

The Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths

Newsletter
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Charlotte Teale



Welcome From Your Editor Charlotte Teale



Welcome to the 51st issue of the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths Newsletter and my second as Editor. It is important to me to ensure that each Newsletter has an even coverage of the craft, both at home and overseas, the City and news from the Company itself. I thought, naively as it turns out, that as the daughter of a Past Prime Warden I knew a fair bit about all aspects of the Company, however I couldn't have been more wrong.

Working on the Newsletter has meant I have looked deeper into the craft, researched more about the City and delved into the history of the Company. Whilst I certainly have much

more to learn I am delighted to pick up new tips and nuggets of information each time. Our Learned Clerk, Martin Heath, has also worked hard with event table plans meaning that I no longer sit in the Oliver Family bubble, instead sitting with and meeting new working Blacksmiths, Liverymen and Guests each time. Although I think many may be asking not to sit next to me in future after being cornered for articles once enough delicious wine has been imbibed.

I haven't been able to make all events the Blacksmith's calendar has to offer but those I have attended have been well organised and a great chance to learn more each time. I actively

encourage everyone to attend one more event this year, whether it be a lunch, a scientific trip with Prime Warden Jash Joshi or one of the fabulous Shows coming up (see diary on back page).

For those who like to plan ahead, the Newsletters will continue to be published twice a year at six monthly intervals and as such you can expect to see the next issue in August. I am always looking for content and ideas so if you have something you think might be of interest please don't hesitate to contact me at blacksmiths.twitter@gmail.com.

Enjoy!

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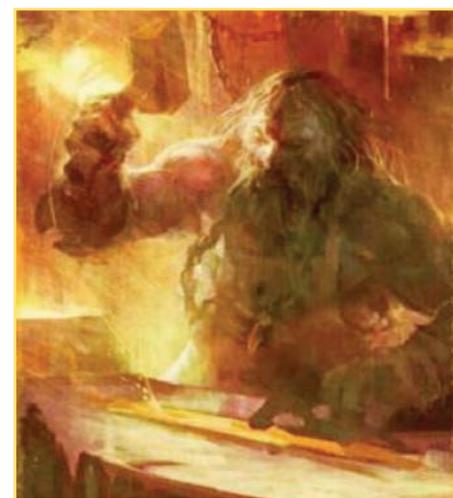
Blacksmiths – Authentic and Mythical Merv Allen

In Irish mythology, Goibniu (or Gaibhne in Modern Irish) pronounced gov-new, was the Smithing God of the *Tuatha Dé Danann*, the supernatural tribe of the goddess *Danu*. He is also believed to have been associated with hospitality, especially by providing feasts for the Gods.

His father was *Esarg* or *Tuirbe Trágmair*, the 'thrower of axes', and Goibniu is often connected with *Credne* the silversmith and *Luchtaine* the carpenter. Together they form a triad known as the *Trí de Dána*, or the 'Three Gods of Art'. Although these characters are spoken of in mythology as three distinct persons, it is possible that they represented the triple aspect of the God of Smithcraft in ancient Irish lore. His forge, known as the *Cerdcha Ghaibhnenn*, is believed to have been located near *Mullaghmast Hill* on the Co. Kildare/Co. Wicklow border where coal mining was carried out in the region for hundreds of years.

Goibniu was a very important member of the Danann community and he appears in many stories. In the story of the Second Battle of Moytura for example, Goibniu was working in his forge when *Ruadan* approached and requested a new spear. Ruadan was the son of *Brigit* and the tyrant ex-Danann *King Bres*, and had been recruited by his father as a spy. His mission was to try and identify the secret of Goibniu's magic, and the source of his healing power with which he restored Danann warriors' injuries. When Goibniu eventually hands over the spear Ruadan stabs him. In a flash, the mighty Goibniu instantly pulls out the spear throws it at Ruadan and kills him.

Never underestimate a blacksmith!



Cover Page Image Details – Blacksmith and then Lord Mayor Dr Sir Andrew Parmley conquers the 737ft tall Cheesegrater in aid of the Lord Mayors Appeal. Also seen celebrating with City AM Co-Founder Lawson Muncaster after they had both completed the descent. Images courtesy of City AM.

Visit to CERN – A First for any London Livery Company

Peter Hurford and Past Prime Warden Keith Gabriel

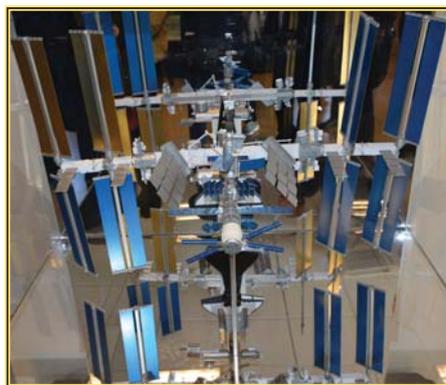
What is the CERN Large Hadron Collider? The press may use the words ‘atom smasher’ and most people would leave at that, accepting they don’t really understand what’s going on. They may know that some very clever people carry out big science experiments that have something to do with Einstein, subsequently winning top science Nobel prizes but that’s about it.

However our Prime Warden has a deep interest in science and organised a group of 29 like-minded Blacksmiths to visit the ‘atom smasher’ in December 2017. Happily, CERN (the European organisation for nuclear research and one of the world’s largest and most respected centres for scientific research) is in Geneva, so it was to that splendid city that we flew. The group checked into a hotel just beyond the main railway station before proceeding, almost immediately, to a nearby Swiss restaurant with a very jolly atmosphere where everyone enjoyed a delightful evening.

It was an early start the next morning and we were soon sat, student-like, in front of a large screen as our main guide for the day tried to explain CERN’s mission and history. Everything about the Large Hadron Collider at CERN is extreme; its overall size (27km around), the miniscule size of the particles it deals with (less than a millionth of a millionth of a meter) and the strength

of the magnets needed to steer the particles flying within (3cm worth of these magnets would be able to lift a London bus).

The visit itself consisted of a coach taking the party to various above ground stores and workshops and 2 museums that are set up to display what’s going on. It’s an unusual place to visit as, due to radiation, they won’t let visitors anywhere near any of the 7 accelerators. The largest ones are up to 100m underground anyway; however you do see some amazing equipment and meet expert guides who can answer all the questions you might have.



As you can’t go down to the actual accelerators CERN have a very realistic simulated journey down underground. You start by entering a Disney-like ‘lift’ that has moving images on the walls to give a very life like impression that you are going down to the main tunnel. When you step out, part of your mind thinks you are 300ft underground whilst in fact you have remained at ground level. We were taught (and have probably forgotten already!) a lot about the internals of an atom. The guides also told us that the amount of

helium held on site, used in the super-cooling of the particle-steering magnets, amounts to 20% of the world’s atmospheric helium.



After lunch, the party was split in two and taken to viewing galleries that overlooked two of the control rooms. We were surprised to see a line of empty bottles in the main CERN control room but we were assured these are only added to when celebrating a successful experiment. The other control room was for the cosmic ray detector built by CERN that has been mounted on the International Space Station since 2011. This is looking into the super high energy cosmic rays that cannot yet be explained and is also seeking evidence of the fabled ‘dark matter’. Some of us were saturated after 3 hours and so we bailed out onto a tram to spend the glorious afternoon in Geneva where a Swiss hot chocolate restored the equilibrium. Those that remained behind bravely soaked up even more information before we all returned to the airport to make our way home.

The visit was a novel idea and a great success, even more so as we discovered that our visit to CERN was the first by any London Livery Company. Many of us are looking forward to the Prime Warden’s next effort to introduce us to the science of extremes. This takes place on 10th May when we have the chance to visit the UK’s equivalent to CERN, Diamond Light Source at Didcot.



Memories of the Royal Welsh Show

Norman Rose AWCB for the Wessex Guild Newsletter

I travelled over to Wales on Sunday 23rd September in very heavy rain and by the time I reached junction 24 of the M4 visibility was so bad I could hardly see to drive and shot past! However, when I got to my hotel the sun was out and the temperature was hot and remained so the next day.

Arriving at the showground in Llanelwedd early the following day I was met by Eric White, Chief Steward. After toast, marmalade and coffee and a good chat I set about judging. Some eighty exhibits were displayed

looking very impressive. All were of a very high standard making my task of judging a tough one. By early afternoon the task was done apart from adding up the scores. After a very nice lunch it was back to work, score cards out and all other duties done.

To all you blacksmiths that compete in these shows – well done, it is a good way of displaying your work to the public who really do appreciate the quality of the pieces made. Keep up the good work and the rewards

will come: it also helps keep the blacksmithing craft alive for the future.

At 6.00 p.m. I had a quick look around the Show before a long, slow drive home in still brilliant sunshine. Thank you Eric and team for your care and hospitality.

Note from the Editor – The shows are a fabulous experience and a chance to see working Blacksmiths in action. We encourage all liverymen to attend and I refer you to the last page for details of the upcoming shows.

Diwali, the Festival of Light John Slater

Diwali is the Hindu festival of light and normally falls on or around 19th October, although celebrations may last for two weeks before and two weeks after! It is the main celebration of the Hindu calendar, equating to the Christian Christmas or Easter, as it is also the anniversary of many events in Hindu history, including the founding of the Hindu sect and the start of the Hindu calendar in 57BC.

The event is also celebrated by the Jain religion and by Sikhs as it is the anniversary of the start of the building of the Golden Temple in Amritsar. Many use the event to give thanks for their good fortune and for the friendship and wealth with which they have been blessed.

Jashvantrai 'Jash' Joshi is our first Hindu Prime Warden and so it is entirely appropriate that he should introduce a little Hindu celebration into the Company's calendar.

Subsequently we were most delighted when he invited us to an event at one of London's top Indian restaurants, and so it was on 4th October, 42 liverymen and partners enjoyed a sumptuous Diwali banquet at Flora Indica in Old Brompton Road, Kensington. The restaurant made the basement banqueting suite available for our sole use, however to enjoy such privacy we were challenged to descend the narrow spiral staircase leading down to it, easier said than done!

Once the stairs were conquered we were rewarded on arrival by a Champagne toast, closely followed by ten courses of exquisite Indian food, with complimentary wine, probably the best I have ever tasted. The thoroughly attentive staff treating Jash and all his guests like Royalty!

On this occasion there was no picking your courses instead the delicious set menu, with many traditional elements, was served to all with some guests

discovering new favourites along the way. The 14 steps up seemed much harder after such a superb meal!

I have never celebrated Diwali before, but after such an enjoyable experience, this will be a hard act to follow!

For those that would like to experience a taste of the evening, Flora Indica is at 242 Old Brompton Road SW5 0DE and comes highly recommended.



The piece that won Paul Gilbert FWCB the National Static Champion Award 2017 – The Mouse Door Knocker

New Liverymen

We welcome our new Liverymen and look forward to seeing them at future Company events

Michaelmas 2017



Mr Christian Sanders

Apprenticed to Lt General Patrick Sanders DSO CBE in 2012. Admitted to the Freedom of the Company in September 2017.



Mr Shravan Joshi

A Company Director of an Oil and Gas Company; he is a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Fuellers. Proposed by the Prime Warden and seconded by Past Prime Warden Richard Regan OBE. Admitted to the Freedom of the Company in May 2016.



Mr Andrew Hopper FWCB

A professional blacksmith who was the winner of the Tonypany Cup in 2014. Proposed by Terrence Clark FWCB and seconded by Michael Roberts FWCB. Admitted to the Freedom of the Company in September 2016.



Mr Brian Hill AWCB

A professional blacksmith who, until recently was an instructor at Kingston Maurward College. Proposed by Past Prime Warden Hugh Adams CWCB and seconded by Simon Grant-Jones FWCB LWCB. Admitted to the Freedom of the Company in December 2016.

Epiphany 2018



Mr Christopher Cherry

A PE and Science Teacher at Colfe's School. Attended the Epiphany Luncheon in 2017. Proposed by Past Prime Warden Nigel Whitehead. Admitted to the Freedom of the Company in November 2017; an existing Freeman of the City of London.

An International Review Christoph Friedrich

The view of a guest from Switzerland who had the honour to be invited to the Luncheon on the occasion of the bestowal of the Gold Medal on Brian Russell FWCB.

I have known Brian for over 30 years both as a colleague and a friend and it was wonderful to be invited to the Celebration at Carpenter's Hall in October 2017. We were surprised and touched by the grand, dignified and traditional setting in which the event took place. In Switzerland we may have a long tradition but we don't show such respect to those of a traditional craft. It made me wonderfully happy to see so many active blacksmiths in attendance.

I know how much effort Brian has put into the education and development of the blacksmithing craft and how much he still does today. I am very happy that this is recognised by the Company with such a well-deserved and great honour. The unexpected and magnificent celebration was all too short but will remain in our memories.

Note from the Editor – Christoph works out of Alte Hammerschmiede (roughly translated to 'Old Hammer Mill') in Sennwald, Switzerland and lives by the phrase:

Entwerfen mit Schwung
Gestalten mit Geist
Formen mit Wille
Schmieden mit Lust

Design with Drive
Craft with Spirit
Shape with Intention
Forging with Passion



Treloar's Gala Dinner, Mansion House

Dr Robin McNeill Love, Renter Warden

On 21st September 2017, a number of WCB liverymen and their guests attended the Treloar's Dinner. The WCB 'team' was led by Past Prime Warden Chris Childs and the current Prime Warden, Mr Jash Joshi.

From the start, the evening was a spectacular success commencing with a generous champagne reception and then, once the guests were seated, they were welcomed by one of our own – the Rt Hon The Lord Mayor of the City of London, Alderman Dr (now Sir) Andrew Parmley. A response was provided by Mr Roger Southam, Chair of the Treloar's Gala Dinner Committee. We were entertained with a highly professional musical performance by Treloar's students led by their Musical Director Jocelyn Williams followed by a fascinating video concerning Assistive Technology. After the guests had enjoyed not only the food but also an enthusiastic consumption of wines from Chile and South Africa, the Live Charity Auction commenced.

Great company, delicious wine, and a desire to support Treloar's in the excitement of the auction almost lead to an unexpected outcome. Dr Robin McNeill Love, Renter Warden, keenly entered the auction by impulsively raising his hand and almost came away with a luxury bed – the only problem being that the McNeill Love household did not require such an item. As a result, the look on Robin's face caused Chris Childs and Robin's son, Charlie, to be potential candidates for emergency resuscitation!

The Silent Auction, running throughout the evening on tablets placed on the tables, was also enthusiastically supported with the Oliver family (Charlotte & Matthew Teale included) leaving with at least 3 items between them. The Blacksmiths clearly have a highly impressive skill at the



The Lord Mayor congratulating the WCB Raffle Prize winners on their highly effective individual Raffle-winning strategies!



noble sport of 'The Raffle' because Jash Joshi, Alastair King and John McCuin at Table 12 won a Raffle prize each!

As Roger Southam, states in the Programme: "If you have not visited the campus you should make the time to go. You will be welcomed with open arms. You will see and experience the most amazing and heart-warming sights and sounds. Most importantly you will leave richer for the experience". He continues: "But for us we just visit and leave. For the staff they give their time day in day out. For the children they never leave!"

The Treloar's website states that the event "raised a record breaking net profit of £48,000. This money will help fund the purchase of various pieces of equipment and support a number of projects on our Treloar's Assistive Technology department's 'wish list'".

This was a splendid evening in support of such a truly inspiring cause. The readers of the WCB Newsletter are strongly encouraged to attend in future. Although it cannot be guaranteed, you may even win a Raffle prize – or come away with a bed!!

To conclude with exciting news. Past Prime Warden Chris Childs has just been appointed as a Patron of Treloar's. He joins an illustrious team which includes HRH The Countess of Wessex GCVO, Sir David Brewer KG CMG JP, Lady Tessa Brewer OBE and Alan Titchmarsh MBE DL. Chris Childs' very well-deserved appointment ensures that, with Sir David and Lady Brewer, the WCB is well represented in leading Treloar's from the front. Chris knows that he carries the congratulations and support of the WCB on the news of his distinguished appointment.

Note from the Editor – the date is already set for the 2018 Gala Dinner. If you would like to join us on 24th September 2018 please contact the Company's group contact and Patron of Treloar's Chris Childs at chrischilds07@btinternet.com.

What is Treloar's – An Excerpt from the Treloar's Website

Treloar's starts in 1907 when the then Lord Mayor of the City of London, Sir William Purdie Treloar, set up a 'Cripples' Fund' as his mayoral appeal. His aim was to build a hospital and school outside the city for children with non-pulmonary tuberculosis. On June 13th of that year, he wrote in his diary that Her Majesty Queen Alexandra 'came to Mansion House to open the Queen's Fete in aid of my Cripples' Fund'. In 1908, Sir William opened his school and

hospital in Alton, Hampshire. Since then, Treloar's has steadily grown and developed, becoming one of the country's leading providers of education, care, therapy, medical support and independence training for disabled young people.

Treloar's Links with the City of London

Treloar's has strong links with the City of London – links that bring us tremendous benefits in terms of profile and fundraising. These links take three main forms:-

The Lord Mayor's trusteeship – each Lord Mayor of the City of London automatically becomes a trustee of Treloar Trust.

The Lord Mayor's visit – the Lord Mayor of the City of London makes an annual visit to Treloar's, accompanied by the Masters of many of the city livery companies.

The Mansion House concert – every year, Treloar's stages an event in the Egyptian Hall at Mansion House, in the presence of the Lord Mayor or his representative.

Educating the Next Generation

Martin Heath – for the Epiphany Court Luncheon

We were delighted to have Mr and Mrs Robert Smith attend the Epiphany Court Luncheon as guests of the Company. Robert and Carol never started as Blacksmiths. Robert was a technical illustrator for the MOD and has worked for the Army, Navy and RAF throughout a long career. Carol worked in the catering industry until an accident forced her to give up work.

In Robert's case, a love of blacksmithing and a thwarted career as a smith saw him become involved in the forge at the Weald and Downland Living Museum in Sussex some 20 years ago. In concert with other notable blacksmiths including John Christian FWCB, he revitalised the forge until it became an important part of the Museum.

Five years ago, he and Carol became involved in children's forging at an after school activity club in Bath, offering school children the opportunity to try their hand at the

forge for 4 afternoons per week. This children's forge capability was taken up by BABA and has been taken on the road to far flung places including Ironbridge, Yorkshire and Hastings as part of BABA events. Children's forging has also been added to the attractions at the Weald Museum.



However, it was the Ypres memorial preparations that saw Robert and Carol increase their output and events for children were organised in Germany France and Italy in the run up to the Ypres International Blacksmithing Event in Belgium in 2016. Their forging events saw

children produce hundreds of poppies that were eventually used in the actual memorial.

Although Robert is the Blacksmith, Carol is very much the 'Girl Friday' behind the scenes; she runs all of the administration, coordinates bookings and recruits professional blacksmiths to assist with their events.

For the craft to continue to thrive, it is vitally important to engage the next generation. Robert and Carol have certainly achieved this. Robert and Carol Smith were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by the Prime Warden, Jash Joshi, as a token of the Company's gratitude for what they have given to the craft as volunteers.

Note from the Editor – The Smiths are involved in the forthcoming spectacular Bath Iron Festival of Ironwork hosted in the world heritage city of Bath from 14th to 17th June 2018 and further details can be found at <https://nhig.org.uk/bathiron/>

The Anvil Rooms Charlotte Teale

When on holiday in Qatar the last thing you might consider seeing is work by a British Blacksmith, however, if you venture to the Anvil Rooms in West Bay, Doha you will come across the work of none other than Nigel Barnett FWCB of Frensham Forge, Norfolk.

Nigel worked with the restaurant to both design & create the stunning interior. Most of the furnishings, used throughout the restaurant, and all of



the tableware were hand crafted by Nigel. This includes, but is not limited to, chandeliers, twisted coil napkin rings & room dividers.

To decorate the walls images of Nigel at work are hung, the photographs expertly captured by British photographer Tony Blake. The classic steakhouse has focused on attention to detail, their signature steaks even being branded by Nigel's handiwork, custom branding irons.

The restaurant is so proud of all the work that has gone into the décor that you can 'drop in' to watch 'The Master Craftsmen', a film all about the restaurant, from concept, through design to completion.

This is a true one off destination and maybe one for the bucket list.



Award Win

*Presented by Past Prime Warden,
Peter Allcard*

Stanley Allcard Cup



Will West

Presented by Lt General Patrick Sanders DSO CBE

The Blacksmiths' Company Army Cup



Craftsman Jake Ongley-Snook
(Received by Don Mallett on his behalf)

Licentiate



Don Mallett AWCB LWCB

The Camelia Botnar Foundation Cup



Dan Drummond

Presented by Craft Warden, Dr Nicholas Land

Industrial Diplomas



Nigel Barnett FWCB (left) of Fransham Forge and
David James FWCB of George James & Sons (centre)

Companion of the Company



David Chez Chescoe
AWCB LWCB CWCB

Presented by Renter Warden, Dr Robin McNeill-Love
Diploma of Merit



Kenneth Fanner AWCB



Simon Hall AWCB



Joanna Williams AWCB



Hazel Withers AWCB

Reserve National Live Champion Blacksmith



James Crossman FWCB

Reserve Static Champion Blacksmith



Sam Bailey



Sam Bailey

Winners 2017

Presented by Prime Warden, Jash Joshi

National Live Champion Blacksmith



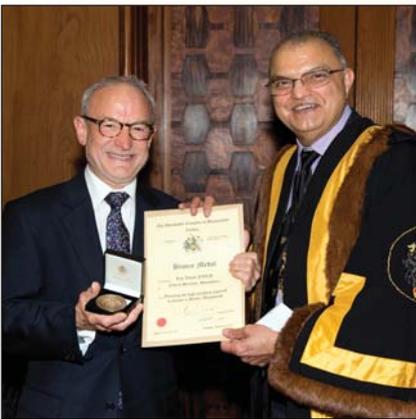
Simon Hall AWCB

National Static Champion Blacksmith



Paul Gilbert FWCB

Bronze Medal



Roy Abbott FWCB

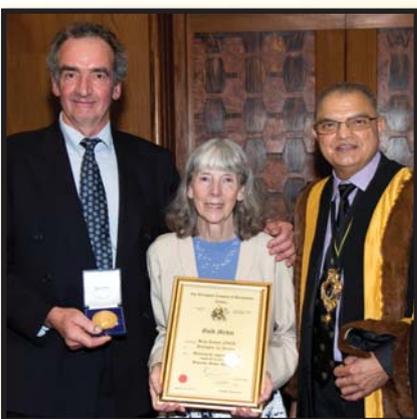


James Crossman FWCB



Andy Hopper FWCB

Presented by Prime Warden, Jash Joshi
Gold Medal



Brian Russell FWCB

Presented by Alderman Sir Michael Bear
The Viscount Tonypany Award



David Tucker FWCB

The Requirements for Awards are described on our website <https://blacksmithscompany.co.uk/>

The Tonypandy Winner 2017



The Long Cross Coins

At the recent Midsummer Court meeting, the Company's Court of Assistants approved the recommendation to award the Tonypandy Cup for 2017 to professional Blacksmith David Tucker FWCB. David is an artist blacksmith based at a forge in Derbyshire. In 2012, David was awarded the Silver Medal and Fellowship of the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths, in recognition of consistently high standards of work.

Our Experience of the Michaelmas Court Awards Luncheon **Deb Dowling**

It can be difficult to get my Blacksmith ready for an occasion. It's mainly his hands you see – they aren't used to special functions – they prefer work! Despite scrubbing with Swarfega (other brands are available) we had to take drastic action. Now I'm not recommending this, because of Health and Safety and all that, but we might possibly, just maybe . . . have used bleach for the hard to reach areas. There was much preparation so we could turn up at Carpenters Hall looking half- way presentable.

Overalls and jeans discarded, suit and posh frock pressed and looking out of place in the back of the Iron Age Forge truck, we left our Somerset hamlet to make the long drive into the city. We had been to this occasion a few times before but this was the first time that we had attended without Richard Jones, and we knew it was going to feel strange travelling up to London and going to the lunch without him.

We thought that staying over at a hotel rather than taking the train would make it all easier on the day. First mistake, as I thought you had longer to pay the Congestion Charge. We set off to walk to the venue with the help of Google Maps, second mistake, as it appeared confused to have left Somerset and didn't seem to like the new location. 'Turn Left ... Turn right' said the electronic voice, 'I have absolutely no flipping idea where I am'. Then the heavens opened. 'Perhaps you need to get a taxi', electronic voice continued.

Blacksmiths always seem to congregate by accident-on-purpose in a coffee shop pre-lunch. It's easy to spot them as some may look uncomfortable wearing suits, so James' suit, also looking awkward, joined them and I ordered a couple of lattes.

Once the actual lunch began we soon got to know the other guests sitting around and, never one to be stuck for words, I nattered away happily but James, my now silent Blacksmith, looked more and more nervous as

the presentations got nearer. 'Is it because you have to get up in front of all these people?' I whispered. 'I'm fine love, it's just a bit hot in this suit' he said, mopping his brow with a napkin.

James was being awarded his Bronze Medal, and was also Joint National Reserve Champion. As he walked back to the table, I noticed that his suit seemed to have relaxed and he was now thoroughly enjoying the occasion.

From the moment of our arrival at the splendid Hall for the reception, to the excitement felt in the room as hand clapping built at the start, to the delicious food and wines, every guest was well looked after. The party was only just getting started though as it's traditional after these occasions for some to visit Ye Old Watling pub where this time we listened to live music and several folk joined in.

Returning to Somerset, a Congestion Charge fine was waiting, but it didn't matter. We'd had a great time, you see. The last few days had seemed like a world away from our normal peaceful location.



Epiphany Court Luncheon

Shaun Mackaness, Clerk of the Framework Knitters

On arriving at Saddlers Hall on a cold January day I felt honoured to receive such a wonderfully warm welcome. This lovely neo-classical building, built on the site of the original 14th Saddlers' Hall, simply oozes style. It also houses an impressive collection of bespoke period furniture, historical antiquities and paintings, there is as you would expect, a lovely display of saddlery from over the centuries.

Following an invigorating glass or two of sparkling wine, we sat down to a delicious lunch of Lobster Soufflé with soft boiled Quails Egg, followed by Venison Chateaubriand which absolutely melted in the mouth. Pudding was definitely not for those hoping to shed a few pounds

following the Christmas festivities, consisting of Chestnut Meringue Gateaux accompanied by Armagnac Sabayon and smothered with Mocha Chocolate Sauce! The accompanying wines were particularly well chosen, with a delicate white from Nutbourne in Sussex, a full-bodied Chilean Merlot all rounded off with a glass of Fonseca Bin 27.

The highlight of the gastronomic adventure however was the traditional Epiphany Cake. This year we were truly privileged as the delicious cake was homemade by Prime Warden Jash Joshi's niece.

As a visiting Clerk I was most impressed by the venue, fayre and festivities. The concise speeches rounding off a lovely afternoon, I just hope to be invited back soon.



End of a Chapter Martin Heath, Clerk

As I prepare to leave the Company at the end of February after three and a half years as your Clerk, I have reflected on the warmth of welcome I received from the Livery and Craft elements which comprise the Company. I hope that the changes I have made are perceived to be for the benefit and improvement as to how the Company does its business. I am sure that you will give my replacement the same welcome and co-operation as I enjoyed. On behalf of Deb and myself, I wish the Company every good fortune and hope that it continues to flourish, root and branch, for ever.

A Bit About Me Jill Moffatt, Clerk Elect

Although the Wardens have met me the editor suggested that the wider members of the Company might also like to know a bit about the incoming Clerk. I have a wide range of experience of working in the City in investment banking as well as in membership and not for profit organisations, most recently as Assistant Secretary General in the Secretariat of a City trade association.

I have worked at the heart of well-known charitable organisations, including the RNLI and the Royal British Legion, where I organised the Garden of Remembrance Service at St

Pauls Cathedral. I am also a Freeman of the City.

I am a keen sailor and can frequently be found out on the water in the Solent throughout the year, sailing over to France and the Netherlands for summer holidays. I did an Atlantic crossing in 2003, albeit on a rather comfortable catamaran and in very light airs! I have been a member of the Little Ship Club in the City for nearly 20 years, serving as Vice-Commodore Sail and Power, organising events on and off the water, and currently sit as an elected member of the Club's President's committee.



I am honoured to be appointed as the new Clerk (elect) to the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths and very much look forward to working with you all and meeting you at Company events over the coming months.

A Thank You from the Company

Prime Warden Jash Joshi

The Company is grateful to the late Betsy Hitchings for the generous donation of £2,000 left in her will to the Company. Betsy was the widow of Liveryman Russell W Hitchings, who passed away in 2004, and also left the

Company a donation in his will. Russell joined the Company in 1969 and was an Insurance Broker with Lloyds.

This donation will be used to help 2-3 young people hone their skills as Blacksmiths

My Year So Far Prime Warden Jash Joshi

It is a privilege to be Prime Warden. I realise that I have been preparing for this honour since my progression through the Court made me the Senior Court Assistant. At that stage, I had become firmly committed to this progressive journey and the following year I began the first of four years as a Warden.

In my third year (2017) I was elected as the Prime Warden of this wonderful and ancient Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths. The tradition of the Prime Warden's role alone (if one allows it to) is almost overwhelming, given that the Company is almost 750 years old, having first been recorded in 1299.

It is at the Election Court, when one is confirmed as the Prime Warden for the ensuing year, that one begins to understand the amount and nature of the work ahead; if you like, that is when the real work begins. There are many invitations from various other Liveries and City Institutions flowing in with your name on them and your calendar suddenly becomes very, very full.

Reflecting on our own Company's history and all the events we have in our calendar, I came across some

information in the book "MY LORD MAYOR" by Valerie Hope, presented to me by a dear friend.

"THE CITY'S OFFICIAL RULER WAS A ROYAL SERVANT, THE PORTREEVE, WHO WAS MENTIONED IN THE 1067 CHARTER. THE SHERIFFS WERE ROYAL LAW OFFICERS AND TAX GATHERERS. THE MASS OF THE CITIZENS WOULD ATTEND THE FOLKMOOT, WHICH ALSO DATED FROM ANGLO-SAXON TIMES, ON THREE ANNUAL OCCASIONS (which we still celebrate): AT MICHAELMAS (Michaelmas Court and Awards Luncheon) TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE NEW SHERIFFS, AT CHRISTMAS (our Epiphany Court Luncheon) FOR KEEPING ORDER IN THE WARDS, AND AT MIDSUMMER (Midsummer Service & Court Dinner) TO REMIND THE CITIZENS OF THE FIRE PRECAUTIONS."

There is no mention of Ladyday but given the history of tradition in the square mile, perhaps it is viewed as a "newer" feature, as it was linked to the Feast of the Annunciation (25th March), referred to in the 1549 Prayer Book of Edward VI.

The Prime Warden with winners of the Elworthy Trophy, 78 (Wembley) Squadron of Middlesex wing RAF Air Cadets





The Prime Warden with Past Prime Warden Hugh Adams CWCB and Don Mallett AWCB, LWCB with competitors at the National Army Championship

Another interesting fact I learnt from this book was that in the reign of Edward III, the financial support of the London merchants was essential for warring monarchs. During the reign of Edward I in the 1290's (about the time when Blacksmiths were first mentioned) many financiers from Florence moved to the City of London and established themselves in Lombard Street, still a banking centre to this day.

I have had the pleasure, as your Prime Warden, to represent the Company at the AGM of the National Blacksmiths Competition Committee, the AGM of the Wessex Guild of Blacksmiths, the National Army Championship and I have attended several lectures hosted by Livery Companies. As of now, I have attended 37 events and functions. Additionally, I have enjoyed the privilege of visiting the facilities at HMS SULTAN which is a memorable experience and one of the many visits I will certainly not forget.

Another notable event I attended was the Elworthy Trophy Competition. This highly competitive event between the Cadet forces of the Navy,



The Prime Warden at the Wessex Guild AGM holding the beautiful candlestick presented to him by the Guild and made by the late Richard Jones FWCB



The Prime Warden attends the NBCC AGM

Air Force and Army is held each year with the Elworthy Sword being awarded to the winning team. This event is sponsored solely by The Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths.

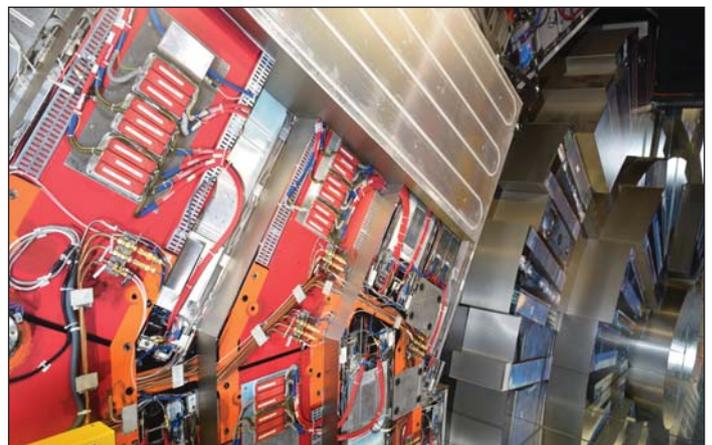
One of the events arranged as part of "my year" took place in early December when twenty nine Liverymen, partners and friends joined Pravina and me on a visit to CERN, Geneva, home of the Large Hadron Collider. This was an amazing experience for all and the visit which included an excellent meal in a delightful Swiss restaurant, went without a hitch with everyone learning something from the trip.

The next event will be on 10th May 2018 at the Diamond Light Resource, near Didcot, to see the resources at this Government sponsored research facility. Diamond offers scientists access to equipment and expertise that enable them to carry out experiments which would be impossible in a normal laboratory. The synchrotron, a particle accelerator which accelerates electrons up to very high speeds, provides highly specialised technology. These electrons produce very bright beams of light which scientists use to study a vast range of subjects.

At the November Court the Wardens were given a presentation on why The Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths should actively participate in the National Trailblazers Apprenticeship Scheme for Blacksmiths. The Wardens were very impressed by what they were told and agreed that the Company should be involved through the Craft Committee.

Our learned Clerk, Martin Heath, has submitted his resignation to pursue plans for a move to York and I have regretfully accepted his notice. A recruitment committee was formed and I am pleased to announce the appointment of a new Clerk, Jill Moffat,

who Martin will work with until she has settled into the role. Turn to page 11 to hear more from Jill.



The visit to CERN

Remembering Past Prime Warden Peter Rayner

Christopher Jeal, Honorary Court Assistant

In his Directions to Executors Peter Rayner specifically stated that he did not want a formal funeral. This meant that neither his neighbours and friends in Kenilworth, nor the Court and Liverymen of the Company would have an 'event' at which they could reminisce about Peter and say farewell. However, in the directions he had conceded that the Company might wish to hold some form of gathering to mark his passing.

It quickly became apparent that his friends were looking for something that they could attend. Similarly, the Wardens wanted to ensure that the death of Peter, such a distinguished and well known member of the Company, was appropriately marked.

On discussion with my Co-executor we concluded that there would need to be two events. One in Kenilworth and one in the City.

On Wednesday 10th January there was a luncheon attended by his neighbours, friends and local connections in Kenilworth. The Company was represented by the Father, Past Prime Warden Rodney Lyons, his wife Liveryman Janet Lyons, Liveryman Jonathan Rombulow Pearce (Peter's apprentice) and myself. It was a great success with plenty of anecdotes about Peter and laughter. The Company was thanked for arranging the luncheon and his friends were able to feel that a suitable conclusion to his life had been achieved.

Now for London and what to do! A church service would have been against Peter's wishes and yet somehow we had to have a gathering. I wanted to have something that reflected Peter as a Liveryman and Prime Warden, his love of music, his enjoyment of poetry as well as his deep friendships. The decision was to have several reminiscences interspersed with readings and music. As such the Commemoration was held at Painters' Hall on Thursday 25th January and was attended by over 70 people.

The accompanying panel shows the Commemoration that was led by Father Emeritus, Past Prime Warden Brian Land. The music was provided by students of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. The Commemoration finished with the Blacksmiths' Song and everybody joined in most heartily with the final chorus.

The soloist Dominic Barrant, a graduate of GSMD, first sang the Blacksmiths' Song for us at the Banquet while still a student. He must have sung it at successive Banquets for more than 20 years. Now an established member of English National Opera Dominic had sung a leading role at the Royal Opera House on the Wednesday evening and then performed for us the next day.

I am most grateful to the members of the Company who so readily agreed to speak or recite one of the poems. The Commemoration was followed by a buffet luncheon and here again tales and recollections of Peter were abundant. I hope that he would have approved such a tribute.

The Celebration

Led by Father Emeritus, Past Prime Warden Brian Land

Welcome and Introduction

The role of the Father of the Company

Peter – as Father

Father Emeritus Brian Land

Peter – Early Years and Reminiscences

Liveryman Jonathan Rombulow Pearce

Poem:

Say Not The Struggle

(Arthur Hugh Clough)

Past Prime Warden John McQuin

Music:

Nimrod from the Enigma Variations

(Edward Elgar)

Peter – as a Friend

Mrs Ann Champion

Poem:

Heraclitus

(William Johnson Cory)

Past Prime Warden Brian Iles

Music:

The Drinking Song (Brindisi)

La Traviata

(Giuseppe Verdi)

Peter – as a Mentor

Honorary Court Assistant Christopher Jeal

Poem:

Leisure

(W H Davies)

Past Prime Warden Keith Gabriel

Music:

The Flower Duet, Lakme

(Leo Delibes)

Peter – a Tribute

Prime Warden Jash Joshi

Music:

The Blacksmiths Song

Conclusion

Father Emeritus Brian Land



Finis

(Walter Savage Landor)

I strove with none, for none was worth my strife;
Nature I loved, and next to nature, Art:
I warm'd both hands before the fire of Life;
It sinks, and I am ready to depart.

Peter Norman Geoffrye Rayner – Obituary

Christopher Jeal, Honorary Court Assistant

Peter was born on 10th May 1928 in Cricklewood which he described as ‘all around was green fields and Honeypot Lane led to a farm that kept bees’. Peter, an only child, moved with his family to North Chingford in 1937 where he was subsequently awarded a County Scholarship to Bancroft School, starting there in September 1938.

With the threat of War the school was due to evacuate to Buckinghamshire and, in anticipation, they had moved house. The school however did not move and as a result Peter transferred to Wellingborough. It was there that he met his life-long friend Peter Wolf, and also gained his School Certificate with credits in nine subjects.

Before applying to university Peter was called up and served for two years in the Royal Artillery. In his words ‘two years mostly at Woolwich, where I did as little as possible’.

After National Service he wanted to go to Cambridge University which, at that time, required Latin for admission. Peter confessed that after five unsuccessful attempts he was advised to apply elsewhere. Durham University were the better for it as they offered him a place and he graduated in 1951 with BSc to his name.

Peter’s first job was with Laporte Chemicals in Luton working on hydrogen peroxide as a rocket fuel. This role required attendance at a course at Harwell on how to produce, handle and use radioactive materials.

In 1958 he moved to Birmingham to join BIP Chemicals. That company was taken over in 1964 when he joined the newly founded Warwick University in the Department of Molecular Sciences (later Chemistry). His experience in safety matters led to him being appointed Safety Officer for the University until he retired in 1993.

Peter joined the Blacksmiths’ Company in 1951 and was elected a Court Assistant in 1978. Unfortunately

his year as Prime Warden in 1986 was marred by illness among his fellow Wardens and some troubles in the Company. He overcame all these difficulties and ensured a successful year and, thanks to his wisdom and tenacity, the Company emerged a much stronger entity.



Peter served as Father of the Company from 2006-2013 with great enthusiasm and his wise counsel was often called upon. Specifically remembered are his speeches at various quarterly luncheons which were always enlivened by his wit and the poems he selected to read.

The most tangible of Peter’s legacies is the book that he prepared, which included the translation of the Company’s Charters, set out our History and stated our Customs & Protocol. It remains a major piece of academic work which is regularly consulted; it stands as an outstanding monument to him. Most importantly he assembled and codified details of all Court Ceremonies including words, actions and confirmation of all sorts of matters relating to the Company and its precedents.

Peter’s external interests included

philately (the in depth collection and study of postage stamps) where he concentrated his interest on Papal States and Vatican City issues. In 1993 he won the Rita F Murphy Veritas Award for his Spectroscopic Identification of Papal States stamps and in 2008 he had a book published on his collections.

In addition to this Peter took great interest in the finer things in life including opera, food and wine. With his wide circle of friends one never quite knew with Peter the direction in which any conversation might go. His reading and erudition were wide but Peter took care to display this lightly. Remembered alongside his many accomplishments will be his impish sense of humour and many tales of his gentle ‘tilting at windmills’, one specifically including his critique of a BBC television programme on Shakespeare’s Italy. Peter was able to pinpoint the factual errors and the erroneous assumptions about Shakespeare’s travels if put in their true historical context.

Peter’s commitment to the Worshipful Company was undoubted and that was complemented by his admiration for the City of London. When the responsibilities of the post of Lord Chancellor were being changed the City Remembrancer wrote to all Livery Companies enquiring if there was anything in their Charters that would be affected by these changes. Thanks to his vast knowledge of our Charters the Worshipful Company was able to respond pointing out just where in our Charters there was a reference to the Lord Chancellor and his powers. It is doubtful if many (or any) other Companies would have been able to respond in such a positive manner to such an all-embracing enquiry.

Peter died on 15th November 2017 at the age of 89 and leaves behind many happy memories of friendship in the minds of so many people and tangible proofs of his life-time achievements.

Diary of Events 2018

Invitations will be sent to all Liverymen but please put these in your diary now

8 March 2018 – Clifford Champion Dinner Goldsmiths' Hall

16 March 2018 – United Guilds Service at St Paul's with Lunch in Painters' Hall. Apply to the Clerk for tickets.

22 March 2018 – Ladyday Court and Luncheon
The Charterhouse

April 2018 – Visit to the KIA Oval or Lords. *Date TBD*

4 May 2018 – Annual Banquet at Mansion House

10 May 2018 – Visit to Diamond Light Source at Didcot.
Diamond Light Source is the UK's national synchrotron science facility, located at the Harwell Science and Innovation Campus in Oxfordshire. 20 people maximum.

21 June 2018 – Midsummer Court and Dinner.
Company Church Service. Armourers' Hall

25 June 2018 – Election of Sheriffs with Lunch
in Painters' Hall

6-8 July 2018 – Prime Warden's Weekend in Stratford-upon-Avon. To include a performance at the RSC, a gala dinner and visit to a nearby National Trust property.

Please note that the website, including the Members' area, has been updated to reflect the above dates

Show Dates 2018

North Somerset	7 May	www.nsas.org.uk/north-somerset-show/
Devon County Show	17-19 May	www.devoncountyshow.co.uk/
Royal Bath and West	30 May-2 June	www.bathandwest.com/home/1/
South of England Show	7-9 June	http://seas.org.uk/south-of-england-show/
Royal Cornwall Show	7-9 June	http://royalcornwallshow.org/
Royal Three Counties Show	15-17 June	www.royalthreecounties.co.uk
Royal Welsh Show	23-26 July	www.rwas.co.uk/royal-welsh-show/
New Forest and Hampshire John Roberts	24-26 July	www.newforestshow.co.uk/
Edenbridge and Oxted Eric Lamprell	26-27 August	www.edenbridge-show.co.uk/
Dorset County Show Simon Grant-Jones	1-2 Sept	http://www.dorsetcountyshow.co.uk/
Great Yorkshire Show* Annabelle Bradley, Malham Smithy	10-12 July	http://greatyorkshireshow.co.uk/
Royal Norfolk Show* Nigel Barnett FWCB	27-28 June	http://royalnorfolkshow.rnaa.org.uk/

* Not part of NBCC competition programme but traditionally have strong WCB presence.

Caption Competition



Your chance to win a bottle of Champagne for the best 'printable' answer
Entries to the Editor please
blacksmiths.twitter@gmail.com
by 31st July latest
Judging will be by the Prime Warden and the winner announced in the next Newsletter
Congratulations to **Neville Shulman CBE** for winning the 50th Issue Caption Competition
– please contact the editor to arrange receipt of your prize

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
or michaelphotography@tiscali.co.uk
Telephone: 020 8363 8350

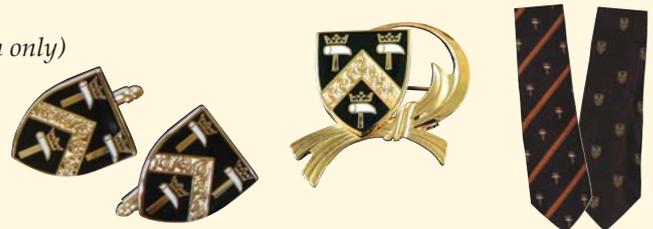
Editor: **Charlotte Teale**
e-mail: blacksmiths.twitter@gmail.com
Telephone: 07906 051 158

Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths' Shop



Prices:

- Livery Tie £10 (*Liverymen only*)
- 'Social Tie' £22
- Umbrella £20
- Cuff Links £30 (*T-bar*)
- Cuff Links £32 (*Chain*)
- Brooches £72.50



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