gabriel, it was a rare moment in the history of the Company as Hugh swore the oath and was clothed by the Beadle.

As Court meetings go the Michaelmas Court was full of surprises as the admission of **Michelle Parker** to the Livery showed. This is detailed separately and we wish all the new Liverymen a very happy time with the Company and look forward to seeing them at future Company events.

# Michelle Jayne Parker Christopher Jeal

There is nothing sinister or secret about the Ceremony of Admission to the Livery which has been conducted for centuries. The key element is that it has to take place at one of the Quarterly Court Meetings and, as a result, is seldom witnessed by others than Members of the Court, the candidate, his or her family, the Clerk and the Beadle.

There are five elements:

- The formal introduction of the candidate and sponsor
- The assurances gained by the Prime Warden of the suitability of the candidate and confirmation of their wish to become a Liveryman
- The Oath
- The introduction to the Members of the Court
- A speech from the new Liveryman

Michelle is the first working lady blacksmith to be admitted to the Livery. At the Awards luncheon she was also to be presented with her Bronze Medal and the Wardens wanted to ensure that these two events coincided. All would have been well except for a minicab driver who relied on 'satnav' rather than a decent map. Allied to the road closures in the city



Michelle Parker flanked by Prime Warden Keith Gabriel and Past Prime Warden John McQuin after her admission to the Livery

Photography by Mr. O'Sullivan

for the Olympians Parade Michelle was severely delayed in getting to the Chamberlain's Court to receive the Freedom of the City before coming to the Blacksmiths' Court for admission to the livery.

Time was running short and there were awards to be presented between the Court meeting and the pre-luncheon reception. Still no sign of Michelle so the Prime Warden suspended the Court meeting for it to be reconvened after luncheon in the Dining Room with all the Company guests, Liverymen and

their guests still present. So it was that Michelle was admitted to the Livery when the Court was reconvened for just that one purpose. Immediately upon its completion the Prime Warden declared the Michaelmas Court closed.

So it was that those present gained an insight into the ancient ceremony of admission to the Livery.

Despite the unusual nature of her admission ceremony we welcome Michelle to the Livery and continuing success as the Senior Tutor of blacksmithing at Warwickshire College.

## Support our Blacksmiths

We are all aware of the difficult financial conditions that seem likely to face everybody. For the self-employed this will add to their difficulties in securing commissions. There will be opportunities for new works and the Wardens hope that Liverymen will take the opportunity to promote the skills of our Liverymen Blacksmiths whenever possible.

They have approved the inclusion of a list of Liverymen Blacksmiths (even though some may be retired) to encourage the promotion of the skills of the craft. Commissions can be discussed with these blacksmiths. While this list has, deliberately, been confined to Liverymen Blacksmiths a more extensive list of craftsmen is available from the Home Page of our Website.

Godfrey	South	Dartford	Kent
Stephen	Rook	Bushey	Hertfordshire
Michael	Roberts	Stroud	Gloucestershire
David	Price	New Quay	Ceredigion
Brian	Owen	Narberth	Dyfed

Clive	Mockford	Peacehaven	West Sussex
Steven	Miller	Maldon	Essex
Kenneth	Miller	Langford Maldon	Essex
Eric	Lamprell	East Grinstead	West Sussex
Derek	Lloyd	Ledbury	Herefordshire
Robert	Hobbs	Upper Langford	Bristol
David	Harman	Brasted	Kent
Hector	Cole	Chippenham	Wiltshire
Leslie	Armstrong	Hopwath	Staffordshire
Donald	Barker	Wigginton	Yorkshire
Richard	Bent	Modbury	Devon
Paul	Allen	Motcombe	Dorset
Michelle	Parker	Droitwich	Worcestershire
Simon	Ashby	Eardisley	Herefordshire
William	Cordaroy	East Ruston	Norfolk
Rodney	Cranwell	King's Lynn	Norfolk
Raymond	Jones	Burton Hastings	Warwickshire
Patrick	Morrissey	Weston-Super-Mare	Somerset
Charles	Normandale	Warnford	Hampshire

# A Boone for Barker

Small is most definitely beautiful when it comes to Boone's Chapel, one of London's most endangered buildings that has recently undergone a £400,000, year long restoration. This Grade 1 building is named after its founder, Sir Christopher Boone, a wealthy London wool merchant.

Christopher Boone was born in Somerset and followed his father as a wool merchant. He became a Member of the Court of the East India Company and was subsequently admitted to the Freedom of the City of London. Christopher, and his wife Mary (nee Brewer) lived for many years at Lee Place an Elizabethan mansion just outside the City in Lee, which is now part of the London Borough of Lewisham.

He founded a charity the Deed for which is dated 2nd June 1683. The charity that bears his name bought land from Mary, Countess of Feversham and erected, at his own cost, four dwellings intended by him as almshouses "for one schoolmistress to teach poor children to read and work and six ancient almspeople (of either sex)." To sustain their spiritual life he erected a chapel for a Chaplain to read or say prayers therein and for a clerk to attend him in the service.

He was buried on 22nd July 1686 in his chapel. He wanted to ensure that the work of his Charity would continue faithfully to his wishes and, as was quite common practice, appointed a City Livery Company to act as Trustee. This was the Merchant Taylor's Company.

The red brick chapel dates from 1682 and stands on Lee High Road in Lewisham. Local legend has it that Sir Christopher Wren, also a member of the Merchant Taylors' Company, was commissioned to design and build the chapel although it is more likely that his protégé, Robert Hook was the designer.

Originally built with four adjoining almshouses, Boone's Chapel is a single-storey, rectangular building just 45 square metres in size. The Chapel is all that remains of the founder's estate. The design of the exterior is grand and combines fine brickwork with detailing in Portland stone beneath a complex, pyramidal roof topped by a cupola.

The original road took a right-angled turn, up a hill, just by the chapel. It is recorded that on one occasion a carter coming down the hill could not control his horse and complete the turn and so crashed through the front

doors of the chapel during a service.

The chapel which had been used as a reading room until the second world war was last used in 1945 for a celebration VE Day Service. Restoration began in late 2006 but was then delayed twelve months following the discovery of the burial chamber of Sir Christopher Boone and his wife.

Court Assistant Don Barker has worked on many of the UK's landmark buildings including Westminster Abbey, and was commissioned to restore the ironwork. He explained "The work consisted of replacing the windows with exact replicas made with stainless steel frames, The existing leaded lights were carefully removed and where possible the original glass re-used. Two of the oval windows had been glazed directly into the stone surrounds so replica stainless steel, opening windows had to be manufactured and fitted to comply with modern-day building regulations.

Early window glass was made by spinning a lump of molten glass on the end of a rod until it formed a large circular sheet of glass which would then be cut – the most expensive pieces were the thinnest, clearest sections around the outer edge and the cheapest was the bull's eye which would be sold to the "less well-off". How times change reflected Don, pointing out that a replica bull's eye window costs more today than the perfect glass now used for glazing. Some windows have been fitted with a layer of safety glass for protection and

security.

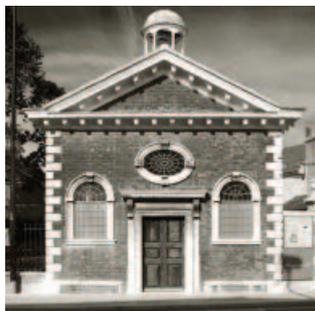
The architect Charlie MacKeith commissioned Don and it is his architectural practice, Research Design (which he runs with Madeline Adams) that now occupies the chapel.

A condition of Heritage Lottery Fund and English Heritage grants was that the building should be open to the public for a minimum of thirty days each year. During Open House London weekend in September the chapel attracted 1,260 visitors.

*Footnote: Our Learned Clerk represents the Ancient Parish of Lee as a Nominator to The Merchant Taylors' Company when a vacancy occurs in the Almshouses.*



The restored windows



Boone's Chapel on Lee High Road in South East London

# BABA Pillar of Friendship Sally Clark CWCB

The International Pillar of Friendship was made during the 2007 British Artists Blacksmiths Association conference and AGM at Ironbridge Gorge Museum, Shropshire. The conference was organised and run by Terrence Clark and a team of UK Blacksmiths.

Under the leadership of Master Smiths from the UK, Germany, Palestine, Israel, Ukraine, Russia, Chile and the USA, three hundred smiths from all over the world gathered and worked collaboratively to forge the fifteen pieces that make up the Pillar of Friendship. Each piece was designed by the Master Smith to represent his or her own interpretation of the theme of Friendship. Contributing

delegates came from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Ireland, Israel, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Switzerland, Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

The aim of BABA is to develop artist blacksmithing and encourage dialogue between people of different cultures thereby helping to break down cultural boundaries.

Patrons of the Pillar and event were David and Rosemary Hufton, from Surrey.



The Pillar of Friendship on its site in Liverpool

# The Elworthy Trophy 2008 Nigel Whitehead

In spite of the cold, wet weather an early October weekend threw at the cadets competing for the Elworthy Trophy this year, their morale and determination was a credit to every one.



Cadets tackling the assault course

The Elworthy Trophy is the Battle of Britain Commemorative Sword presented to the late Marshall of the Royal Air Force, Lord Elworthy KG GCB CBE DSO MVO DFC AFC. When he retired in 1978 as Lord Lieutenant of Greater London, Lord Elworthy presented his Commemorative Sword as a trophy for annual competition between cadets of the three services from within Greater London.

The competition is organised by Lt Col Barry Paddison, Deputy Chief Executive of Reserve Forces and Cadets Association for Greater London. It is held at Crowborough Camp in Sussex and is keenly contested by all the entrants, including female cadets who have been participating since 1984, in the twelve teams (four from each service) taking part. Each team comprises a compulsory age range from twelve to eighteen.

The competition is designed to test the skills included in the syllabus of each organisation and, general physical and mental agility. The events include drill/turnout, first aid, tackling an assault course, command tasks, orienteering and shooting.

Despite challenging conditions the cadets persevered, showing true grit, to complete all the exercises.

The Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths provided sponsorship for the event and was well represented on both days. The winning team, 241(Wanstead & Woodford) Sqn. ATC, looking immaculate after their earlier muddy escapades, was awarded the trophy by Renter Warden, Alderman Sir David Brewer in his capacity as Lord Lieutenant of London.



The Prime Warden and Sir David Brewer with the winning team

Photography by kind permission of Stewart Turkington

## Deputy Lieutenant Appointment

The Company congratulates Past Prime Warden John Barber, M.R.I.C.S., F.A.S.I., F.G.I.S., on his appointment as Deputy Lieutenant of Greater London. A Deputy Lieutenant is likely to be one of several deputies to the Lord-Lieutenant. They are chosen by the Lord-Lieutenant to assist him with any duty that may be required of him. They receive their commission only when the appropriate Minister communicates that Her Majesty the Queen does not disapprove of the appointment.



## The Vulcan Bomber Adrian Oliver

Three and a half years ago I sat opposite Air Chief Marshall Sir Michael Knight at the Blacksmiths' Banquet, who told me he was the Chairman of a group restoring a 1960s Vulcan Bomber to fly again. I wished him well in his endeavours but privately thought that I would believe it when I saw it, as many such projects are started but few successfully finished.



However, last Autumn I was proved wrong and the Vulcan took to the air again. This summer it has been demonstrating its unique flying qualities on the Air

Show circuit drawing a full house at Farnborough.

Why then does this appear in the Blacksmiths' Newsletter? Well, Vulcan is our patron and the Vulcan Bomber played a vital role in our national security during the Cold War and in the recapture of the Falkland Islands. Now flying again, the Vulcan needs a major sponsor to keep it in the air. The pockets of the Blacksmiths' Company are not that deep but hopefully there is a sponsor out there who will benefit from the publicity of keeping an icon aloft. For more information visit [www.tvoc.co.uk](http://www.tvoc.co.uk)

## Gabriel Masterclasses

To commemorate the installation of Keith Gabriel as Prime Warden of the Company while his father, Past Prime Warden Ralph Gabriel, remains a member of the Court, an annual Masterclass is being established funded

by a gift from the Gabriel family.

The Masterclass will be open to apprentice and trainee smiths having between three and five years experience and will be given by a Master Blacksmith who is a medal

holder of the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths. Applicants not attending a full-time blacksmithing course will be given priority.

Full details and application forms will be available from the Clerk.

# Edenbridge & Oxted Show Nigel Whitehead

This hugely popular Show, much loved by families, ran with its usual zest in spite of the cold the late August weekend had to offer. Wherever you went the sounds of adults and children having a thoroughly enjoyable time could be heard. There was a host of events to



The Prime Warden presents Dave Harman with his award

be watched in the ring, trade stands selling all manner of stuff no-one should be without, and exhibitions and craft displays among them the Blacksmiths and the Farriers.

As usual the Blacksmiths had on display a large selection of finished work, some practical, some decorative and some humorous. Close to the display tent was a line of forges where throughout the day intense, live

forging competitions were run. In between, the young daughters of two blacksmiths demonstrated an early aptitude for beating heated metal.

Blacksmiths a plenty there were with, among others, Paul Allen, Simon Grant Jones, Andrew Hall, Dave Harman, Eric Lamprell and Clive Mockford. Over the course of the weekend the Blacksmiths' stand was well supported particularly by members of the Company.

An Auction of the items made by blacksmiths, ably conducted by Past Prime Warden Hugh Adams, raised £105.50 which is being given to Lynn Orgill CWCB to donate to a charity of her choice, in recognition of her past involvement with the Show.



Following in the steps of Michelle Parker?

*Prizes awarded for the competitions were:*

- Class A Traditional ironwork  
– Bo Peep Shield – Dave Harman
- Class B Contemporary ironwork  
– IS&G Rose Bowl – James Price
- Class C Wind chimes – Owen Pine  
Perpetual Trophy  
– Richard Bradshaw
- Class D Animal head – Brasted Forge  
Trophy – Eric Lamprell
- Class E Oxy-acetylene made article –  
Knights Garden Centre Trophy  
– R Jones
- Class F An agricultural/industrial item –  
The Don Mallet Trophy  
– Richard Jones
- Class G Live Competition – The Tommy  
Tucker Trophy  
– Dave Harman
- Class H Pairs – Live competition –  
Burrows Lea Trophy  
– J Price & Nigel Stenning
- Class J Apprentice/Trainee – The  
Westerham Trophy – Joe Frank
- Class 20 minute Live Competition  
– The John Denton Memorial  
Trophy – D Harman

## Competition Prize Money

With effect from 2009 the cash prize offered to the National Championship Blacksmith and the Champion Blacksmith by the Company will be £500 each. The cash prize for the Reserve in each competition will be £250.

## DSO for Liveryman, Lt Colonel Patrick Sanders OBE

**Lt Colonel Patrick Sanders OBE**, a Liveryman of the Company, was awarded the Distinguished Service Order in July. The citation reads "A DSO is awarded to Colonel Patrick Sanders OBE, late The Rifles, who commanded 4th Battalion The Rifles in Iraq throughout Op Telic 10; he exemplified tough and decisive yet compassionate leadership which kept his battle group going through very

difficult times. Colonel Sanders commanded and planned operations in the most dangerous and complex situations taking the fight to insurgents on the streets of Basra. Displaying grip and tactical vision, he led from the front often under fire; his operational leadership was exemplary".

We offer our congratulations to Colonel Sanders on receiving his Award.

## Camilla Botnar Foundation

At the request of Past Prime Warden Hugh Adams, the Wardens approved the annual presentation of a cup to a student at the Camilla Botnar Foundation based on the work of students displayed at the South of England Show. The work of the recipient must be recommended by the accredited judge appointed for the

show. The cup would be presented in the name of the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths at the Company's Annual Awards Lunch.

The Camilla Botnar Foundation proposes to present the cup, previously presented to the Foundation by Past Prime Warden Hugh Adams, to the Company for this purpose.

## Diary of Events 2009

Epiphany Court and Luncheon	15th January 2009
Wardens Court	26th February 2009
Ladyday Court and Luncheon	26th March 2009
United Guilds Service	27th March 2009
Annual Banquet	17th April 2009
Prime Warden's Weekend	8th – 10th May 2009
Wardens Court	14th May 2009
Election of Sheriffs	24th June 2009
Midsummer Court and Luncheon	9th July 2009
Election Court	30th July 2009
Wardens Court	3rd September 2009
Election of the Lord Mayor	29th September 2009
Michaelmas Court and Awards Luncheon	22nd October 2009
Lord Mayor's Show	14th November 2009
Wardens Court	26th November 2009
Carol Service	18th December 2009

## Show Dates 2009

North Somerset Show	May 4th
Devon County Show	May 21st, 22nd, 23rd
Royal Bath and West Show	May 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th
<i>Royal Cornwall Show</i>	<i>June 4th, 5th, 6th</i>
<i>South of England Show</i>	<i>June 11th, 12th, 13th</i>
Three Counties Show	June 19th, 20th, 21st
<i>Royal Norfolk Show</i>	<i>July 1st, 2nd</i>
<i>Great Yorkshire Show</i>	<i>July 14th, 15th, 16th</i>
Royal Welsh Show	July 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd
New Forest Show	July 28th, 29th, 30th
Edenbridge and Oxted Show	August 30th, 31st
Dorset County Show	September 5th, 6th

*SHOWS IN ITALICS ARE SUPPORTED BY THE WBC BUT ARE NOT ON THE NBCC CIRCUIT*

## Previous issues of the Newsletter

Past issues of the Newsletter can be accessed through the Company website:

[www.blacksmithscompany.org.uk](http://www.blacksmithscompany.org.uk)

click on Livery

click on Newsletters

## Copies of photographs

Copies of the excellent photographs taken by Michael O'Sullivan, of the Awards Luncheon and other formal events and reproduced in the Newsletter can be obtained directly from:

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

or  
[michaelphotography@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:michaelphotography@tiscali.co.uk)

Telephone: 020 8363 8350

## Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths' Shop



Prices:

- Livery Tie £10 (*Liverymen only*)
- 'Social Tie' £22
- Umbrella £15
- Cuff Links £66.50
- Brooches £45



All items available from the Clerk, Christopher Jeal.  
 A limited supply might be available at Court luncheons.