



# The Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths

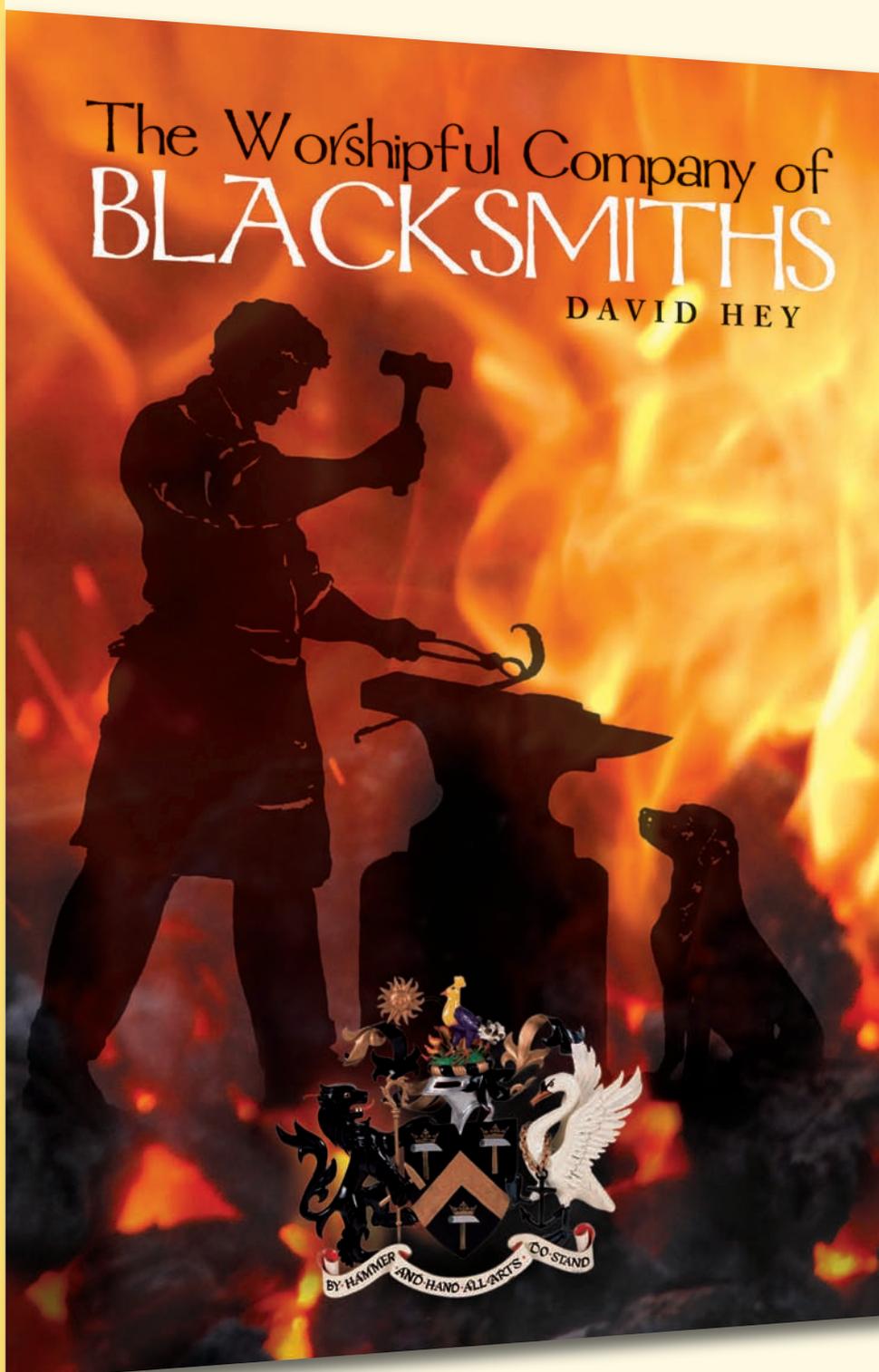
Newsletter

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# Reflections on a Year in Office

## David Brewer in conversation with the Clerk

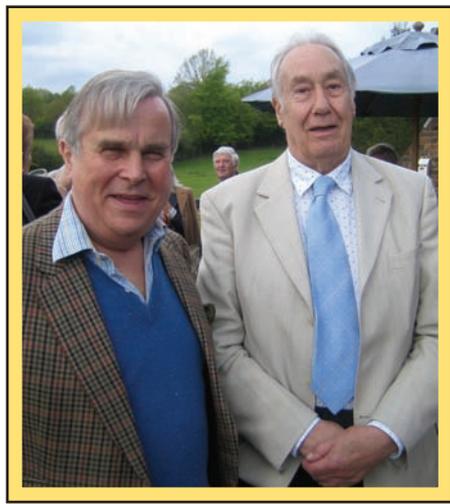
**Clerk:** It does not seem that long ago we were preparing for your Election Court and working on plans for your year as Prime Warden.

One year: fifty-two weeks: 365 days – oh how quickly they go!

I have been privileged and proud to hold four significant positions in the City of London for one year each. In every case that year was the culmination of planning and anticipation, you might almost call it apprenticeship, before taking office.

**Clerk:** How did it all start?

I was apprenticed to the Merchant Taylors' Company in 1954 and became Master in 2002 - quite a long time in which to learn about the Company, its history and importance in the City before helping to guide



The Prime Warden and The Father, Peter Rayner, in relaxed mood

its affairs as a Warden and, later, as Master. It taught me about the friendships (and happy rivalries) that exist between so many Livery Companies as one met them and participated in so many great City events, both religious and secular.

**Clerk:** I remember you inviting me to lunch with the Judges at The Old Bailey when you were a Sheriff.

I served as a Sheriff in 2002/3 and that year, based at the Old Bailey, combined the pleasure of

getting to know the Judges as well as wonderful opportunities to accompany the Lord Mayor on several overseas visits. There was "apprenticeship" before becoming a Sheriff in demonstrating commitment to the City in order to secure the support of fellow Aldermen. I was elected to the Court of Common Council for the Ward of Bassishaw in 1992 and as Alderman for the Ward in 1996. Those roles formed the foundation of so much of my Civic City life. I retired as an Alderman in April this year.

**Clerk:** What about the Mayoralty?

My year as Lord Mayor in 2005/2006 was the summit of my City life. The planning and anticipation of those fifty-two weeks started long before the agreement of the Liverymen of the City gathered at Common Hall to approve my name to go forward to the Court of Aldermen. Then throughout the year long-term plans were developed for the overseas visits, for the reception of international leaders and the more short-term anticipation of 'domestic' visits, and presentations.

The year flew by and our bulging scrapbook immediately evokes so many happy memories not least of which was the splendid sight of the Blacksmiths' Float in my Show. Just how did you convince the City authorities that we could take real fire through the City? The fear of 1666 still stalks.

Now I am coming to the end of my 365 days as your Prime Warden.

**Clerk:** Was it an anti-climax?

Not in the least! I enjoyed making, or renewing, so many friendships, the meetings with fellow Prime Wardens and Masters and just being part of the wonderful City of London.

Each of the four offices I have occupied for a year has emphasised to me the uniqueness of the City of London with its Livery Companies, old and new, and their commitment to their trades or crafts, their determination to help others though



David and Tessa at the Banquet

Photography by M. O'Sullivan

charitable work and, most of all, the friendship of people involved in a common purpose.

I have been truly privileged in the opportunities afforded to me. I hope I have been able to contribute in each of those special years and that I may do so for a long time to come.

**Clerk:** How would you sum it all up?

I thank the City in its entirety for these offices and, particularly, the Liverymen of The Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths who have 'adopted' me, supported Tessa and me and enabled me to learn about (and practise at the anvil) the magical craft of the blacksmiths.

## The Epiphany Court and Lunch



The Prime Warden cutting the Epiphany cake

Photography by M. O'Sullivan

# The Company's New History John McCuin

The year ending 31 July 2008 was a wonderful year for both Judy, my wife, and me as we were so fortunate to be your Prime Warden and his Lady. We enjoyed the year so much that we felt we wanted to give something back to the Company as a lasting memento of the trust that all of you, my fellow Liverymen, showed in allowing us to represent you at so many occasions both in the City and all over the country.

The past has always fascinated me and the reality of our own Company history was brought home to us at the 2007 Awards Lunch when our personal guests were two friends from Canada. Their country was only formed in 1867 and yet here, in front of their eyes, was 700 years of real history. It was then that we thought it might be possible to arrange for a fresh publication of our history to mark our special year.

We are very fortunate to count Professor David Hey and Pat, his wife, as close friends. David is Emeritus Professor of Local and Family History at the University of Sheffield and currently also President of the British Association for Local History. As he is a professional historian and a well respected author on very many aspects of history, I approached him to see if he would be willing to research and write a history of our Company. I am delighted to say that he accepted the challenge immediately.

I took the proposal back to my fellow Wardens and they were very excited about the project and so we pushed ahead. David and I first visited Guildhall to start the research in the autumn of 2008 and we were both really taken with the quality of the Blacksmiths' records. David was particularly impressed with our apprentice records as they are some of the best and most complete of all the Livery Companies.

However, almost immediately he hit a snag. We had always stated that our Company was 'Incorporated by Prescription' in 1325. He was able to confirm that from a historical and legal point of view it is not possible to be 'Incorporated by Prescription' and, worse than that, he could find no proof of the 1325 date. That seemed to be a figment of the imagination of the Wardens in the mid 1800s! Thank goodness he was able to find a case in the Mayor's Court in March 1299 which really proved that the Blacksmiths were associating together. So we are actually a little older than we thought!

You can imagine that this caused some consternation among the present Wardens as what could we really say about ourselves now? David Brewer and I had to visit the City Remembrancer, Paul Double, at Guildhall and he and his legal team were very helpful in finding a solution to this knotty problem. – We are now 'First recorded in 1299'.

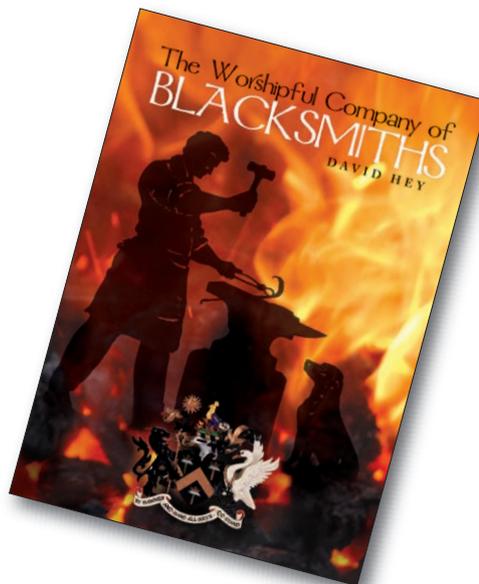
You will see an image of the book on the front cover of this Newsletter and I hope you will agree that it is very striking. I am delighted with how the book has turned out and I hope you will all enjoy reading it. The illustrations of some of the Company's treasures are, in my view, very fine. If you haven't got a copy yet, I know that our Clerk would be only too happy to arrange for you to purchase one!

Finally, I must say thank you to a few key people. Firstly



Professor David Hey with Prime Warden Sir David Brewer and John McCuin

to David Hey whose professionalism in producing such a well researched and readable text can only be admired; secondly to David Brewer and the current Wardens whose enthusiasm for the project never wavered; thirdly to our Clerk who co-ordinated many of the pictures, made available many Company records and was always there to assist, and finally to the Father, Peter Rayner, and Jacqueline Minchinton, our Archivist, who gave their time so freely to help bring various elements together.



**Editor's Note:** The History was formally launched at the Banquet on 16th April when the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs were each presented with an inscribed copy signed by David Brewer, David Hey and John McCuin. Copies priced at £20 plus £2.50 p&p are available from The Clerk.

# The Annual Banquet Sir Kenneth Warren

“Blacksmith” has been recorded as a word first used in the English language in the 15th century. But because the production and trade in “the black metal” was founded in the Iron Age, could there be a City Livery Company with a greater claim of primacy amongst all?

As guests of your able Assistant, Mr Nigel Whitehead, and his elegant wife, Marion, my wife and I entered the Mansion House with a pleasure renewed on every occasion. The discreet, stable simplicity of the elegant Dutch paintings, too easily passed by on the stairs, are signposts to the glory above, the grand ceremony of Reception and finding one is led into a gathering of happiness, welcome and celebration. The City of London indeed does great service in honouring the Liveries which bring together folk dedicated to serving others. Being introduced to your Prime Warden, Sir David Brewer was a double honour as we meet in his other role as a member of The Garrick Club. And, my word, does he not cut a fine dash in his robes and courtly manner! He also proved to be an excellent singer as he delivered solo a verse of The Blacksmith’s Song, to tremendous applause.



“Now, just listen to me Prime Warden”  
– Geoffrey Fairfax, the Beadle and the Prime Warden

Looking aloft to the astounding roof above the Banquet my mind dwelt on the first and second demands of your Livery in the 18th Century, translating them into 21st century verbiage; Quality Assurance and Quality Management. Both remain the base standards of proper business conduct. I first met them at my own first meeting with the “black metal” on a freezing day in 1947’s bleak winter when summarily told, as a University student and Apprentice, that to aspire to becoming a crew member of Flight Test at De Havilland I had, for starters, to complete exercise 1. This was to take a piece of very cold steel in a hanger with no heating, finish it on all six surfaces to a thousandth of an inch by hand, cut a slot in it, take another piece, shape it to fit all ways, take a third piece and shape it as a key to both parts. Inspection approval required all three parts to fit all sixteen ways. Three weeks later my respect for those who work the metal was founded and remains.

What I did learn in serving my time was not only that respect, but the wonder of the craftsmanship of man and to applaud it; the ringing, magical, echoing clang of hard hammers on glowing iron, the fierce, face smarting ovens of a cauldron being lovingly poured, the pride of shaping to contract, the assurance of quality, the non-negotiable hall-marks of a man who is a Blacksmith.

Whether, or not you have toiled



Liveryman Zena Sanders, moments before leading the Principal Guests into the Banquet, sharing a joke with our photographer Michael O'Sullivan

in the blunt heat of a forge, you sprung, as has every Livery, from folk demanding to be part of the quality, reliability and good business practice which is the constant, hard earned pride of our City of London. At your Banquet you proved worthy of your ideals.

Your Prime Warden in 1828, Moses Kipling, wrote the stirring words of “The Blacksmith’s Song”. A hundred years on his descendent, Rudyard Kipling, penned words which were an eerie portent for our lives today: “England’s on the anvil - hear the hammers ring - clanging from the Severn to the Tyne! England’s being hammered, hammered, hammered into line!”

My wife and I thank you for your hospitality, your splendid company and our opportunity to witness your dedication to your livery.

## Dolls’ House Doorstop Nigel Whitehead

Whilst serving as Lord Mayor, Sir David Brewer considered it inelegant having to scabble around using wooden wedges to hold open the massive doors of the Lord Mayor’s office in Mansion House. To overcome the problem two blacksmiths were invited to produce designs for doorstops. The design by Gold Medallist Bob Hobbs was chosen and the finished doorstops were displayed at the Company’s Banquet in 2007.

At this year’s Banquet a miniature paperweight, in the style of the

doorstops and made by Bob Hobbs, was presented to The Lord Mayor, Alderman Nick Anstee by the Prime Warden, Sir David Brewer.



Little & Large

We were very grateful that the Lord Mayor, Lady Mayoress and Sheriffs, with their escorts, were able to attend the Banquet. We hope that the paperweight will remind the Lord Mayor of an enjoyable and successful year in office and his evening with the Blacksmiths Company as his papers remain firmly anchored to his desk.

## United Guilds Service Nigel Whitehead

Members of the Company joined Masters, Prime Wardens, the Upper Bailiff and Liverymen from the City Livery Companies for the 68th Service of the United Guilds of the City of London at St Paul's Cathedral on 19th March.

To be in the Cathedral for the service is a wonderful experience. Immediately upon entering Wren's masterpiece, one's spirit soared to the sound of a Bach Prelude & Fugue being played on the organ followed by pieces by Schumann and Mendelssohn. As the final notes of Mendelssohn's Sonata No. 3 faded away there was a brief pause before a trumpet fanfare, delivered by trumpeters from the Band of the Blues and Royals, heralded the beginning

of the Procession, which included representatives of the City Livery Companies and Guilds, the City Marshall, the Chief Commoner, High Officers, the Sheriffs, the Court of Aldermen, the Dean and Chapter, the Bishop of London, the Serjeant-at-Arms, the Sword Bearer and the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, all resplendent in their robes of office. A thought provoking and amusing sermon was delivered by the Right Reverend Graham James, Bishop of Norwich. Following the Service, Members of the Company joined Liverymen from other Companies for lunch at Stationers' Hall.

The United Guilds' Service was first held on Ladyday, Thursday 25th March 1943, following a meeting at Goldsmiths' Hall on February 1st

1943 of the Masters and Prime Wardens of the Great Twelve Companies. The idea behind the service, to be held in St Paul's Cathedral for the Livery Companies and Guilds of the City of London, was to help lift the spirits of the City following the Blitz during the Second World War. The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor of London was present with the Sheriffs and Court Aldermen. The Lord Bishop of London, Dr G F Fisher, preached the sermon. This appears to be the first occasion on which all the Livery Companies and Guilds of the City combined to hold a religious service, since when it has become an annual event. Next year's service will be held on Friday, 1st April.

## The dedication of RNLI *City of London 111*

### Clifford Champion

The City of London's link with the RNLI was once again endorsed at the naming ceremony and dedication of City of London 111, the new £2.7 million, Tamar class, all weather lifeboat at Sennen Cove, Cornwall, in April.

Ann and I had accepted an invitation to attend the ceremony held on the beach on a typical English Spring day with a cool breeze. We were rewarded with the smiling faces of others attending including David Brewer, our Prime Warden, and Tessa his wife. Representatives from the RNLI City of London Committee and others were there to participate in a ceremony dedicating a boat that would undoubtedly be saving lives, as earlier Sennen Cove lifeboats had done.

The new boat standing some thirty feet above on the new slipway, was named by Catherine Vlasto, wife of Tony, Chairman of the RNLI City of London Committee. After the blessing not a dry eye was to be seen.

Along with many others we can

be proud at having subscribed, no matter how little, towards the final cost of the new boat. Without such subscriptions there would not have been a modern, state of the art rescue boat to launch.



City of London 111

# Common Hall for the Election of Sheriffs and Other Officers

**Nigel Whitehead**

Members of the Company joined Liverymen from other Companies at Guildhall on 24th June for the Election of Sheriffs and Other Officers. The proceedings commence with the Masters, Prime Wardens and Upper Bailiff of the several Livery Companies (Senior Companies last) wearing their gowns and insignia, walking in procession from the Old Library to the Great Hall. Then the Lord Mayor, preceded by the City Officers, The Mace and The Sword, processes through the Great Hall to take his seat.

Common Hall was opened by the Common Cryer calling members of the Livery and Companies of the City to "draw near and give your attendance". Following this proclamation specific procedures were followed before the Recorder, having first made his obeisance to the Lord Mayor then to the Livery, informed the Livery of the occasion of their meeting.

On this occasion, as there were

only two candidates for the Shrievalty, the Lord Mayor, such of the Aldermen who have served the Office of Sheriff and the Officers remained in the Great Hall and the procedure for election began. The names of the two candidates for the Shrievalty, Alderman Fiona Woolf CBE and Citizen and Wheelwright Richard Sermon MBE, were then submitted to Common Hall for approval determined by a show of hands. Having been elected to the Shrievalty both parties addressed Common Hall and declared their consent to take upon themselves their Office.

Following dissolution of Common Hall by the Common Cryer the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, Sheriffs and Officers processed from the Great Hall in reverse order.

After witnessing this wonderful and ancient pageant, Members of the Company and other Liverymen made their way to Butchers' Hall to enjoy a splendid lunch laid on for the occasion.

# The Gum Tree Memorial Project

By the 12th June the Australian Blacksmiths' Association had counted over 3000 leaves for the Tree to be constructed as a Memorial to those who lost their lives in the horrifying bush fires of 2009. Members of the Association say they are almost at the final count with just a few more leaves to come. The leaves, which have been forged by Blacksmiths from over twenty countries across the world including Australia, will all be photographed.

The next stage of the project will be the making of the trunk and the larger branches for which it is hoped sponsorship will be found. Recently, over twenty Australian blacksmiths gathered at The Branch Forging Workshop to make the many branches and twigs for the tree.

On completion the tree will be installed in a public place in one of the townships affected by the bush fires.

To follow the progress of this amazing project there is now a website [www.treeproject.abavic.org.au](http://www.treeproject.abavic.org.au) promoted by The Australian Blacksmiths' Association.

## Four New Court Assistants Christopher Jeal

It is rare that there are as many as two Court vacancies at any one time but in Autumn 2009 we had the very unusual position that there were four places to be filled. The Company is very fortunate that strong candidates were nominated. Each made a presentation at the Michaelmas Court and then had to wait until the result of the secret ballot of Court Members was known.

All were successful and swore their Oath and were formally admitted at the Epiphany Court meeting in January this year.

*The new Court Assistants are:*

**Richard David REGAN** who was admitted to the Livery in 2007 was an Honorary Court Member. Richard is a Past Master of the Cutlers of London and was a Sheriff in 2006/7. He is Chairman of the Craft Committee.

**Dr Nicholas Mark LAND** is the son of Past Prime Warden Emeritus Brian Land. He was apprenticed to his

father in April 1975. He is a psychiatrist and, in his address to the Court, expressed his confidence that such knowledge would not be needed within the Court.

**Jashvantrai Balvwantrai JOSHI** was admitted to the Livery in 2004 and is secretary to the Craft Committee. He is now partially retired from the successful international business that he developed.

**Zena Claire SANDERS** had already established her place in the history of the Company as the first lady Liveryman. She can now add the distinction of becoming the first lady Court Assistant. Zena also maintains a family link as her father, Colin Bates, was Prime Warden in 1992.

As can be seen from these brief details the Company is fortunate that four people with so much experience to offer are part of the Company's Court and decision making processes.

# Prime Warden's Weekend 2010 Adrian Oliver

The first two weekends in May were dismal, wet and cold so it was a relief to see the sun shining on the golf competition on the Friday that opened Sir David Brewer's weekend. Six competitors took on the championship course at the East Sussex National Golf Club and the winner was Pearl Allcard.

As the afternoon progressed fifty-two Liverymen and their guests congregated at the adjoining hotel which enjoys panoramic views of the South Downs and the Sussex Weald.

The weekend is always an excellent opportunity for getting to know members of the Company. At the opening reception on the roof terrace in the warm evening sun old friends were greeted and new friendships forged. From there we adjourned for a convivial dinner, before retiring to the bar for the traditional session of putting the world to rights.



Don and Barbara Barker sharing a light hearted moment with Tessa Brewer

After breakfast on Saturday morning we boarded the coach which was to take us to Clinton Lodge in the charming village of Fletching. There, Lady Collum, our host, having welcomed us, gave a brief history of the house and the fabulous garden which she and her late husband created. A series of formal enclosed gardens, a wild garden, shady arbours, arcades wreathed in white roses and a yew walk provide endless delight for the visitor.

From there we travelled to Barnsgate Manor for a light lunch washed down with Pimms. As the sun was bright and warm we forsook the indoor restaurant for the balcony from which we could enjoy the views across open countryside, the vineyards, and the donkeys and llamas. The term "light lunch" could have been prosecuted under the Trade Descriptions Act as plate after plate of sandwiches and tasty morsels were offered and devoured.

Returning to the hotel there was time to recover from lunch before boarding the coach for Brighton, where we were joined by a further twenty guests at the Royal Pavilion. Before dinner we had a private tour accompanied by knowledgeable guides who gave an entertaining story of how life would have been lived when the Prince Regent was in residence. After the tour we ascended one of the first cast iron staircases ever built, cleverly moulded to look like bamboo, for an excellent dinner in a room decorated with exquisite hand painted wallpaper.



Arriving at Firle Place

On Sunday morning we motored to Firle Place, a beautiful 18th century French style mansion nestling in the shelter of the South Downs, for a private visit. Access to the house was by way of a long drive winding through beautiful parkland with gambolling lambs all around. The house, originally a Tudor mansion built by the Gage family whose descendants still live there, was altered over the years to become the stone faced, classical mansion seen today. From the house views of wonderful English parkland can be glimpsed while within we were shown an extraordinary collection of family paintings. The Gage family fell in and out of favour with the Tudors, were involved in the loss of the American colonies, had greengages named after them and held onto their house until the present day. Our guide was at pains to point out that the house was not a museum and remained a home where the late Queen Mother enjoyed many a happy time as a guest of the Gage family.



Relaxing in the garden of Clinton Lodge

Lunch had been laid on for us and before departing many of us took the opportunity to purchase pots of greengage jam. Once again the sun had shone on the Prime Warden's weekend providing an opportunity to enjoy some of the best views in England and now it was time to thank David and Tessa for hosting such an enjoyable weekend and to thank our Clerk, Christopher Jeal for his impeccable planning.

## Craft Warden Christopher Jeal

The research by Professor David Hey for the Company History unearthed some traditional names for the Wardens that seem to have been lost over the years. It has been suggested that, rather than write the full titles in Minutes, at some time in the past the Clerk would list them as Prime, Renter,

Three and Four. Thus the present titles for the last two evolved.

The present day Wardens thought that it would be appropriate to review the titles but wanted to reflect the present day involvement of the Company with the art and mystery of the blacksmiths.

They therefore proposed to the

Court that the Fourth Warden (the most junior) should be called Craft Warden. This was adopted at the Ladyday Court and will be used in future.

The other three Wardens will remain, Prime Warden, Renter Warden and Third Warden.

## Nolan Peter William Moore (1923-2000)

### A Reminiscence by Dr Barry Graham

Peter Moore was proud to be an active member of the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths. He served on the Education and Training Sponsorship Committee and his father Nolan Moore had been Prime Warden in 1972.

Peter got great satisfaction from assisting in the development of engineering courses during his appointments as visiting Professor at Technical Institutions in India and Nigeria. Otherwise his career was spent at Imperial College where he was a Reader in the Mechanical Engineering Department. He was admired by his students as evidenced by the fact that a Memorial

Award was established in his name at the college.

He was President of the College Motor Club in which capacity he often participated in the Brighton Run in the City and Guilds College mascot, a vintage car named "Boanerges".

We have only recently realised the extent of Peter Moore's modesty. His 1948 patent, which was ahead of its time, covering the transpiration cooling of gas turbine blades, was selected, with one other, for the Centenary celebration of the Patent Office Library in 1955, as the outstanding patent of the decade.

## A Marketplace for Blacksmiths

### Keith Mahoney (*National Championship Blacksmith – 2009*)

Having recently left Hereford College (New Entrants Training Scheme) I needed to promote and broaden my business, widen my customer base and establish contacts with smiths in the working environment. My tutors had often spoken about the National Blacksmith Competition held at County Shows throughout the country so I found all the information on-line ([www.blacksmithscompetition.co.uk](http://www.blacksmithscompetition.co.uk)) but had left it late. The first Show began in four days but, reassuringly, tickets and passes were left for me at the showground gate.

So it was with some trepidation I arrived and entered the craft tent cradling my ironwork. Other competitors were already busy labelling and arranging displays of their work. Any nervousness soon evaporated as I was swept into the pre-show build up and I was to

experience a similar atmosphere at all the Shows I attended over the summer of 2009. Outside the craft tent the live competitions were attracting large groups of onlookers and with the static displays within there was much to see.

The craft show had provided a wonderful platform for me to meet

other smiths who encouraged me with hints and tips. The blacksmith's craft can be quite solitary at times but here was an opportunity to share experiences, promote myself, distribute business cards and sell my ironwork.

It was rewarding meeting the public and explaining how items could be forged and joined without the use of a mig welder, thus keeping the craft of the Blacksmith alive. Attending the Shows is a commitment but the rewards outweighed any concerns I previously had.

Returning home after attending my first Show, I knew the next day would not only be spent following up enquires and contacts made but also arranging the schedule for the next Show, as I did not want to leave matters to the last minute. Also – I had in my mind a project for next year.



Keith Mahoney

# Dover Castle – The Great Tower Nigel Whitehead

During the latter part of his reign King Henry II, one of the most powerful rulers in Europe, wanted a palace where he could welcome all foreign dignitaries, rulers and ambassadors visiting England at that time. He chose to rebuild Dover Castle which commanded the shortest sea crossing between England and the continent, where the first castle had been built by Duke William of Normandy in 1066 and where centuries before an Iron Age hill fort had stood.

The castle was to be a symbol of kingly power and authority guarding the gateway to the realm. Between 1179 and 1188 the castle was completely rebuilt with the Great Tower, the grandest of the keeps built during the 11th and 12th centuries, standing at its heart. It was here within this splendid palace designed



King's Chapel grilles & screens made using traditional forge-work techniques

Henry spent more on Dover than on any other castle in England



Painted oak chest with hand forged decorative hinges and straps in pig iron

for royal ceremony that Henry would greet distinguished visitors to England. For ten consecutive years



Detail view of Ante-chamber grille

Henry spent more on Dover than on any other castle in England

Dover Castle retained a military role for nine centuries until 1958. Responsibility for its upkeep now rests with the owner, English Heritage, which in 2009 began one of its most ambitious projects for many years – the recreation of the entire interior of Henry's Great Tower as it might have appeared when newly completed, ready to

receive Count Philip of Flanders in 1184.

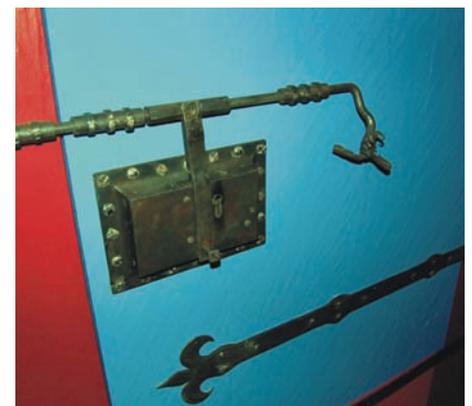
The project involved historians, designers, artists and craftspeople from across the UK. Some one hundred and forty craftsmen, working with a variety of materials, were employed on the project.

In February 2009, N E J Stevenson Ltd, Cabinet Makers to Her Majesty the Queen, contracted Cold Hanworth Forge in Lincolnshire to manufacture, using traditional techniques and materials and paying great attention to historical accuracy and detail, the ironwork required for a large consignment of medieval furniture destined for the Great Tower of Dover Castle. Wyvern Forge from Warwickshire helped with the

project, manufacturing the locks and sharing the huge workload which had to be completed by the end of July.



Close-up details of hinge terminations on the Dragon's chest



Detail of door bolt & hinges of King's Armour

# Mastercrafts – presented by Monty Don

Our Craft Warden Don Barker was recently chosen to take part in the BBC 2 series Mastercrafts presented by Monty Don. This was reality television in which Don Barker had to take on three complete novices and over a period of six weeks train them in the basic techniques of blacksmithing.

During the six weeks Monty Don appeared on certain days and interviewed everyone to see what, if any, progress had been made and how well complete novices took to the craft of blacksmithing. To Don Barker's surprise all three did extremely well, although, as rates of progress differed, Don had to provide individual training.

There were high and low points but generally after the first two weeks the novices settled into a 'start early' 'finish late' regime. The final project involved discussing with a prospective client a design for a gate, costing, and then making it. The gates were in fact provided free to the



Craft Warden Don Barker with Monty Don in the forge



Gill, Dominic and Hugh

clients. Having bitten off more than they could chew they had to work until the early hours to complete the task by the required time. The customers were very pleased with their gates

The gates were judged by the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths' only Gold Medal holder, Bob Hobbs. He awarded the prize to Hugh who, by winning, was given the opportunity to work on a prestigious piece of ironwork being restored for the National Trust. Dominic, who impressed Don so much and showed such enthusiasm, is now working for Don's company and has become an apprentice blacksmith. Gill, inspired by the project, has taken up new challenges.

The experience was hard work for Don but he says it helped him understand more about the need to point people in the right direction when it comes to choosing a craft or a trade.

## Surrey Docks Farm Forge **Maurice Greenberg**

On a fine but chilly morning in March members of the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths visited the Forge of Kevin Boys AWCB at Surrey Docks Farm, Rotherhithe. Their purpose was to watch cadets from the Southwark sea cadet force and Westminster NW Sector 232 ACF having their first experience of working in a Blacksmith's shop.

The cadets elected to fabricate copies of their cap badge. Before any work began Kevin explained the workings of the Forge, the need to wear protective gloves and goggles, and the use of the correct tools. He also stressed that metal being used was hot even if it was not glowing.



Sea Cadet Corps badge

Large scale sketches of the badges to be used as working drawings were made then, under the expert and eagle eye of Kevin and his assistant, Josh Smellin and with help from four apprentices, work began. The cadets' enthusiasm was very evident as each attempted part of the fabrication.

The material used was steel bar and sheet which was cut, bent, twisted, riveted and hammered. By the end of the day a very creditable result had been achieved.

Representing the Company were The Clerk, Christopher Jeal, Past Prime Warden Hugh Adams, Adrian Oliver and Maurice Greenberg and Freeman Stuart Davis.



Army Cadet Force badge

# A Floating Forge

When choosing a place to set up a smithy, a canal boat would probably not be most blacksmiths' first choice; in fact from almost any angle it is not a good choice at all, so what drove Brian Greaves to embark on this path? Brian had run the Craven Forge near Skipton, Yorkshire from 1982 and in 1989 moved onto a narrow boat, Emily, with his wife, Jane. In 1990 he gave up the forge and travelled the English canal network. Brian really loved life on the canal; its interesting



Serpentine table

characters, the countryside and the wildlife, ever changing views through the windows and exploring new places. After working as a boat builder in a canal boat yard and as a machinist in an engineering factory, he decided he wanted to return to blacksmithing and become self-employed without having to give up his idyllic life travelling the canals. In 1992 he designed the steel, canal tug, Bronte, creating the first ever push tug equipped with a forge. A marine insurance company, befuddled by the prospect of insuring a boat with a forge onboard, made their inspection equipped with a thermometer. They then insisted on the provision of two fire extinguishers, a fire blanket, and doors on the front of the forge.

Brian built Bronte outside Craven Forge. That winter the rains were relentless, flooding the valley floor below the smithy, and Brian was asked whether Bronte was to be the second Noah's Ark or whether he had been reading too much into the prophecies of Nostradamus. The forge was built into the bow of the boat alongside a hundred-weight anvil, all the tools used by a blacksmith, and a traditional hand-driven bellows which Brian soon discovered was very time consuming to use. With child labour in short supply, he fitted a fan driven by a bank of 12 volt batteries charged by solar panels, or by Bronte's engine. The workshop is tiny by most standards at seven by nine feet, but has the advantage of everything being close to hand. The smithy's steel rack accommodates only a third of a standard twenty foot length of steel which might seem inconvenient, but little is wasted and by halving again a convenient length for working in the forge is produced.

Being surrounded by nature, Brian finds the location on the canal inspiring, bringing out his artistic side. While some of his work is purely traditional, for other pieces he uses a mix of modern and traditional methods for which he has developed his own tools for manipulating the steel into the flowing waves and sinuous curves synonymous with his work.

Brian, his wife and two teenage



Swans



Buble

children live all year round onboard Emily and last winter was the coldest since they moved aboard twenty one years ago. Emily is heated by a solid fuel Rayburn Regent. In January, when Emily was stuck in thick ice for three weeks, the Lock Inn Cottage Café in Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire, kindly let them fill their water tanks. Water and electricity are finite resources on a narrow boat, so the Greaves family had to learn to be environmentally friendly from day one. The children attend St Laurence comprehensive school in Bradford on Avon which is within walking distance and when Emily is moored further from town they cycle to school. During the summer holidays Emily and Bronte travel further afield along the River Thames to London or upstream to Oxford and beyond. The children's school friends love spending a few days on the boat.

So, perhaps not the obvious choice and certainly not one which would appeal to many, but as a lifestyle it suits Brian and his family down to the ground.

# Ironwork Judging Seminar

## Maurice Greenberg

During March Hereford College of Technology hosted an Ironwork Judging Seminar under the direction of Adrian Legge. A series of presentations was made on the Holme Lacy campus covering the role of the National Blacksmithing Competition Committee (NBCC) and its website; the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths and the National Champion Awards; opportunities for blacksmiths to compete and market their craft; the role of the judge and how the marking criteria work; the role of the Show Societies and Stewards and how the Show schedules work.

Later, three examples of each of four categories of ironwork were displayed and visitors were invited to test their judging skills using an official, Judge's scorecard. The categories comprised "Live" – items made on the day of the Show including examples of a scroll, a door handle and a structural element – overseen by Richard Jones, "Traditional" – examples including a light, a toast-rack and a candlestick – overseen by Steve Rook FWCB, "Contemporary" – examples of a candlestick, flowers and an insignia – overseen by Hector Cole FWCB, and "Blades" – displaying examples of a hunting Bowie knife, a duelling sword and a fighting sword – overseen by Chezz Chescoe.

After much deliberation Adrian conducted a poll on the order of merit in which the ironwork should be placed. The result showed only slight variation in marks awarded for first and second places in each category which, considering there will be a degree of subjectivity in any judging, was quite satisfying. Then the Blacksmiths, who had overseen the individual categories placed the



Railings – good work

pieces in the order of merit in which they considered them to be giving their reasons. Overall there was fairly close agreement between the amateurs and the professionals.

Members of the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths attending included Past Prime Warden Hugh Adams, Adrian Oliver, Steve Rook FWCB and his apprentice Callum Dingwall, Michelle Parker FWCB, Wendy Alford (Secretary to the WCB Judging Committee), Michael Roberts FWCB, Gold Medallist, Robert Hobbs FWCB and Maurice



Examples of poor and good work

Greenberg. Also present were Melissa Cole, students from the National School of Blacksmithing and other blacksmiths.

Our thanks go to Adrian Legge and his team for organising the event.

## New Entrants Training Scheme (NETS)

NETS is a highly successful training facility to enable developing blacksmiths to improve their skills. It has operated, under various sponsors, for nearly forty years. In March this year we were given summary notice of its termination.

The best parallel with the Scheme is 'day release'. However, with NETS the release period is one week and the participants are blacksmiths who need to develop their skills and speed of execution.

In a commercial environment the 'cost' to the Master of training can be considerable while NETS enables a trainee to spend one week with an expert tutor, concentrating in each module on a specific range of skills.

The junior blacksmith returns to the Master's forge with increased confidence and enhanced 'commercial' value. The modules of the full NETS course can extend over three years.

The Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths supports the students, through its Charitable Trust Bursary Scheme, by offering grants to defray the travel and accommodation costs of participants in the Scheme which is provided at the National School of Blacksmithing. This is on the Moreton Morrell campus of Hereford College of Art.

The Company has made direct representations to the Secretary of State for Business and the Education Secretary. NETS has proven itself a success and has benefited many blacksmiths who are now Master Smiths. The Scheme deserves to be saved with its miniscule cost compared with other programmes.

We will keep exerting pressure wherever we can for its retention, as it is truly 'value for money'. If any Liveryman would like a 'standard' letter to submit to their Member of Parliament then please contact me.

CHRISTOPHER JEAL

# Terence Michael Clark FWCB

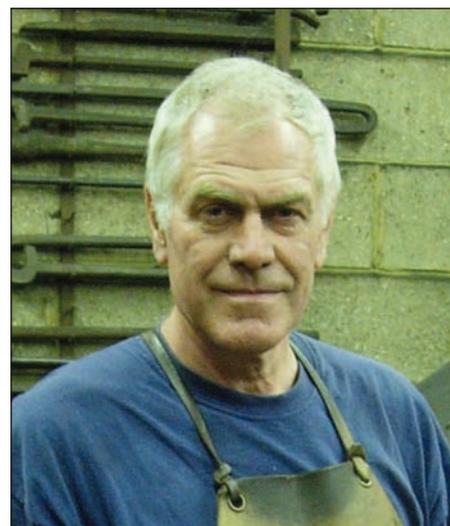
Thirty five years ago Terry Clark set up his own workshop to create original functional art as an artist blacksmith. In 1981, he moved to Wildfields Farm near Guildford, a listed building set in rolling grassland, which provides him with times of silence and satisfies his need to be close to nature, and where his large workshop is tucked away in a barn.

Terry feels strongly that all the work he undertakes, from initial design through to completion and installation, should be done by him and his team of smiths. Initial inspiration sometimes develops in conversation with a client but the design will be seen in conjunction with its location to blend with the environment. Builders and architects are consulted throughout when it comes to gateways and architectural embellishments. Precise drawings and measurements ensure correct

proportions with details such as locks and hinges being given equal importance. Terry's signature is a tiny snail affixed to each of his works.

He edited "British Blacksmith" magazine between 1980 and 1984 then took up the editorship again in 1999 until 2008 during which time he relaunched the magazine as "Artist Blacksmith". He has provided practical demonstrations including one in 1982 for the Victoria & Albert Museum's "Towards a New Iron Age", in the United States of America in 2002 and 2004 and at Sotheby's. In 1991 he was Forgemaster at the first International Forge-in in Ireland and is recognised as one of the leading smiths in Europe. In 1986 he was the first artsmith to have a gate accepted for the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition in the sculpture category. Having himself won competitions and prizes for his work, he organised and chaired the International Blacksmithing Conference at Ironbridge, Shropshire in 1985 and 2007.

In 1995 Terry was awarded the Silver Medal of the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths and in the same year became a Freeman of the City of London. In 2009 he was made Chairman of the British Artist Blacksmiths Association (BABA) and



Terence Clark FWCB

in the same year, together with Alan Dawson, was awarded the Tonypany Cup by the Company for the International Pillar of Friendship. Also, in 2009, he and his wife, Sally, made history by becoming the first husband and wife to be admitted to the Livery of the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths on the same day.

As a keen conservationist Terry enjoys restoring antique metal work, endeavouring to meld restorations into the exact style of the original smiths. These days more of his work is done using stainless steel and some bronze.

As a founder member of BABA Terry believes that he would not have achieved his level of success without the sharing of knowledge and skills of blacksmithing which the Association offers. His belief is that you should never think of yourself as being more important than your work.



Burning Bush

## Royal Bath and West Show Adrian Oliver

The Royal Bath & West Show was blessed with hot sunny weather; not such a blessing however for the smiths as they toiled over their hot fires in the live forging competition. It was a formidable sight to see a pair of skilled smiths working against the clock as they turned slabs of glowing steel into a pair of working blacksmith's tongs in thirty minutes of sweat, concentration and controlled muscle power. Even the



neighbouring Farriers came to see how it should be done.

There was also a high quality of entry for the static competitions with diverse exhibits creating a challenge for the Judge who had to compare a classic candle stand with an intricate modern sculpture. Richard Jones AWCB assisted by James Crossman (in photograph) won the live forging pairs competition making the tongs.

The Show had provided another excellent day's entertainment surrounded by beautiful countryside.

# South of England Show – Ardingly

Nigel Whitehead

Once more the team of smiths, gathered together by the ever cheerful Mike Demianow, put on a splendid display at the popular South of England Agricultural Show held annually at Ardingly. There also, to support and encourage the team, was Past Prime Warden Hugh Adams who, arriving the day before the Show, spent two nights sleeping in the marquee and still always appeared to have just stepped out in his Sunday best, dressed in white shirt, Company tie, tidy trousers and polished shoes except when, early one morning, he was caught on camera in overalls preparing the stand for the day.



Hugh Adams in his other role

This year, displays both within the marquee and without were as varied and interesting as ever, and the obvious pleasure visitors derived from the exhibits on show was



Lt. Caila Barnett RN working at the forge

evident from the quantity of items sold. Working behind safety screens, smiths, who not only supply all equipment but willingly give their time to the Show, provided great entertainment in the live forging displays. Those drawn to watch marvelled at their skills converting pieces of iron into practical and beautiful shapes.

Liverymen Terry and Sally Clark, acting as judges of the Traditional and Contemporary works, awarded Richard Bradshaw the prizes in both categories. Richard also won the WCB Cup for Best of Show and the Peter Begent Award for his Rush Light. Past National Blacksmithing Champion and Liveryman David Harman, FWCB, judged the Live Competitions which were held over three days and awarded the prize to Kyle Swan for his Candle Holder.

One of the most popular events of the South of England Show is the unique craft competition for young people aged 14 to 21. A static display of the winners' works provides an important opportunity for the public to admire the terrific range of artistic and creative ability of these young people. Many past winners have gone on to open their own businesses following public recognition of their talents. In this year's Young Craftsman of the Year Awards competition, the metalwork prize was awarded to Luke Gorman from the Camelia Botnar Foundation for a gate he designed and created using three separate materials, iron, bronze and glass. He also received the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths' award for his outstanding work.



Luke Gorman receiving the WCB Award from Nigel Whitehead

## Tribute to Isambard Kingdom Brunel – Master Engineer (1806-1859)

Maurice Greenberg

After some four years planning a tribute to Isambard Kingdom Brunel, and making a metre high model of the proposed memorial, the design by Kevin Boys AWCB has been approved by the London Borough of Southwark. Kevin will now begin forging the structure which is to stand at the Southwark end of Brunel's pedestrian Thames tunnel in Rotherhithe.

The final structure standing around fifteen metres high will be made from double bullnose bar having the same cross section as Brunel's broad-gauge rails and assembled with hot rivets made from the same section bar. It will have a skeletal outline of Brunel, himself, complete with signatory top-hat, and holding aloft a ring attached to the circumference of which are representations of some of his achievements – the SS Great Eastern, the Tamar Bridge, a locomotive (representing his broad-gauge railway), and the entrance to the pedestrian tunnel beneath the Thames.

I would like to thank Kevin for helping me compile the information for this article.



# Obituaries

**Alan Herbert Cherry CBE., DL., FRICS.** Alan Cherry, who died on 22nd January, was most distinguished in the property development world, through his company Countryside Properties. The breadth of his influence and the esteem in which he was held by professional colleagues was reflected in the large congregation at his Memorial Service in Chelmsford Cathedral.

He was admitted to the Livery in 1961 and was the seventh most senior Liverymen.

We extend our sympathies to his widow and all the members of his family.

**Robert Guy Shillingford MBE., AE., MBA.** It would require almost this entire Newsletter to cover Bob Shillingford's life and achievements. This Obituary can only provide a brief summary.

Bob was born in 1922 at Brockley in South East London and attended Colfe's Grammar School. On leaving school he joined Imperial Airways at Croydon Airport as an engineering apprentice. Shortly after the start of the Second World War he joined the Royal Air Force. When the War ended he joined the Royal Auxiliary Air Force and completed his service in 1954 having been Adjutant of 615 Squadron at Biggin Hill for eight years. He was appointed MBE (Military).

Bob then worked in the family paper manufacturing business and as a wine merchant in London and the West Country.

His involvement with the City of London was extensive through his service as a Member of the Court of Common Council from 1961 to 1975 during which time he served on innumerable committees. It was through his work as the Founding Chairman of the City of London Polytechnic, which ultimately became the London Metropolitan University, that he was made an Honorary MBA.

He married Mary Marston, who had been a private secretary on Winston Churchill's staff, in 1953. She died before him and he came to live in Morden College (an Institution supported by the City of London) at Blackheath in 1966.

He had been elected as a Liveryman of the Company in 1963 and to mark his contributions to the Company and the City he was elected an Honorary Member of the Court in 2005. He was a Member of the City Pickwick Club with the soubriquet – from the character in the Pickwick Papers – of Joe, The Fat Boy.

Bob died on 12th December 2009 and there was a Celebration of his Life on 15th January 2010 in the Chapel at Morden College, where he was Warden for many years. The Prime Warden, relatives and representatives of the many institutions with which he had been involved attended, not least The City of London through the presence of the Chief Commoner.

**Professor Sir Hugh Ford D.Sc., FRS., FEng.** Professor Sir Hugh Ford died on the 28th May. He had been an inspirational leader and teacher in the field of Mechanical Engineering. He had been President of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and was a founder Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering.

After graduating from City and Guilds College he followed a distinguished career with ICI, and The British Iron and Steel Research Association before his appointment as Reader at City and Guilds College, the engineering school of Imperial College. In 1951 he was appointed Professor and subsequently served as Head of the Mechanical Engineering Department and Pro Rector of the College.

He was a proud and enthusiastic Liveryman of the Blacksmiths' Company.

## New Liverymen

**A. W. "Jim" Cook.** Jim Cook was admitted to the Livery at the Epiphany Court. He is a Consulting Engineer and was a leading member of the team that prepared the masterplan for the 2012 London Olympic Games. His involvement with the Company comes through having attended many Company events with his sponsor the Third Warden, Keith Gabriel. However, he claims practical involvement long before that. As part of his building trades training Jim had to make several 'trade' pieces and this included an iron-shifting spanner and so can claim experience of blacksmithing.

**John U. Ruffell.** Also admitted at the Epiphany Court was John Ruffell. He has attended so many Company functions with his sponsor, Geoffrey Abraham, that it was almost a surprise that he was not a member of the Company. John is an accountant and is responsible for a nursing and care agency based in Tonbridge.

**Stuart J. Davis.** Stuart was admitted to the Livery at the Midsummer Court. He was accompanied by his sponsor Past Prime Warden, John Barber. Stuart, who is the Director of a consultancy business based in the City of London, has already contributed to the Company's affairs as a member of the Social Group. With an interest in encouraging the development of young people and his military background, he brought his wife and family to Surrey Docks Farm when the cadets who competed for the Elworthy Trophy were there in March.

**Robert D. Tunks.** Bob was also admitted to the Livery at the Midsummer Court. Married with two children, he is a toolmaker and while he sees his trade as a 'high-tec' industry he still remembers its original roots in blacksmithing.

We welcome them all and look forward to their participation in the life of the Company.

## Diary of Events 2010/11

Election Court	29th July 2010
Wardens' Court	9th September 2010
Election of the Lord Mayor	29th September 2010
<b>Michaelmas Court and Awards Luncheon</b>	<b>21st October 2010</b>
Lord Mayor's Show	13th November 2010
Wardens' Court	25th November 2010
Carol Service	9th December 2010
<b>Epiphany Court and Luncheon</b>	<b>13th January 2011</b>
Wardens Court	24th February 2011
<b>Ladyday Court and Luncheon</b>	<b>31st March 2011</b>
United Guilds Service	1st April 2011
<b>Annual Banquet</b>	<b>15th April 2011</b>
Wardens Court	11th May 2011
Prime Warden's Weekend	20th-22nd May 2011
Election of Sheriffs	24th June 2011
<b>Midsummer Court and Luncheon</b>	<b>30th June 2011</b>
Election Court	28th July 2011
Wardens Court	8th September 2011
Election of the Lord Mayor	3rd October 2011
<b>Michaelmas Court and Awards Luncheon</b>	<b>20th October 2011</b>
Lord Mayor's Show	12th November 2011
Wardens Court	1st December 2011
Carol Service	16th December 2011

## A Golden Celebration

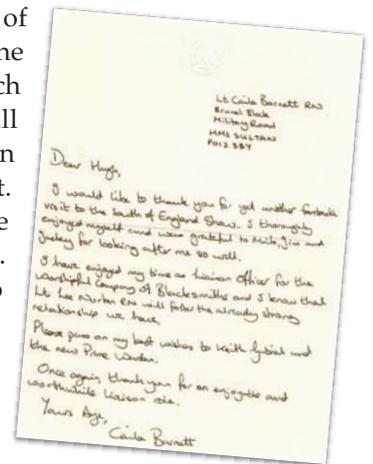
We offer congratulations to Assistant Emeritus John Jewiss, Past Prime Warden Brian Iles, Past Prime Warden Clifford Champion and Past Prime Warden Rodney Lyons, each of whom is celebrating 50 years membership of the Company this year.

## Show Dates 2010

<i>Great Yorkshire Show</i>	<i>July 13th, 14th, 15th</i>
Royal Welsh Show	July 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd
New Forest Show	July 27th, 28th, 29th
Edenbridge & Oxted show	August 29th, 30th
Dorset County Show	September 4th, 5th
<i>ITALICS DENOTE SHOW SUPPORTED BY WCB BUT WHICH IS NOT ON NBCC CIRCUIT</i>	

## Naval Liaison Officer

This year's South of England Show was the last occasion on which Lt. Caila Barnett RN will attend in her role as Liaison Officer for the Company. Lt. Lee Norton RN will replace Caila in this important role. Caila's letter, addressed to Past Prime Warden Hugh Adams, informing him of these changes is reproduced here.



## 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)  
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*Telephone: 01580 713302*

## 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.