

The Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths

Newsletter
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Editor
Charlotte Teale



By day & by night – part of the Tonypany Cup winning installation at Westminster Magistrates Court by Bex Simon

– See Page 11



Hello and Goodbye from this Editor

Charlotte Teale



Hello and welcome to issue 55 of the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths' Newsletter. In this strange time of lockdown, it was great to look back over some of the events of late 2019 and early 2020 and I really hope you enjoy reflecting on a brilliant six months. I have also been able to include some events that would have been covered in issue 54, but we were unable to squeeze them into that edition, due to an abundance of copy.

It has been a period of great highs, including the first female winners of both the Blacksmiths' Army Cup and the Tonypandy Cup, presented at our packed Awards Luncheon. We have also sadly experienced the passing of Past Prime Warden Hugh Adams and Liveryman Lieutenant Colonel John Yardley Sanders. Full obituaries for both are included in this issue.

As some of you may know this is my last issue as editor of the newsletter. I have recently had a change of role at work which means that I sadly no longer have the capacity to give the newsletter the attention it deserves. It has been a great pleasure to be the editor for three years and I hope you have enjoyed the issues printed during this period. I am delighted that my successor has been found and Liveryman Abigail Farr will be taking over from me with immediate effect. Should you wish to contact me, my

details are on the back page, however all copy for future newsletters should now be sent to Abigail, whose details are also printed on the back cover.

As I write this it feels very bittersweet. Writing the newsletter gave me a great excuse to speak to so many people at events and lunches and I am grateful to everyone who has provided copy during my time as editor. I am however looking forward to attending future lunches without a pen and notebook in my handbag ready to scope out my next author. You can be sure now that when I approach you I won't be asking you to write an article!

Although all upcoming events have been either cancelled or postponed I am delighted to see how the nation has come together at this time with members of our own company working alongside the NHS and other bodies in vital steps to fight the pandemic and the resulting effects.

As I sign off I hope that all of you, your friends and your families are keeping well and I send my best wishes to you all. I hope to see you at Company events in the not too distant future.

Jim Cook on behalf of the Publicity and Public Relations Committee wishes to thank Charlotte for her splendid efforts as Editor of our newsletter and wish her well.

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'This reminds me of my time in the operating theatre aboard ship'

Congratulations to Wing Commander Dan Penter
the winner of the 54th Issue
Caption Competition

– Please contact the Editor
so we can get your prize to you –

Taking to the Sky Khushal Thakrar

On the morning of the 21 October 2019, 15 liverymen and guests ventured to the Waddington RAF base near Lincoln. On arrival we were met by Squadron Leader Allen Auchterlonie who hosted us throughout the day. There was an array of tents where many of the different branches of the RAF were preparing their presentations and talks. After a brief introduction in the main hanger, the first talk on our schedule was given by Wing Commander Daniel Penter of the 42 (ES) Wing (our RAF affiliate) teaching us about the Expeditionary Support Wing of the RAF. They provide specialist engineering capability; providing aircraft recovery and transportation, weapons storage and preparation, and deploy airfield support to air operations and defence tasks worldwide. After several other presentations from different wings including 71 (Inspection and Repair) Wing 5001 Squadron and Joint Aircraft Recovery and Transportation



prepared and served by the RAF Catering Squadron.

After lunch the fun started, we managed to get a look at the new F-35B Lightning combat aircraft, a next generation plane which will operate alongside the Typhoon. The Lightning is a multirole combat aircraft

that can conduct the roles and missions of different aircraft types simultaneously. For the Lightning, this includes air to air, air to surface, electronic warfare and intelligence collection missions. Next, we had a talk by Leonardo

about how the RAF works in partnership with private corporations. Leonardo supply not only aircraft to the RAF but also anti drone and

other defence systems which help to detect unknown aircraft which may be a threat. Following this we were introduced to the Typhoon FGR4. The Typhoon provides the RAF with highly capable and extremely agile multi-role 4th generation combat aircraft, capable of being deployed in the full spectrum of air operations, including air policing, peace support and high intensity conflict. Initially deployed in the air to air role, the Typhoon now has potent and precise multi role capability. Finally, we were lucky enough to

squeeze in a visit to the E – 3D Sentry. This is a modified Boeing 707 which is an airborne early warning command and control aircraft. The Sentry can monitor airspace to provide threat detection of adversary aircraft and situational awareness on friendly assets. The information

F-35B Lightning



Squadron (JARTS) we were lucky to get out of the cold and have lunch in the large food tent which was

E-3D Sentry



from the radar is processed by the crew and disseminated via a variety of data links and communication systems.

Those of us lucky enough to go to Waddington had an excellent time and it was amazing to see so many functions within the RAF.

Cockpit of the Lightning



A Busy Six Months – Reviewing My Year So Far

Prime Warden Dr Nick Land

It is an enormous privilege to be Prime Warden of the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths and I'm delighted to have the opportunity to share with you some of the highlights of my year so far.

One of our principle objectives as a company is the promotion of the Blacksmiths' Craft. To that end we run competitions in many of the major county shows and it is a real joy to attend these and to see the quality of work that is being produced. One of my first official tasks this year was to give out the prizes at the Dorset County Show in September. The Blacksmiths' Company is held in great respect because of the quality of its craftsmen and other Livery Companies often commission work from us. In October I was privileged to attend the Installation ceremony for the Tylers and Bricklayers Company where Simon Grant-Jones presented them a magnificent new banner stand.



Simon Grant-Jones FWCB LWCB presenting the Tylers and Bricklayers with a magnificent new banner stand

As Prime Warden I represent the Company at formal City occasions, often processing in St Paul's Cathedral or the Guildhall with a host of other Prime Wardens and Masters in full regalia. These have included the Election of the Lord Mayor and the opening of the

Garden of Remembrance. Some representational roles are less formal, but just as important. We have traditionally provided the prizes for the Elworthy Trophy (the London Tri-Service Cadet Competition) and it was enormous fun (if rather wet) to be with so many impressive young people at Frimley Park in October to present the prizes.



Representing the Company at the Guildhall in full regalia



The Prime Warden with winners of the Elworthy Trophy

Charity is another of our objectives and I am delighted that the Company has been able to significantly increase its charitable giving this year. Helen and I have attended a number of charity events over the past few months including the Sheriffs' Ball in a remarkably transformed Guildhall! I was particularly proud of the Blacksmiths' contribution to the Guildhall Red Cross Fair in November. We sponsored the opening Gala, provided the principle organiser (Renter Warden Alistair King) and, thanks to the generosity of our working Blacksmiths, ran a first-class stall. I enjoyed the personal challenge of selling numerous pokers and toasting forks to people who claimed to live in smoke free zones. Rather more concerning was Helen's insistence on attending a charity event run by the Mistress Apothecary on the successful use of poisons!



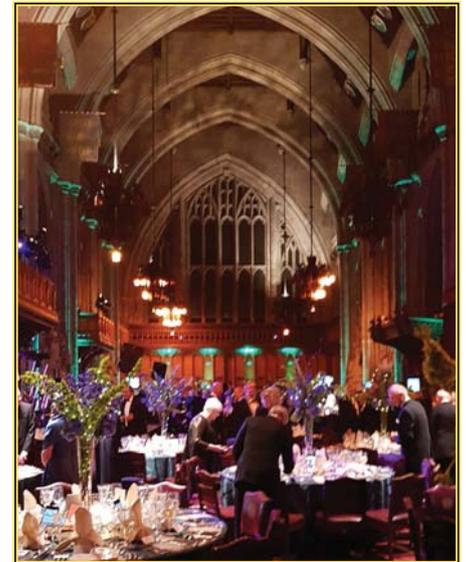
Handing out prizes at the Dorset County Show

One of the great privileges of being Prime Warden is to enjoy the hospitality of so many other Livery Companies. It is wonderful to have the chance to see magnificent halls and to meet interesting people from all walks of life. In my own speeches I have sought to outline just a few of the ways in which Livery Companies make a real difference to their trades, to young people and to a whole host of charities.

Perhaps one of the most important days this year was the 5th February when during a Craft Committee meeting we got a text confirming that the Secretary of State had approved the funding to re-establish a formal

Blacksmiths' Apprenticeship scheme (thanks to John Slater and Adrian Legge for their work on this). This means that we will have ensured that future generations of young people will be able to learn "That by Hammer and Hand all Arts do Stand"!

Helen and I attended the Sheriffs' Ball at the Guildhall



From a Weakness to a Strength; How Hard Work and Determination Secured the Blacksmiths' Army Cup

Lance Corporal Elena Mountford

I joined the Army in 2008 into Royal Logistic Corps (RLC) as a Communications Specialist and later as a Logistic Supply Specialist. After serving 8 years with the RLC I wanted a new challenge and decided to re-train and transfer into the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME). I wanted a trade which I thought I'd enjoy and decided to become a Metalsmith; a choice which some people were surprised with because at the time there were only 3 other serving females within the trade.

During my initial yearlong training at MOD Lyneham, in Wiltshire, I soon settled into the physical demands of becoming a Metalsmith and welcomed the new challenges that came with it, not only that but getting to grips with tools and machinery that I had not seen or even heard of before.

Soon I was enjoying using my own creative side and making items for friends and family, whilst passing the stages of gaining my initial Metalsmith qualification.

After training I was posted to 4 Armoured Close Support Battalion REME to start my new career, and in the year that followed I found myself deployed to Canada and Estonia, as well as supporting in Barracks Equipment Care, Manufacture and Repair.

In 2019 I thought I would challenge myself further and enter a Blacksmithing Competition at the Royal Bath and West Show.

During my training, blacksmithing wasn't my strongest subject and I was determined to improve.

With 2 weeks to go until the competition I set about practicing and deciding on my idea for my final piece and how I was going to make it, as I'd only ever used a forge before a handful of times.



Lance Corporal Elena Mountford celebrates the outcome of hard work

At the start I was just happy that I had the chance to take part in the event and didn't expect to win. Later I learned that I was also the first female to do so. I am grateful to the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths and the Royal Bath and West Show for the opportunity, and the accolade, as well as the British Army, my Husband Dan, my friends and my peers for their support.

I look forward to the future and the new challenges that will come along with it, while enjoying all aspects of being a Metalsmith.

Great Times at the Guildhall Christmas Charity Market

Adrian Legge FWCB LWCB, Liveryman

One fine day during a craft committee meeting last spring it was announced that the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths would be taking a prominent role in the bi-annual Guildhall Red Cross Christmas Market in November, and wouldn't it be a wonderful idea to try and involve some of our national family of blacksmiths in producing work in aid of the charity to sell at the market.

A small group of people from the committee got together to sort out the logistics of trying to persuade and organise a bunch of blacksmiths (just like trying to herd cats!!!) to produce and donate work for sale at the event. Various regional smiths were tasked with sorting out their areas and collecting up the donations. Bob Tunks did absolutely sterling work in not only keeping everyone on track, but even in arranging a road trip with his lovely wife, to pick up the work from around the country. This involved driving up to Scotland then across country to the midlands, down south and then back to London. I'm not sure that Kerry wouldn't have preferred a week in the sun!



The team working hard behind the stall

As always, the blacksmiths came up trumps and we are very grateful for their generosity, time and creativity in coming up with such varied and exciting pieces.

Melissa Cole spent some agonising time sorting out the display and pricing all the pieces.

Merv Allen and Jim Cook brought along a cohort of stalwart friends to talk to the public and sell the work. With various members of the Wardens' Court arriving to do their bit, although many members of the company were unfortunately away attending the funeral and paying respects to Sylvie and the family of our great friend and Past Prime Warden Hugh Adams. Those of us who were unable to attend the funeral paused for a moments silence and had a toast in memory of Hugh.



Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra, supported by the Lord Mayor, Alderman William Russell and Chairman of the fair organising committee, the Renter Warden, Alderman Alistair King open the fair

The Blacksmiths stand came together quickly thanks to the seamless organisation of Bob and Jill and it looked brilliant, with more work available under the tables to stock up. Bob also paid to have hessian bags made up and printed with the company coat of arms.

The event was officially opened by Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra, supported by the Lord Mayor, Alderman William Russell and Chairman of the fair organising committee, the Renter Warden, Alderman Alistair King with his consort Corinne Lee.



Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra visits the Blacksmiths' stand

The Princess visited the Blacksmiths' stand and complimented us on the quality and variety of the display before buying a piece and continuing on a tour of the market. By the end of the two days we had virtually sold out and raised the magnificent sum of £3,047 for the Red Cross. Many thanks to all involved.

Youngster Blacksmiths Shine in the Sun

Jim Cook, Craft Warden

The 2019 Edenbridge and Oxted show coincided with two of the hottest days ($\approx 33^{\circ}\text{C}$) ever recorded for August in the UK! The Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths' stand was located at entrance to gate 4 and almost opposite to that of the Worshipful Company of Farriers, both of which were busy with blacksmiths and farriers working at their forges showing the audiences their skills in their respective crafts.



The Edenbridge and Oxted Blacksmiths Team



Katy and Richard Bradshaw in the 'Live pairs competition'

The blacksmith's stand comprised tented accommodation for both refreshments and an exhibition area for selected pieces of forged iron work together with an outdoor undercover hardstanding forging area in which the 3 forges were operating.

The tents afforded some respite from the sun's heat and encouraged visitors inside to view the award winning and other exhibits which were on show. These included several types of gates, fire scrapers, pokers, candle holders, colourful forged sculptures of parrots and fish, to name but a few. Pride of place was given to the magnificent forged Wessex Guild's "Golden Anniversary Panel" ($\approx 7\text{ft.}$ in diameter) which showed the four elements of earth, wind, fire and water in picturesque iron panels.

The blacksmiths stand and show activities were extremely well organised by Nick Bates, who was ably supported by the redoubtable Eric Lamprell FWCB, who for many years had managed this show before handing over duties to Nick.

Refreshments comprising food, cool drinks and beverages, (the chocolate brownies were delicious) were provided by members of the blacksmiths families for them and livery guests.

The three forges were working more or less continuously throughout both days. A series of blacksmithing sessions were carried out by young "less experienced" blacksmiths and of course "old hand" masters. Some sessions were conducted on a timed basis, some of them working singly and some working in pairs, which included a father and daughter team Katy and Richard Bradshaw.

These were showcase sessions and were very popular with the visitors to the event and attracted large audiences. Eric's ring master "roll up" type commentaries for these sessions drew the attention of visitors to the stand and provided an informative, sometimes jocular commentary of the particular event taking place including what in fact was being forged.

The event culminated at the end of the second day with the presentation of the awards to the prize winning blacksmiths. The backdrop for the presentation ceremony was the Guild's Golden Anniversary Panel and was conducted by Nick Bates. The Craft Warden of the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths, Jim Cook, ably supported by Court Assistant John Richardson, presented the awards.



John Richardson presenting awards to Doug McCoy and Freddie Gillam

The judge of the show, Richard Bent FWCB, in his address mentioned that he was extremely pleased with the way that experienced blacksmiths had passed on their expertise and knowledge to the youngsters. He commented that these events provided an excellent showcase for displaying the skills and craft to the general public.



Craft Warden, Jim Cook presents an award to Henry Rogers



Craft Warden, Jim Cook presenting award to the John Denton Trophy Winner Lawrence Colman

Young blacksmiths Freddie Gillam and Doug McCoy, who had recently left college, produced examples of their work which showed that the art and craft was in good hands for the future.

Other members of the Worshipful Company of Blacksmith's Court who braved the hot conditions to attend the show included Past Prime Wardens Richard Regan and Nigel Whitehead with their partners.

Award Win

Presented by the Craft Warden, Jim Cook

The Camelia Botnar Foundation Cup



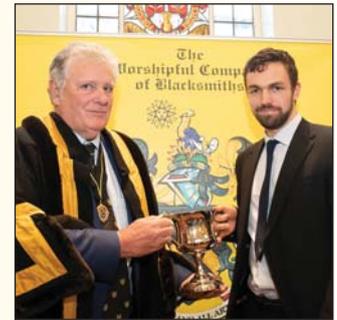
Sadie Star

The Frank Day Trophy



Freddie Gillam

The Stanley Allcard Cup



Jacob Edwards

Presented by Court Assistant, General Sir Patrick Sanders KCB CBE DSO ADC (Gen)

Blacksmiths Army Cup



Lance Corporal Elena Mountford

Presented by the Third Warden, Dr Robin McNeill Love DL

Diploma of Merit



Adam Greenwell

Bronze Medal



Chez Chescoe



William Holland

Presented by the Renter Warden, Alderman Alastair King

**Live Reserve Champion
Blacksmith**

(Not awarded – tied on points)

Congratulations to:

Sam Bailey
Paul Gilbert
David Harman
Richard Hillam
Neil Lossock
Keith Mahoney

**Static Reserve National
Championship Blacksmith**

(Not Present)

Mick Maxen

The Requirements for Awards are described on our

Winnners 2019

Presented by the Renter Warden, Alderman Alastair King

Live Championship Blacksmith



Simon Hall

Static National Championship Blacksmith



Simon Hall

Presented by Prime Warden, Dr Nicholas Land

Silver Medal



Nigel Barnett

**The Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths
Naval Service Core Values Award**



Sub-Lieutenant Alex Cummings

The Tonypandy Cup



Bex Simon

Presented by Wing Commander Daniel Penter, OC 42 (ES) Wing

The Royal Air Force Winged Thunderbolt Award



Petty Officer Daniel Clark & Corporal Michael Broad
(Joint Aircraft Recovery & Transportation Squadron – JART)

website <https://blacksmithscompany.co.uk/>

Midsummer Court Church Service

An onlooker (*Special Correspondent*)

After the Midsummer Court meeting in 2019 the Beadle assembled the Prime Warden, Wardens, Father of the Company, the Learned Clerk and Court Members ready to lead them in procession to the nearby Church of St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe for the Annual Church Service. The Beadle, Geoff Fairfax, boldly led the procession holding his staff of office ready to repel any hobbledehoys, ne'er-do-wells or ruffians who might seek to impede the progress of the Court of the Blacksmiths' Company.

We were joined at the Church by many Liverymen and their guests for the Service.

The Archdeacon of London, the Venerable Luke Miller, is the Rector of St. Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe and he gave permission for the Company to hold the Midsummer Service there. He led the Service jointly with our Honorary Chaplain, (Liveryman) The Reverend Anthony Berry.

Father Luke welcomed the Company and recalled its historic links with the Church. Our Company banner is exhibited and the Company made a significant contribution to the fitting out of the Lady Chapel.

The opening hymn was Love Divine All Loves Excelling to the traditional tune 'Blaenwern'. Father Luke then led us in the Bidding



The WCB Court processing to St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe

Prayers that he had written especially for this occasion.

The Prime Warden read from Chapter 54 of the book of Isaiah that includes the words:

"See it is I who have created the blacksmith who fans the flames and forges a weapon fit for its work"

(The only other Biblical reference to the blacksmiths is that there are no blacksmiths in the land of Israel).

In his homily Anthony Berry outlined the historical background to his vision of Zion as expressed by

Isaiah. It was against an uncertain political background, something, he suggested, with which we can all sympathise.

The final prayers from Father Luke were followed by a full-hearted rendering of Jerusalem. The familiar words of William Blake and the music of Hubert Parry. After the Final Blessing the procession of the Court and Liverymen was re-formed to return to Apothecaries' Hall. It was a pleasure to enjoy pre-dinner drinks in the courtyard bathed in the sunlight of a warm summer evening.

Both Father Luke and the Reverend Tony Berry were able to join the Company at the Reception and Midsummer Dinner.

There was a retiring collection for the work of the Church which amounted to £333.

We are grateful to David Bishop who provided the music and the Parish Administrator, Laura Li, for her co-operation in ensuring that all necessary arrangements were in place. For those who have attended the Company's Carol Service in years gone by, there was also the familiar figure of Martin Woods assisting the Clergy and ensuring the altar was resplendent with fresh candles and elaborate candelabra.

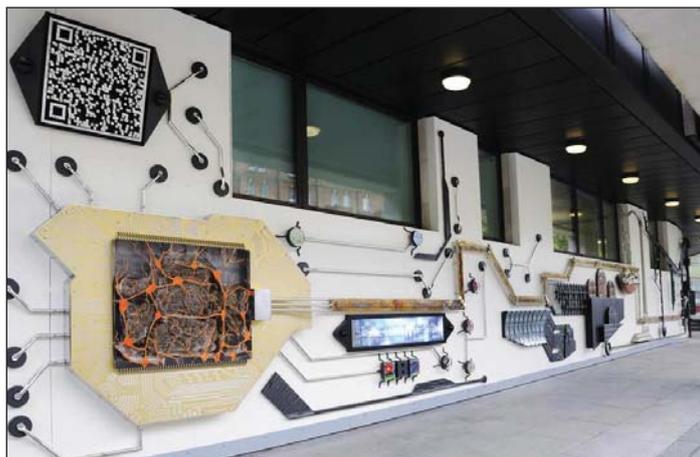


Members of the Court and their partners in the Courtyard of Apothecaries' Hall

First Female Winner – Introducing Tonypandy

Winner Bex Simon *From the Spring Edition of QEST Magazine*

The Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths award the Tonypandy Cup annually for a piece of work which is an outstanding example of the skill of a blacksmith. In October QEST Howdens Scholar and artist blacksmith Bex Simon became the first woman to win the prestigious award, for her Westminster Magistrates Court public art project.



Part of the installation with QR code in situ

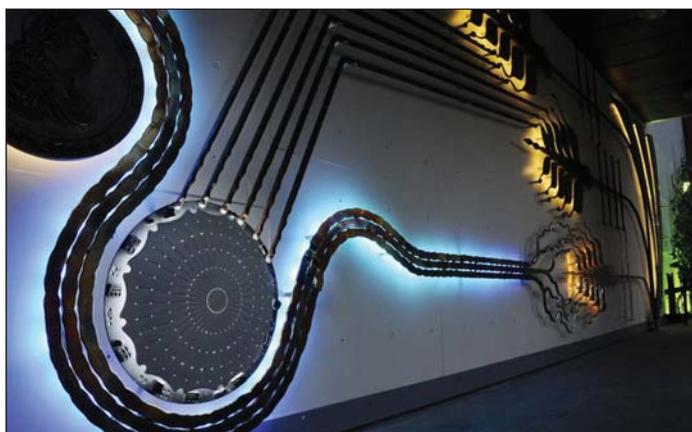
At 40 metres long Bex's design spans the entire frontage of Westminster Magistrates Court, and the hand-crafted metalwork uses the ancient blacksmith craft to create a modern, contemporary piece. Based on a timeline it shows

the historical transformation of the site from its roots as the Yorkshire Stingo Tavern (including some beautiful textured hammered leaves representing the hops) through to a courthouse and references to the modern justice system. It also follows the geographical journey from the agricultural green belt on the outskirts of the city into a more modern and cosmopolitan environment represented by the London Underground, road networks and information lines that all feed into the central circuit board in the shape of TFL Zone I.

The work blends ancient and modern techniques and features acrylic encapsulations of artworks from two local schools, as well as a fully functioning QR code sculpture made by offenders at Coldingley Prison. By scanning the code with their phone visitors can access a video of the making of the work, which includes music specifically written for it featuring sounds of forging machines, tools and anvil samples.

Note from the Editor: As in Bex Simon's piece we have provided a QR code here for you to scan which will take you through to the website and the making of video. Alternatively type <https://www.bexsimon.com/westminster-magistrates-court/> into your web browser.

Do head over to see even more detail of this fabulous installation.



By night



The raw components



Bex Simon hard at work during installation



Metal or rope?



You wouldn't know at first glance that they weren't real



Fully functioning QR code



Bex Simon and her team

An Immeasurable Loss – Remembering Past Prime Warden Hugh Adams CWCB

Past Prime Warden Hugh Adams CWCB died on Remembrance Sunday in November 2019 aged 76. Hugh was the principal link between the Company and its Craft. He was without question an exceptional man and probably the only Liveryman who was as well known among working smiths as among other members of the Company.

He was born and lived in Harrow where despite the war-time bombing he had a comfortable upbringing, thanks to his father's business. Early school days were followed by boarding at "one of Britain's lesser known" public schools where he developed a love of hockey and cricket which never left him.

At 16 Hugh embarked on a City & Guilds' course in carpentry and it was during this time he spent a holiday in France on a boat on the Seine with Rupert, a friend from his school days. Later, Hugh joined Rupert in the Parachute Regiment in which, after training at Aldershot, he served in places including Bahrain and Borneo and saw active service in Cyprus. He enjoyed his time in the army where he made many friends. He kept in touch with Rupert and only last year they had a wonderful time together with Rupert's brother Nigel – also a great friend of Hugh's.

In 1964, while still serving in the Army, Hugh met Sylvie in a mental hospital! Apparently Sylvie had gone to the social club at the hospital and Hugh was there to play hockey with a friend. As soon as Hugh set eyes on Sylvie he declared "that's the girl I'm going to marry" and the rest is history. After marrying they settled in Harrow where their two daughters Jane and Sarah were born.

Having left the Army Hugh began work as a carpenter, forming Adams' Enterprises but still attending night school and finding time to spend with his family. His daughters' memories of their father are ones of joy, of a man always willing to join in and support them in their own interests. Despite the many demands on his time Hugh would always find time to play games with his five grandchildren, just as he had done with his daughters.

Another great love of Hugh's was his local pub where he made many friends. He was a regular and it was through his many contacts there that he secured most of his work. When he had an accident and was unable to work for almost eight months his friends kept his business ticking over for him, for which the family will be forever grateful.

Hugh often related that his avowed intent on becoming Prime Warden was to meet as many blacksmiths as he could during and after his term of office. In pursuit of this goal he rarely missed an opportunity to represent the WCB and offer friendship and support to legions of professional and amateur blacksmiths at their forges, county shows and a wide range of craft events.

From Shetland to Cornwall, from the West of Wales to the far reaches of Norfolk, often accompanied by his wife Sylvie,

Hugh traversed the country and throughout the years his reputation grew as a confident, trusty adviser and to many he became a close friend.

Although he did get his hands dirty on a few occasions

Hugh never pretended to be skilled in the ways of the craft. In fact, as Blacksmiths Guild Life Member Norman Rose AWCB once remarked after Hugh attempted to forge a small item under Norman's instruction, "Hugh, as a blacksmith you'd make a bloody good bricklayer"!

Hugh's knowledge of the trials and tribulations of the working smith are legendary. As a non-smith it was remarkable how he could communicate his previous life experiences using humour and diplomacy to help and encourage those at the beginning of their careers and others who may have

been going through a difficult period in their lives.

Hugh often took delight in reporting that during his time on the WCB Craft Committee he had met many great blacksmiths of the recent past. When discussing this, particularly with student smiths, the modesty of his language was always used to provide testimony to what could be achieved and inspire confidence.

A facet of blacksmithing that gave Hugh particular gratification was the prizes awarded to young craftsmen at the South of England Show. These included the metalwork section in the Young Craftsman of the Year competition and the Hugh Adams Cup awarded annually to a Camelia Botnar Foundation student.

Hugh's energy and enthusiasm for the Worshipful Company, the Blacksmiths Guild and blacksmithing events around the country seemed to know no bounds and he attended as many events as he could. This sometimes involved travelling great distances and being accommodated overnight in premises that were often somewhat less than salubrious!

His attendance at county shows was always greatly appreciated by the organisers and competitors. In his impeccably smart attire complete with WCB tie and blazer badge he gladly took on the role as speech maker and prize presenter. During the days, Hugh was invariably on hand to talk to the public and his skill in describing and selling the works on display certainly helped in putting money into the pockets of the smiths.

Amongst the many prestigious events that were privileged to be graced by Hugh's involvement were: numerous BABA events around the country, the 2004 Shetland Anchor Project, the International Blacksmithing Festival at the Devon County Showground in 2014, almost every Blacksmiths Guild AGM from 2000 to 2018 plus the Blacksmiths Guild 50th anniversary celebrations.

The passing of Hugh is an immeasurable loss to the blacksmithing community but his role and influence on the craft will long be cherished.



At Ease Soldier – Remembering Lieutenant Colonel John Yardley Sanders

Christopher Jeal, Honorary Court Assistant

John was admitted to the Livery in 1983 and was very proud of the previous generations of his family who had been Liverymen. He had records that could trace his ancestors in the Company to the 1850s. Other research had shown that William Hatch Sanders was admitted to the Freedom on 14th October 1790. He, in turn, is described as the son of Samuel Sanders and had been apprenticed to his father in 1783.

John's death on 3rd November 2019, at the age of 83, deprived him of the opportunity to pursue this connection further and, possibly, bridge the unknown 50 years. This love of the family history and the Blacksmiths' Company was typical of his character and commitment to any endeavour with which he was associated. His sons Patrick and Hugo were in their turn apprenticed to John and then became Liverymen. That family tradition has survived with Patrick's son Christian admitted to the Livery in 2017. The family link will continue for the future; but could it have existed for five or six generations past?

John started his National Service with the Royal Signals and was selected for officer training at Mons and then Sandhurst. From there he

was commissioned into 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles. This enabled him to travel extensively which fed a trait discernible from his teenage years.

His postings included three tours of Northern Ireland, Gibraltar, Cyprus and then – probably the highlight of his career – as Defence Attaché in Baghdad. He drove there with his wife Marianne and their two sons Patrick and Hugo. At his funeral Requiem Mass, which was held on 21st November, his daughter Gabrielle regaled the congregation with many tales of Papa and his determination in all things, not least to marry Marianne almost as soon as he met her.

After leaving the Army he was invited to open the London office of the Arab Group and was Head of Marketing for British Aerospace and had his own consultancy. John's diary was always full and he never stopped travelling.

Determination was a recurrent feature of his life with a love of sailing, photography, classical music (with booming arias sung while sailing) and autobiographies. He had written his own which is only for family consumption.

As a young man he had played rugby for Saracens, tennis, squash and



Lt Colonel John Sanders

was always a fearless skier. Described as 'a force of nature' he embraced many interests and cultures in his life and was always interested in people. A polymath he remained a courteous officer and gentleman.

He will be missed by people of many cultures and we extend our condolences to his family. We can look forward to the continuation of the Sanders/Blacksmiths Company link through Patrick who is a Member of the Court of Assistants.

Carols at St Andrew by the Wardrobe

Past Prime Warden Adrian Oliver

The Prime Warden, Renter Warden and several Blacksmiths accepted the invitation of the Castle Baynard Ward Club to join their Carol Service at our Church of St Andrew by the Wardrobe.

The traditional Nine Lessons and Carols were

supported by the superb singing of the English Chamber Choir. After the service we enjoyed a mince pie and glass of mulled wine with our hosts and look forward to being invited again next Christmas.

A Most Generous Donation

**Third Warden Surgeon Commodore Robin McNeill Love DL RN
MB BS FFOM MSc MRCGP DRCOG DA(UK) DA vMed FCMI**

Mr Neville Shulman CBE, liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths, was a close friend of George Thomas, Viscount Tonypandy and for many years and they shared involvements in many charities and organisations. As Speaker of the House of Commons, George Tonypandy was an honorary member of the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths and he introduced Neville to the Company because, through Neville's connections with the art world he had many contacts with sculptors working in iron and metal.

Viscount Tonypandy passed away in 1997 and Neville was invited to speak at his memorial service held at Llandaff Cathedral, Cardiff. When the Viscount retired from being Speaker in 1983 his ceremonial robes, chains of office and other Speaker's items were donated to Cardiff Castle and a full-size figure was created to display them. However, Cardiff Castle didn't have a head for the display figure and so Neville conceived the idea of setting up a competition for Cardiff art students to create a life-like bust to complete the display.

Through his friendship with the famous UK sculptor Elizabeth Frink,



On behalf of the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths, The Prime Warden is honoured to receive the generous gift of the Bust of Viscount Tonypandy from Neville Shulman CBE

Neville asked her to judge the entrants to the competition, kindly paying for all the costs involved. When the winner was chosen, a copy of the winning bust was also given to Neville to own. As Neville and his wife Emma have recently downsized from their Hampstead house and in view of the

fact that the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths award the annual Viscount Tonypandy Cup, Neville thought it ideal to present the bust to the Blacksmiths to own and exhibit. In Neville's own words, 'It is an excellent likeness of Viscount Tonypandy'.

As a result of all this, Neville very kindly donated the Viscount Tonypandy Bust to the Worshipful Company of Blacksmiths and the then Prime Warden, Dr Robin McNeill Love DL, was privileged to receive the gift on behalf of the Company at the Midsummer Court Dinner at the Apothecaries' Hall on Thursday 20 June 2019. Two pictures capture this important moment.



Neville Shulman CBE addressing the Midsummer Court Dinner Guests explaining the background to the Viscount Tonypandy Bust

Note from the Editor: Sadly, during the evening of 23rd and early morning of 24th September 2019 the Painters Hall was burgled, and the Company office broken into. Amongst the items stolen was the bust of Tonypandy so generously donated by Neville at the Midsummer Court. However, there is happy ending to this sad tale and this will be detailed gladly in Issue 56.

New Liverymen & Court Assistant

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

Michaelmas Court 2019



New Court Assistant Mr Leslie Morgan OBE DL – Deputy Lieutenant for Tower Hamlets, pharmacist, entrepreneur and Honorary Visiting Fellow of Cass Business School where he lectures on Philanthropy. Leslie currently serves on the Charity and Finance Committees.

New Liverymen



Mrs Abigail Farr – Director of Teaching and Learning at Westminster School, Abigail follows her father, Dr John Farr, into the Livery. Abigail has already joined the P & PR Committee and will be working on the Newsletter soon.

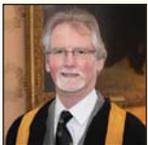


Mr Luke Grant-Jones – A networking engineer, Luke follows his father, Mr Simon Grant-Jones FWCB LWCB, into the Livery. He has attended Company events, including the Awards Luncheon at which his father was presented with his Bronze Medal.



Mr Stephen (Steve) Hill – A Senior Programme Manager at Boeing, Steve follows his father, Mr Brian Hill AWCB, into the Livery and has already attended a number of Company Events.

Epiphany Court 2020



Mr Paul Banks – Paul worked in the Printing industry, based in the City, where he became interested in the history of the City and its organisations.



Mr Charles (Chad) Frankish BEM – A Civil Engineer with a military background and a Senior Manager at Transport in Project & Programme Delivery, Chad often works with architectural metalwork consultants and contractors. He was awarded the Freedom of

the City of London in 2011 in recognition of his contribution to civil engineering and charity.



Mr Jason Read – Jason is a Director of a Building Services company and has been a frequent recent attendee at Company functions.

New Freeman



Mr Benjamin (Ben) Shepherd – Having served the full term of his apprenticeship to his Master, his father, Past Prime Warden Mr Michael Shepherd, Ben was admitted to the Freedom of the Company. He became a Freeman of the City of London on the same day and is looking forward to progressing to the Livery in due course.

Clerk's Corner Jill Moffatt

Red Cross Christmas Fair – 25th-26th November 2019

A huge thank you to all of those who helped to organise the stall, generously donated the items for sale, volunteered on the stall and came to the Market and made purchases. We couldn't have done it without all of you. Thank you for your support of the Company and of the Renter Warden, Alderman Alastair King and his Consort Corinne Lee, the co-Chairmen of the Market. I'm delighted to tell you that we raised £3,047 on the Blacksmiths stall and the total raised for the British Red Cross was in excess of £126,000 – a fantastic result. We have also received many compliments on the quality of the items for sale and the warmth of the welcome from those manning the stall. I keep meeting people who tell me how pleased they are with their purchases. Marvellous publicity for the Company and the Craft!

Honours Congratulations

I am delighted to report that in the New Year's Honours 2020, Court Assistant General Patrick Sanders, CBE, DSO, ADC Gen. was appointed to the Military Division of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath as Knight Commander and that Captain John Voyce, Commanding Officer of HMS Sultan, was appointed to the Military Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire as Officer. We have sent congratulations on behalf of the Company to them both.

Functions

We have unfortunately had to cancel the Ladyday Court Luncheon on 19th March 2020 and the Annual Banquet at the Mansion House on 15th May 2020 following Public Health England advice issued regarding the current situation with COVID-19. This is obviously very disappointing news, but out of regard for the welfare of the members of the Livery this is clearly the right course of action at this time. We will continue to monitor the situation and advise you of the position regarding future events as things become clearer and will act in accordance with any Government advice on the subject. I look forward to seeing many of you in happier times, when we are able to hold our events once again.

Past Prime Warden Nigel Whitehead's Skydive

Finally, a brief note of cheer in these challenging times. Past Prime Warden Nigel Whitehead will be seeking an adrenaline rush (originally scheduled for 21st April 2020 but now to be re-scheduled) to mark his 55th wedding anniversary and celebrate his recent 80th birthday. He will be skydiving in tandem from 12,000 ft. Nigel is undertaking this extraordinary challenge to raise funds to help the homeless in Britain and he hopes to raise £10,000 for Crisis UK. With many thanks to those who have already donated, if you would like to support Nigel, please do visit his 'Just Giving' page: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/nigelwhitehead80th>. We wish him the very best of luck... and a soft landing!

Diary of Events 2019-20

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

15 May 2020 – Annual Banquet, Mansion House	CANCELLED
12-14 June 2020 – Prime Warden's Weekend, Newcastle	CANCELLED
24 June 2020 – Election of Sheriffs (tbc)	
25 June 2020 – Midsummer Court & Dinner, Skinners' Hall (tbc)	
2 July 2020 – City Beerfest, Guildhall Yard (tbc)	
23 July 2020 – Election Court & Dinner, Innholders' Hall (Court Members only)	
22 October 2020 – Michaelmas Awards Luncheon, Painters' Hall	
2 November 2020 – Garden of Remembrance, St Paul's Churchyard	
13 November 2020 – Silent Ceremony, Lord Mayor	
14 November 2020 – Lord Mayor's Show	

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

Show Dates 2020

All Shows are subject to cancellation / postponement, please check Show websites for the latest updates

North Somerset	CANCELLED 3 May	www.nsas.org.uk/north-somerset-show/
Devon County Show	CANCELLED 21-23 May	www.devoncountyshow.co.uk/
Royal Bath and West	CANCELLED 28-30 May	www.bathandwest.com/home/1/
Royal Cornwall Show	CANCELLED 4-6 June	http://royalcornwallshow.org/
South of England Show	CANCELLED 11-13 June	http://seas.org.uk/south-of-england-show/
Royal Three Counties Show	CANCELLED 12-14 June	www.royalthreecounties.co.uk/
Royal Highland Show*	CANCELLED 18-20 June	https://www.royalhighlandshow.org/
Royal Norfolk Show*	CANCELLED 1-2 July	http://royalnorfolkshow.maa.org.uk/
Great Yorkshire Show*	CANCELLED 14-16 July	http://greatyorkshireshow.co.uk/
Royal Welsh Show	CANCELLED 20-23 July	www.rwas.co.uk/royal-welsh-show/
New Forest and Hampshire	CANCELLED 28-30 July	www.newforestshow.co.uk/
Edenbridge and Oxted	CANCELLED 30-31 August	www.edenbridge-show.co.uk/
Royal Berkshire, Newbury	CANCELLED 19-20 Sept	https://www.berkshireshow.co.uk/
Dorset County Show	5-6 Sept	http://www.dorsetcountyshow.co.uk/
Royal Cornwall Show	10-12 Sept	http://royalcornwallshow.org/
St Clem's Day, Finch Foundry*	21 Nov	https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/finch-foundry/

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

Caption Competition



Want to win a bottle of bubbly?

Get your answers to the Editor

blacksmiths.twitter@gmail.com

by 31 July 2020

(Image courtesy of Bob Tunks)

Copies of photographs

For copies of photographs from recent events please head over to Philip McCarthy's website:

<https://philmmccarthyphotography.smugmug.com/Worshipful-Company-of-Blacksmiths>

For comments on this issue please contact outgoing Editor: **Charlotte Teale**
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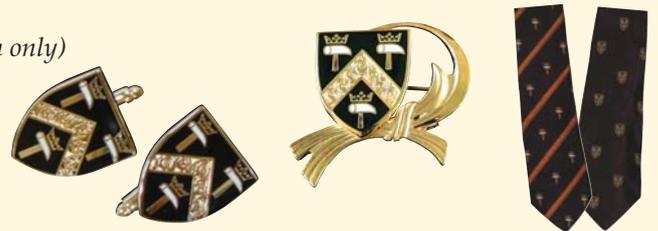
For future issues please contact incoming Editor: **Abigail Farr**
e-mail: abigail.farr@icloud.com

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.