



THE ARCHITECTS' COMPANY



Newsletter of the Worshipful Company of Chartered Architects
Spring 2018

Message from the Master

It's hard to believe that I am nearly half-way through my term as Master of the Worshipful Company of Chartered Architects. Not a single week has passed without at least one event to be attended or involved with and between us, at the time of writing, Deirdre and I have represented the Company on nearly 60 occasions. In 2017, personal highlights for me were the Company weekend in Sheffield; the opening of the Garden of Remembrance at St Paul's Cathedral on 6th November; the Lord Mayor's Show; and the Carol Service at our Mother Church, St Lawrence Jewry. In 2018, my Reception at the Tower of London; the Livery visit with the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress to Treloar's School in Hampshire; our Livery Banquet;



[Banquet pictures courtesy of Gerald Sharp Photography](#)

and the Annual Lecture are the high spots so far.

The first Committee meetings and Court of the New Year recorded good progress in all fields of activity. Of particular note are the Company's application for a Royal Charter; negotiations to take out a lease on the Temple Bar as our headquarters; and progress with our 30th Anniversary Livery Halls book.

By giving prizes for excellence, the Company actively supports the City's four schools, the multi-discipline Teambuild project and the International Building Press annual awards.

As well as attending these events and personally awarding some of the prizes, I have been a guest at five other ceremonies at which a number of the other construction-orientated Livery Companies have given craft awards to their apprentices. The encouragement and promotion of apprenticeships in general are being actively supported by the City and successive Lord Mayors, and the WCCA is about to commence a dialogue with the RIBA through President Ben Derbyshire, who is a Liveryman of the Company, to investigate the introduction of apprenticeships into architectural education.

On the subject of education, but less formally, the planned series of early evening talks on various aspects of City life and walks around the Square Mile will commence on 21st and 29th March respectively. These are aimed particularly at the newer, younger members of the Company, but I suspect that some of our senior Liverymen and Freemen might learn a few things that they didn't

know, so all are welcome. The monthly practice visits hosted by members of the Company are also continuing. The programmes for all of these events have already been issued by the Clerk but are repeated below in case you missed them.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible over the next few months.

Stephen Wagstaffe, Master

Committee News

All the Committees met with their new Chairmen and Members on 16th January 2018 at the RIBA.

Communications Committee

Thanks were recorded to retiring members Past Master Geoffrey Purves and Howard Copping.

Our on-going quest is to improve the way we communicate with our membership and the wider world. A start has been made with the implementation of MailChimp for mass-circulation emails by our Clerk. It is early days, but the results so far look promising.

Longer-term we are looking at improving our website in a measured way, which does not disrupt existing systems and is affordable. We are currently developing a brief which we can use to obtain competitive quotes. Meanwhile, we are endeavouring to review and update content on the existing website on a more regular basis. If you or your practice have a news item or an important issue you would like to share with other members, please send it through to our webmaster [Paul Weston](#) for his consideration.

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) comes into force on 25th May, which will have a major impact on communications. All members will have to “opt in” rather than “opt out” to continue receiving communication on a regular basis, a disruptive change to our operations. (More from the Clerk below.)

Barry Munday, Upper Warden

Membership Committee

Thanks were recorded to retiring members Past Master Richard Brindley and Rosemary Curry (who is moving to the Events Committee). The February Court subsequently approved that new Court Assistant Yasmin Shariff, who had agreed to fill one of these vacancies, will join us at our meeting on 27th March. (If any of you would like to join the Committee, please inform the Junior Warden.)

The Almoner Tom Ball presented what turned out to be his final report to the Committee as he formally retired from the post at the February Court, handing over the reins after many years valiant service to Stuart Le Sage.

The Committee’s current task is to achieve the 8% Strategic Plan target for new members for the year, which is in danger of falling short. In addition, we are using the data from the membership survey to help us assess and improve the membership spectrum to better reflect that of the RIBA in terms of age, gender and ethnicity. These issues are currently high on our agenda and various novel approaches such as encouraging membership from award-winning practices, as well as stepped “fines” for younger applicants are being considered.

The numbers of new recruits could easily be solved by all members simply asking colleagues and friends to join us. A letter to this effect will be sent out exhorting members to be active in expanding the Livery and we shall continue to push this straightforward approach throughout the rest of the year, including redistribution of the Clerk’s “Becoming a Liveryman” letter to all Company Freeman.

We are also addressing the numbers of student members by researching ways to reach out and attract them into the Company by focussed events as well as more informal gatherings in addition to the regular practice visits.

Draft election procedures were formulated and discussed with senior members of the Company and were subsequently taken to and approved by the February Court. The resulting procedure is now simple, clear and transparent, and the necessary form for applicants will be available from the Clerk from now on.

Philip Cooper, Junior Warden

Finance and Strategy Committee

Thanks were recorded to retiring Past Master Geoffrey Purves, who has completed his term on the Committee, and Junior Warden Philip Cooper was welcomed.

The Upper Warden presented a report from the Temple Bar Group detailing the four parts of the feasibility study that had been carried out on the proposed adoption of the building. These were the practicalities of leasing, operational structure, business plan, and function and use of the chamber and adjoining office suite. It was agreed to seek the approval of the Court to proceed to the next stage of negotiations.

Subject to minor wording adjustments (for which the Charity Commission's approval is not required) acceptance of the final up-dated version of the Charitable Trust Deed would be recommended to Court.

The Clerk reported on current expenditure against the agreed 2017-18 budget. Three of the six current sponsors will not be renewing their support at the end of the present 3-year term on 1st July 2018 so efforts are in train to find replacements. If you know of anyone who may be prepared to sponsor the Company for a very reasonable £6000 over three years, please contact the Master or the Clerk - there are considerable benefits.

Updated procedures for the admission of new members prepared by the Membership Committee were approved for presentation to the Court. The Committee had also reported that the Company currently has 160 Liverymen, 68 freemen and 30 Student members.

It was reported that there had been no objections by other interested groups to the Company's application for a Royal Charter and it was therefore hoped that this will be granted to the company within the next few months.

Stephen Wagstaffe, Master

Autumn UK Tour

From 20th to 22nd October 2017, fourteen Company members and their partners enjoyed a busy weekend in Sheffield.

The tour commenced with a reception in the University Arts Tower, hosted by Professor Kavin Hadjri, Dean of the School of Architecture, and was followed by an informal group dinner at our hotel.

Saturday's programme commenced with a walking tour through the city centre and up to the university campus led by a team of guides provided by the Sheffield Society of Architects. Lunch at the Anglican Cathedral café was followed by a tour of the church itself with Clive England, the Architect to the Fabric. The building is a fascinating blend of the ancient and modern and is an extremely vibrant participant in the life of the city. After lunch, braving a typical South Yorkshire windy and rainy afternoon, we climbed the hill to visit the Park Hill Estate. Many of us remember and visited the multi storey flats development, described when it was built in the 1960's as Britain's first

“City in the Sky” and it was enlightening to be shown round phase 1 of the major refurbishment project by two enthusiastic members of the Residents’ Association. In recognition of the achievements so far and wishing to support future progress, a substantial donation was made by the group towards the development of a community garden on the site.



Park Hill before (left-hand side of picture) and after renovation (right-hand side)



The iconic Winter Garden next to the hotel

In the evening a formal dinner was held with guests from the University, the SSA and RIBA region. The event was a little less formal than intended because the dinner place seating cards in the Master’s pocket got soaked to illegibility when the taxi taking him to the venue had a puncture and he had to stand in the pouring rain for 20 minutes waiting for a replacement!

On the final day we travelled into Derbyshire where the first stop was in Chesterfield for a whistle-stop tour led by Chris and Sara Bicknell. The main attraction was, of course, the world famous crooked spire on the parish church. Moving on we then visited Slingsby Mill, a working watermill built in the 19th century by the Duke of Devonshire so that he could enjoy fresh bread in his two nearby houses, Hardwick Hall and Chatsworth House. After lunch in the nearby 15th C Hardwick Inn the

weekend finished with a visit to Hardwick Hall itself. The most notable features of this very grand house are the extraordinary main stairway which winds its way in a completely random manner up through the building from the ground to the second floor and the massive tapestries that cover every inch of every wall. There are even ones specially woven to go up the sides of the stairway.

Lord Mayor's Show, 11th November 2017

At the personal request of the incoming Lord Mayor, Alderman Charles Bowman, who initially trained to be an architect before moving into accountancy, the Company entered its own float. The theme chosen was to celebrate the contribution of our profession to the heritage and visual history of the City of London by featuring its historic and contemporary architecture and the people who made it. This was represented by members of the Company in costume carrying models of some of the iconic landmarks of the past, plus examples of today's buildings. They were escorted by other members wearing a distinctive Company uniform and carrying banners illustrating a number of the buildings to which the Company has presented its annual architectural award in recent years.



Miraculously the traditional Lord Mayor's Show rain stopped just as the parade got under way and the warmth of the crowds' greetings along the way adequately made up for the rather chilly wind. A great time was had by all the participants and the day was rounded off perfectly with the Master being invited to join 21 other Livery Masters to form the Lord Mayor's Guard of Honour on his return to Mansion House.

Company Awards

Apart from contributing to various charities the Company supports a number of awards and courses associated with architecture, one to each of the City's four schools, one at the Royal Academy and two to the wider world of building.

In education, there are book token prizes to the City of London (Boys) School, the City of London Girls School, the City of London Freemen's School and the City of London Academy Southwark. The first two are presented at ceremonies in Guildhall by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress. Also, the Company is a major supporter of regular workshops at the Royal Academy called the attRAct programme. These are for school children from across Greater London at which they learn about the visual aspects of all the arts, including architecture and the built environment.

In the wider world, the Company partners five other building industry and educational professional bodies sponsoring the annual Teambuild. This is a weekend residential event for young professionals from all disciplines of the building industry and is aimed at developing skills in leadership and co-ordination in the industry. Individuals are grouped into multi-discipline teams and in an intensive two-and-a-half days are set a series of tasks to solve, related to a realistic building scenario. This is a competitive event and awards are given for overall teamwork, individual leadership, the team that learned the most over the course and the best procurement, contract and risk assessment presentation. This latter is the one presented by the WCCA and at the last course it went to a team comprising people from the IStructE, RICS, ARB, IET, RIAS and CIBSE.



The winning team “Meitheal” with the Master

Finally, the Company is one of the thirteen sponsors of the annual National Journalism Awards for the International Building Press. The 2017 event was held at the Four Seasons Hotel in Park Lane and the Master of Ceremonies was WCCA Deputy Master Peter Murray. The guest speaker and presenter of the awards was Lord Black of Brentwood and the WCCA’s award for the best non-weekly magazine of 2017 went to the New London Quarterly, edited by David Taylor.

Annual Carol Service

Our carol service, held jointly with the Constructors’ Company, took place at St. Lawrence Jewry on 19th December, conducted by our Honorary Chaplain, Reverend Canon David Parrott. It was a typical Festive and enjoyable affair, with much hearty singing, which put us all in the Christmas spirit.

Some forty-five of us then repaired to Davy’s Woolgate Exchange on Basinghall Street for wine and nibbles afterwards. Sadly we were without the Constructors this time around, due to post-service numbers of the two Companies combined being too great to be accommodated in a single venue of our choice. Victims of our own success, we still managed to have fun on our own!

Master's Reception

On the evening of Monday 29th January 2018, forty members of the Company and their families joined the Master for an evening at the Tower of London. The visit commenced with a light-hearted tour of the Tower precincts with Yeoman Warder John Donald, who happens to be the Beadle of the Weavers' Company. This was followed by a drinks reception in the Yeoman Warders' Club and at 9.30pm we were escorted out to Traitors' Gate to witness the Ceremony of the Keys – the formal locking-up of the Tower which has been performed without a break every evening for the past 700 years. After the end of the Ceremony we returned to the Club to continue to enjoy the Tower's hospitality and the party finally broke up at 11.30pm! A generous donation was made to the Yeoman Warder Club's funds and a raffle raised nearly £400 for the Club's own charity.

Membership News

Congratulations to Student Member Eleanor Wright whose work was featured in the BBC 4 programme House of the Year on 28th November 2017.

Congratulations also to Past Masters Richard Saxon CBE and Dr Mervyn Miller who were made Fellows of the RIBA in February for their contributions to Architecture over many years.



Richard Saxon CBE (4th from left, back row) and Dr Mervyn Miller (2nd from right, front row)

The Company would like to welcome new Freeman Timothy Smith, and congratulate Ian Ritchie and Cindy Walters for their elevation to the Livery.

Treloar's School Visit

At the beginning of February each year the Livery accompanies the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress when they visit the Treloar's School and College near Alton in Hampshire. This is run by the Treloar Trust and provides education, support and accommodation for around 175 severely disabled children and young people. The school was founded back in 1908 by Lord Mayor Sir William Treloar and has remained one of the City of London's main charities ever since. The level of care is extreme with generally two teaching staff to each student and approximately 400 non-academic, paid and volunteer support staff, ranging from office workers to cleaners, cooks, building maintenance personnel and gardeners. This year's visit took place on 5th February and the Master and Mistress attended along with 49 other Masters with their Consorts. We were taken on tours of the classrooms, workshops and residential accommodation. Throughout we were in constant touch with the students, many of whom acted as guides along the way and after a delightful proper school dinner in the dining hall we were entertained by them with a highly entertaining concert in which audience participation was positively encouraged. Many of us will long remember the sight of the Lord Mayor,

accompanied by a dozen Livery Masters, performing a spirited piece on some of the biggest hand bells you have ever seen!

Annual Livery Lecture

On Wednesday, 21st February the Company's Annual Livery Lecture was held at the offices of JM Finn, Wealth Managers, who kindly sponsored the event. The subject was "Heritage and Modernity – War or Peace?", a debate on the City of London's architectural future. The speakers were WCCA Past Master Peter Luscombe in his role as Chairman of the City Heritage Society; Annie Hampson OBE, City of London Chief Planning Officer & Development Director; and Paul Finch OBE, a WCCA Freeman, Chairman of the Company's Annual Buildings Award Panel and Editorial Director of the Architectural Review.

No fewer than three Prime Wardens and twenty-one visiting Masters were in attendance, out of a total audience of 55, representing a quarter of all the Livery Companies in the City, all of whom took part in the lively debate following the lecture. The event was video'd and will be put up on the Company website for those who were not able to be there.

Spring Overseas Tour

The Master's overseas trip to Ljubljana (24th to 27th May) is fully booked. A report will appear in the next newsletter.

News from the Clerk

We have finalised our calendar of activities for the Spring and Summer, and there is no shortage of things to do!

Details relating to the Master's Walks and Talks programme, together with the Practice Visits are given at the end of this Newsletter. Please do come along and support these events, which promise to be interesting, educational and fun.

Also note the dates of our forthcoming, more formal occasions, the Accounts Court Lunch at Ironmongers' Hall (12.30pm on 14th May) and the Election Court Dinner at Skinners' Hall (6.30 for 7.15pm on 4th July). More information about these will follow in due course.

There is also a lot of activity on other fronts. First, the boring but important bits...

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

As many of you will be aware, there are new rules coming into force on 25th May to strengthen the UK's existing Data Protection legislation, with the emphasis being firmly on the rights of the individual and proscribing that those who handle someone's personal data do not do anything with it which might cause harm or damage to that person. GDPR will be enshrined in domestic law currently going through Parliament and penalties for infringement are very high.

As a membership organisation, we collect and use data relating to our Liverymen, Freemen and Students. This is done so that we can communicate with you to let you know about Company activities and events, and other matters of interest. We also store information such as date of birth, professional qualifications, partner's name, dietary requirements (for our functions). Moving forward, we will need to obtain explicit permission ('Consent') from all members to indicate that they are content for the Company to hold and process their data.

Indeed, it could be argued that the Company cannot function without receiving, processing and retaining its Members' personal data (so-called 'Legitimate Interest'), which may obviate the need for explicit Consent, though current advice is that we should seek the latter for certainty.

I will be communicating with you all shortly to ensure we will be conformant with GDPR. I understand this may seem bureaucratic and tiresome, but it will be the law. I will try and make the process as painless as possible and your co-operation will be much appreciated.

Please rest assured that we will never pass on your personal data to any third parties unless you explicitly request us to do so (for example, to inform caterers at an event that you are a vegetarian).

For those of you awaiting an updated copy of the Red Book, this will be produced as soon as possible, if indeed it can be produced at all. We need to ensure beforehand that its distribution is compliant with the GDPR.

Emailing You (MailChimp)

Another wonder of our technological age is email - a fast and convenient way to correspond with each other. Unfortunately, it is also prone to abuse, including the sending of so-called 'Spam'. It is difficult for email servers to tell the difference between Spam and, for instance, the Clerk sending an email to over 250 people with an attachment inviting you all to a dinner.

In such a circumstance, email servers are quite likely to blacklist electronic correspondence from the Clerk on the assumption he is a 'Spammer'. This would result in it not being delivered to the intended recipient and stop future correspondence from the Clerk's computer's IP address.

One way around this problem is to use a bulk email service such as MailChimp, which uses 'friendly' servers to increase the chances of successful delivery. However, this is not guaranteed as incoming email servers, especially in the corporate environment, may still identify MailChimp as a mass emailing and block delivery.

Nonetheless, I have been using MailChimp since 29th December 2017 for Company missives and I'm hopeful the vast majority of you are receiving these. (Paradoxically, of course, if you're not, you won't receive this Newsletter either!)

I am keeping the situation under review and will let you know if we need to make further changes. Any comments would be gratefully received.

External Livery Events

The Corporation of London's Livery Committee, in association with the Town Clerk's Department, produce a bi-monthly newsletter ***Livery Briefing***. Rather than separately reporting on the content which may be of interest to you, please find the latest copy here:

<http://www.liverycompanies.info/library/livery-briefing/>

In particular, please could I draw your attention to items on:

- Pan-Livery Initiative
Please let me know if you would like any further information about this.
- Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch, 11th April
Apply directly if you would like to go. Note we have made a donation to the Silent Auction.
- Common Hall: Election of Sheriffs, 25th June
I have election cards for this (and the Lord Mayor's election on 1st October), which will be distributed to all Liverymen elected before 31st May 2017 upon request.
Please note elections are being contested this year. You can find out more at:
 - <http://www.richardfleck.com>
 - <http://www.lizgreen.co.uk>
 - <http://www.vincentkeaveny.city> (Aldermanic candidate)
 - <http://www.gwenrhys.com>
- City Briefings
These are very useful. Please apply direct.

Outside of the **Livery Briefing**, Members may be interested in:

- Lord Mayor's Dragon Awards for Businesses, especially SMEs
Applications are open until 16th April.
- The Illuminated River Foundation have appointed the famous light artist Leo Vilareal to bring light to our river by illuminating 15 bridges over the Thames from Tower Bridge to Albert Bridge. This is supported by the Worshipful Company of Lightmongers and there are a number of public exhibitions which will give more information.
- 5th Annual Reflections of the Lord Mayor on 1st May at Trinity House with the Lord Mountevans. Please apply direct:
<http://www.lordmayorreflects.london/>
- Postman's Park Conservation Area SPD
New Conservation Area Character Summary and Management Strategy.
Views invited before 20th April.
<https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/environment-and-planning/planning/heritage-and-design/conservation-areas/Pages/Postmans-Park-Conservation-Area.aspx>
- Royal Marines 'Beating Retreat' – 30th and 31st May
Every two years the massed bands of the Royal Marines perform Beating Retreat on Horse Guards Parade, Whitehall. This is an opportunity to witness stunning military precision, wonderful music and a marvellous spectacle while supporting the Royal Navy and Royal Marines (RNRM) Charity. Livery Companies are again being offered VIP preferential seats ahead of the public at £25 each, excellent value for such an experience. Details of the event can be obtained at this link: <https://www.rnrmctickets.co.uk>. 7.00 to 8.30pm (gates open at 6.00pm).
Please let me know if you would like to be part of a block booking.

City Talks 2018 (all at 6.00pm)

21 st March	Reverend Canon David Parrott, Honorary Chaplain "The Spiritual City" St Lawrence Jewry
18 th April	Michael Welbank MBE, Past Master and ex-Chief Commoner "Experiences of a Chief Commoner" Downstairs, Davy's Woolgate Exchange, 25 Basinghall Street EC2V 5HA
16 th May	Gordon Haines, Past Alderman for Queenhythe Ward "City Committees and Governance" Downstairs, Davy's Woolgate Exchange, 25 Basinghall Street EC2V 5HA
20 th June	Alistair King, Current Alderman for Queenhythe Ward "The Court of Aldermen, Sheriffs and the Lord Mayor" Downstairs, Davy's Woolgate Exchange, 25 Basinghall Street EC2V 5HA
18 th July	Anne Thomas, Past Chairman of the Area Conservation Committee and the City Heritage Society "Conservation in the City" Downstairs, Davy's Woolgate Exchange, 25 Basinghall Street EC2V 5HA

There is no need to book in advance, please just come along.

All talks and walks are free of charge, although a modest, voluntary contribution would be appreciated.

City Walks 2018 (all at 6.00pm)

29 th March	Temple Bar to Monument (meet at Temple Bar)
26 th April	Monument to Seething Lane (meet at the Monument)
28 th June	Paternoster Square to Smithfield (meet at Temple Bar)
26 th July	The Great Fire Livery Halls (meet at the Monument)

There is no need to book in advance, please just come along.

All walks will finish (at about 7.15pm) in a hostelry for conviviality and fellowship.

All talks and walks are free of charge, although a modest, voluntary contribution would be appreciated.

WCCA Monthly Practice Visits 2018 (all at 6.30pm)

10 th April	HTA Design
14 th May	Hopkins Architects
11 th June	Space Syntax
9 th July	MEB Design
10 th September	Allies and Morrison
8 th October	Publica

Further details will follow in advance of each practice visit, which are free of charge for Members.

Spring 2018 Newsletter of the Worshipful Company of Chartered Architects, which is also available as a pdf file.

For all enquiries, please contact the Clerk, Jonathan Soar, clerk@architectscompany.org

www.architectscompany.org