



The Salamander

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters

Service, Fellowship, Harmony and Honour

Issue 9, May 2007

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Events

2007

7 June
Partners Luncheon

8 June
Court of Assistants

20 June
Master's Reception

25 June
Election of the Sheriffs

6 July
Common Hall

9 September
Annual UK Firefighters Memorial Service

14 September
Court of Assistants

22 September
Fire Industry Charity Ball

1 October
Election of the Lord Mayor

10 October
St Florian's Installation Dinner

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters
The Clerk: Martin Bonham
The Insurance Hall, 20 Aldermanbury
London EC2V 7GF
T: 0207 600 1666 F: 0207 600 1666
E: clerk@firefighterscompany.org

Contributions to the Salamander and the Company Website should be sent to neilwallington@aol.com.
Salamander Editor: Neil Wallington
Deputy Editor: Colin Livett

FROM THE MASTER'S PEN

The Worshipful Company of Firefighters has taken a distinct leading role in co-ordinating the Modern Livery Companies entry for the annual Lord Mayor's Show. The Modern Livery Companies, so named for being founded after the cessation of the Second World War, first entered the Parade as a group following an initiative by the Worshipful Company of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators in 2003.

Many of the Modern Companies simply could not afford the entry fee and costs of a float, which can easily exceed £6000. The group initiative was successful and eleven Modern Companies paraded. To add colour and dimension, the Firefighters arranged for the West Midlands Fire Brigade Band to lead a horse drawn steam powered fire pump. This proved to be a great success with the thousands of spectators lining the route. The Modern Livery Companies then decided to enter the Lord Mayor's Show on a regular basis and the Firefighters volunteered to take over the organisation on behalf of the Modern Companies.

Such has been the success and influence of the Firefighters that, under their direction and guidance, participation has increased to twenty-two of the currently twenty-nine Modern Livery Companies. The entry in the November 2006 Show was particularly successful and innovative. Innes Southard, a member of the Worshipful Company of Firefighters loaned and drove a Dodge G16 Carmichael DL30U 100ft Magirus turntable ladder fire appliance. This was followed by a 1964 Southdown bus, owned by Eric Stobart, a Past Master of the Worshipful Company of World Traders, complete with a traditional New Orleans style jazz band. Following behind and bringing an entirely new



dimension to the City streets, was a combine harvester, loaned by Farmcare Ltd, which is used as part of their *Education for Schools* programme.

Last November the parade had 70 floats, 24 military and civilian bands, 6169 participants and was well over three miles in length, taking 1 hour, 8 minutes and 39 seconds to pass the Lord Mayor at Mansion House. From when the BBC went live on air at 10.45am, the first 20 minutes of the show differentiated by less than one second from the timing schedule produced by the Pageant Master. I am sure you will agree that taking into account the fly past, the two minutes silence and the Remembrance Day poppy drop from the Lancaster bomber of the RAF Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, this was an amazing piece of logistics planning. The Lord Mayor's Show is the largest parade of its kind in the world and last November, 49 of the 107 Livery Companies were involved.

The growing influence and importance of the Modern Companies involvement in the Lord Mayor's Show has bought considerable recognition to the Company of Firefighters within the City of London. The 2006 entry was a great success and all the twenty-two companies involved, together with some of the remaining seven, have indicated their wish to participate in our 2007 entry.

Master Martin Coffey

FROM THE CLERK

I get a number of calls from Freemen of the Company enquiring about becoming Liverymen and what this involves. This issue of Salamander gives me an ideal opportunity to describe the process.

In order to progress to Livery it is necessary to be not only a Freeman of the Company but also a Freeman of the City of London. This can be achieved in one of two ways: either by approaching the Chamberlain's Court in Guildhall (details available from the Clerk) or registration by proxy (details and form also available from the Clerk). Once registered, it is necessary to attend the Chamberlain's Court (usually a month or so later) to declare your Freedom of the City.

Once Freedom of the City has been declared the Chamberlain's Court will provide confirmation to the Clerk. The Clerk will then be in position to invite you to be clothed in the Livery of the Company. Clothings take place four times a year at the time of Court Meetings in December, March, June and September. There is a one-off Livery Fine to be paid of £500 and Quarterage remains the same.

Becoming a Liveryman of one of the City of London's Livery Companies is a great privilege and honour. Being a Liveryman gives you the right to attend Common Hall and vote in the elections for the Sheriffs and Lord Mayor. The Lord Mayor, Sheriffs and Aldermen are drawn from the ranks of the Livery. If you are interested in moving to Livery Status please call the Clerk on 0207 600 1666.

Martin Bonham



Innes Southard's former London Fire Brigade Dodge G16/Magirus 100ft turntable ladder ready for the parade.



Court Assistants Alan Mabbutt and Ronald Murray, Master Martin Coffey and Court Assistant Trevor Barnwell pictured in front of Innes Southard's ex - London Fire Brigade Dodge/Magirus turntable ladder before the commencement of the 2006 Lord Mayor's Parade.

OBITUARIES

Liveryman Tom Wilmot and Court Assistant Ronald Brown

It was with very great sadness that the Master, Wardens and members of the Company received news of the death of Liveryman Tom Wilmot on 15 February 2007 and that of Court Assistant Ronald Brown on 19 March 2007.

The Company was represented at both funerals and subsequent Memorial Services.



PARTNERS LUNCH

“Le St Julien”

62/63 Long Lane, London EC1

12.30pm Thursday 7 June 2007

Following last year’s successful lunch at Le St Julien, our Master and Wardens have decided to repeat the function again this year. Those who attended in 2006 will recall the fine, French inspired food and the very friendly staff, all providing a very convivial atmosphere.

Le Saint Julien's has a reputation as a cosy spot that delivers the traditional French thing with charm and warmth. It pulls out all the brasserie stops - mirrors, gilt finishes, elegant period lighting, traditional wooden bar and French waiters all smartly dressed in black aprons. This is an opportunity to invite our partners to an informal event with time to mingle prior to lunch and, indeed, après.

Our Master will be inviting those widows who have lost their partners in previous years and they will be our guests for the lunch. With this in mind, the charge, inclusive of a half bottle of wine per person and a three course menu, will be £40. Other drinks will be available at the cash bar. We hope to attract sufficient numbers in order to exclusively reserve the restaurant. Dress code will be suits/jackets and ties and the equivalent form of dress for partners.

A booking form has already been circulated and I would be grateful if you could return the same, along with your menu choice and a cheque (£40 per person) made payable to 'The Worshipful Company of Firefighters' to me by Monday 21 May 2007.

Martin Bonham

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMPANY

During the last two Court Meetings, membership of the Company was warmly extended to:

1 December 2006:

Liverymen: Frances Blois, Alan Woods, Robert Farquhar, Michael Docherty, Ted Pearn and Geoff Turpin

Freemen: Paul Bryant, Peter Moore

23 March 2007:

Liveryman: Kelly Fairman

Freemen: Karen Eves, Richard Squire, Philip Crisford, Elwyn Harker, Ian Brown, Jon Hall and Anthony Ireland.



CAPTION CORNER

After due consideration of the entries for the Caption Corner Competition that appeared in Salamander No 8, it was decided that the winning entry was from John Norris, the Company Beadle, whose short and succinct entry was:

“Yes, petrol does make it go better!”



Please let the Editor have your suggestions for the Caption Corner image in this edition of Salamander. The photograph has been kindly provided by courtesy of the London Fire Brigade.



EULOGY: ALBERT LESLIE GILLINGS, JP

1 September 1930 to 1 August 2006

It was with great sadness that the Worshipful Company of Firefighters learned of the death, on the 1st August 2006, of our Past Master & Assistant Clerk Finance, Bertie Gillings. Bertie, a founder of the Company and a Past Master, was much loved by everyone. He was a real gentleman, a true professional and one who devoted his entire life to others in so many ways.

Albert Leslie Gillings was born in September 1930, within the Borough of Hackney. It was not until much later in life that he came to be known as Bertie and in 1948 he was called up for National Service and joined the Royal Marines. It was there that the importance of self discipline and supportive teamwork were instilled in him and stayed with him throughout life. During this time he began what would become a lifetime interest in military history.

In 1950 Bertie joined the London Fire Brigade. That single decision set him on the path of serving the community and helping others - a golden thread throughout his working life and beyond. Even in his early years in the Brigade, Bertie was involved with a charity which encouraged young boys to take up boxing to get them off the streets and away from bad company. His distinguished fire service career spanned over 34 years and during this period he forged strong friendships and proved himself a caring leader and working hard for his family. There was no greater life-long friendship than that formed by two young instructors at the London Fire Brigade Training School at Southwark in 1965. That friendship between Station Officer Albert Gillings and our Founder Master, then Station Officer Gerald Clarkson was to last over 40 years and never waiver.



For the last 15 years, Bertie was almost as well known in Charing, Kent where Gerry and Rose live, as he was in Chingford. So much so, that Bertie was very involved with the activities of the village, serving on a number of committees and indeed was even appointed as President of one of Charing's associations. The Annual Duck Regatta and the Annual Garden Parties always sported 'Bertie's Bar'.

Bertie's career in the London Fire Brigade progressed well. Always respected as a hardworking, thoroughly reliable officer with the utmost integrity, he rose through the ranks to become a Deputy Assistant Chief Fire Officer in command of the challenging large area of North East of London.

During his career in the Fire Service Bertie joined the Masonic Order and served in three Lodges. Bertie gave long and dedicated service in both the organisation and its considerable fund raising and within the Masonic Movement, where Bertie once again reached high office and was greatly respected.



Bertie understood that the end of a selfless career in the Fire Service was not the end of his working life and that he still had much to offer. Within a year of leaving the Brigade in 1984 he was appointed a Magistrate for North East London serving at Waltham Forest and Snaresbrook Crown Court. He went on to become the Chairman of the Family Proceedings Panel, where he was well recognised and much valued in this important and extremely sensitive role. At the same time Bertie became involved as a Committee Member of the Chingford and Waltham Forest Branch of the Royal British Legion and within a year was appointed the President of the Royal British Legion Club at Chingford. In 1988 Bertie was appointed President of the Royal Naval Association for Chingford and Waltham Forest.

As if this were not enough, Bertie was appointed the Commissioner for St John Ambulance London District where he served with distinction for the next eight years. In his role as Commissioner he was responsible for all the St John Ambulance public duties across the capital. These included Trooping the Colour, London Marathons, Royal Garden Parties, VE and VJ celebrations and numerous marches and demonstrations. Bertie was honoured by being made a Commander of the Order. Bertie continued to serve London District as a member of Council and at the same time served National Headquarters on the Honours & Awards Committee. Bertie served for over 17 years and was honoured and proud when he was awarded the Service Medal and Bar for his service to mankind.

In 1988 Bertie was active in founding the Guild of Firefighters, now the Worshipful Company of Firefighters and was one of our early Masters, subsequently holding the positions of Trustee and Assistant Clerk (Finance), an appointment he held for the past ten years. During his term in office as Assistant Clerk (Finance) he ensured that the prompt payment of fines & quarterage was achieved in the most pleasant manner. His stewardship of the Livery Fund enabled the Company to have one of the finest functions at the Mansion House, with the Lord Mayor present, following the Grant of Letters Patent in January 2002.

Bertie's continuing enthusiasm led him to be a founder Trustee of the Firefighters' Memorial Charitable Trust. This culminated in the bronze War Memorial outside St Paul's Cathedral being unveiled by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother in May 1991. On the base of the memorial Bertie's name as a Founder Trustee is proudly inscribed. With Bertie's continuing support as a Founder Trustee the same Memorial was elevated, some ten years later, to accommodate all the names cast in bronze of all the firefighters who have died in peacetime service. Bertie, as a Founder Trustee always

spoke of the great honour and pride he felt in being presented to the dedicated and hard working Patron of the Memorial Charitable Trust - Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal.

Bertie was also an active and well-respected member of the Honourable Artillery Company where he dined almost on a weekly basis. Nothing pleased Bertie more than to entertain his friends, family and colleagues to lunch at Armoury House in the City of London and always attended the Members Monthly Luncheon.

When one realises that many have never achieved what Bertie did in his lifetime, it is difficult to comprehend that he would often remark that he had not done much in life. The reality is that Bertie led a full and active life, filled with kindness and care for others. This unassuming man from the East End of London achieved so much in his lifetime that he is to be very much admired and greatly respected.

Bertie was so very proud of his wife Veronica who nursed him throughout his long period of ill health and her tremendous energy and support in everything he did. He commented on many occasions during the last few years about the fact that Veronica has been a tower of strength and a great comfort during very difficult times.

He was proud of his son David and his wife Carmel and their three children; his daughter Kay and her husband Bob. Bertie was a man who embraced life's opportunities to the full, leaving an enormous legacy of goodwill, love and understanding. In life and in illness, Bertie Gillings continued to be a cheerful example to us all and will always be fondly remembered. For a great many in the Worshipful Company of Firefighters and in other organisations it will have been a real privilege to have shared life with Bertie Gillings, a true and compassionate friend. He will be long remembered and greatly missed.

FIRE INDUSTRY CHARITY BALL 2007

Following the Company's previous successful events we are now embarking on another great evening of dining, dancing and raising charitable support, this time at the Grosvenor House, London.

Format of the evening:

6.30 pm
Reception in the Ballroom Foyer

7.30 pm
Dinner, Auction and Raffle in the Ballroom,
Dancing to the "Big Man and his Band"

12.30 am
Carriages

The cost per head is £98 and is inclusive of the Dinner Dance, reception drink and ½ bottle of wine.

To reserve your place please send your name and address and a deposit of £25 per head to:

Bryan Spearman,
11 Meadway Rustington BN16 2DD.
Cheques payable to "The Worshipful Company of Firefighters". Tables of 10 or individuals all welcome.

For sponsorship detail or other information please call Bryan Spearman on 07860 188 030 or Email: brandy.promotions@virgin.net.

Web site for rooms:
www.grosvenor-house.co.uk

Grand Prize Draw

Members and their friends are invited to take part in our Charitable Trust's draw for **two tickets and accommodation** at the Fire Industry Charity Ball. Tickets are priced at £2 each or £10 for a book of five. The tickets will be on sale at the Fire & Rescue show organised by CMP Information Limited to be held at the NEC, Birmingham on 21-24 May. We plan to draw the winning ticket at the Insurance Hall on 6 July 2007.

If you wish to assist the fund raising effort by selling tickets please contact our Upper Warden, Viv Jones on either 01702 216999 or 07770 878571 alternatively e-mail vtj@vimpex.co.uk.

We sincerely wish to thank **CMP Information Limited** for their generous sponsorship of the Big Man and his Band.



The
Worshipful
Company of
Firefighters

Service, Fellowship, Harmony and Honour

Fire Industry Charity Ball 2007



The Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London
Saturday 22 September

Dinner, Auction, Raffle
and Dancing to the
'Big Man and his Band'



Our aim is to support the chosen Charities of the Firefighters' Livery Company, and this year RAFT in particular. RAFT is a medical research charity supporting research and education in the fields of reconstructive surgery and burn injury treatment. Funds are needed to push ahead with vital research for patients whose lives have been devastated by burns, accidents, trauma, cancers and birth defects.



Trinity Hospice
Living every Moment

FSNBF
FIRE SERVICES NATIONAL BENEVOLENT FUND

LORD MAYOR'S APPEAL

www.firefighterscompany.org

THE ROYAL NAVY'S FIREFIGHTING TRAINING SCHOOL AT HMS EXCELLENT, WHALE ISLAND, PORTSMOUTH

Members will be aware that many Livery Companies have relationships with one or more branches of the armed forces. Both parties benefit by such an arrangement, particularly if there is a reason for the relationship connected with the origins of the particular Company.

The connection between the Worshipful Company of Firefighters and the Royal Navy's Firefighting Training School is not only an obvious one, but also helps to remind us that the modern Fire Service had its origins in the Royal Navy. It was for these reasons that we made contact with HMS Excellent on Whale Island, Portsmouth early this year, and in March the Commanding Officer, Commander Steve Layland, RN, attended as an official guest at our Massey Shaw Dinner.

HMS Excellent houses part of the overall "Damage Control and Firefighting Training School", and everyone who serves on any ship in the Navy must pass through there at least once during their career (more often for officers). They also train other members of the Armed Services, as well as cadets and visitors from many overseas countries. In addition to shipboard firefighting, students are taught how to keep ships afloat following structural/hull damage whether caused by grounding or inflicted in battle. This training employs a special hydraulic platform that can simulate the list of a ship, whilst the trainees inside have to fight to stem the roar of incoming water. They also learn about nuclear, biological and chemical defence and decontamination.

The Royal Navy's Firefighting School is managed and operated by Flagship Training Ltd and was commissioned in 2001. The School's firefighting training scenarios are fired by propane gas and were designed and built by Process Combustion of Harrogate, North Yorkshire, and installed inside eight separate three-deck steel warship units. The simulated fires range from a small waste bin through to a full-scale engine room fire and with the ability to smoke log all the various compartment complexes through various levels down to nil-visibility, the entire facility provides some very realistic yet safe and repeatable training. All the fires, smoke, and lighting are computer controlled and the units have a very high degree of safety features built into the control system. Each training unit is equipped with a catalytic oxidiser to minimise atmospheric pollution and the Firefighting School has a current throughput of over 10,000 students per annum.

Members will be aware that we have an important existing initiative with the Sea Cadets, so at this stage the precise nature of our ongoing relationship with HMS Excellent is still to be established. However, we hope to see representatives of the School at some of our functions, and in the future it may be possible to arrange a visit to the School as part of our social programme, acknowledging that there are some members who have expressed an interest in more visits of a "firefighting" nature.

James Blott, Renter Warden



Picture courtesy of Flagship Training Limited.



LIVERYMAN HARRY PAVIOUR

It is with pleasure that all members of the Company will join in congratulations to Liveryman Harry Paviour on his recent election as a Councillor with Cotswold District Council. However, apart from his distinguished fire service background, Harry is a pretty active person in a range of other disciplines.

Harry joined East Sussex Fire Brigade in 1962, subsequently serving through the ranks in London, Kent, at the Fire Service College, in North Wales and as a regional Staff Officer for the whole of the Principality. After 'retiring' in 1992, Harry became involved in various Fire Safety, Emergency Planning and Safety & Health appointments before returning to the Fire Service College in 2001 as a Fire Risk Assessor and Uniformed Instructor.

At that time his interest in the risk assessment world took him into various commercial organizations, particularly the equine world, where he was appointed Fire Advisor to the British Horse Society.

Harry is the author of the recently published British Horse Society's technical reference book, *Guidelines for Fire Safety Standards for Equine and Agricultural Establishments* which was published and launched at the National Equine event held at the National Agricultural College, Warwickshire. To demonstrate the book's standing in the equine world, the Foreword was written and signed by Her Royal Highness, the Princess Royal.

Harry's current project is writing the draft *Guide for Fire Risk Assessment for Equine Premises*, for the Government's risk assessment based fire safety legislation which came into effect on 1 October 2006. He is also in the process of writing a book in layman's terms on the understanding and application of the new fire safety order for the equine industry.

The next edition of Salamander will feature a review of Harry's new book which has been extremely well received throughout the British equine establishment.



THE MASSEY SHAW & MARINE VESSELS PRESERVATION SOCIETY



The Massey Shaw & Marine Vessels Preservation Society is a charity that has in its care the historic former London Fire Brigade fireboat *Massey Shaw*.

Named after the Brigade's long-serving Victorian Chief Officer, the *Massey Shaw* was built in 1935 and entered service in the River Thames Division of the London Fire Brigade. She became famous as one of the 'Little Ships' that went to Dunkirk in May 1940 when the London fireboat made three round trips to successfully evacuate over 160 troops from the beaches. *Massey Shaw* was finally taken out of service in 1971.

The next edition of Salamander will feature the work of the Preservation Society and its particular role with *Massey Shaw*.



London Fireboat *Massey Shaw* passes the Palace of Westminster on its way back to its Lambeth base. 8 August 1949. Picture courtesy of London Fire Brigade.

Neil Wallington: Editor of the Salamander Newsletter

Past Master Colin Livett: Deputy Editor

Liveryman Nick Clarkson: Web-site Manager

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

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