

*Ironmongers' Company*  
Annual report 2023-2024



The Worshipful  
Company  
of *Ironmongers*



FRONT COVER IMAGE:

**The START programme at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith.**

*Part of this year's cohort of NEET (not in education, employment or training) young people participating in the START programme at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith.*

*The Ironmongers' Company, through the Ironmongers' Foundation, is the longest-standing funder of this programme, which works to re-engage participants with employment, education and training. Read more on page 30.*

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# The Company





*The Worshipful Company of Ironmongers* is one of the Great XII livery companies of the City of London, incorporated under a royal charter of 1463.

Our links to the iron trade date back over 700 years. The earliest records suggest that the Ironmongers, then known as Ferroners, was an effective body in 1300, when it took action against the smiths of the Weald over the quality of iron supplied for the cart wheels in the City of London.

As the iron industry moved to the Midlands and the north of Britain by the 17th century, the Company's association with the trade lessened. Its focus is now on education and philanthropy, with members actively giving their time, talent and treasure to the Company and its Charities.

# Foreword from the Master

By Ewan Wauchope Esq  
Master



The Master, Ewan Wauchope Esq, with his wife Kate Payne and children Molly, Duncan and Eliza.

Becoming Master of the Ironmongers' Company is both an honour and a privilege. It also represents a duty to lead the Company forward as we strive to achieve our targets of dealing with the Company's deficit, as well as enlarging our membership and its diversity. It's about putting the Company on a sound footing today so that we can ensure its continued success in a state better than we found it, for generations to come. This is a challenge I look forward to with the assistance and support of Kate and my three children, two of whom are already members of the Company.

It's a pleasure to be made Master

of this wonderful, friendly livery company where members and staff co-operate positively to improve the lives of those we help. Luckily Kate and I have Mary and David Liming as predecessors. They have brilliantly demonstrated the positive qualities of a Master's year, and will be a very hard act to follow.

I was first introduced to the Company by Tony Moss, a Past Master of the Company and Sheriff of the City of London, nearly 30 years ago. The first member he introduced to the Company is also a Past Master, and some will notice we look somewhat similar! [Ewan's twin brother Andrew

was Master in 2021.] I doubt Tony realised he was introducing two future Masters all those years ago.

It was clear from the start that this was a special place. I joined because I wanted to make a contribution to the City and to others, and to give back on a career at Lloyds, which was then at its start and has now lasted over 40 years. The Ironmongers' Company has, over the decades, proved to be an ideal forum for these aims.

The year before becoming Master I served as Senior Warden and saw at close hand the introduction of member subscriptions and the developing saga of the London Wall West development.

I was also able to see for myself the changes the Company can make to the lives of those we support. I have greatly enjoyed being a Christ's Hospital Governor to Joshua, and attending our Head Teachers' Conference which addressed the problems of special educational needs provision. We are so fortunate to work with such good schools and teachers, who ensure that whatever help we give makes the maximum impact where it is needed most.



**Becoming Master of the Ironmongers' Company is both an honour and a privilege... It's about putting the Company on a sound footing today so that we can ensure its continued success for generations to come."**

We continue to provide support to residents old and new in modern, well-equipped flats at Geffery's Fields, the 52-flat sheltered accommodation facility that we run as Trustee of the Sir Robert Geffery's Almshouse Trust. The refurbishment of the almshouses, which were officially opened by David Liming last March, is a real credit to the Company. This long-term project is a tribute to the teamwork of many Ironmongers and our professional advisers and helpers, but could not have been delivered successfully without the leadership of Richard Patteson-Knight and the contribution of much time and professional expertise from David.

The Warden, Jackie Lovell, has ensured that all residents are settled into their new, much-improved homes, and we look forward to welcoming new residents to the last few remaining flats in the coming months. The Company's provision of almshouses is important and historic, and is now ready to continue successfully into the future.

During the past year the Master and Wardens and the Court have also focused on the Hall, which is celebrating its centenary in June 2025. As the historic home of the

Company it is obviously important that we preserve and cherish the Hall, but it is also vital that it can adapt to the changing requirements of the 21st century. We therefore have a detailed and costed plan for maintenance and upgrade which will sustain the Hall's viability as a desirable venue for events, but also ensure it is accessible and useful for the Company. New banqueting chairs are the next phase, which many will notice in the coming year. The Use of Hall Committee ably ensures the preservation of the Hall today, and the Next Century Hall Working Group makes sure that its future is assured.

The Below the Chair Working Group is chaired by the Senior Warden and had its structure and function formally finalised by the Court this year. This is yet another valuable resource looking to safeguard the Company's relevance and longevity.

Perhaps the largest development in the past year was the introduction of subscriptions which, hand-in-hand with the Business Plan, gives a clear path to financial health, while maintaining our duties to our history and philanthropy. I'd like to thank all subscribers for their commitment to helping the Company so far, and also all those who contribute their time, talent and treasure in so many ways. We are all playing a part in our Company, as much as circumstances will allow, and it is this which will ensure our future. It is vital that as members we all continue to engage with the Company if we wish to see it flourish as it should.

As you can see, we retain a pro-active attitude to ensuring a positive future for the Company, its members and beneficiaries. Putting ourselves on a solid foundation allows us to both safeguard our invaluable heritage, and ensure that we flourish centuries into the future. Our Business Plan sets out our intention to be responsible with the resources we have available, but this will not be possible without the superb work of the Clerk and his staff. They not only ensure the smooth running of the Company, but ensure it is a welcoming and inspirational place for us all.

Lastly I would urge all members to engage with the Company. Support our endeavours in every way you can, be it on a committee, working group or otherwise, but also come to socialise with other members and use the Hall! The weekly Monday Lunch Club is a very good and delicious way to do so, with your own guests as well as members of this and other livery companies.

# Message from the Immediate Past Master

By David Liming Esq  
Master 2023–2024



Greeting the Rt Hon. The Lord Mayor, Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli, at the Ironmongers' City Dinner in January.

It has been a great pleasure and honour to be Master of this wonderful Company over the last year. Mary has been a great Consort, enjoying the chance to team up with me in developing the Company's relationships with those we support and with our fellow livery companies.

My year as Master has enabled me to gain a better understanding of how the Ironmongers' Company is perceived and to be the beneficiary of wonderful positive feedback.

The year started with speech day at Landrake School. I had been warned to expect a hot day in which the Master's Gown is a real burden. Not this year, when gale force winds and rain battered the marquee and made me cast my engineer's eye over the integrity of the main struts supporting the canvas roof. In great

English fashion everybody carried on regardless and the day was a great success.

Our support of the Armed Forces is a key part of the Company. In July, I presented the Ironmongers' prize for innovation at the Joint Services Command and Staff College, Shrivenham, to Lieutenant Colonel Ed Middleton of the Royal Marines. The day was enlivened by a fantastic air display to the outgoing course members by the Red Arrows. Our affiliation with the Grenadier Guards is maturing and many attend our various functions and dinners. It was lovely to receive this feedback from one of their number:

*From the moment we arrived, and indeed throughout the evening, we were delighted with the Company and felt so warmly welcomed.*

*We found ourselves engaged in hilarious and often thought-provoking conversation over the course of the meal (delicious!) with our fellow diners and have learned a great deal more about the wonderful charitable works undertaken by the Ironmongers. The speeches and toasts were evocative and entertaining, and it was evident that while everyone present shares a deep appreciation for the traditions, community, and the values underpinning the Company, there is a genuine and concerted interest in continuing to lead a traditional organisation into the future; forging new paths and making use of the modern tools to get there. In this respect, we note there is a parallel to be drawn with the Grenadier Guards as we strive to strike the balance between old and new.*





ABOVE: At the Lord Mayor's Show in November with the Master Vintner, Master Clothworker and Master Salter. David Liming and his wife Mary in the gardens at Buckingham Palace, and at the Hall.



**...continuing to lead a traditional organisation into the future; forging new paths and making use of modern tools to get there.”**

In April, I had the honour of attending the Laying up of the Colours of the London Regiment held at the Guild Church of St Lawrence Jewry, noting that the Ironmongers' was the only livery company present. The Ironmongers' Company has supported the London Regiment for many years. The regiment is now re-designated as the 1st Battalion London Guards under the "Future Soldier" reforms.

On the Charity side of things, the key event in my year has been the formal opening in October of Geffery's Fields sheltered housing facility located in Basingstoke. I had the pleasure of "cutting the ribbon" at the opening ceremony. This was also the culmination of my personal involvement in the refurbishment project that commenced with procuring options studies in 2017. At the Court visit in May, it was humbling how much the residents appreciate our careful stewardship of their homes.

I attended the Ironmongers' link schools' Curiosity Conference held at the Hall in March, albeit it is the last in the current format. I enjoyed singing the "Bungalow Song" with fellow Ironmongers, and to the amusement of the many schoolchildren present. Making speeches is a necessary burden of being Master. Making the closing speech to that conference was the most testing I experienced!

My brain was expanded and then scrambled when I attended the judging of the Ironmongers' Oxford University Medal which is awarded to the best Materials Science Masters Degree Project Talk. Over two days, accompanied by Shan Islam, the Clerk and the Charities Manager, we listened to forty presentations on the finer points of technologies supporting amongst other things, nuclear fusion, batteries and broad spectrum photo voltaic panels. Nightmares from my engineering degree course were stirred. Congratulations to Kate Wellstead whose winning talk was on "Atomic Probe Tomography and characterisation of ceramic coatings to prevent tritium permeation in nuclear fusion reactors"

The Hall is our home and its smooth operation is crucial to both our finances and reputation. In September I had the pleasure of work shadowing CH&Co, our events and catering partners, during a corporate event. It was a wonder to see the planning and choreography that goes on behind the wooden panelling. Importantly it informed some decisions on the future layout of the hall that can improve the efficiency of service provision.

One of the many pleasures of being Master is the chance to view other Livery halls and receive delightful hospitality. It is apparent that we are lucky to have a pretty unique Hall.

Others may be more luxurious or grander, but none have the particular feel or atmosphere that we benefit from. On the organisation front we are premier league – thank you Catherine Melville and the Hall team.

It is thus particularly important that during my year, the Court agreed to a business plan that sets out key actions to reduce the operational deficit, and makes provision to finance the correct level of investment in the Hall's infrastructure as it approaches its centenary year. This has involved some difficult decisions, not least the introduction of subscriptions. I would like to thank you for your support and understanding on this. At times this has made me feel somewhat unpopular but at the end of the day the Court decided it is the right thing to do given the Company's situation. Kicking the can down the road is not an option!

A successful Master's year is a team effort. I would like to thank all the Hall staff for making the journey through the year a joy with particular thanks to the Wardens for their good counsel, to the Court for giving careful consideration to challenging issues, to the Clerk for his support and advice, and lastly Kim Edmunds, Assistant Clerk, for making sure that Mary and I were in the right place at the right time and had timely notice to book kennels for our dog, Pluto, the Weimaraner.

# The Master and Wardens

## Ewan Duncan Wauchope Esq

MASTER

Ewan was born and brought up in London, and attended Harrow School, followed by a very short attempt at a military career, before starting a career in the City of London as a Lloyds broker. His speciality has been in political Violence Reinsurance, especially in parts of the world where exposures and political instability are high.

For about the last 40 years his job has involved much time at Lloyds in Lime Street, as well as travel all over the Middle East and Africa. He is now focused on a more settled existence in Lambeth, London, where he can pursue his hobbies of genealogy, London history, Harrow School history (especially his former House — The Knoll) and his collection of reference books.

He has three grown-up children. The youngest, his son, a keen musician and polo player, is at Exeter University and his two daughters, who are Freemen of the City of London and the Ironmongers' Company, work in London and the Home Counties. One has even become a Lloyds broker.

He is married to Kate, a City solicitor and liveryman of the Insurers' Company, and obtains most of his exercise by walking his Westie, Boots.

Ewan joined the Ironmongers' Company by Redemption in 1995 and Ewan obtained his Freedom of the City in 1996. He became a Liveryman in 1998, before joining the Court in 2015.





### **Randall Boddy**

SENIOR WARDEN

Randall grew up in Hertfordshire, attending Berkhamsted School, then Nottingham University to read Agricultural Science, graduating in 1985. After university, he spent some time in practical farming to broaden his knowledge base and subsequently worked for a merchant business, Sidney C. Banks (Frontier) based near Peterborough.

From there, he took a more independent route with the British Cushion Supply Company and, in 1998, joined his future family, farming in Leicester. Under his management, this business has grown and is now a diverse agribusiness, principally involved in recycling food products into animal feed and food waste into green energy. In addition to this, it has an expanding property portfolio of four rural office business parks and light industrial units, and an arable farming estate.

In 2011, Randall started work on an anaerobic digester power generation plant, fuelled entirely by waste food. This was probably one of the first privately built commercial waste plants of its type, exporting 3.2 MW of green electrical power to the National Grid.

Randall married Sarah in 1998 and they have three daughters: Alice, a biochemist from Nottingham University, now working in a specialist cheese dairy; Harriett, a full-time equine event rider; and Millicent, in her final year at Oakham school. They live outside Leicester, along with 15 horses, four dogs and a cat!

Randall joined the Ironmongers' Company in 1993 by Patrimony and progressed through his father Ashley Boddy, and progressed to Warden of the Livery and Yeomanry in 2010, and to the Court in 2012.



### **Matthew Tilbury**

JUNIOR WARDEN

Matthew went to Christ's Hospital School in Horsham as a Presentee of the Ironmongers' Company. In his final year, he was senior drum major of the marching band. He then studied biochemistry at Imperial College, London, playing representative rugby and cricket.

After graduation, Matthew joined the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF). Initially within the statistics department and then the IT department, both roles based in Guildford. He played rugby with the Old Blues RFC.

In 1995, Matthew moved to Denmark, finding various IT roles leveraging the Internet's new possibilities. While there, he completed an executive MBA from Copenhagen Business School, incorporating travel studies to Spain, the USA and Mexico. He also learned Danish.

After returning to London, Matthew joined forces with some Danes to develop a 'design and build' website company, expanding it to include offices in London, Sydney, and Colombo.

Matthew married Laura in Ironmongers' Hall in 2017, and they live in Oxshott, Surrey, with their cockapoo, Rosie. When not 'Ironmongering,' he is an enthusiastic golfer and clay shooter. He is a member of the "Amicable Society of Blues," the oldest Christ's Hospital Association, celebrating their appreciation of a "C.H." education since 1629.

Matthew joined the Ironmongers' Company aged 21 by Patrimony and progressed to the Court in 2015. He has served on many committees as a Liveryman and is a current Presentation Governor to an Ironmongers' Presentee at Christ's Hospital — the cycle continues...



# Message from the Clerk

By Colonel Charlie Knaggs OBE

The Clerk

So, what is the Worshipful Company of Ironmongers all about? It is many things and especially fellowship and philanthropy or belonging and giving; following traditions and customs that have evolved over seven hundred years; making a real difference in the public interest; nurturing the assets (especially the Company's home, Ironmongers' Hall) and striving to hand them on in better shape to the next generation; and responsible, innovative custody and stewardship of our Charities.

The Ironmongers' Company is all of that and warmly welcomes anyone who would have time, talent and treasure to give to its great causes. It is a terrific organisation to be involved with, and in my time here I have especially loved the

fellowship and generous engagement of committed people who enjoy the camaraderie and who make such a difference — giving, as they are able, through this great Company.

It has been an extremely busy and demanding year, the successes of which have been made possible by an extraordinary team of members, officers and staff whose concerted efforts have focused on ways and means to address the Company's operational effectiveness; to grow an active and inclusive fellowship; and to secure a home fit for the next century. The Court has approved a five-year business plan that includes a long-term strategy for a properly maintained Hall and a focus on increasing the size, diversity and engagement of the membership. In parallel, we have

started a review of the Ironmongers' Charities — their governance and impact — better to deliver and highlight their good works.

As the Immediate Past Master has suggested it is now time for a spell of consolidation and, in the coming year, our focus will switch to allow the new plans and processes to settle in and to celebrate the centenary of Ironmongers' Hall.

A new Ironmongers' year is a chance to reflect on how you might wish to put your time, talent and treasure to good use in the best interests of the Company. Please contact me directly with any questions, comments or suggestions.

✉ [clerk@ironmongers.org](mailto:clerk@ironmongers.org)



FRONT ROW:

T P C Oliver, R H Stedall, T R Boddy (Senior Warden), E D Wauchope (Master), M S W Tilbury (Junior Warden), R H Hunting, M J Crickmay

MIDDLE ROW:

C P H Knaggs (Clerk), M P Lloyd, G A Bastin, M S W Lee, D J Worlidge, K J Hughes, H J Charnaud, J A Biles, D J Liming, R C R Twallin, A M Carter-Clout, T Doncaster (Finance Director), G Timmins (Hall Facilities Manager)

BACK ROW:

J Verden, H S K Knowles, K N Cooper, R J Patteson-Knight, A G Wauchope, Sir Peter Estlin, P A Boddy, E J Squire

# The Court and Court Deputies

## The Court

- Ewan Wauchope Esq, Master
- Randall Boddy, Senior Warden
- Matthew Tilbury, Junior Warden
- Robert Stedall Esq, Senior Member
- Sir Michael Oliver Kt DL
- Richard Hunting Esq CBE
- Hugh Johnson Esq (not pictured)
- Samuel Apsley Esq (not pictured)
- Timothy Oliver Esq
- Michael Crickmay Esq (not pictured)
- Richard Carden Esq (not pictured)
- Richard Twallin Esq
- Jonathan Hudson Esq (not pictured)
- Harry Charnaud Esq
- Maj Gen Patrick Cordingley DSO OBE (not pictured)
- Martin Hudson Esq (not pictured)

- Richard Patteson-Knight Esq
- Anthony Carter-Clout Esq
- George Bastin Esq
- David Worlidge Esq
- Richard Slade Esq KC (not pictured)
- The Rt Hon the Lord Garvagh (not pictured)
- John Biles Esq TD
- Andrew Wauchope Esq
- Julian Verden Esq
- David Liming Esq
- Hugh Knowles
- James Farquharson (not pictured)
- Alderman Sir Peter Estlin KStJ
- Peter Boddy
- Kate Hughes

## Court Deputy

- Mike Lloyd

## Court Deputies Elect

- Angela Harris
- Nicholas Moss
- Matthew Wilkinson

## Past Court Deputies

- Mark Lee
- Commander Elizabeth Squire

## Warden of the Livery and Yeomanry

- Major Khushru Cooper

# Our continued commitment to diversity

**By Henrietta Brailsford**  
Liveryman

We have long been rightly proud of our reputation as a particularly friendly and welcoming Hall and Company — we remain committed to ensuring that everybody who interacts with the Ironmongers, whatever their gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, age, sexual orientation or identity, education or disability are treated with consideration and courtesy, and feel that they belong.

We have rolled out our Diversity Monitoring Survey to establish the current demographic make-up of our great Company. This has established a benchmark from which we can measure the progress we make in the coming years to reflect society and the communities we serve. It isn't too late for members to complete the survey if you haven't done so (please contact Katy Tytler for information). By monitoring we ensure that we are better equipped to understand where our efforts are best placed to ensure our future.

I am pleased to report that our membership intake this year was 33% female. It includes two talented scholars: one ex-Christ's Hospital presentee, and one Oxford Medal winner. Inviting more of our presentees and award-winners to join as scholars is an excellent way to bring in talented new members from a range of backgrounds. We look forward to ensuring their first year with the Company is memorable as we meet all our new members at events this autumn.

Other progress includes further additions to our formal attire library, the designation of a safe space at all events that is available on request, and a new accessible washroom. We have also added a new membership page to our website, with the aim of demystifying the admissions process for potential members who are new to the world of livery companies.

In common with the rest of the Great XII, we know that we have a long journey ahead of us. The crucial thing is that we have a roadmap and are committed to the path. I sincerely encourage all our members to engage with this important work. You can do so by completing the Diversity Monitoring survey, familiarising yourself with the EDI Policy and Roadmap, and considering whether there are people in your networks who might be interested in becoming an Ironmonger, who could bring a different outlook to enhance and expand the talents of our great Company.



TOP: The Ironmongers' Summer Barbecue. MIDDLE: At the Inter-Livery Clay Shoot  
BOTTOM: Enjoying the Great XII Sailing Challenge on the Isle of Wight.

# Officers and staff



FRONT ROW: Tim Kiddy (Property Accountant), Tracy Weddell (Cloakroom), Ranjit Salian (Head Chef), Lisa Hibberd (Accounts Assistant), Charlie Knaggs (Clerk), Su Seager (Housekeeper) Patrick Jenkins (Assistant Houseman), Tina Stevens (Cloakroom), Michal Kaminski (Events Manager)

MIDDLE ROW: Kim Edmunds (Assistant Clerk), Paula Renouf (Charities Manager), William Weddell (Cloakroom), Asta Varanauskiene (Accounts Assistant), Garry Timmins (Facilities Manager), Tatiana Doncaster (Finance Director), Katy Tytler (Membership Manager), Ben Cook (Houseman), Jackie Holmes (Cloakroom), Ruth Eglesfield (Charities Assistant), Chris Hanrahan (Cloakroom)

BACK ROW: Andrzej Flizak (Hospitality Assistant), Alexandra Serban (Hospitality Assistant), Gail Campbell (Hospitality Assistant), Michael Chapman (Senior Event Sales and Marketing Executive), Catharine Melville (Social Secretary), Samuel Baracho (Deputy General Manager) Nadia Hassan (Event Coordinator), Eric Mensah (Kitchen Porter), Victoria Vronska (General Manager)

## ***New starters***

- Michael Chapman, Senior Event Sales and Marketing Executive (Company of Cooks)
- Helen Didymus-True, Communications Manager
- Nadia Hassan, Event Coordinator (Company of Cooks)
- Lisa Hibberd, Accounts Assistant
- Paula Renouf, Charities Manager
- Garry Timmins, Facilities Manager
- Victoria Vronska, General Manager (Company of Cooks)

## ***Leavers***

- Carolina Cosson de Oliveira, General Manager (Company of Cooks)
- Nisha Jayan, Assistant Accountant
- Ben Jeffery, Sales and Marketing Manager (Company of Cooks)
- Christopher Lapworth, Under Beadle
- Robin Manson, Houseman
- Pamela Ray, Communications Manager
- Helen Sant, Charities Manager
- Stephen Walby, Beadle



# The Hall



# An introduction to the Hall



**I**ronmongers' Hall has been home to the Company for 99 years and has hosted countless banquets, luncheons, Court and committee meetings, alongside weddings, film shoots, business lunches and conferences.

The Hall is a Grade-II-listed neo-Tudor/Jacobean building and an award-winning events venue that showcases a golden age of craftsmanship. The impressive Banqueting Hall features oak panelling, exquisite stained-glass windows, and crystal chandeliers, along with a collection of portraits representing the Company's history. The Drawing Room boasts a large William Morris woven-wool wall hanging, while the Luncheon Room, Court Room and charming Courtyard all offer beautiful backdrops for any event.

**To enquire about holding an event at Ironmongers' Hall, please email [events@ironmongers.org](mailto:events@ironmongers.org)**

*Income from the Hall helps the Company to support its membership, as well as the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of this historic building and its furnishings.*

# Striving for excellence in homely surroundings

By **Victoria Vronska**  
General Manager, Company of Cooks





Nadia Hassan, Event Coordinator; Michael Chapman, Senior Event Sales and Marketing Executive; and Victoria Vronska, General Manager.

Looking back at previous annual reports my predecessors have begun by noting that the year has brought change; this one has been no different!

### A new team

During the past year we have said a fond farewell to outgoing General Manager and Sales Manager, Carolina Cosson De Oliveira and Benjamin Jeffery respectively. We wish them well as they both move on to new ventures.

Following their departure, we have welcomed our new team: I have taken the helm as General Manager and, on the sales side, Michael Chapman (Senior Sales and Marketing Executive) and Nadia Hassan (Sales and Marketing Coordinator) have added their friendly, approachable touch to the catering team. Each have worked for venues such as the Chedington Court Estate, Dartmouth House and the Royal Society of Arts.

### High-calibre service

We have seen a strong year at the Hall with solid repeat business and wonderful event feedback. Highlights from the past 12 months include:

- The Réunion des Gastronomes — returning to the Hall for a second year running last November. An unprecedented step, as it is a nomadic organisation that enjoys exploring different venues each

year. Further to this, it has been in touch for a 2025 date, as it was greatly impressed by our service and teams! A true testament to our collective efforts to excel in both quality and service.

- We were thrilled to welcome, for a second time after a successful show in 2018, fashion designer Edward Crutchley. During London Fashion Week the designer showcased a number of avant-garde looks against the gorgeous backdrop of the Banqueting Hall.
- Finally, March 2024 saw us host the first of the Hall's centenary celebrations: a "Through the Ages" dinner: a spectacular soirée which looked back and celebrated heritage dining events hosted by the Company over the years. Head Chef Ranjit curated an elaborate six-course tasting menu, sampling (among other fantastical highlights) mock turtle soup. The evening was elevated with incredible entertainment and singing by Oli & Co.

### A warm welcome and renewed efficiency

I have been eager to put my own stamp on the way that we approach the everyday running of events here at the Hall, bringing my passionate energy and a fresh perspective. To begin with, I have implemented a new service

style; we now run team service at all our events.

Team service entails our waiting staff specialising in various aspects of the operation, in order to serve both sides of a room simultaneously. It allows one member of the team to be on the floor, visible and available to guests at all times. At formal dinners this ensures guests are served in a more uniform and efficient manner. This allows us to build a sense of camaraderie and teamwork, with service staff willing and able not only to perform their specific tasks, but to jump in as necessary to assist one another.

My ultimate objective, working collaboratively with our wider teams, is to ensure that all guests, be they Ironmongers or visitors to the Hall, are warmly welcomed to homely surroundings, and providing an inclusive venue for everyone.

I have been made to feel truly welcomed by the incredible team here at the Hall and, moreover, by the wider Ironmongers' community. I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Master, Wardens and members whom I have already had the pleasure to meet. I am eager to get to know many more of the members over the coming year, and to continue to build on and uphold the impeccable standards and fantastic reputation for which Ironmongers' Hall is renowned across the City of London and beyond.

# Progress and change

**By Anthony Carter-Clout Esq**

Master 2014, Chairman of the Use of Hall Committee

The Use of Hall Committee has once again had a busy year with many changes taking place. After the acceptance of the new business plan by the Court, a review of staffing requirements necessitated the creation of a dedicated facilities team under a hall facilities manager. Our Beadle, Steve Walby, who had been with us for over 20 years, elected to take redundancy along with the Under-Beadle, Chris Lapworth, and Houseman, Robin Manson, and we recruited a full-time Hall Facilities Manager, Garry Timmins, who joined us at the beginning of December 2023. Garry has settled into his new position very well, and we will soon have a full complement of staff within the team, taking on the challenges of running and looking after the Hall.

Once again we have had a busy year of events in the Hall with Christmas 2023 being one of the busiest we have experienced to date. Our Monday Luncheon Club continues to be very

popular; it is open to members of all livery companies and their guests — do come along and try it; you won't be disappointed!

Our caterer, CH & Co, has rebranded itself as the Company of Cooks and we now have a new General Manager, Mrs Victoria Vronska, who is based in the Hall and is continuing the tradition of looking after all our guests in an exemplary manner and producing wonderful food and service. The Sales and Marketing Manager, Ben Jeffrey, left us in January to further his career and we will miss his tireless work in promoting the Hall. His role has now been taken over by Michael Chapman.

Our Hall Site Working Group has continued working with the City Planners on the London Wall West redevelopment of the Museum of London site which will upgrade the area and improve the public realm. This has now reached the basic planning approval stage but there are many hurdles still to clear. We have

been discussing the heads of terms with the City to ensure the protection of the Hall when work might finally begin, probably in 2028.

We have continued to develop our sustainability policy to achieve net zero carbon emissions. In October 2023, we completed the replacement of our gas boiler with two 97% efficiency condensing boilers and replaced all our light bulbs with low-emission LEDs. During 2024, we have focused on the reconfiguration of the heating and air-conditioning controls, which will bring us even closer to our sustainability goal.

We have also made good progress with our Next Century Hall Working Group. The group has been meeting regularly, and working with Apt Architects, to review in-depth changes and improvements to areas of the Hall to ensure it remains fit for purpose for its second century. In addition, we have now agreed a detailed planned preventative maintenance (PPM) plan for the next 30 years. This will inform our budgeting and business plan going forward.

One further improvement we are making to the Hall is the replacement of the chairs in the Banqueting Hall. We have now identified a suitable chair that is both stackable and designed with robustness and elegance in mind. We have ordered a bespoke sample chair for testing and approval, and we hope to have the new chairs on-site by Christmas this year.

It has certainly been a busy and eventful year and on behalf of the Use of Hall Committee, our grateful thanks to all the staff at Ironmongers' Hall for their hard work and dedication in keeping the Hall running smoothly, and for the warm welcome they always give to our members, guests and visitors.



The Luncheon Room

How the area around the Hall might look, following the completion of the London Wall West project.

# Planning for a sustainable future

By Mike Lloyd  
Court Deputy

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Following on from the Next Century Hall Working Group (NCHWG)'s work in 2022–23, we have concluded the 'quick wins' of boiler replacement, lighting improvement and system monitoring capabilities to improve the Hall's operational efficiency.

A key driver for the NCHWG has been to maximise the efficiency of the Hall from an operational perspective, as well as to provide as much 'commercially useable space' as possible. We have also strongly considered fellowship, tradition and inclusivity, all three core values of the Ironmongers' Company, in making sure we can deliver a hall that is fit for purpose for the next 100 years of the Company's life.

We have now concluded our studies and, working with Apt Architects, we have produced a three-phase plan to achieve this.

Firstly, we will look to improve the storage capacity of the Banqueting Hall, reducing the amount of time necessary for moving chairs and tables in and out of storage for each turnaround of the space between functions.

Secondly, the London Wall West project is proceeding around us,

making the loss of Ferroners House at some time in the next few years a certainty, rather than a possibility. With this in mind, the NCHWG have examined the ways that the Ironmongers' finance team and the Shipwrights' Company, who are presently located in Ferroners, can be accommodated in the Hall once this extension has been demolished.

Thirdly, we have also been mindful of creating as much useable/rentable space as possible within the Hall for both the fellowship of the membership and our external clients.

In addition to all of this we are looking at how to provide improved lavatory facilities on each floor, improving the accessibility and inclusivity of the Hall's fabric.

All of these goals are to be achieved in a co-ordinated fashion with the evolution of the London Wall West project, and as this becomes more of a certainty over the coming months, so it will be possible to put our detailed plans into action. There is of course still a large degree of uncertainty around the impact of any demolition works around us, and what impact that will have on the Hall from a physical and operational perspective.

We will have to work with the City Corporation and the selected developer to ensure that we make maximum use of what might be a window of opportunity for us to carry out some major improvements and upgrades to the Hall, especially in terms of wiring and plumbing replacements.

We have also paid close attention to what we might be able to achieve towards a net-zero Hall. Current studies are underway to consider the use of air-source heat pumps for the Hall, or a potential connection to the City's own City Heating project which is likely to service the London Wall West development.

The final area of our activities for 2024 will be the preparation of an asset-protection plan that will enable us to ensure that our wonderful home remains respected and enhanced by all who use it.

In all there has been much going on in a very fluid environment, but given the inputs of the Company Surveyor's team from Chilton Associates, our architects, Apt, and numerous other specialist consultants, we can be confident that the Hall is in good hands and that it will emerge well prepared for the next 100 years. Watch this space!



# A word from our new Hall Facilities Manager

**By Garry Timmins**  
Hall Facilities Manager

I arrived at Ironmongers' Hall in early December 2023 with a clear brief: "get the Hall in order and make good the health and safety, security, maintenance and cleanliness". In the same week the old Beadle's team left for pastures new, and I had the daunting task of ensuring that the good work was carried on with a seamless transition. The events came thick and fast, with 18-hour days and a learning curve that saw me dealing with over 40 vendors in my first month, as well as supporting our surveyors, Chilton Associates, in the maintenance and management of the building.

Ceremonial support for the Company and learning the ways of the Beadle brought its own challenges, with advice from all quarters. The Hall hosted a number of Company events including the Cadet Forces Supper, the Lord Mayor's City Dinner and the United Guilds' Service, all needing special attention along with the Company silver requirement.

The new team welcomed Adam Howard-Williams, who brought with him skills from previous employment in the military and livery world. He has wielded hammer, screwdriver and paintbrush to enhance the Hall. We also welcomed Benjamin Cook to Ironmongers' Hall, who has taken silver cleaning to heart and ensures that the collection consistently looks its best. Patrick Jenkins has been a steady hand for many years and is providing the team with continuity, knowledge and a sense of humour! We have all worked together to enable the Company of Cooks to operate at peak performance, and I thank everyone for their patience and professionalism in allowing us to learn as we go.

The support staff who carry on the tasks of cloakroom and cleaning provide the Hall with vital front-of-house representation and advice to Ironmongers, clients and guests. Without Tina, Jackie, Chris, Tracy,

Su and Bill an essential link would be missing to allow the Hall to function.

I have been guided by a range of subject-matter experts to enhance the safety and security of the Hall, and this can be seen in the addition of health and safety boards, and an incident control box at the Door Supervisor's position, along with training in first aid and security drills to enable staff to respond well in a crisis.

The challenge of enhancing existing systems has been interesting, with constant opportunities to learn and grow. I thank all who have helped to enable the facilities management team to do its job, including the Clerk, Assistant Clerk and Catharine, Katy, Justine, Ruth and Paula.

The Facilities Management Team look forward to the next 12 months and are here to help, and to continue to make Ironmongers' Hall feel like home.

# IRONMONGERS HALL, ALDERSGATE

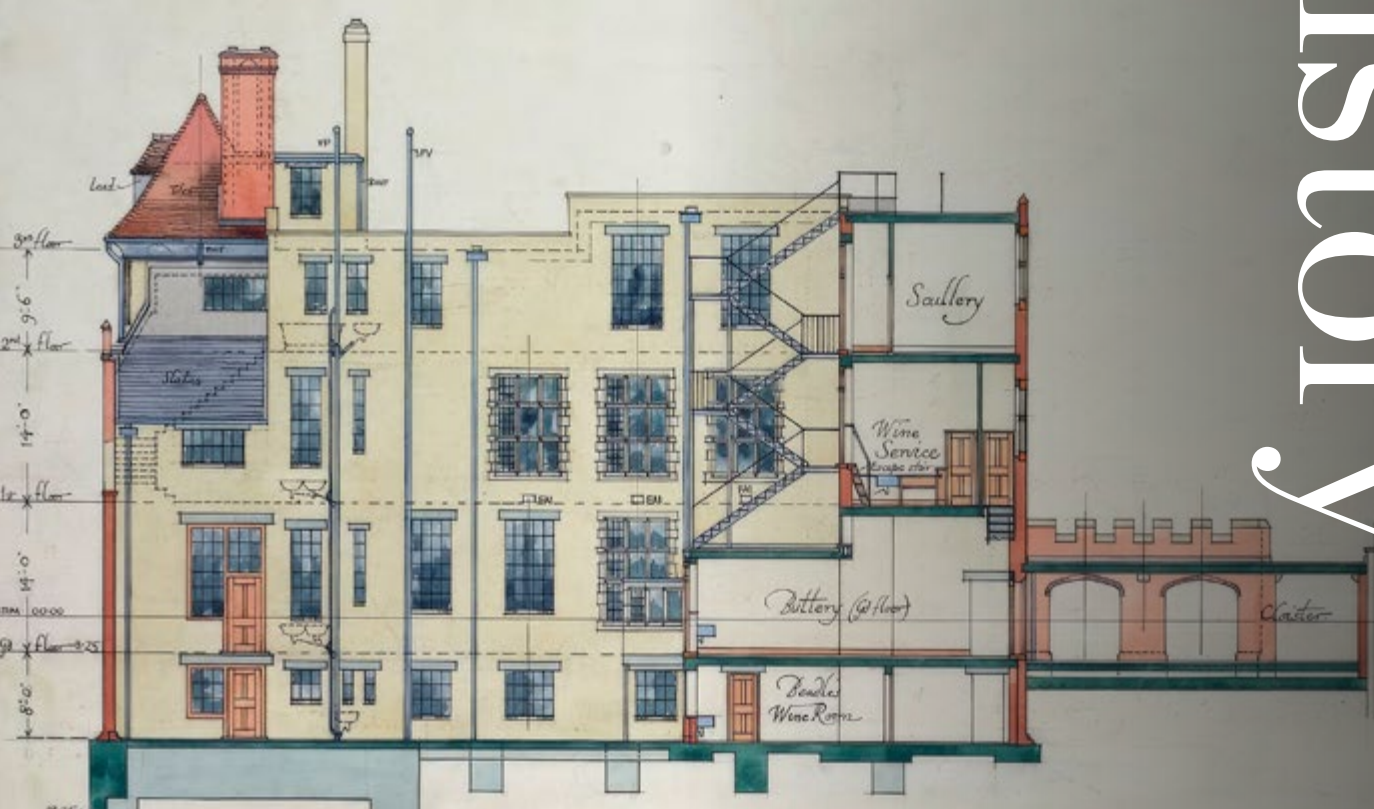
ELEVATIONS & SECTIONS WEST TO EAST.

THIS is the drawing as referred to in the contract made by us the 26<sup>th</sup> day of April 1922.

Architect. Cecil P. Scott  
Structural Engineer. George H. ...  
Clerk. J. F. Adams



SECTION ON LINE F-F.



# Heritage & history



The new Court Room, June 1925 (Ironmongers' Archives, Tatchell Album no. 2).

# From Fenchurch Street to Shaftesbury Place (Part 2)

By Mike Lloyd  
Court Deputy

In the second of this three-part history of Ironmongers' Hall, we turn to the period 1920-25 when the building we now call home was planned, constructed and opened to members.

In the early 1920s the Arts and Crafts movement had been in vogue for a number of years and the newly appointed Company Surveyor, Sydney Tatchell, thought it only appropriate that the new Hall should reflect the skills and craftsmanship represented by a medieval guild. He therefore decided to design a hall that best showcased these skills, whilst being unlike any other livery hall in the City of London. The bricks, iron hinges, latches and doors were all to be handmade. A hall 'by the people for the people'.

The plan and layout of the new Ironmongers' Hall were to be governed largely by the L-shaped site, but also by a wish to provide a 'sunny aspect' to the approach, and to maximise the light and air on a constricted site.

Simply arranged, the basement was to provide strongrooms for archives and for plate, wine cellars, a general store and offices. The ground floor was to house the entrance vestibule, hallway, cloakrooms, Luncheon Room, lower buttery, Clerk's offices and the Court Room. A cloistered courtyard was a further nod towards the medieval origins of the Company. The first floor would accommodate a reception landing, a library (used as a drawing room), the Banqueting Hall and a buttery.

Tucked away on the second floor were the kitchens (ensuring that all smells were exhausted away from the reception areas), as well as the Beadle's accommodation and the great garret above the Banqueting Hall. This would provide a room for the Master, as well as dressing areas for members.

## Celebrating the details

Whilst most members today will of course be well acquainted with the general layout of the Hall, there are a number of small details that Tatchell incorporated into the fabric that are worth looking out for on your next visit to the Hall.

On the left of the front door is a statue of St Lawrence, the patron saint of the Company, whilst on the right is



a statue of St Eleggus, patron saint of smiths and other artificers in metal. To the right again, on the external splay of the porch, is a carving of a Perrotia persica tree, commonly known as the 'Persian ironwood tree'.

The ceilings in the Hall have been variously modelled on those at Haddon Hall, Loseley Park and Crewe Hall. The stained-glass pieces found throughout the Hall represent those connected with the history of the site, with major benefactors, literary Ironmongers such as Izaak Walton, Ironmonger Lord Mayors and the monarchs who have granted and confirmed the Company's royal charters.

In the Court Room, above the Master's chair is a small figure of Edward IV, who granted the Company its first Charter in 1463, carved as a maquette by Gaius Cibber in 1667. In the tiny octagonal lobby that leads to the fountain courtyard there is again a small lancet window with an image of St Eleggus, working as a farrier. One of the most striking representations of the Arts & Crafts movement is the original woven-wool wall covering made by the William Morris factory for the Library (now Drawing Room) on the first floor.

If you have ever wondered what the old Hall in Fenchurch Street would have been like, today's Banqueting

Hall gives a good impression. The current Hall is the same length but slightly wider than the old one, but was designed with modern usage in mind. It incorporates noise-dampening Akoustolith tiles within its walls to absorb sound, as well as a very early concept of air conditioning with the grates in the ceiling acting as chimneys, attached to huge bellows to exhaust cigar smoke during dinners. All very modern for 1923.

Among the items salvaged from Fenchurch Street were the crystal chandeliers, which were damaged by, but managed to survive, the bombing of 7 July 1917. Another survivor from the old Hall are the arms of Edward IV, now positioned on the Minstrel's Gallery and overlooking all of our celebrations. Finally, the carved and painted coats of arms around the walls of the Banqueting Hall represent those of the Masters of the Company for whom armorial records exist. This was an idea copied from the Fenchurch Street site, with a further 94 added since 1925!

#### 'Ancient customs and great communities'

Tatchell described the new Hall as "a building into which had been breathed the spirit of service given not grudgingly nor of necessity, but cheerfully and out of grateful hearts".

The foundation stone was laid on 15 June 1923 by the Master, Major Cecil Pemberton Stedall. The coping stone was laid on 25 April 1924, as the building was 'topped out', and the staff were able to move in by May 1925. The total construction time was 23 months and the first dinner was held on 22 May to thank all those who had worked on the construction. The ceremonial opening of the Hall then took place on 17 June 1925, with a Company ball held on 25 June and a Ladies' Dinner on 30 June. Quite a busy two months!

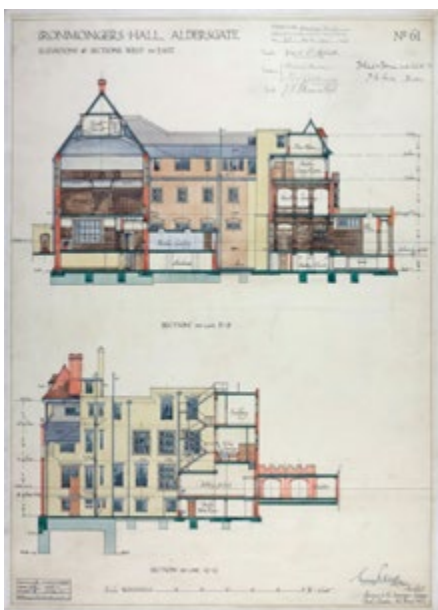
Like all new buildings there were snagging issues, and the final report of the engineers only came through on 14 January 1926 as reported by the Court Minutes that day, when the members of the Court signed off and approved the drainage as fit for purpose.

Tatchell's final comment on his creation was that,

*An endeavour has been made in this new Hall to recreate an atmosphere in which the members may, notwithstanding changed circumstances and surroundings, feel about them those invisible forces which cling to ancient customs and great communities and feel within them renewed inspiration for the responsible work they are called upon to do.*

One hundred years on, his words still ring true. *To be continued...*

LEFT: An elevation drawing from a set of Sydney Tatchell's original plans, April 1923 (Ironmongers' Archives). MIDDLE AND RIGHT: The construction of the Banqueting Hall in progress, during February 1925 and finishing the entrance to the new Hall, June 1925 (Ironmongers' Archives, Tatchell Album no.2).



# Preserving our heritage

By Robert Stedall Esq

Master 1989, Chairman of the Heritage Committee

One of the excitements for members of the Heritage Committee during the last year has been to watch the text of the new History being written by Dr Penny Hunting as it develops. Penny's objective has been to lighten each chapter with anecdotes about Past Masters relevant to the subject that she is covering. One of her considerable achievements has been to delve into the history of the 'mystery' of the Ironmongers, and the colourful characters involved with it before the Company's Charter was granted in 1463. Her research has unearthed a living and breathing guild that played a considerable part in City affairs in medieval times.

Penny has also undertaken research into Wealden iron works, the source of much of the raw material for products being offered for sale in the City and its surrounding area. For this, advice has been generously provided by Jeremy Hodgkinson MA FSA an acknowledged expert on the subject.

There is still work to do on tidying the text but a new draft due should resolve many issues and incorporate suggestions from members of the committee. Most recently Penny has produced a long list of possible images, and she is working with our Archivist Justine Taylor to source pictures which can be included within the text.

We have engaged a suitable designer and publisher for what is intended to be a high-quality production. Members have been invited to subscribe towards the total cost with their names being included in a list of sponsors in the book, and I do encourage you to support the project if you can. It is hoped that the finished book will be available for Master's Day 2025, but much depends on production timescales.

Minor additions continue to be made to the dynastic record of Past Masters, now included in the Members' Area of the Company website, and a fourth update has now been provided.

A plan to commission a new artefact to celebrate the Hall centenary by disposing of unwanted tableware has been deferred as disposals are not expected to raise an adequate sum, and the focus is now on the Company history.

Research into involvement by Company members in slavery continues and involves meeting with interested groups from time to time.

As always, Justine Taylor undertakes a huge range of work to ensure that all the matters raised above are professionally handled. The committee owes her a huge debt of gratitude for the time that she spends, often well beyond her allotted hours.

**Another major ongoing project has been to ensure that the Company's treasures are properly displayed and maintained. This has included:**

Rehanging, cleaning and lighting of pictures, for which there is a continuing process. Particularly providing more sophisticated lighting.

Making full use of the refurbished display cabinets in the hallway to show smaller artefacts.

Better labelling of silver pieces both in the display cabinets and to explain pieces on the tables at functions.

The changes to the role of the Hall Facilities Manager and his staff have called for an improved schedule for the cleaning of Company silver.

**There is a continuing process of archiving company records. This has included:**

Maintaining and adding to the AtoM system that will provide an in-house catalogue of all archives and artefacts.

Creating digital copies of earlier records to make them more accessible, often from old microfilms. This has the dual benefit of protecting fragile original documents and making certain archive collections readily available online.

Binding and boxing completed Court books. These are also being scanned, and a decision has been taken to end the time-consuming process of manually indexing them as users can now search the digital PDF versions.



# Remembering our past

By Dr Penelope Hunting

Hon, member, historian and author of  
*The Ironmongers' Company: A History* (2025)

With the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Hall to look forward to in June 2025, a new history of the Company is to be published. It will be a handsome volume of eleven chapters and some 200 colour illustrations, embracing all aspects of the Company's vibrant past. The Company is its members, so biographies have been explored. Alderman Gilbert Maghfeld (d.1397) personified the successful merchant Ironmonger: his late-fourteenth-century ledger reveals the wide range of goods he imported, from iron to silk; he is said to have been the model for the merchant in Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. In 1409 Richard Marlow MP was the first Ironmonger to be elected Lord Mayor, when he invited Henry IV to join in festivities which lasted eight days. William Dane, Master in 1569 and 1573, and his wife Margaret, whose portrait hangs in the Banqueting Hall, were personal friends of Elizabeth I, with whom they exchanged New Year gifts.

A chapter about 'Royalists and Rebels' tells the story of the rogue Thomas Weston who masterminded the voyage of the *Mayflower* in 1620, and was the first Ironmonger to set foot in the New World, where he founded a colony. During the Civil War, Sir Hugh Wyndham Bt, Master in 1638

and 1642, fought for the king, and had his house ransacked by Parliamentary troops searching for Charles II after his defeat at the battle of Worcester in 1651. Wyndham's contemporary, the preacher and pamphleteer Henry Walker, 'an arrant rascal', had been present at Charles I's trial in 1649 and wrote an account of it.

***Ironmongers  
are invited to  
sponsor  
Dr Hunting's  
new history***

Please contact  
Robert Stedall for  
more information.

Other chapters focus on themes such as 'Iron and Steel', 'The King's Charter, Ordinances and Organisation', 'Benefactors, Charities and Education', 'Overseas Traders', 'Ironmongers' Halls', 'Company and Charity Property', 'Fluctuating Finances' and 'Festivals, Feasts, Pageants and Barges'. The impact of national events on the Company is unravelled, from its origins as a medieval mystery participating in the government of the City to its future prospects.

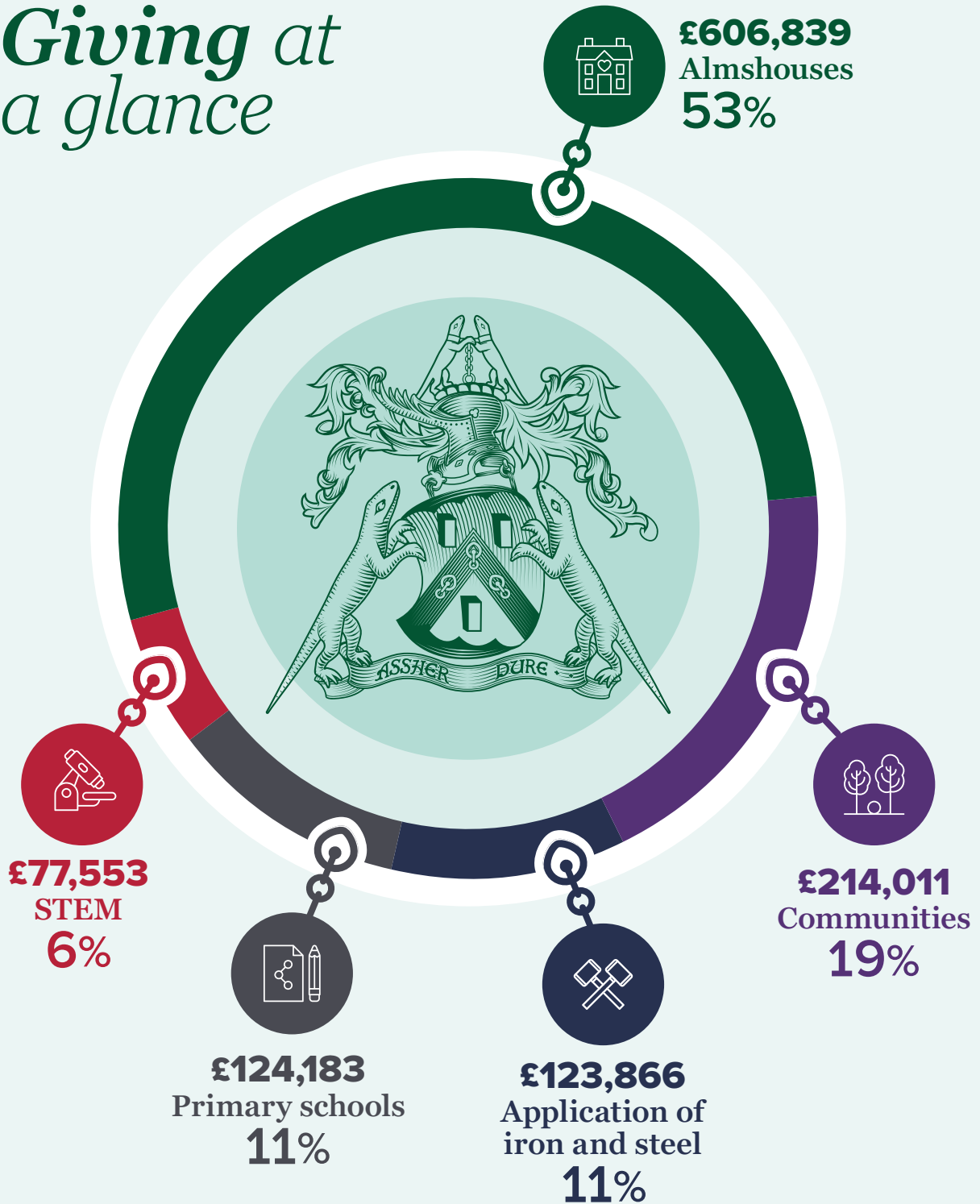


The Company's first Hall, in Fenchurch Street, was acquired in 1457. It was replaced by an Elizabethan building in the 1580s, and by a palatial eighteenth-century Hall which opened with 'a ladies' ball' in 1750. In July 1917 an enemy aircraft dropped a 110lb bomb onto the Hall courtyard and, at the conclusion of hostilities the controversial decision was taken to build a new Hall at Shaftesbury Place, Aldersgate Street, which opened in 1925. Having survived the Blitz in December 1940, a compulsory purchase order of 1966 and the recent threat of demolition, the Hall is now a Grade-II-listed building, poised to celebrate its centenary with a new history of the Company.

# The Charities



# Giving at a glance



More than  
**£1m**

given in grants and support

# Our philanthropic work

Giving is the common thread between our past, present and a sustainable future. The Company is the trustee of six registered charities, five of which were formed in the early 18th century through bequests from generous Ironmongers including Sir Robert Geffery and Thomas Betton. The sixth, the Ironmongers' Foundation, was founded by the Ironmongers in 1963 as the Quincentenary Fund to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the granting in 1463 of the royal charter to the Company.

Sir Robert Geffery's Trust was established as the result of a bequest from Sir Robert after he died in 1704. Today this bequest, which was to be administered by the Company, supports almshouses in Basingstoke (Hampshire), relief for those in need and a school in the village of Landrake, Cornwall, where Sir Robert was born.

Thomas Betton's bequest of 1725, through today's Betton's and Appeals Committee, funds Church of England primary schools and gives grants to other charities supporting disadvantaged young families, children and young people. It also originally helped to pay the ransoms for European merchants and sailors held captive in Turkey and North Africa until most of this fund was repurposed for educational needs, leaving a small amount in the 'redemption fund'. The Betton's Trust has recently begun to make a small annual donation to a modern slavery charity from the redemption fund's interest.

The Iron Committee maintains the Company's connection to its historic origins in iron and steel, primarily by funding students engaged in ferrous metal research at university and supporting the restoration of historic, and the creation of new, ironwork, as well as best practice in heritage blacksmithing.

The Ironmongers' Foundation partners with organisations to provide STEM activities that encourage young people to study science subjects at school and then go on to pursue engineering-related further education or vocational training.

**I think the way we allocate grants is eminently sensible. We place an emphasis on building partnerships and we get fantastic reports back about how the grants are used ... it's so much more meaningful than donating your money to a big charity and having no connection to the impact of that donation."**

RUPERT GOODALL, FREEMAN



At the Work-wise Get up to Speed event. See page 33.



# Opening up job opportunities for ex-offenders

By Angela Harris  
Liveryman

Criminal justice has featured broadly in the news in recent months as the prison sector continues to become more challenging. In order to manage overcrowding, some prisoners are being held in police cells and some court hearings have been stopped. Prisoners have even been released early. Regardless of public concern, this sector is, however, unlikely to receive the attention it deserves for some time.

No Going Back (NGB), a charity seeking to reduce re-offending by assisting prison leavers into employment, was formed as a livery company collaboration in June 2020. It is supported by over 40 livery companies and the Ironmongers' Company has contributed £5,000 over each of the past two years towards this rehabilitation programme.

As a result of collaborative effort, nearly 2,000 participants have benefited in some form with 300 finding employment, delivering £12.64 of social value for every £1 spent. There are 15 ex-offenders who are NGB ambassadors, and along with 160 volunteers (including livery company members, a few Ironmongers among them), they deliver 'boost your profile' workshops across six of the prisons in Greater London with which NGB has a close working relationship. These workshops help candidates (who are within three to six months of their release) prepare cv profiles and articulate their skills for job interviews.

A dedicated NGB engagement manager then works directly with the prison leavers to provide a bespoke package of support. This includes training and upskilling to open up job opportunities, mostly within the building, HGV driving and cleaning sectors. Prison staff not only observe a boost in morale amongst attendees but also commend NGB's professionalism for also offering housing support for those that need it in order to accept job offers. More recently, discussions have started with a mental-health charity for wraparound support.

Whilst NGB is forging its relationships with the criminal justice sector and prisons, in the past year it has also set up a social enterprise which operates in the cleaning sector, one of the largest groups of employers with a huge skill shortage. NGB Clean is a commercial, construction and industrial cleaning service (supported by the Company of Environmental Cleaners) which is helping the charity ultimately to reduce its dependency on funding. Recent financial reporting highlights how the livery companies have been tackling the challenges with funding for the charity. NGB Clean is genuinely thriving and getting much support from the industry, including donations to the charity from the cleaning sector. The NGB Clean enterprise has a growing relationship with property company Knight Frank, which is also proving to be particularly rewarding.

# Re-engaging young people with education, employment and training

By Ruth Eglesfield  
Charities Assistant



In March I visited the Lyric Theatre in Hammersmith to see “Stuck on Repeat”. This performance was the culmination of a START six-week training course. START is the Lyric’s flagship programme for West Londoners aged between 16 and 24 who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). Young people are referred to this intensive programme from a variety of agencies including social services, youth offending teams and pupil referral units.

START uses drama to address the behaviours which have prevented young people from succeeding in mainstream education settings. During the course, participants develop their communication skills and confidence as they work towards an Arts Award qualification. They are also given a pathway and support to help them take their next step, whether that is in education and training, or in seeking employment.

What does it mean to truly belong? This was the question that nine young people had been considering for the previous six weeks, generating creative ideas and learning to work as a team. For some of them, this would be their first experience of performing on a stage.

In the Studio Theatre, one of the Lyric’s more intimate spaces, the performers explored the topic of “belonging” through a series of vignettes. The cast created a variety of locations. On a bus, a young man is shunned by his peers; in a classroom, a boy feels unable to cope; at a bowling

alley, a young woman realises that she has distanced herself from her family for a boy who doesn’t love her; on a plane journey, a young woman has a sense that she does not belong anywhere. In a lively scene, the performers come together to dance at a carnival. Two female members of the cast with beautiful singing voices entertain us with their songs.

There were moments of humour in this show and the overall uplifting message was that it is people just like us who make a city. The performers fully inhabited their roles on stage and must have felt encouraged by the enthusiastic appreciation of the audience.

After the performance, there was a question and answer session with the cast and director, Vicky Moran. Asked what the best thing they had gained from the course was, the performers unanimously agreed that it was friendship. One of the group commented that she had found the course overwhelming, but in a good way. Another said that he had learned to stop being defensive and to accept constructive criticism. The young players were clearly delighted to be presented with their Bronze Arts Award certificates.

Through its START programme, the Lyric has been re-engaging young people with education, employment and training for 18 years. The Ironmongers’ Company is the Lyric’s longest-standing START partner and received a special mention after the performance.



## PROJECT OUTCOMES — START 2023

“We are tremendously grateful for the Ironmongers’ support which has enabled us to deliver this important work to three new cohorts of participants over the last 12 months: a total of 31 young people.”



**23** young people have continued engaging with Young Lyric programmes and activities.

**20** young people have achieved Bronze Arts Awards.

**4** young people have entered or re-entered full-time employment.

**9** young people have entered or re-entered part-time employment.

**2** young people have been nominated for a bursary place to study a foundation course in Acting at LAMDA.



The Lyric believes in the transformational power of the arts for young people, and we are proud of how well this is demonstrated in the track record of START.

**2** young people have gone on to summer courses at LAMDA in partnership with the Lyric.

**2** young people made it to the final round of auditions of the Lyric’s Springboard talent development programme for 2024–2025.

**1** young person has become a Young Lyric Associate (YL Associates take part in a monthly programme of activities and are a diverse voice for young people in the organisation).

**1** young person re-entered formal education at college level with a changed focus on performing arts.

**3** young people have re-entered formal education at secondary level.

**3** young people have begun apprenticeships.



# Boosting literacy, communication skills and confidence

By David Worlidge Esq

Master 2016, Chairman of the Betton's and Appeals Committee

This is my first year as chairman of this wonderful committee. I took over from George Bastin who served on the committee for seven years, three years of which as chairman. I would like to thank George for his amazing enthusiasm for, and wonderful support of, the Betton's and Appeals Committee which he led with his customary skill, enthusiasm and diplomacy.

This committee is at the crux of the Ironmongers' charitable giving and it presides over the capacity to make grants amounting to approximately £500,000 per year, with approximately 24% coming from the Sir Robert Geffery's Trust, 16% from the Ironmongers' Foundation and the balance of 60% from the Thomas Betton Trust. The total grant giving is currently split 37% to (primarily primary) schools, 30% to relief in need, 22% to the four charity partners with whom we have long-term relationships (the Lyric Theatre, St Vincent's, the Island Trust and MakeBelieve Arts [MBA]) and the balance of 11% to various other causes including the Army and Sea Cadets, the Guildhall School of Music, the Grenadier Guards' Colonel's Fund and the Lord Mayor's Appeal.

## Boosting literacy with MakeBelieve Arts

The MBA Curiosity Conference, held at the Hall on Thursday 21 March, was the last Curiosity Conference to be run by MBA because of increasing costs. It was a great success as usual,

and it was such a delight watching and listening to the children having so much fun acting and telling their stories to their fellow pupils from the other four participating schools.

At the conference, I was approached by Abi Huggins, the head at St Andrew's Benn Primary School in Rugby, who suggested that she would be happy to help arrange a future Curiosity Conference without MBA involvement. This has received the support of the other schools we support, and we hope that this will happen in some form next year.

We continue to support the Helicopter Stories project at MBA with a grant of £16,562 for 2024/25. In its simplest form, Helicopter Stories lets children dictate their stories which are written down exactly as they are told. The children then gather around a taped out stage and the stories are acted out. These sessions boost the children's literacy, communication skills and confidence. At its March meeting the committee also agreed to support MBA in expanding Helicopter Stories for children with special educational needs and disabilities with a grant of £8,427 for 2024–25.

MBA has also proposed that, in place of the Curiosity Conference, it could work with the nine Ironmongers' primary schools to develop the Helicopter Stories programme with the schools' teachers. In the event, six of our schools took up the offer to get involved which amounted to a grant of £12,128.

## Supporting children to fulfil their potential

Through the Betton's and Appeals Committee, the Betton's Charity supports projects that provide opportunities for disadvantaged children and young people to fulfil their potential. All supported projects must meet our strict criteria – namely that the projects involve disadvantaged children and young people under the age of 25 in the UK. During the year we supported 35 charities (out of over 600 applications), with an average grant of approximately £5,000. The committee felt that each project selected would make a real difference for these disadvantaged children and young people.

The committee does not have the resources to visit all the charities that we support, but it remains very important that they are visited by Ironmongers, both from a governance aspect but also to learn about what great work these charities do with our grants. If you would like to assist by visiting one of these charities in a location and on a date of your convenience, please contact the Charities Manager, Paula Renouf.

**We supported 35 charities out of over 600 applications, with an average grant of approximately £5,000.”**



# Bringing opportunity to young people across the country

By Harry Charnaud Esq

Master 2009, Chairman of the Ironmongers' Foundation Committee

This report marks the passing of the first year since the shock of Covid. While on the global stage much hardship has been experienced, not least by the people of Ukraine, we in Britain must deal with problems on a local scale. This is where *your* charity, the Ironmongers' Foundation (IF) comes into the equation.

The IF, a charity funded by the donations of our members, continues to increase its vital educational support for STEM subjects and also ensures that our two other Ironmonger Charities, The Iron Committee and the Betton's and Appeals Committee, both benefit from our giving. This allows the Company to meet its charitable goals of supporting education, iron and relief in need. This is all because of continued giving by members, for which I am so grateful. Please keep it up!

The past 12 months have, as ever, been packed with action and our support for the causes to which we give grants has continued.

This year we have funded numerous STEM initiatives for young people, including: the Smallpeice Trust, the Work-wise Foundation, the Access Project, the Institute of Engineering and Technology, Swansea University, Physics Partners, Bloodhound Education and the Brilliant Club.

Visiting our beneficiaries remains key to our giving. Not only is it enlightening to see the impact of these organisations, it is also a necessity to satisfy our risk obligations. On a visit, members can verify the grantees are *bona fide* organisations that are spending our funds well, and in line with their stated applications.

As ever, my enthusiasm for Work-wise in Sheffield remains undimmed. This year it hosted over 5,000 pupils from local schools. One member of our committee, together with my wife Penny and I went to the Ironmongers-sponsored "Get up to Speed" open day at the Magna Science Adventure Centre in Rotherham. The event enabled these schoolchildren to see for themselves what career paths are there for them by visiting stalls manned by apprentices, employees and business owners from local industries.

In June, two more committee members visited the Access Project, at Waverley School in Coventry. The Access Project is an education charity helping disadvantaged young people to aspire to getting better grades in their GCSE and A-levels, as well as enabling visits to some of the leading universities in the country.

Paula Renouf (Charities Manager) and I also visited an event at the University of Cambridge for a similar project that we have funded for the first time this year, called the Brilliant Club. Through the club, we are funding seven STEM scholars' programmes in Birmingham, enabling less-advantaged 8- to 18-year-olds to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to apply to leading universities.

I also had the pleasure of visiting Physics Partners at Sevenoaks School. Its mission is to improve physics teaching in state schools, and it provides hands-on training, mentoring and support for existing science teachers and newly qualified

physics teachers in state secondary schools. This will reap huge benefits to physics students since there is a shortage of qualified physics teachers in the UK, which forms a barrier to many pupils achieving their scientific ambitions.

I am delighted to confirm that at our regular committee meetings all the grants we have supported have been robustly discussed, analysed and agreed as suitable for our giving.

Last Master's Day we bade farewell to our long-standing Charities Manager Helen Sant, and we welcomed new Charities Manager Paula Renouf in October 2023. The learning curve has been immensely steep and Paula has risen to the challenge and made the job her own.

All good things come to an end, and I retired as chairman on Master's Day 2024. It has been an immense privilege and pleasure to serve the Company in this role, and thank you all for your support over the years.

The reins pass on to Julian Verden who will bring youth, enthusiasm and momentum to our Charity. Julian is deeply involved in the iron, steel and metals world which will bring additional expertise to the IF.

If I may once again remind you, please, if you are able make a legacy that will benefit the IF please do consider doing so, and please do continue to support our work through your generous donations. Thank you to all our contributors and our outgoing committee members. Welcome to the new intake, and good luck to Julian. Pip, pip!

# A breadth of achievements

By Richard Twallin Esq

Master 2006, Chairman of the Board of Governors, Sir Robert Geffery's School, Landrake

2023–24 has been another busy and successful year for Sir Robert Geffery's School which we celebrated at the School's annual Speech Day at the end of the summer term. The event comprised the usual programme of performances by each of the seven year groups, recitals by the school orchestra and singing groups and presentation of awards to the pupils. We were particularly grateful to the Master for visiting the School and presenting the awards. In addition to individual form prizes all children received a certificate in recognition of their specific achievements during the year. So the Master had plenty of hands to shake!

The breadth of the children's achievements during the year has again been extensive. In addition to good academic results and the work of the various music groups the School has excelled in other extracurricular activities including art, drama and sport. Details can be seen in the news section of the school website ([sir-robert-gefferys.cornwall.sch.uk](http://sir-robert-gefferys.cornwall.sch.uk)). They include the spectacular results which the children have delivered in the school farm. This unique feature comprises a plot of land adjacent to the school grounds, managed by the children, staff and parents. Some readers may recall the BBC's coverage of the school's 'no

dig' initiative in February, designed to retain nutrients in the soil which has been enriched by compost generated by the farm animals (sheep, chickens, donkeys and guinea pigs). The produce has been truly impressive, including potatoes (380!), leeks, tomatoes, sweetcorn and beetroot. This work links with the curriculum (maths, cookery, sustainability etc) as well as providing a real sense of fulfilment for the children. Huge thanks go to the School's Farm Committee, comprising parents and volunteer staff who raise funds, with the help of the wonderful 'Friends of Sir Robert Geffery's School', and keep the farm running throughout the year.



At the no-dig allotment on the school's farm.



The school orchestra in full swing.

This work, which the governors feel is such an important component of the school agenda, was recognised by the Ofsted inspectors when they visited at the end of January. The previous inspection took place in 2012 and rated the school as 'Outstanding'. As has been widely reported in the news media, the inspection regime has evolved during the past few years, making it harder for schools to achieve the top rating. The inspectors rated the school as 'Good' overall. Of the five categories four were scored 'good' but personal development of pupils 'outstanding'. The result is a great tribute to the work of the Headteacher, Ed O'Hara, all staff members and the pupils who were also interviewed by the inspectors.

The Company owes an enormous debt of gratitude to Mr O'Hara and his team who really do change the lives of the children who attend Sir Robert Geffery's. But our thanks should not be limited to just the teaching staff. All those who work at the school come into contact with, and influence,

the children and are effectively role models for them. Thank you, everyone!

I would like also to extend my personal thanks to the members of the Academy Trust and the governors, whose details are all published on the school website. As well as serving on the Governing Body's four committees (Finance Audit and Risk, Premises, Pupils and Curriculum, Personnel) many act as 'link governors', liaising with the staff team and overseeing a specific aspect of work in the School.

During the year the governors have again considered the Department for Education's initiative for individual Academy Trusts to combine and form one or more Multi-Academy Trusts — the Department's objective being to share good practice and raise standards, particularly for under-performing schools. Having met with local DfE representatives and analysed details of local MATs, the governors concluded that the interests of the pupils were best served by Sir Robert Geffery's remaining as a

Single Academy Trust. The governors will continue to review the options annually.

At the end of the summer term we said farewell to the Year 6 group who now move on to secondary school. It was a great pleasure to welcome them to Ironmongers' Hall in June during their week-long stay in London. The visit included attending Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral, preceded by a short tour of the cathedral by the Dean to whom we were very grateful, followed by supper and 'sleepover' in the Hall.

We all look forward to the new academic year. There are a few vacancies. So if you know of families in East Cornwall looking for a high-performing primary school please let them know! In the meantime, despite this year's successes, the governors and staff remain committed to continual improvement, fulfilling the School's vision to "live life in all its fullness (John 10:10), knowing that with God's help we will be the best we can".



# Preserving historic ironwork and supporting present-day research

By Julian Verden Esq

Master 2022, Chairman of the Iron Committee

The Iron Committee, which normally meets biannually, is going through a period of change. I must first thank the past chairman, David Worlidge, for his enthusiastic support and drive for the work that we do. David was involved as an Iron Committee member for eight years and was chairman for a further five years, so he contributed both great continuity and great clarity. Secondly, I must thank Helen Sant, who retired from her post as Ironmongers' Charities Manager in August 2023. Her work

(ably supported by the Charities Assistant Ruth Eglesfield) in sifting through all the requests we receive and filtering them for the committee was excellent, and the Company owes her a great debt of thanks. Thirdly, I must welcome Paula Renouf, our new Charities Manager, as she navigates the complexities of the interesting requests that come in to the Ironmongers' Company.

Finally, a big thank you to all the members of the Iron Committee for their good counsel and, when

possible, for the visits that they undertake to some of the recipients of our donations. These visits are important as they create a connection with our giving. Do all please note that where possible we welcome any member of the Ironmongers to join in on such visits, or indeed to make their own trips, either announced or incognito. Please speak to Paula Renouf or Katy Tytler for more information.

During the year we commit to giving approximately £75,000 which

we spread across a wide variety of worthy causes. We continue to make grants to the materials departments of the universities of Birmingham, Manchester, Sheffield and Imperial College London. In the 2023/24 year we provided grants to each of £6,000 and a grant of £5,000 to Oxford. The criteria for these grants is agreed with the universities and is primarily used to help fund undergraduates or postgraduates to do research placements on iron/steel-related work, and to help fund students to attend conferences with a connection to iron/steel overseas. The universities report back to the committee on how their funding was used. This funding is beneficial in that it enables research that may not otherwise take place.

This year we also helped fund a Cambridge student, Miss Elizabeth La Duc, to attend the 'World of Iron at 10' conference in Nairobi, Kenya, to discuss how materials science-based approaches can be used to investigate blacksmithing and archaeological iron artefacts. Our grant was most kindly and generously matched by one of our committee members. Elizabeth's report of her trip was well-received and can be made available by the Charities Office on request.

The awarding of our two prizes via the Cast Metals Federation are genuinely appreciated by the recipients, who are young people actively involved in the trade. In particular, the recipient of the Institute of Cast Metals Engineers (ICME) Jubilee Award, Joseph Moseley, will be going on a trip to the World Foundry Congress in Deyang, China, in October this year. The other prize, 'Best Student [Ferrous]' was won by Archie Lewis at Furniss and White in Sheffield.

Core to the purpose of our giving is the promotion of the craft of ironwork, so during the year we made awards for the repair or replacement of existing ironwork as well as to new ironwork projects. Our grants include a donation to Froglife for a salamander-like sculpture in a park in Walsall, to the London School of Architecture in Dalston for ironwork repairs, to the Tectona Trust for iron restoration work on a sailing boat, to the Locomotive Conservation and Learning Trust for metalwork on a signal box, to

the Standard Steam Locomotive Company for cast iron cylinder covers, and also for ironworks at the Church of St Denys (St Dennis, Cornwall), St Leonard's Church (Watlington, Oxfordshire), St Marylebone Parish Church (Westminster, London) and St Werburgh's Church (Wembury, Devon).

I was sorry to miss out on helping award the Ironmongers' Oxford Medal which I so enjoyed last year, so I was most grateful to the Master, the Clerk and Shan Islam, together with Paula Renouf, for attending the materials department at Oxford in May to decide who should win. There were even more talks than last year, 45 in total,

given over two full days by students in their final year under the supervision of Professor Jan Czernuszka. I understand that the presentations were of a very high standard and the winner was Kate Wellstead, whose presentation was entitled 'Atomic Probe Tomography and Characterisation of Ceramic Coatings to Prevent Tritium Permeation in Nuclear Fusion Reactors'. Kate attended our June Court Meeting to receive her Medal from the Master and she gave a short but most interesting talk about her project.

The above encapsulates another great year of our work in this important area.



OPPOSITE: Freeman George Godfrey visiting St Denys' Church in Cornwall. ABOVE: Joseph Moseley, ICME Award winner receiving his award from Matthew Tilbury. Alice and Will Pender and Zehan and Julian Verden at the Chelsea Physic Garden, where we funded a new rose arbour. Master David Liming in the Court Room presenting the Oxford Medal to winner Kate Wellstead.

# ‘Like living in Buckingham Palace’



**By Richard Patteson-Knight**

Master 2013, Chairman of the Homes Committee

Almshouses have been an important part of the fabric of society since medieval times, and they have been part of the Ironmongers’ Company DNA for over 300 years. Benefactors came from all walks of life, many driven by conscience and the needs of their fellow men and women. Not everyone is financially successful in life, but we all deserve dignity in our later years. Today our residents are selected because they are of limited means and of good character. They are wholly or in part unable to maintain themselves with the resources available to them. The Ironmongers’ almshouses provide a strong sense of community, offering safety and security and making it possible for those in need to continue to live independently, in a locality of their choice, often near to their families.

You may be uncertain why the Sir Robert Geffery’s Almshouse Trust (administered by the Ironmongers’ Company) continues to run supported housing, given the dominance of housing associations as social-housing

providers. There are so many alternative charitable avenues for our charitable giving, where it can be easier to understand the added value; in particular, education of the disadvantaged from primary school to university, or relief in need. Some members might regard expenditure on the refurbishment of such a facility to be uneconomic and bordering on imprudent (imagine what in-roads could be made in the educational field with such expenditure). Others might consider that the Trust duplicates the work of housing associations.

Housing associations provide social housing to all ages. These multi-billion-pound income behemoths enjoy huge economies of scale which they have used to fund acquisitions of their competitors. Of course, they do build new social housing, but at a cost of cutbacks in administration and maintenance. The government is using the scale of these organisations to drive down the costs of social-housing provision. This cost-based provision has had unfortunate consequences.



Sadly, we have read about the issues at Rochdale Boroughwide Housing Association, which repeatedly failed to treat endemic problems with damp and mould resulting in the mould-related death of toddler Awaab Ishak in December 2020. There are many examples of horrific living conditions published by the Housing Ombudsman. Several new residents at Geffery's Fields have shared their experiences of social housing and the conditions caused by negligible maintenance; where there was no site manager, or where the tenant mix included those with substance misuse and mental-health support needs, alongside elderly residents. There is a dearth of council housing, a growing elderly population, and depleted government coffers. Clearly charity almshouses help pick up the slack and improve the quality of accommodation available for those in later life; we certainly know that this is the case at Geffery's Fields.

There is empirical evidence that older people who live in almshouses live longer. Bayes Business School concluded



OPPOSITE: Geffery's Fields when opened in 1976. ABOVE: The 'Lounge' in 1976. BELOW: The official opening of the renovated Geffery's Fields in October 2023.

in a 2023 study that a 73-year-old male entering the Charterhouse almshouse in Smithfield London (a short distance from the Hall) would live two and a half years longer compared with his peers from the same socio-economic group. The care of the elderly is every bit as important to society as giving a 'leg up' to disadvantaged younger people.

It is over a year since the residents returned to their renovated flats at Geffery's Fields, Basingstoke, in May 2023. On 5 October the Almshouse was formally opened by the Master, David Liming, accompanied by the Senior and Junior Wardens, thus ending an extensive two years of works that saw the property stripped back to its bare walls, reconfigured and fully refurbished.

Geffery's Fields now has 52 one-bedroom flats (a combination of single- and double-bedroom homes), an extended garden room for residents to use for community events, a computer and library room, internet access for all flats and a high-tech emergency notification system to enable monitoring and operation of the facility when the warden is off duty. We wanted to provide a high standard of accommodation that we could be proud of, and which balanced the needs and aspirations of existing and new residents. These works have extended and future-proofed the Home by 30 years.

In May 2023 there were 32 flats at Geffery's Fields occupied and 20 that remained empty. The average age was 85, with five residents over 90 years' old. Over the year, sadly, four residents have died.

The most effective source for finding new residents has been from recommendations by current residents to their contacts. One applicant burst into tears, saying they could not believe how beautiful the accommodation and gardens were, how friendly the other residents were, and what help and attention Mrs Lovell, the Warden, gave them. Another new resident said it is now "like living in Buckingham Palace" compared to where they had lived previously. At the May 2024 Court visit to Geffery's Fields, a resident thanked the Ironmongers for offering him a place at the home. In his words it was 'the best decision he had made in his life'.

Paula Renouf, the new Charities Manager, and Jackie Lovell, the Warden, have been driving the marketing of vacant accommodation in Geffery's Fields. The British Legion and local churches have been made aware of availability, and other websites have been updated with correct information. The Almshouse is registered with the Basingstoke & Deane District Council's Sheltered Housing list and advertising has been taken out in the *Basingstoke Gazette*.

Members of the Homes Committee and the Communications Working Group have set up a dedicated website promoting Geffery's Fields: [gefferysfields.org](http://gefferysfields.org) which has a 3D walk-through and photographs. The website will be updated with new stories, including details of resident activities; it gives a true impression of the quality of the accommodation.

As of August 2024, 49 flats are now occupied, including three by couples. The average age has dropped to 81, and there are five residents over 90.

# Military affiliations



# Ironmongers and the Grenadier Guards: a year of engagement and philanthropy

By **Hadley Newman**  
Liveryman

Our affiliation with the Grenadier Guards was established in 2013 and has grown into a deeply meaningful partnership grounded in shared values of fellowship, philanthropy, tradition and inclusivity. This relationship, marked by mutual respect and support, has provided numerous opportunities for both organisations to engage in a variety of activities that strengthen our bond and support those who serve.

## **The Colonel's Fund: a lifeline for Grenadiers**

A cornerstone of our support for the Grenadier Guards is our annual contribution to its Colonel's Fund, a crucial charity providing vital financial assistance to Grenadiers and their families, particularly those affected by serious injuries, bereavement or prolonged recovery. The fund ensures that support reaches those in need promptly, addressing gaps where government aid may fall short.

Recognising the need for a dedicated fund with its own fundraising mandate, Ironmonger Major Grant Baker, who was the Regimental Adjutant at the time, judged that existing Regimental charitable funds would most likely be inadequate to meet the escalating welfare demands of military campaigns in the 2000s. The project quickly took shape, and the late Prince Philip agreed to be its Patron.

The Colonel's Fund is supervised by a steering committee on behalf of the Regimental Trustees. This committee reviews the fund's activities regularly, while day-to-day management is carried out by the Director of Welfare and the Regimental Casualty Officer. This structure ensures that the fund remains a source of much-needed support for bereaved families and those suffering from physical and mental injuries.

Currently, the Colonel's Fund cares for 88 wounded soldiers, ensuring they receive the necessary medical and psychological support. The fund is also supporting 18 families of those killed in action by promptly responding to problems of bereavement and hardship. These families have poignantly described themselves as "members of an exclusive club that nobody wants to be part of." Over the years, with the support of the Colonel's Fund, these families have built a strong bond, finding solace and solidarity in their shared experiences. The ongoing support provided by the fund not only alleviates immediate distress but also

fosters long-term resilience and stability for these families, reflecting a deep commitment to their wellbeing.

The steering committee always expected that mental-health problems would begin to surface as a result of operational service, often years after the events that caused them. Sadly, there has been a continual increase in such problems, partly because the symptoms are now more widely recognised. The Colonel's Fund is providing healthcare support to a number of Grenadiers suffering from very complex mental-health difficulties and continues to engage with the government and the NHS to ensure sustainable nationwide support.

## **Nicholas's story**

Nicholas Davis, who served as a lance corporal with the Grenadier Guards for 11 years until he was medically discharged in 2011 as a result of injuries sustained in Afghanistan, shared his personal story with me. The Colonel's Fund has been instrumental in supporting him through ongoing medical treatments, including pain management procedures and home adaptations. "The Colonel's Fund helped me navigate the complex process of applying for MOD grants, taking a huge amount of stress off my shoulders during my medical discharge," Nicholas explained. The personal support and regular visits have been incredibly valuable. "It's the little things that make a big difference," he noted. The fund also financed adaptations to Nicholas's home, such as making it wheelchair-accessible and installing features like low-threshold doors and a second bannister. These changes significantly improved his quality of life and his ability to live independently.

Nicholas's story highlights the extensive ongoing medical care required, including pain management procedures like nerve burning and epidurals, to alleviate chronic pain in his back, legs, and hips. This underscores the long-term nature of support needed by some veterans. At one point, because of severe pain, Nicholas had to rely temporarily on morphine, illustrating the critical need for effective pain management solutions. The psychological support provided by the Colonel's Fund, including addressing mental-health issues and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), was equally crucial. ➤➤➤



ABOVE: Nicholas and son Callum on the football field and Ironmongers on manoeuvres with the Grenadier Guards in Kenya.

Nicholas shared his struggle with an adjustment disorder following his injuries and how the fund's support helped him manage his condition. "The mental-health support I received was superb. It helped me deal with my disorder and manage the psychological impact of my injuries." He further emphasised the fund's commitment: "The long-term commitment of the Colonel's Fund means that support is available whenever needed, even years after leaving the Army. This reassurance is invaluable." Activities arranged by the Colonel's Fund have helped Nicholas reconnect with the community and improve his mental health.

### Mark's story

Mark Smith, a former Grenadier who was medically discharged nine years ago, is another testament to the profound impact of the Colonel's Fund. In a heartfelt letter, Mark expressed his gratitude for the financial support that has enabled him to pursue his passion for amputee football. "The Colonel's Fund has been both humbling and comforting. Despite being medically discharged, I still feel very much a part of the regiment. The [financial] support for my football training came just at the right time and has allowed me to continue striving for my dreams," Mark wrote. This contribution helped cover expenses related to his training and participation in matches, demonstrating the fund's crucial role in enabling wounded Grenadiers to achieve their dreams and actively participate in their communities.

The Ironmongers' Foundation's financial contributions to the Colonel's Fund make a real difference and are a testament to our dedication to supporting the Grenadier Guards. The fund plays a crucial role in enhancing the welfare of Grenadiers and their families. Its trustees have wide discretion to use the fund to provide the right support at the right time, ensuring that no Grenadier or their family is left without necessary aid during times of need.

### Celebrating our relationship

In addition to our ongoing support of the Colonel's Fund, we are excited to announce the commissioning of a new bespoke fire screen for the Ante Room of the Grenadier Guards Officers' Mess at Lille Barracks in Aldershot. Designed and

designed and made by Oliver Russell, a Freeman of the Ironmongers' Company, this fire screen will be a permanent visual reminder of our affiliation with the Grenadier Guards. The fire screen is a stunning piece of craftsmanship, featuring a grenade with flames held by two salamanders. It was unveiled on Grenadier Day at Lille Barracks this summer, a fitting occasion given the presence of serving and retired officers, their families, and other guests. This fire screen symbolises the enduring bond between our two organisations.

Furthermore, we were honoured to introduce "The Master's Award" this year — a new initiative that will replace the Penn Award. The Penn Award, named in memory of Lieutenant Colonel Sir Eric Penn GVO OBE MC, and funded by Lady Prudence Penn, was traditionally awarded to the Guardsman who excelled on the Corporal's Course. Following Lady Penn's death, the award fell into abeyance, and we are proud to continue this tradition under a new title. The Master's Award will be presented annually by the Master of the Ironmongers' Company to the guardsman who demonstrates exceptional self-discipline, knowledge of low-level tactics, leadership skills, and a high standard of fitness and appearance. This award not only recognises outstanding performance but also encourages the personal development and excellence of young soldiers.

### Engagement highlights

Our commitment to the Grenadier Guards extends beyond financial support. Over the past year, we have engaged in numerous activities that, in addition to our philanthropy, exemplify the core themes of fellowship, tradition, and inclusivity.

In June, the Colonel's Fund team undertook a long-distance charity walk along the 160km route of the South Downs Way to raise money for those Grenadiers who need it most. I joined Matthew Ellmer, Regimental Casualty Officer, on the seventh day to support the fundraising effort and learn more about the fund.

In October, a group of five intrepid Ironmongers set off for Nairobi to experience a Kenyan adventure, joining the 1st Battalion, Grenadier Guards, in their 'Exercise Haraka Storm' training. This unique trip provided opportunities to witness the dedication and skill of the Guards first hand. The days were filled with activities ranging from observing

“Our relationship with the Grenadier Guards exemplifies our values of fellowship, philanthropy, tradition, and inclusivity.”

live combat exercises to visiting the Baden-Powell memorial. A highlight was experiencing the real-time Tactical Engagement Simulation technology, which showcased the modern approach to military training. This visit not only deepened understanding of the challenges faced by the Guards but also allowed bonding over shared experiences in the stunning landscapes of Kenya.

**Looking ahead**

I am encouraged by the strong bond that has developed between the Ironmongers’ Company and the Grenadier Guards. Over the coming year, I intend to explore more ways to support the Colonel’s Fund and highlight the incredible impact it has on the lives of Grenadiers and their families. Our partnership is an example of how organisations with shared values can come together to make a meaningful impact, and I look forward to finding new ways to engage with and support the Grenadier Guards.

There are numerous ways to get involved and contribute to the Colonel’s Fund. Whether it’s participating in events, or engaging with the Grenadier Guards to learn more about the work of the fund, every bit helps. I encourage all Ironmongers to step up and support our ongoing relationship with the Grenadier Guards, ensuring that we continue to make a positive impact on the lives of those who serve and their families. If you’d like to know more, please get in touch with me via the Company Office.

Our relationship with the Grenadier Guards exemplifies our values of fellowship, philanthropy, tradition and inclusivity and demonstrates the positive impact we can have when we come together. As we look ahead, I am excited about the opportunities to further strengthen our bond and continue our philanthropic work, honouring our shared heritage and embracing the future with optimism and determination.



# A real and lasting impact

**By Lt N P Williams**

Retained Volunteer City of London & North East Sector Army Cadet Force, Freeman

**In the last 12 months, the cadets have attended many and varied events, including:**

The Annual Camp in Pembrokeshire. Cadets enjoyed fieldcraft, expeditions, climbing, motorcycling, archery and a visit from the Red Devils Parachute Display Team.

Numerous acts of Remembrance in November, including poppy selling and various remembrance parades.

A Bronze Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award expedition, along with a national award for most improved county in DofE participation.

The Great Tommy Sleep Out, raising nearly £400 to support veterans experiencing homelessness.

Armed Forces Day in June, with events in local boroughs and a parade at the Guildhall.

**Over the year the cadets mounted stair guards for:**

The annual dinner of the Worshipful Company of Coopers.

The 40th anniversary dinner of the Worshipful Company of Engineers at Mansion House, attended by HRH The Princess Royal.

The Ironmongers’ Lord Mayor’s City Dinner at the Hall, attended by the Lord Mayor.

The Worshipful Company of Basketmakers’ Dinner, attended by HRH The Duchess of Gloucester.



The young people we work with gain enormous benefits from their time in the cadets, and all ranks are very aware of the substantial support provided by the Ironmongers’ Foundation, which helps us to provide the best ‘cadet experience’ we can for the young people of North East London. The grants we receive benefit all of our cadets in some way, helping to fund equipment and transportation as well as offering support to cadets whose families are suffering financial hardship.

The sector could not operate without the dedication of our adult volunteers. In July, a number of our volunteers received the King’s Coronation Medal, presented by the Vice Lord Lieutenant for London, Colonel Jane Davis OBE.

We are enormously grateful for the continued support of the Ironmongers’ Foundation, which allows us to offer the best possible experience to our young cadets. There’s nothing quite like watching these young people grow and develop over their time with us, and your contribution to the Foundation as members of the Ironmongers’ Company has a real and lasting impact.



## AWARD-WINNING SEA CADETS

**By Commander James Nisbet**  
Volunteer Reserves Royal Navy,  
London Area Officer for the  
Sea Cadets

On 8 April 2024 a special dinner was held at Ironmongers' Hall for the London Area Sea Cadets. The Master David Liming was a principal guest, along with Vice Admiral Sir Adrian Johns KCB CBE KStJ DL.

The dinner celebrated a number of national awards given to the cadets and adult volunteers over the past year, including the coveted Canada Trophy which is awarded to the best Sea Cadet unit in the country. This was won by the Twickenham Unit in 2023, and members of the unit including their commanding officer Lieutenant Commander Martyn Mayger RN attended the dinner.

Following my discussions with Court Deputy Mr Mike Lloyd, the Company is considering an affiliation with the Twickenham Sea Cadets to focus on promoting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) activities. This would broaden the scope of support the Company offers to the cadets, which has been greatly appreciated.

# Old and new HMS *Venturer*

**By Mike Lloyd**  
Court Deputy



Mike Lloyd (left) and Master David Liming (centre) with members of the Launders family and *Venturer* ship's company.

The Company's affiliation with HMS *Venturer* continues to develop in a very positive way. Having carried out a bit of sleuthing work through some distant Maltese contacts I was able to track down the surviving son of the captain of the last HMS *Venturer*, Commander Jimmy Launders, famous for being the only submariner to have sunk another submarine whilst both boats were submerged.

We put the senior ship's officers and family in contact, and in April hosted a lunch at Ironmongers' Hall to make the formal introductions. This was attended by four members of the ship's company including the senior ship's officer, Commander Chris Couzens, as well as Jimmy Launders' son Robin and grandson, David.

Before lunch Robin related many stories of his father's exploits and most generously offered to donate the ship's bell from the last HMS *Venturer*, which had been kept by his father, to the new ship. This was a most unexpected and thoughtful donation, as it provides a direct physical link from the new ship back to her illustrious predecessor.

### Inspiring the next generation

In June, Deputy Weapon Engineer Officer Daniel Broome visited Sir Robert Geffery's School in Landrake, which has benefited from our support for over 300 years. Dan engaged the children in a fun and informative STEM session in which they learned to programme robots and to fly drones. It is heart-warming to see our military affiliates supporting both the School, and also our core goal of increasing education and careers in STEM subjects. The School's headteacher Ed O'Hara said: *The HMS Venturer STEM outreach was a fantastic experience for the children of Years 5 and 6 – to enable them to experience more coding and programming in a hands-on way and to get them thinking about the many careers they could begin to consider that use such skills.*

Meanwhile, the new HMS *Venturer* is rapidly taking shape, and it is anticipated that the ship will be "rolled out" of its shed later in 2024. *Venturer* will then be officially launched by her royal sponsor, HRH The Princess Royal, in a naming ceremony in 2025.

# Fellowship



# Admissions

## Freemen

### OCTOBER 2023

Chilufya Nkole Mulenga, Redemption

Timothy John Bray, Redemption

James Ogilvy John Bennett, Redemption

Wing Commander Richard Ainsley Sharp, Redemption

### NOVEMBER 2023

Zoe Rosemary Shaw, Redemption

### APRIL 2024

Nicholas Joinson, Scholar

Abirami Manivannan, Scholar

Emma Elise Grace Boyling, Redemption

William James Douglas Broad, Redemption

William Luttrell-Hunt, Redemption

Annabel Gorton, Redemption

Tabitha Jones, Redemption

Lieutenant Colonel Frank Stanley Reeves, Redemption

Erik Weisner-Mostenicky, Redemption

### JUNE 2024

Christopher Renwick, Redemption

Tara Elizabeth Philippa Smith, Redemption

Rafael Steinmetz Leffa, Redemption

Hannan Ali, Redemption

Matthew John Webb-Jenkins, Redemption

George Edward Godfrey, Redemption

Ian Chai, Redemption

## Liverymen

### OCTOBER 2023

Shahnawaz Islam

### NOVEMBER 2023

Geoffrey Tinagate

### JUNE 2024

Colonel Anthony William Heath



# To belong and to give

*The Ironmongers' Company is welcoming, inclusive and increasingly diverse. Our members join to belong to an historic fellowship, to give their time, talent and treasure to further our philanthropic aims and to safeguard the Company and its home, Ironmongers' Hall, for future generations.*

We are a thriving organisation that makes a real difference through our giving: supporting schools, STEM research and education, iron-related industries, communities and almshouses. We also enjoy a range of sporting and social pursuits together, and participate in London-based livery events like the Sheep Drive, the Livery Fair and the Lord Mayor's Show, as well as skiing in Morzine and sailing on the Isle of Wight.

In 2025 the Company will mark the centenary of our current home with a range of celebratory events, including the 'Salamander Ball'. It's an exciting time to be an Ironmonger: celebrating our past while we adapt and evolve to shape our future.

To find out more about becoming a member, email [membership@ironmongers.org](mailto:membership@ironmongers.org)



# Standing out from the crowd

By **Khushru Cooper**

Warden of the Livery and Yeomanry

It is a great honour and privilege to find myself writing to you today in my capacity as Warden of the Livery & Yeomanry (L&Y), in what has been another busy year for the Ironmongers as we approach the centenary of occupying our great Hall.

When I first took up the role, I mentioned that I really wanted to build upon the key tenets that the L&Y stands for: engagement, transparency and inclusivity. 'Evolutionary, not revolutionary' is a quote that springs to mind. This has been the key motto at the heart of my vision since assuming the role. With so much good work that has been accomplished by those wardens before me, I wanted to ensure we continued to reinforce our tenets amongst our ever-growing membership.

## The personal touch

I felt this would be best achieved by providing a more personalised engagement journey to all our newest members this year. I like to think that it is the personal touch that makes the Ironmongers stand out from the crowd, and whilst we may not be the richest of the Great XII, nor have the largest membership, I would argue that the Ironmongers' Company enjoys a reputation for being right up there when it comes to being a welcoming and engaging place.

With that in mind, this year we instigated the introduction of monthly social meetings for Ironmongers, old and new, ensuring that the Company keeps up regular engagement with its members. Whilst never about the numbers, whether we had 25 attendees or just five, each event to date has proved to be invaluable in boosting engagement across the Company. When interviewed, almost all new joiners cited that the welcoming nature and personal touch of the staff and members had resulted in them joining the Company.

## An historic feast

Included among some of the other events the L&Y have organised this year was the fantastic sell-out 'Dining Through the Ages' dinner, brilliantly organised by Oli Rose and Fritha Winton. This banquet pulled out all the stops and saw a bespoke five-course feast created by the catering team at the Hall, based on menus served here over the past 100 years. This also included showcasing many of the Company's lesser-known treasures that rarely get an outing, as well as having a team of actors to bring the rich history of the Hall to life.

To mention just a few of the other things the team have been busy with this year, it has also organised numerous wine-tasting events, as well as setting up initiatives such as the Formal Attire Library, giving Ironmongers an opportunity to donate their unneeded formal wear to those with a more pressing requirement. We have also organised the usual suite of summer events, such as the Warden's Visit and the Summer Barbecue!

## A thriving committee

Events aside, the members of the L&Y Committee have been working tirelessly to improve the experience of our members, as well as to improve our internal links with our Charities. It also gives me great pleasure to announce that for the first time, there is a long queue of individuals keen to join the L&Y Committee, and there is now even a waiting list for those who want to serve as Warden! I am reliably informed by several senior members of the Court that this has never been the case, with indeed reports of members previously having been cajoled, press-ganged and eventually blackmailed into taking the role!

Joking aside, as Warden, it is very easy to take credit for all the hard work that the team has put in to date.



Khushru with his wife Isla and daughter Yara.

Whether this has been through boosting membership, organising engaging events, or simply growing visibility across their networks, it is testament to the people that make up the L&Y Committee that helps the Company grow from strength to strength.

I would like to thank the extremely capable team for all their hard work, not just during my time in post to date, but also for the past years, as many of them have been committee members for some time. This includes my wife and Immediate Past Warden Isla, my deputy Oli, as well as Fritha Winton, Gavin Park-Weir, Hadley Newman and Laura Prieto. I would also like to formally welcome to the committee our newest members, Marc Begg and Izzy Pelling.

Of course, it would also be improper of me not to mention the support the committee and I have received from the Master and members of the Court, as well as the Hall staff. Special thanks go out to them all, as without their input none of the events we organise would have been possible.

Finally, I'd just like to mention that work has already begun to celebrate the Hall's centenary next year. I am also proud to announce there will be a series of centenary-based events organised by the L&Y in addition to the main centenary events being organised for next year. Turn to page 51 to read more about what's being planned!



# The twentieth anniversary of the Great XII Sailing Challenge

By Mark Lee  
Liveryman

LEFT TO RIGHT: Emma Cazaly, Gavin Park Weir, Henny Maltby, Rupert Goodall, Chili Mulenga, David Coates, Richard Hunting, Ian Bendell, Mike Lloyd, Sa and George Bastin, Andrew and Zully Grant Duff, Iain Reed, Jane Coates, Mark Lee, Susan Keane, Pippa Broadhurst, Yara, Isla and Khushru Cooper, Alastair Smith

The Ironmongers once again hosted members of all the Great XII livery companies at the Great XII Sailing Challenge at Seaview, Isle of Wight, over the weekend of 7–9 June. The event was founded by George Bastin 20 years ago, and is still run by the Ironmongers' Company. This year saw the passing on of the social organiser's baton from Henny Maltby to Emma Cazaly, who will propel the event forward alongside Gavin Park Weir.

A blend of old hands and new faces mingled together, meeting up between a Friday afternoon practice session and the informal supper

at the Yacht Club that evening. We rented a couple of houses where six of us stayed, and others lodged in local hotels or with friends and relatives. All in all, we had a strong turn-out of 22 members and families.

On Saturday, we formed up into two crews, racing two heats in the morning and two finals in the afternoon. We were able to mix our two boats so that experienced and novice sailors were all able to contribute to our successful efforts not to come last! In the background the companies who had brought a larger "cruiser" raced these in the Solent for a longer race.

All then went back to get ready for drinks and prize-giving, where we participated more in the former than the latter, followed by a lively dinner.

## ***All aboard!***

Next year's event will be held on the weekend of 30 May to 1 June 2025. We're working to secure a cruiser to race, so will need more crew for this and the club's Mermaid boats. Join the Ironmongers' sailing WhatsApp group to register interest and stay updated.

# Healthy competition at the Inter-Livery Ski Championships

**By Marc Begg**

Freeman, joint organiser

**Emma Halford-Macleod**

Liveryman, joint organiser

The Inter-Livery Ski Championships (ILSC) 2024, organised by the Ironmongers' Company in January, proved once again to be a remarkable success. The championships stand as a testament to the resilience and commitment of the Ironmongers' Company and participating livery companies. Despite worldly challenges, the event not only celebrates the spirit of competition but also contributes significantly to charitable causes. A fantastic £26,113.46 was raised during the event and has been donated to the Lord Mayor's Appeal, alongside the annual donation to this appeal from the Ironmongers' Foundation.

## A new team at the helm

We assumed responsibility for overseeing the event's organisation for the first time this year, taking over from long-standing organiser Christopher Hudson. The support of Christopher and George Bastin in this transition year has been invaluable and we thank them greatly for their guidance and counsel.

This year's competition attracted 30 livery companies, a total of 204 racers and 65 guests. The Ironmongers took a team of 17 racers and guests, and provided a dominant display, coming home with several medals and a trophy.

## Fundraising success

Our charitable partner SnowCamp (fostering purpose and career development among young people through snow sports) ran the much-enjoyed team triathlon on day one. There were 29 teams of four people participating in the Giant Slalom, Biathlon and a Snowshoe run. The Haberdashers' Mountain Goat team came out on top and an outstanding £57,000 was raised for SnowCamp.



Some of the Ironmongers' Ski Team in Morzine.

The City of London Club continued to be the major sponsor for this year's event, and once again kindly hosted the ILSC summer drinks at its London premises. It also introduced a new sponsor for this year: Hatch Mansfield (a UK specialist agent in premium wines) who generously donated the red wine for the drinks evening. MPI continued its support as a sponsor and preferred winter insurance provider.

The coming year will mark a crucial phase in the longevity of the event's success as we consider moving the event in 2026 to a new "Snow-Sure" resort. Work will be done over the summer to scope out and agree first a shortlist and then a preferred host for the 2026 competition. This move to a more snow-sure resort is essential to the event's continued success and growth.

## TEAM RESULTS

- Katie Hudson, 3rd fastest woman under 41
- Marc Begg, 2nd fastest man 41–64 and 6th fastest male overall
- Winners of the Actuaries' Cup, Best Livery Company Team (age- and gender-adjusted): Christopher Hudson, Marc Begg, Philip Pascall.
- 2nd place in The Stationers' Prize (age 200+ team): George Bastin, Christopher Hudson, Marc Begg

Ralph Booth, Marc Begg, Ali Worlidge, Daniel Gorton.



## Ironmongers hit the mark

**By Mark Lee**  
Liveryman

In May we took part in the Inter-Livery Clay Shoot. Held again at the West London Shooting Ground, near Northolt, we fielded four teams of four Ironmongers each. We had a core of shooters who had competed in the event several times before, complemented by a healthy number of first timers. Our teams met up over bacon rolls and coffees at breakfast time, then moved out into the field.

All our teams were kept together this time, which gave us more chance to mingle while we awaited our turn to shoot. For the first time we managed to enter a Court Team, which achieved a very respectable second place in that category and 10th place overall. The competition format gave us each six targets on 12 different stands and two flushes where two or four of us had to rapidly load and shoot a flurry of targets sent over us. Individual scores were wide ranging, but at the prize-giving we noted for next year that there was a new prize for the best-attired team! We all departed after a good hog-roast lunch and enjoyable day out spent in the company of Ironmongers, new and old.

The 2025 competition will be held on 14–15 May and our day will be allocated nearer the time. Details will be given on the Ironmongers Shooting WhatsApp group, within the Ironmongers' Community.

If you haven't shot before, or feel a bit rusty, please consider signing up to the introductory day being organised by the L&Y Committee at Headley Court (Surrey) on Saturday 19 October 2024. No equipment or prior experience required. Book through the link on the Ironmongers' website members' area.

# Getting stuck in

**By Rupert Goodall**  
Freeman



Rupert (left) with his brother Archer

When I became an Ironmonger in 2020, I experienced a bit of information overload while I got to grips with all the terminology, what the Livery and the Yeomanry are and just generally how everything fits together. When I first joined, I made a point of really exploring the social side. I tried to meet as many people as I could and attend all the events. I was definitely one of the more social members! As I got more and more involved, I started to understand the different elements of the Ironmongers' Company and what it did.

My first direct involvement in our charitable work was when I attended an event at the Lyric Theatre in Hammersmith, where we support the START programme. I went along and had the opportunity to meet some of the young people who are going through the programme, and that was brilliant. I'm now on the Betton's and Appeals Committee, which has an amazing impact across the different charities it supports, from schools to institutions like the Lyric.

I think the way we allocate grants is eminently sensible. We place an emphasis on building a partnership with the schools and we get fantastic reports back about how they've used their grants, for example that they've put on a theatre production that wouldn't have been possible without our support. It's so much more meaningful than donating your money to a big charity and having no connection to the impact of that donation.

I really appreciate the family feel of the Company too. I've spoken to people in other livery companies that are slightly bigger and the membership is so large that it's quite difficult to find your place. The Ironmongers' Company is well-proportioned, which allows us to be a very welcoming Company. We're traditional, but with a fun backbone!

# Celebrating the Hall's centenary in style

By James Farquharson  
Court Member

James Farquharson (right) at Ironmongers' Hall with Peter Boddy, Randall Boddy (Junior Warden) and Doug Wharton

I am very proud to be an Ironmonger and a part of the Livery. I value immensely all the philanthropic work that we do as a Company and that really is what makes being an Ironmonger so very special. We may not have as much to give as some livery companies, but what we do give we give well, and we make a real difference.

I'm happy to be leading on the celebrations for the centenary of Ironmongers' Hall next year. Our magnificent Hall was formally opened on 17 June 1925, and we'll be celebrating the centenary with three events at the Hall over the summer of 2025. We really hope that every Ironmonger will be able to come along to at least one of the events.

The first event is the Salamander Ball, which will make use of the whole Hall for a truly spectacular and memorable evening in May.

We'll have an ambitious fundraising target for the Ball too, which we'll be hoping to reach through auctions on the night and before.

The second event, organised by Fritha Winton, will be in June.



**We'd love your support!**

Please email me: [james@farquharsons.com](mailto:james@farquharsons.com)

All members will be invited to evensong at St Paul's Cathedral, then the Bishop of London will bless the Hall, recalling the dedication of the Hall by the then Bishop of London at its opening exactly 100 years before. And finally, the band

of the Grenadier Guards will beat the retreat at a venue near the Hall in mid-September.

I am extremely grateful to everyone who has helped with the planning for each of these events so far. Any members with experience or connections in events planning, fundraising or anything that might help make the Ball a real night to remember, as well as a financial success, please get in touch!



## Deaths and obituaries 2023–2024

*We are sad to report the deaths of the following members this year, and offer our deepest condolences to their family and friends.*

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**Paul Howard Bessemer**

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**A R P Carden Esq (Richard)**

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**Michael Francis Cartwright**

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**Rosemary Edwards MBE**

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**B J Livingston Esq (Brian)**

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**James Arnold Oliver**

---

**J W D Olivier DL**

---

**T J C Platts-Mills**

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**W E B Usher**

## ARP Carden Esq (Richard)

1938–2024

*Freeman 1985, Liveryman 1988, Court 1992,  
Master 2004, Senior Past Master*



Richard's commitment and perseverance were personality traits that emerged at Harrow School. After leaving school, he joined the Army and was commissioned into the 4th Queen's Own Hussars having passed out top of Sandhurst, winning the Queen's medal. After graduating with a degree in Engineering at Pembroke College, Cambridge, he served with the Army in Germany and the Far East. He then embarked on a 26-year career with Barclays Bank, during which he held a variety of appointments, that culminated in him being appointed to the Group Executive Committee.

Richard was always discreet and modest about his achievements and, following his retirement in 1994, continued a busy life with a strong focus on giving back to the community. With his wife Penelope constantly at his side, a true pillar of support, he much enjoyed serving not only as High Sheriff of East Sussex in 2001 but also as Master of the Ironmongers' in 2004.

He continued to attend Court meetings and events at the Hall until late in life, became deeply involved in the affairs of his local church, and continued to show his competitive spirit on the golf course. He was so proud to celebrate his Golden Wedding Anniversary with his three children, nine grandchildren and wider family in 2013 at Ironmongers' Hall. It may be fitting that his final visit to the Hall was when he hosted lunch for Past Masters and Consorts in November 2023.

Richard was a man of integrity, discipline and resilience with immense charm who touched many lives. He could be decisive when needed, while also being a good listener and a wise and non-judgemental sounding board and source of advice for so many from all walks of life. He never lost his sense of fun, or his iconic laugh, and his family miss him immensely.

## BJ Livingston Esq

1934–2024

*Freeman 1956, Liveryman 1970, Court 1970, Master 1988, Senior Past Master, Senior Member*



Brian Livingston came from a long line of Ironmongers' Company family members. Even his house, built by his parents at Beaconsfield, was called 'Ferroners'. If there is such thing as a blue-blooded Ironmonger liveryman — descended as he was from Richard Birkett who joined the Company in 1787 — it was Brian.

Brian attended preparatory school at St Peters' Court, Broadstairs, where the headmaster Charlie Ridgeway telephoned his mother to say: 'I fear that your son is no scholar, and no athlete — but I want him to become head boy.' That is character.

Brian went on to Harrow School, followed by National Service in the Royal Navy. He then studied at Queen's College, Cambridge. In his early career Brian joined his father in Rockware Glass and worked in several glass-making companies before joining Abbey Life in 1984, but he then spent much time caring for his aging parents. He had joined the Ironmongers' Company in 1956 and became Master in 1988, when history repeated itself with Robert Stedall, who has now taken over from Brian as Senior Member, serving as his Senior Warden.

Brian met Caroline Newberry in 1974, when she was working as a senior buyer for Marks & Spencer. She had been invited to be a godmother to a friend's child and there, across the font, was the man of her dreams. They did not marry until her retirement in 1989. For many years they enjoyed holidaying at a château in South-West France with a group of good friends.

As they both became frailer, Brian and Caroline chose to move to a care home at Richmond Wood Norton, where they have had nothing but praise for the brilliant, caring staff. Our thoughts are with Caroline and Brian's sister Susan. It is the end of an era.

## MF Cartwright Esq

1941–2024

*Freeman 1971, Liveryman 1979*



Michael was the son of Captain Francis Jack Cartwright RN and Susanne Elsie (nee Grotrian) and was educated at Winchester. In 1971, he married Elizabeth Audrey Stedall, the sister of the Senior Member Robert Stedall, at which time he was proposed for membership of the Company by his father-in-law Lieutenant Colonel Marcus Bertram Pemberton Stedall (Master 1961).

Michael fulfilled a successful career as a stockbroker with Kitcat and Aitkin and later with Henderson Crosthwaite. He also served as a Conservative member of Hampshire County Council.

In his spare moments he was rarely to be seen off the racecourse, and owned legs in several successful racehorses which gave him huge pleasure.

In 1987, he dressed as a salamander to act as a supporter to the Ironmongers' float processing through London behind Lord Mayor Colonel Sir Greville Spratt during the Lord Mayor's Show. He had to walk in a bent position, which left him hobbling for days afterwards!

Michael will be much missed by his family and friends.



**Ironmongers' Company**

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