



The Salamander

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters

Service, Fellowship, Harmony and Honour

Issue 6, December 2005

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Events

2005

9 December

Company Carol Service, St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside

2006

23 January

Lloyds of London Dinner, Lloyds

14 February

City Briefing, Guildhall

7 March

The Massey Shaw Dinner, Insurance Hall

31 March

United Guilds Service, St. Paul's

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters

The Clerk: Martin Bonham

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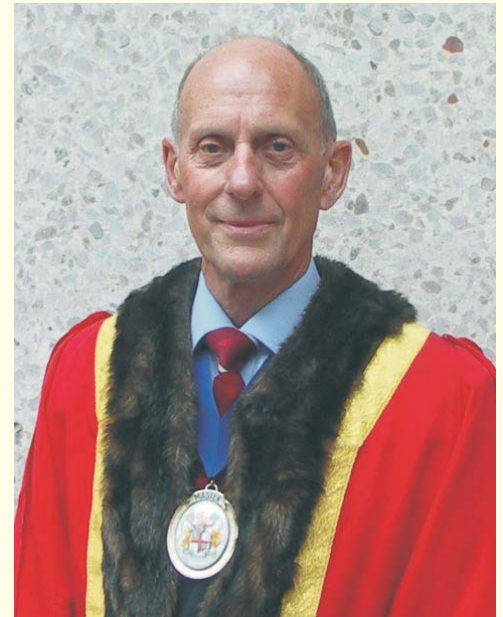
FROM THE MASTER'S PEN

In anticipation of a busy term in office as Master from July, planning started early in the year and ran in tandem with preparations for the Blitz Exhibition planned for September, as part of an initiative to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the End of World War II. But, nothing prepared me for what was to follow!

Common Hall and my Installation set for the 8th July, was postponed because of the bombings in London. Nevertheless, the Salamander Ball at the Royal Lancaster Hotel went ahead successfully on the 10th. Court, Common Hall and the Thanksgiving Service were re-scheduled for August, but could not be accommodated on the same day. My Wardens and I are most grateful to those of you who managed to accommodate the changes and share this important occasion. For those unable to attend Common Hall on the 23rd August, the address I gave that day as the incoming Master will be dispatched by the Clerk in due course.

During this busy and disrupted period, our Clerk, Margaret Holland-Prior, departed for pastures new and Martin Bonham was appointed to succeed her. Martin has the credentials and experience to fulfil the role, but is new to the City. Consequently, it is a steep learning curve for him and I am most grateful to Upper Warden, Martin Coffey, who shouldered the introductory period for Martin Bonham whilst I was engaged with preparations for the Blitz Exhibition.

The Blitz Exhibition, planned and managed by a small team from the Worshipful Company was held in the Great Hall at Guildhall from the 12th to 14th September. One evening the Upper Warden, Clerk and I, hosted a dinner for the Modern Livery Companies (78-107) in Guildhall Crypts and guests enjoyed a viewing of the exhibition. The exhibition and related events, was a great success and received praise from many people. The whole initiative raised the



profile of the Worshipful Company within the City and is more fully described on page 6. Looking forward, December 9th offers an opportunity to celebrate Christmas together with family and friends at St Mary-le-Bow Church, Cheapside, and I am pleased to announce that this year there will be no charge upon members for the carol service. This concession is to thank all of you for supporting Company activities and helping in various ways to promote friendship, enjoyment, instill harmony and make our Company successful.

The new team of Wardens and I, together with the Court of Assistants, look forward to furthering the aims and objectives of the Worshipful Company and serving you to the best of our abilities with vigour and enthusiasm. We are always receptive to your views and welcome contributions intended to further the Company's interests and make membership worthwhile, satisfying and rewarding.

Master Alan Wells

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY CENOTAPH PARADE

13 November 2005

The Company was represented by Past Master Colin Livett. The Master accepted an invitation to attend; Court Assistants Alan Mabbutt and Ronald Brown were also in attendance.

WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FIREFIGHTERS

COMMON HALL 2005

Common Hall this year was due to take place on Friday 8th July but had to be postponed following the terrorist bomb outrage on the London Underground the day before. Common Hall finally took place at 4.00pm on the rearranged date, Tuesday 23rd August, at the Insurance Hall.

A fair gathering of members and guests were present to hear the Master, Upper Warden and Clerk present their reports for the previous year. These all showed that the Company had continued to make steady progress and was also gradually enhancing its reputation amongst the other Livery Companies and institutions in the City.

The Master's chain was weighed and found to be of the correct weight and was then placed upon the New Master's shoulders. The New Master, Alan Wells, duly made his declaration and was invested with the Master's chain and gown.

Martin Coffey, the new Upper Warden and Viv Jones, the new Renter Warden also made their declarations and received their badges of office. Unfortunately James Blott, the new Under Warden was unable to attend the re-arranged Common Hall and subsequently made his declaration at the Dedication Service held at St. Lawrence Jewry-Next-Guildhall on Monday 5th September.

New Freemen

The following were admitted as Freemen of the Company: Paul Settle, Tony Skinner, Ian Tarran, Kelly Fairman and Douglas Vaday.

Livery

The following were clothed in the Livery of the Company: Patrick Hanifan, Paul Rose and Derek Thurlow.

New Court Assistants

The Company welcomes the following new Court Assistants: Alan Mabbutt, Ronald Brown, Harry Paviour and Beryl Jeffery

Common Hall was also the last official event conducted by Margaret Holland Prior, the outgoing Company Clerk. The Company thanked Margaret and extended their very best wishes to her for the future.

Following Common Hall members enjoyed a mouth watering buffet, fine wines and an opportunity to mix informally.

Martin Coffey

PROFILES OF THE MASTER AND THE NEW WARDENS

Master Alan Wells, QFSM, FIFireE

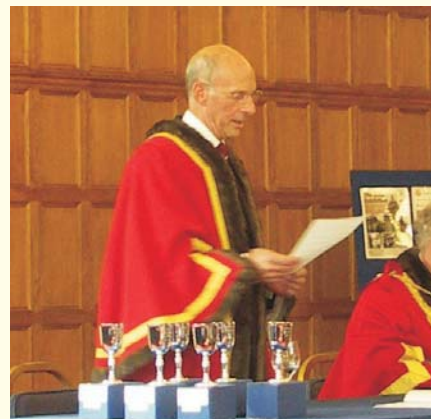
Alan was born in Twyford, Hampshire in 1940. Following early career starts in patent agency, office equipment and furniture restoration he joined the Fire Service in Hampshire as a part time firefighter in 1962 and became a professional firefighter in 1964. Alan moved as an instructor to the Fire Service College in Gloucestershire from 1974-76 before secondment to the Home Office in 1976 where he assisted the research and development of firefighting equipment, extinguishing agents and tactics. Some of that work included the development of thermal imaging cameras for fire service use.

In 1988 Alan transferred to the Kent Fire Brigade where he served as a principal officer. During that period he was involved with the design and future operation of the Channel Tunnel as a member of a UK Delegation responsible for the Rescue and Public Safety parameters of the Tunnel. For part of that work Alan was chairman of a Sub-Group responsible for the safety of people with limited mobility.

In 1992 Alan was seconded to the then Fire and Emergency Planning Department of the Home Office and appointed one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Fire Services with a responsibility for training throughout fire brigades in England and Wales. He retired from local authority employment in 1995, but continued in his role with HM Fire Service Inspectorate upon re-appointment as a civil servant, until his retirement in 2000. During his time with the Fire Inspectorate Alan was responsible for the production of firefighting training publications and initiatives to develop National Standards of Competence for the firefighting profession and the development of facilities and safe systems of work to enable firefighters to undertake meaningful, real or simulated fire-fighting training.

Alan was awarded The Queen's Fire Service Medal in 1993, is a holder of the Fire Service Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and a Fellow of the Institution of Fire Engineers.

The sea has always held a fascination for Alan, probably instilled by his Father who served in HM Submarines throughout WWII. Though Alan had little actual sea-going experience, within a few weeks of leaving the Fire Service, he set sail crewing a boat in The Times Clipper 2000



The Master and his Wardens during the Common Hall 2005.



Round-the-World Yacht Race during which he travelled some 37,000 nautical miles, visited 17 countries in what amounted to a life-changing experience. His boat took third place out of seven competing in the race.

Today, Alan retains his passion for sailing, and enjoys walking, trekking, glider flying and DIY, especially working with wood. He mentors children in Kent schools and assists students at Preparation-for-Work workshops through a local Business and Education Partnership Enterprise. He also raises funds for the National Deaf Children's Society, mainly by giving talks to groups and clubs about his sailing and trekking experiences.

Since his association with the Guild of Firefighters some twelve years ago, Alan was admitted to the Freedom of the Company of Firefighters in 1995, elected to the Court of Assistants in 1996, admitted to the Freedom of the City in 1998, clothed in the Livery of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters in 2001, elected Under Warden in 2002 and Master in 2005.

Alan has a daughter Johanna, a son David, is divorced and partnered by Christine.

Martin Coffey, OBE, Upper Warden 2005/6

Martin Coffey was born in 1948, and served as a professional firefighter in the London Fire Brigade for over 30 years, working in many parts of the Greater London area. For the last five years of his career he served as the Deputy Chief Fire Officer and Director of Operations. During his career he attended and took charge of many major incidents including IRA terrorist bombings, fires and rail disasters.

As a result of his operational experience he was invited to a number of countries to give lectures on planning for major incidents dealing especially with issues concerning command and control. In 1999 he was awarded the OBE for his work on the subject of health and safety in the fire service and retired from the London Fire Brigade in 2000.

Vivian T. Jones, Renter Warden 2005/6

Vivian T. Jones has been a member of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters since its inception and has been active in the Fire Industry for 40 years.

He is Managing Director of Vimpex Ltd, a company he founded 11 years ago. Viv is also a member of the British Fire Protection Systems Association sitting on their Fire Detection and Alarms Executive Committee.

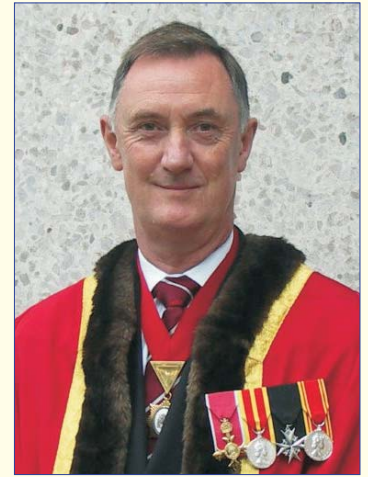
James Blott, Under Warden 2005/6

James was born in 1951 in Essex. He studied Modern Languages and subsequently spent a year as a VSO volunteer in French West Africa. Following an early career with the Bank of London and South America, which gave him his first experience with the City of London, James joined Helmets Ltd in 1973 and this was when he came into contact with the fire service.

Over the next few years, he rose to Sales Director of Helmets Ltd and subsequently Sales and Marketing Director of Siebe Gorman and Co Ltd. During these years James travelled extensively and conducted business negotiations in more than 40 countries. He was subsequently promoted to run two companies within Siebe plc (now Invensys), and later served as Managing Director and Divisional Managing Director within Westland and Vosper Thornycroft, before leading the Management Buy-In of a group of engineering companies. In 2001, he fulfilled a lifelong ambition to move to the voluntary sector, and has been the Director of the Historic Churches Preservation Trust since then.

James became a freeman of the Leathersellers' Company in 1973, and a liveryman in 1976. He served as Fourth Warden of that Company in 1997/98 and joins their Court in December this year. James was a founder member of the Firefighters' Company, and joined the Court in 2002. He is a Trustee of the Firefighters Memorial Charitable Trust, a governor of Prendergast School in Lewisham and is heavily involved with his local church.

James remarried in 1995, and now lives with his wife Janie and daughter Katie, aged 5, in Hampshire. He also has two sons, Jonathan and Marcus, aged 23 and 20. His interests include sailing, skiing and reading and at the end of this year, he will be retiring from full time employment in order to focus more energy on his growing range of charitable activities, including his involvement with the Firefighters' Company.



Martin Coffey, OBE, Upper Warden



Vivian T. Jones, Renter Warden



James Blott, Under Warden

PROFILE OF THE NEW COMPANY CLERK

MARTIN BONHAM

I am delighted to be given the opportunity to introduce myself to you following my appointment as your Clerk in September of this year.

My career began with Calor Gas Ltd where I joined as a Management Trainee. I worked in various functions - sales, marketing, retail, distribution and on secondment to a partner company in West Africa. I was then sponsored to do a Business Administration Programme at Aston University. My career developed in Sales and Marketing with my final appointment being Dealer Sales Manager for the South East. I then joined a firm of energy consultants in Kent in a business development role where I built my own client base from zero to 100 major clients within three years.

In 1996 I joined The Industrial Society, a registered business charity with a membership of 3,500 organisations. The Society works with its members to provide influencing, policy and advocacy on all employment related issues and to promote best practice in the workplace through its Learning & Development business and range of services to its members. In the role of Business Development Consultant I was responsible for preparing proposals that designed, delivered and evaluated solutions for all people related issues. These were usually in the areas of management, leadership, communications, personnel and HR management.

In 2002 the business arm of The Industrial Society was sold to Capita Group and the organisation renamed itself, The Work Foundation. In 2004 I decided to pursue a personal interest and qualify as a Microsoft Office Specialist which was a very useful preparation for the Company's office IT environment!

On a more personal note I have four children. My eldest son is a banker with Merry Lynch, my eldest daughter is training to be an educational psychologist, my second daughter is reading Anthropology at Durham and my youngest daughter is applying to read biology at Oxford.

My own interests are principally sailing, where I am on the Management Committee of my sailing club in the Isle of Wight, tennis where I am a member of my club in London, skiing and golf. I also enjoy reading and taking a lively interest in

current affairs. My favourite books tend to be biographies and autobiographies. My undoubted favourite is Winston Churchill's six volume history of the Second World War and if I were to be consigned to a desert island that is what I would take with me!

ELECTION OF THE LORD MAYOR - 2005

On Thursday 29th September a number of Liverymen from the Worshipful Company of Firefighters attended Common Hall for the election of the new Lord Mayor. In this ancient and colourful ceremony at Guildhall the City Livery Companies elected David Brewer as the 678th Lord Mayor of the City of London.

David Brewer's appeal for his Mayoralty will be the Centenary Appeal of the Treloar Trust in Hampshire founded by fellow Cornishman Lord Mayor Treloar in 1906. The Trust has been providing first-class education, therapy, medical support and training in independence for young people with physical disabilities ever since

With the status of a cabinet minister when travelling overseas, the Lord Mayor of the City of London is the ambassador, both at home and abroad for the City, the world's leading international financial centre. In addition the Lord Mayor is head of the Corporation of London, which provides local authority services for London's Square Mile, Chief Magistrate of the City of London, Admiral of the Port of London and President of the City of London Reserve Forces and Cadets Associations.

The Lord Mayor Elect, as he is known after the election, did not take office until the Silent Ceremony, which was held in Great Hall, Guildhall on Friday 12th November at 3pm, the day preceding the Lord Mayor's Show.

Following the election ceremony at Common Hall the liverymen from the Worshipful Company of Firefighters attended luncheon with many other City Livery Companies at the Painter-Stainers Hall in Little Trinity Lane.



Martin Bonham, Company Clerk

AN APPRECIATION OF JOHN RICHARDSON-HILL

The sudden death of Liveryman John Richardson-Hill was a great tragedy and in this brief article, Past Master David Cartwright pays tribute to JRH, as he was fondly known and remembered.

JRH joined the Firefighters in the early 1990's and was fiercely proud of his connection with his beloved City of London and also the emergency service that he admired immensely. In anything he became involved with, from his work, through his leisure activities, to his charitable activities, he always played a full part. His character would not allow him to merely sit back and allow things to happen, he had to be there organising and "doing it better"!

Originally a merchant banker in the City, JRH decided upon a career change some 20 years ago when he set up his own corporate hospitality business, combining his love of fine food and wines with his incredible organisational skills and eye for detail. Ably assisted by his business partner Barbara, of whom he thought the world, he created, devised and ran events ranging across the whole sporting and cultural spectrum. Salmon fishing in Scotland, dinner in the Temperate House at Kew Gardens with the Royal Marines "Beating Retreat", and a sell-out concert, filling St. Paul's Cathedral were among the events of which he was most proud.

As a member of the then Guild of Firefighters, and during my year as Master, he agreed to run two special "gourmet lunches" to raise money for our selected charities. The first was a real coup! He arranged for us to take over the whole of Gordon Ramsay's restaurant, "The Aubergine" in Fulham, the week before he received his first Michelin Star. Not only that, but the great chef himself personally created and prepared a special menu for us. Gordon Ramsay then joined the assembled company to describe how he prepared the dishes and matched the wines with the food.

The second event took place in the fine wine cellars of the Café Royal where another Michelin Star chef, Herbert Berger, created a superb luncheon for us and again it was an incredible experience.

Subsequently, John arranged another special luncheon for Company members in a private room at the world famous Rules restaurant in Covent Garden. Here, the renowned chef, David Chambers also created a speciality meal as a personal favour to his friend JRH.

JRH's membership of the Firefighters brought him into contact with one of our chosen charities, RAFT (the Burns and Reconstructive Surgery Charity). As a "friend" of RAFT John has supported and raised a considerable amount of money for them. Before he died, JRH had made it known that RAFT was to benefit from any collection made following his funeral.

John's funeral was an incredibly moving occasion. The church of Saint Giles, Cripplegate was packed to overflowing with those whose lives had been touched in some way by the man himself. It was a joyful celebration of his life, touched only with sadness for Sheila, his lady, Clare, his daughter and Barbara his close friend and business partner. The service was taken by our own Chaplain, David Rhodes, whose inimitable style added a personal warmth to the whole proceedings. If JRH were watching (which I am sure he was!), he would have been very proud and impressed by all the arrangements and the feeling of love and support to those he left behind.

What more can I say about John? He was a proud father, a loving attentive partner, a hardworking businessman, a charitable and generous person, a man with zest and enthusiasm, boundless energy and good humour, always laughing, a man to whom manners and courtesy were non-negotiable and, of course a loyal and caring friend.

I am proud and honoured to have known him and to be able to call him my friend. I shall miss him.



John Richardson-Hill

HOME FRONT RECALL

LONDON FIREFIGHTERS REMEMBERED

END OF WORLD WAR II

Earlier in the year, The Worshipful Company of Firefighters joined together with The United Kingdom Firefighters Memorial Charitable Trust, The London Fire Brigade Retired Members Association and the London Fire Brigade to plan and organise a major event entitled the Home Front Recall: London Firefighters Remembered: End of World War II at the Guildhall in the City of London. Its aim was to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the end of World War II and the significant contribution made by London firefighters to the defence of London during those dramatic and difficult times.

The Home Front Recall consisted of a number of connected events, the first of which was a Church Service at St. Lawrence Jewry on Sunday 11th September. This was followed by a parade led by fire service bands to the United Kingdom Firefighters Memorial where wreaths were laid. It is a clear reminder of the dangers and risks of modern day firefighting that five new names have been added to the Memorial in the past twelve months.

The next event of Home Front Recall was a three day Exhibition opened on Monday 12th September 2005 in the Great Hall of the Guildhall. The Blitz exhibition was opened by Sir Michael Oliver, the Locum Tenens for the Lord Mayor. Many varied exhibits included a photographic and map display, Blitz paintings, memorabilia and a profusion of personnel dressed in wartime fire service, police and civil defence uniforms. There were also civilian costumes of that period and a continuous film showing of wartime London newsreel footage. Those attending the opening ceremony were able to see the various vintage fire service pumps and other wartime vehicles and their crews and many other exhibits assembled in Guildhall Yard. Guests and visitors were also able to listen to and enjoy the songs of that era sung live by the 'Forces Sweetheart' Kim Jackson.

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, as Patron of the United Kingdom Firefighters Memorial Charitable Trust, visited the exhibition on Monday 12 September and then attended a Royal Reception hosted by the Corporation held in the New Art Gallery at the Guildhall.

HRH The Princess Royal with the Master, Alan Wells, accompanied by the Conducting Officer, Past Master Colin Livett. (Photograph credit Nick Clarkson)



Other events held during this week included a Dinner in the Guildhall Crypt hosted by the Worshipful Company of Firefighters for other Modern Companies; the launch of the new book *In Case of Fire*, detailing the history and modern role of the London Fire Brigade; and a Reception for the London Fire Brigade Retired Members Association.



Exhibition in the Great Hall of the Guildhall

(Photographs credit Dave Harn)

The closing event was a Blitz Ball held on Friday 16th September in the Old Guildhall Library as a finale to the week's activities. More than 200 people enjoyed an excellent meal and three hours of entertainment and dancing to the sounds of a 16 piece top flight Glenn Miller style big band.

Top of the bill was Steve Stevens, the Air Raid Warden & Compere, who appeared on The Stars in Your Eyes programme last February as George Formby. Supporting him was Tim Pope, an accomplished comedian providing cameos of Max Miller and Flanagan & Allen. The whole audience also joined in and sang along with Kim Jackson the 'Forces Sweetheart' as she entertained with many nostalgic songs from the shelters 60 years ago.



Blitz Ball in the Old Guildhall Library

A number of Company members were involved in the organization and work in the staging of the Home Front Recall week and these included:

Co-ordinating and Approvals Committee

Chairman Founder Master Gerry Clarkson, Vice Chairman Past Master Colin Livett, Past Masters Albert Gillings and David Bland, and Liveryman Kelly Fairman.

Worshipful Company of Firefighters Committee

Master Alan Wells, Court Assistants Terry Baldwin, Alan Mabbutt and Geoff Morgan.

Firefighters Memorial Charitable Trust Committee

Court Assistant Peter Cowland, and Freeman Paul Settle.

In addition, invaluable support was given by Liverymen Michael Curtis and Freeman Tony Skinner.

ANNUAL ST. FLORIAN'S BANQUET

The Annual St. Florian's Banquet was held at the Vintner's Hall on 2 November 2005 and was supported by the following companies:

Apollo Fire Detectors Ltd



Smoke and heat detectors for conventional and intelligent fire systems - Protecting lives and property worldwide. Apollo Fire Detectors Ltd is based five miles from Nelson's flagship HMS Victory in historic Portsmouth. The company is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year and is Europe's largest manufacturer of industrial and commercial smoke detectors exporting to over 85 countries.

www.apollo-fire.co.uk

Chubb Fire



180 years of history and innovation have made Chubb a global leader in security and fire protection. The name Chubb is synonymous with fire and security. Chubb Fire's approach to fire safety is: Prevent, Detect, Contain and ensure Escape from Fire.

www.chubb.co.uk

Kidde Fire Protection



The company has set the benchmark for fire safety, detection, prevention and protection. Kidde are dedicated to protecting people and assets from every day hazards and danger - from fire and safety systems to explosion suppression.

www.kfp.co.uk

Vimpex



The company is renowned for its innovative Fire-Cryer® voice enhanced sounder. It is the sounder that can be both heard and understood. Following an attention seeking signal, the sounder produces a clear unambiguous voice message thus eliminating the potential confusion on hearing an alarm. Vimpex also acts as the European distributor for the 'Ogura' lightweight, portable and highly efficient rescue tools.

www.vimpex.co.uk

Past Master Colin Livett wishes to express his appreciation to the following for their help and expertise in producing both the redesigned Salamander Newsletter and the Company Web-Site:

Neil Wallington: Editor of the Salamander Newsletter

Liveryman Nick Clarkson: Web-site Manager

Graham Scott: (The Marketing Partnership, www.marketp.co.uk): Salamander Design

Renter Warden Viv Jones (Vimpex, www.vimpex.co.uk): Salamander Sponsorship and Distribution

Having established the new design of Salamander, consideration will now be given to establish the regular feature sections contained in future issues.