My predecessor warned me that the Mastership year goes by extremely quickly - and how right he was, as always. Six months of representing this Company in its myriad associations have just flashed by. First, to Portsmouth for dinner at HMS Nelson with our Royal Naval affiliate, the 2nd Mine Countermeasures Squadron, ‘MCM2’. I listened intently to their explanation of modern mine detection and clearance before telling them that in my time with MCM10 (long since disbanded) we used to steam over the mines before they were detected, and that these days they had it easy! The path to Mastership is fraught with danger!

The Master – Christopher Stovillo

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The sun shone at the annual barbeque for the almshouses residents, with Simon Fooks and his team producing an excellent lunch as always. Everyone greatly appreciated that the wine and beer were not mistakenly left at the Hall this year! Understandably some almshouse residents have had reservations about leaving their familiar homes, however I sense a growing feeling of expectation and excitement as the new buildings take shape, and as they realise they will be in more comfortable and user friendly surroundings.

In October I visited the Merchant Company of Edinburgh who, like us, are deeply involved with education. The Clerk and I met Annie Lennox at a musicians dinner, and left even more committed fans!

The LFF has chosen ‘For Jimmy’ as one of its charities this year. The founders held a seminar at the Hall to show the charity’s wonderful work and why it is so important that we support it. Boris Johnson is a big fan of the charity and was there in support. The Arkwright Scholarships Awards for Engineering (sponsored by GCHQ this year) included five sixth form pupils from MTS Northwood, several of whom expressed an interest in careers in cyber security.

The Lord Mayor’s show was not blessed with good weather, but as always the parade and floats were highly entertaining. It was wonderful to hear the laughter of happy children in the Hall afterwards. I know the chocolate fountain was a great hit!

A couple of days later we attended the Lord Mayor’s Banquet. The mayor is a Lancastrian, educated in Blackpool, and achieved a City first by having both Blackpool rock and knickerbocker glories on the menu! It was comforting to hear the prime minister give strong support to apprenticeships.
Brigadier Sharon Nesmith, the highest ranking female in the British Army, was our guest speaker at the Ladies and Military Affiliates Dinner. Over 300 members attended Vernon’s Service before Christmas. Again I would like to thank all those who generously supported the raffle, which resulted in raising nearly £11,000 for the LFF and the Master’s Charity, XLP.

I can report good progress on the Livery and Freemen Fund?—what better way to lose a little winter weight enjoying the spring countryside, while adding a spring that has begun well with further improvements at the Hall, including the installation of the magnificent 1826 clock in the turret facing into the Garden.

In Lewisham the smart new almshouses are taking shape, with work on schedule for completion in mid 2018. And near to them the two charity-owned nursing homes have been re-let and new occupiers, ‘Cinnamon’, are moving in.

In the autumn we welcomed Mr. Martin Clarke as our new Catering Company chairman. Among many things, he was looking forward to our sports events this summer, and I encourage everyone to take part as they are great fun, and an excellent way of getting to know other Company Members. Another charity walk is being planned (see details on page 7) — what better way to lose a little winter weight enjoying the spring countryside, while adding to the Livery and Freemen Fund?

Lastly I cannot end without saying a huge thank you to all our staff. Their dedication and long hours have produced an incredible level of performance in all areas. Most visibly our Catering Company deservedly has the highest of reputations in the City and beyond. We are looking forward to our sports events this summer, and I encourage everyone to take part as they are great fun, and an excellent way of getting to know other Company Members. Another charity walk is being planned (see details on page 7) — what better way to lose a little winter weight enjoying the spring countryside, while adding to the Livery and Freemen Fund?

Mr and Mrs Keville

FROM THE CLERK’S DESK

Welcome to the spring 2017 edition of Number 30. It is a spring that has begun well with further improvements at the Hall, including the installation of the magnificent 1826 clock in the turret facing into the Garden.

In Lewisham the smart new almshouses are taking shape, with work on schedule for completion in mid 2018. And near to them the two charity-owned nursing homes have been re-let and new occupiers, ‘Cinnamon’, are moving in.

In the autumn we welcomed Mr. Giles Hutchinson as our new charities officer. He joins us from the Almshouse Association and has a background in the law. His remit includes working with the Master on promoting will giving, or legacies, in support of the Company’s future work, about which the Master has written.

I know that many of you who know him will join me in congratulating my sometime predecessor Mr. John Woolley (Clerk to the Company 1962 – 1980), who celebrated his 100th birthday in March. With many of his successors still in fine fettle, he is undoubtedly setting the standard! Mr. Woolley was Clerk as the Hall emerged from the rubble of the Second World War, and under his guidance he left a legacy of improvement that we are privileged to enjoy. Among many things, he was behind the acquisition and restoration of the Renatus Harris organ in the Hall, and also the beautiful Chinese wallpaper in the Drawing Room.

Still on personal achievements, Past Master Mr. Martin Clarke has stood down as chairman of the Policy and Finance Committee after 15 years at the helm. The Company is grateful for his devotion during a period that saw enormous change and achievement especially in the financial management of the Company. You’ll be able to read more about this in a future edition of Number 30.

In 1878 the Company sponsored its first Royal Charter, in 1327. Interestingly, that same date is shared with (of course!) the Skinners’ Company and also with the Goldsmiths’.

Ending as I often do, I would like to remind you of the excellent work of our Catering Company. Please don’t hesitate to contact us if you’re looking to hold an event at the Hall, including the installation of the magnificent 1826 clock in the turret facing into the Garden.

Virginia and I are thoroughly looking forward to the second half, which the diary shows will be equally busy. I look forward to seeing everyone at our various events, and I will be reporting back again before the final whistle blows.

Christopher Keville
THE CLOCK IN THE GARDEN

The turret in the northeast corner of the Garden has recently been restored under the guidance of the Company surveyor, and now carries an antique clock. This has been transferred from the Company’s almshouses in Lee as part of the current almshouse redevelopment scheme.

The clock face is a facsimile of the original. It is made of enamelled and painted copper, with gilded numbers and hands. The clock mechanism inside the turret is dated 1826, when the almshouses were completed. The clockmakers were the wonderfully-named Duplock & Wiggins of Southwark. Charles Duplock had been a clockmaker in Southwark or Borough since 1790, and went into partnership with Mr Wiggins in 1817.

The cost of the clock in 1826 was £80, a tiny part of the total bill for the almshouses, which came to just under £11,300, including the land.

In October 1824, a Mr Farncombe offered to sell to the Company some land at Lee next to Boone’s almshouses. This was taken as an excellent opportunity to rebuild the Company’s existing “ruinous and unhealthy” almshouses at Tower Hill on a better site. The first stone was laid by the Master, Richard Jennings, on 7 July 1825, and the buildings were finished in the Mastership of Thomas Bulcock Burbidge in 1826. The splendid new almshouses, in spacious grounds, could accommodate 32 alumswomen, double the number at Tower Hill.

On 20 April 1826, as the buildings neared completion, the Court ordered that “a Chiming Clock be procured for the new almshouses, and that it be referred to the Master to make such arrangement for placing the same as he shall think necessary and proper”. The clock was mounted in the tympanum of the pediment in the centre of the main almshouse range, facing the Lee High Road.

Moving the clock to the Hall has been a long and complex project over three years. Design work, listed building consent and planning permission were all supplied by Martin Ashley Architects, and included not only the clock but also the new war memorial. The matching stone for necessary repairs to the turret came from a quarry near Leeds.

The clock mechanism was removed from the almshouses, restored, and installed in the turret by Public Clocks Ltd, who also supplied the facsimile dial, new drive shaft and bevel gears, and an automatic winding unit. (In 1826, the Company had to engage the services of John Bennett of Greenwich, clockmaker, to “wind, clean, regulate and repair” the clock at five guineas a year.) Otherwise, the clock is still controlled by its original mechanism. The only noticeable difference is that it is now silent and does not chime. This was surely a wise decision.

The clock mechanism inside the turret bears an ornamental plate engraved with the names of the Master and Wardens, the clockmakers and the date, 1826. For some reason the makers’ name is given as ‘Dupleck & Wiggins’. Presumably the engraving was subcontracted!

Stephen Freeth
Company Archivist

LEWIS MACLEAN

17-year-old Lewis has been working with the Merchant Taylors’ Catering Company for five months.

Lewis has always enjoyed cooking with his father from a young age. After his cousin was awarded a chef apprenticeship in Australia, Lewis was inspired to look for one himself.

Under the Merchant Taylors’ Company apprenticeship scheme Lewis has found a love for traditional French cuisine and especially enjoys making duck confit. Working under the watchful eye of head chef Richard Trant, Lewis has had the chance to try his hand at all things culinary, from creating a jus to boning out poultry.

Lewis says, “It’s a really friendly place. The quality of the food and the kitchen equipment is top notch! A lot of my friends in other places only get to do some things, but here I get to do everything! I get to learn how to make specific dishes really well, rather than just doing little bits here and there. It’s really satisfying to have made something that is your own, and have other people enjoy it.”

Lewis lives in North London with his parents, and spends his free time cooking meals for his family and playing guitar.

Lewis hopes to travel, and cook in restaurants around the world. His grand plan is to have his own bistro in London, offering great food at affordable prices.

Siobhan Lewis
MEMBERSHIP

THE WAY TO MEMBERSHIP

Joining the Freedom of the Company
Membership of the Merchant Taylors’ Company is via the Freedom in to which there are three routes: via Patrimony, Servitude or Redemption. Patrimony requires that one of your parents was Free of the Company at the time of your birth, and entry is at 21 or over. Servitude is a system of Apprenticeship that used only to be available to those under the age of 21, but Court has directed that two changes be made to the Company’s Apprentices scheme. The 14 to 21 years old clause has served well for hundreds of years, but as a modern City apprentice would probably start his first job after university, the upper age limit for a Merchant Taylors’ Apprentice has been raised to 25 (ie before their 26th birthday). Those bound at the upper age (over 21) will be required to serve an Apprenticeship until at least age 28 before being eligible for the Freedom of Merchant Taylors’ Company. However, the City of London has not changed its criteria, and so these older apprentices require to be presented as Free of the Company by Redemption rather than Servitude, in order to meet the ancient needs of Guildhall, before being granted the Freedom of the City of London.

The third route is by Redemption. This is not widely used and the Company would want to be satisfied that a candidate would bring certain qualities to the Company which it deems to be of value to it. Such a candidate needs to be sponsored by four Members of the Company - including the Master or Immediate Past Master, plus a Court Member and two others who know the applicant well.

From Freedom to Livery
Once they have spent two years as a Freeman and reached the age of 30, Freemen must apply for the Livery through the Membership Office. There is no system of invitation. An application form needs to be completed and returned by 31 January each year, and then the Admissions Committee interviews all applicants in the April. At interview, candidates are expected to present themselves for a friendly discussion with committee members, armed only with a reasonable knowledge of the Company and a record of equally reasonable attendance at Company events. Successful applicants will be invited to be admitted to the Livery at a meeting of Court prior to the annual midsummer Livery Dinner.

Company Fines
Fines for Admission to the Freedom are standard for all at £250 plus at least 10% in addition as a first donation to the Livery and Freemen’s Fund (LFF), the exact donation to be guided by sponsors. The fine on joining the Livery is additional to an appropriate donation to the LFF. The Company’s fines are as follows:
- Apprenticeship - £60
- Freedom - £250
- Admission to the Livery - £1,000
- Admission to Court - £2,300

Please contact the membership and communications officer, Kym Ash, for further information on 020 7450 4448 or kash@merchant-taylors.co.uk

MERCHANT TAYLORS’ COMPANY FUNDRAISING WALK - SAT 13 MAY

FARNHAM TO GODALMING – A BEAUTIFUL WALK THROUGH THE SURREY HILLS

Nestled between gentle hills and river valleys, the 20km forest track from Farnham to Godalming is surrounded by beauty and history and is voted one of the favourite walks in Time Out. Takes in a Norman Castle, built by the grandson of William the Conqueror, Henri de Blois; the ruins of the twelfth century Waverly Abbey, the first Cistercian monastery to be built in England; and Moor Park House, built as general HQ for the line of defense against an expected German invasion, with hidden pillboxes and gun emplacements, forgotten after the war.

The aim of the day is to raise as much money as possible for the Livery & Freemen Fund, the only unrestricted and Member-led fund within the Company. The Fundraising Walk is a day where all Members, friends and family can come together to celebrate friendships and forge new ones within the Company.

We will be departing from Farnham station (access through Waterloo train station) at 10.00am.

If you would prefer to join half way, lunch will be at The Donkey, near Elstead (nine miles in to the walk) and the group will continue afterwards. The walk will end at around 5.30pm, followed by tea in Godalming.

For further details please contact: Siobhan Lewis at SLewis@merchant-taylors.co.uk or on 020 7450 4452.
As one of Merchant Taylors’ chosen charities, we had the recent pleasure of hosting an event at the Hall and attending the Vernon’s Anniversary Service, where we were so pleased to have met Company Members. It has been a busy start to the year at the charity and we are excited to share more about our most recent work.

**Building Safe Havens with BlackRock**

In October 2015, in partnership with investment management company BlackRock, For Jimmy ran a pioneering schools programme to help 25 year 4 children to build their life skills and create Safe Havens on their local high street. Safe Havens are shops and businesses young people can turn to when in danger or feeling threatened. As part of the programme, BlackRock employees participated in session activities and supported the pupils on community visits. Over the course of eight sessions, the children built relationships with local shopkeepers and developed a greater understanding of the role their local community plays in keeping them safe. At the end of the programme, the children visited the BlackRock offices to experience a working environment in the city and delivered presentations to showcase their achievements.

“The For Jimmy charity and Safe Haven programme is a great example of how to turn a painful experience into good. Working with the children made me reevaluate myself and the experience has made me want to increase my mentoring activities for colleagues in the firm.”

Ify Ezike, BlackRock

Working with corporate partners gives pupils and employees an opportunity to learn new skills and have a positive impact on local communities. If your company is interested in learning more about this programme and the work of For Jimmy, please get in contact with Paul Kilty by emailing paul@forjimmy.org.

**Walking For Jimmy 2017**

For Jimmy’s annual fundraising event began back in 2013 as a way of celebrating what would have been Jimmy’s 21st birthday. Now in its fifth year, we are once again inviting our supporters to join us in walking across 21 of London’s bridges from Richmond to Tower Bridge. Walking For Jimmy is your chance to join our growing community of supporters to raise awareness across the city and help support our Safe Havens work.

This year we have three route options: seven or 14 bridges, or the full challenge of 21. To find out how to take part in the walk as an individual or group, or to support this year’s event please visit www.forjimmy.org/events, or to make a donation visit www.forjimmy.org/donate. For further information please contact connor@forjimmy.org.

Diana Watson
The VCM Foundation is one of the charities supported by the Livery and Freeman Fund. The foundation is grateful for the Company’s support of our work with schools in Hackney and Tower Hamlets.

We are also grateful for the Company allowing us to use the Hall for a Gala Dinner on Monday 8 May, to which VCM would be delighted to welcome Members of the Company. The theme of the gala is ‘Sing to the City’.

The evening will start with an Evensong at 6pm in the Gresham Centre for those who would like to join. A drinks reception in the Hall will be followed by dinner and music performed by VOCES8, Apollo5 and students from the foundation’s education programme. Southwold Primary School, one of the schools we are working with, will be part of the performance. All our work, which has been so generously supported by the Merchant Taylors’ Company, is about getting alongside these young people long term, living where they live and helping them see alternatives to what can sometimes seem a hopeless situation.

We have seen a number of exciting project developments over recent months. Work in our ninth borough, Hackney, began in September 2016 and we will shortly be launching our first bus project there on the Frampton Park Estate. We have recruited two additional members of staff for our arts project, which is now providing young people with a broader range of performance development and life skills training alongside running showcase events. The resource packs for our new literacy and numeracy project (aimed at addressing educational underachievement) have been produced and the project is being rolled out into schools across inner London.

We are aiming to raise £45,000 to develop this valuable work in London. Tickets are £250 per person including a suggested, but not obligatory, donation of £150. Tables of ten are available.

Further information and booking forms are available from Thomas Webb-Wilson at Thomas@vcm.foundation.

“The Master’s Charity

XLP

XLP is a Christian charity at the cutting edge of urban youth work in London.

Our mission is to create positive futures for young people living in the inner city and make a serious and sustainable impact on poverty and educational failure.

Our projects engage with young people from some of the most disadvantaged inner London estates, who struggle with a complex combination of issues that can lead to educational failure, criminality and involvement in gangs.

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XLP saw my potential, they asked me to start mentoring the youth. They accepted me and now that’s who I am. I am an XLP mentor, and I work with Gangsline. We help train government staff to help them better understand street culture and gangs.”

Sephton, a former gang member who came through the X-Mobile Project.

Patrick Regan OBE, CEO and founder of XLP, says:

“Relationships can nurture the belief that change is possible. One of the most consistent themes in the stories of those who turn their lives around is: “There was this one person who was there for me” and “I found something to lose, someone I didn’t want to disappoint.” Like all children and young people, when they begin to believe that they are valued and wanted, then the possibility of change becomes real.”

VCM FOUNDATION

Sing to the City

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In 2015 the Education Committee awarded a research grant to Miss Emma Bowater, art teacher at Wolverhampton Grammar School. Her project was to introduce experimental photographic processes to teachers and students of A Level Art & Design, and to evaluate its impact on the traditional photographic practice of cyanotype in students’ work.

In October 2016 Miss Bowater presented her research to the Education Committee. She explained that 10 staff and 81 students from four different schools took part in the research from the autumn term. Staff and students were surveyed before and after the trial to assess their opinions.

Miss Bowater found that the opportunity to work with new media allowed both teaching staff and students to broaden their understanding of the value of different approaches to art. Photography and fine art specialist staff saw the medium as a way of encouraging students to experiment without an idea of a resolved final outcome. Students who did develop the process into a final piece used both styles to create mixed media work.

The Education Committee was highly impressed by Miss Bowater’s work. She aims to take this process to more schools in the future.

Diana Watson
Meeting the Challenge of Teacher Recruitment and Retention

This January the Education Committee’s held its annual seminar, this year discussing the challenge of teacher recruitment and retention - a topic particularly pertinent to schools, parents and children across the country.

Speaking first was Professor John Howson, MD of DataforEducation.info, an Oxford based research company and an authority on the labour market for teachers. Using data from Teach Vac, a free job board founded in 2013, he talked about the difficulties in recruiting for different subjects throughout the year, and looked at possible tactics for schools to tackle the problem. Suggestions included that schools 'grow' their own teachers, through programmes like Teach First and School Direct. However, Prof Howson countered that in an increasingly devolved system of schooling someone has to take the lead: "If you want to treat schools as separate businesses, then each business will have to develop a staffing policy that includes training for new appointments. Such a market will be served by the private sector, but at a cost. That cost takes cash away from teaching and learning, as we have seen with spending on recruitment. The other extreme is a completely managed system. One solution is for schools to group together in Multi-Academy Trusts that take responsibility for the training for all schools in the group as one of their functions."

Speaking next was Professor Dame Alison Peacock, chief executive of the Chartered College of Teaching. She is a member of the Royal Society's Education Committee, a peer member of the Teaching Schools Council and a trustee of both the Chartered Institute of Education and the Teaching Schools Committee. She is a full member of the Royal Society's College of Teachers. She is a member of the Royal Society's College of Teachers and offers a pathway of professional development to support teachers at every stage of their career. At the heart of their work, Dame Alison wants to change the narrative in the education sector, from one of failure to one of success. She said that teachers go into the profession because they feel they can have a positive impact on children's lives, and how it is essential they have a sense of pride and satisfaction in their work to keep them in the profession.

Diana Watson

The Arkwright Scholarships Trust has awarded 413 sixth form scholarships to future leaders of the engineering profession at annual award ceremonies held in London and Edinburgh.

The Merchant Taylors’ Company sponsored five scholarships, which this year were awarded to students at Merchant Taylors’ School, Northwood.

The scholarships were awarded by Robert Hannigan, Director, GCHQ, who said, “Congratulations to all this year’s new Arkwright scholars. I was delighted to meet such a vast pool of young talent: our future leaders in engineering, computing and technology. We need their innovation and invention to meet the cyber security challenge, helping to keep the UK a safe place to live and work online.”

This year’s scholars came from all educational backgrounds across England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands and a growing number of British schools overseas. A record-equalling 29% of the new scholars were female.

Scholars are selected for their potential as future engineering leaders by assessing their academic, practical and leadership skills in STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). These are gauged through a rigorous selection process that includes an assessed application form including a teacher’s reference; a two-hour, problem-solving aptitude exam; and a university-based interview.

The Arkwright Engineering Scholarships act as a beacon to those seeking a career within industry and academia. The Arkwright Engineering Scholarships are the first step on the road to achieving such a vital position within UK engineering. Congratulations to our 413 new scholars!”

Left to right: Professor Dame Alison Peacock and Professor John Howson

The Master with Nikita Konovalchik, Olly Cross, Sameer Aygarwal, Vaughan Jubb-Buckley

The Arkwright Scholarships Trust
Merchant Taylors’ Girls School in Liverpool, which includes both Senior and Junior Girls’ Schools and the reception section, is celebrating an ‘outstanding in all areas’ inspection report from the Independent Schools Inspectorate in November 2016. The Junior and Senior Boys’ School were also awarded an ‘outstanding’ result in March 2016.

The report praises the quality of education at Merchant Taylors’ which enables pupils to fully develop both academically and creatively. Pupils’ academic attainment is above the national average with consistently high standard GCSE and A Level results each year. Pupils at Merchant Taylors’ excel from the beginning, leaving the school at the end of Year 13 to pursue degree courses at their first choice universities.

The school was also praised for its excellent pastoral care and the personal development of its students. The report found that the dedication of the staff, pupils and parents both in and out of the classroom ensures pupils enjoy a happy and well-rounded education. Both schools are consistent in their success and it is clear that pupils are provided with the strongest foundations for their futures.

Michaela Riches

In September 2015, Merchant Taylors’ School and Northwood Prep merged to establish a though-school for boys aged 3 to 18; the first in the local area. As separate schools, we had much in common in terms of a shared ethos and outstanding educational reputation, and were ideally placed with our respective sports grounds adjoining via a railway tunnel.

Our alliance is unique; we came together from positions of strength and are very excited at the opportunity to create an even stronger, unified school to stimulate and extend the brightest young minds. The news was extremely well received with all stakeholders, and interest from prospective parents in Merchant Taylors’ Prep has been almost overwhelming; an impressive feat considering that our prep school has always been oversubscribed, even before the alliance.

Our alliance has been enormously fulfilling so far. Our aim has been two-fold: maintain, and even enhance, the excellent educational standards we have been achieving for over 100 years as Northwood Prep; and to work towards integration with MTS through a shared vision and strategy for the future. In achieving the former, it was very gratifying to have passed our recent inspection with flying colours, with excellent grades awarded for all areas. With respect to the latter, the respective heads of department at MTS and MTP have been liaising regularly to consider how Years 7 and 8 pupils at both can experience a similar education, at the same time retaining a flavour that is unique to each site.

Teachers at MTP are also working on a project to incorporate more ‘intellectual curiosity’ in their teaching, in anticipation of the additional teaching time created by not having to prepare pupils for 13 plus interviews and examinations. In addition to honing the curriculum, we have been working on finding meaningful occasions for pupils from both schools to work together. Recent examples have included joint school council meetings, leadership training with sixth form prefects and prep school monitors, and shared sports coaching.

All of these projects in liaison and integration with MTS are at very exciting stages and there is much excitement to come as we continue to build on our success so far.

Dr Karen McNerney
Head of Merchant Taylors’ Prep
A sports development, geography building, followed by our next project will be a new library and a workroom for ornament to the school and famous OMT historian E H building, named after the appropriate that our next been taken before their time. Taylors’ community who have members of the Merchant Taylors’ school has inaugurated a concert and the Phab Revue. In the last few months we have celebrate the pupils’ creativity, like to take this opportunity to feature of successive exam prestigious universities is a – the litany of A* grades and achievements of our pupils celebrating the academic We have grown used to lost.

Ravilious, long since thought by the famous British artist Eric. When we removed it point since then a false ceiling was put in. When we removed it we rediscovered three paintings by the famous British artist Eric. Ravilious, long since thought lost. We have grown used to celebrating the academic achievements of our pupils – the litany of A* grades and prestigious universities is a feature of successive exam seasons. As a change, I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate the pupils’ creativity, which enriches both their lives and the life of the school. In the last few months we have seen their musical talent in the autumn concert, many informal concerts and the Phab Revue. The quality of acting in our production of Dr Faustus was superb, matched by a technical team that turned our theatre into a riot of sound and images.

Those of a more philosophical bent exercised their history knowledge at the Bulstrode White Locke dinner, and our first Scholars’ Dinner saw the brightest of our pupils engaging in an evening of celebration of all things intellectual. We have welcomed many distinguished visitors to the school in the last few years, when they have shared their wisdom with parents, pupils, OMTs and members of our local community. This autumn we have heard from Terry Waite and Jeffrey Archer who both had fascinating tales to tell. We look forward to Nick Clegg’s visit in the summer.

Mr Simon Everson, Headmaster
**THE KING’S SCHOOL IN MACCLESFIELD**

Cambridge, not just by British students but increasingly by students from all over the world, so these young men and women are to be very much commended for their hard work and achievements.”

On the sporting fields, the U14 rugby team retained the Cheshire Cup during another outstanding unbeaten season. A record number of pupils have been selected to progress through the England Hockey coaching programme: 42 pupils have been selected to represent their county, while eight more have been selected to play at their regional level.

Caroline Johnson

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**WOLVERHAMPTON SCHOOL**

Excellence is a result of always striving to do better

Students, parents and staff are celebrating the announcement that the Independent Schools Inspectorate has judged Wolverhampton Grammar School to be excellent in all areas, in an inspection in early 2016. Excellent is the highest possible level of attainment under the new, recently introduced inspection framework.

Inspectors spent weeks scrutinising the school’s publications, policies and web presence, and three days on site during January examining all areas of school life across the Junior School, Senior School and Sixth Form.

They concluded that the school was true to its promise to deliver education that transforms lives as well as minds.

Inspectors judged the ‘quality of pupils’ academic and other achievements’ and the ‘quality of pupils’ personal development’. They praised the school’s ability to recognise the individual learning needs of children; its excellent extra and co-curricular provision (the school delivers over 100 different activities every term); how students relish the opportunity to communicate; the co-operation and support students give each other and their levels of self-understanding. They commended the high standards of behaviour across the school, as well as our students’ ability to debate difficult issues with tolerance and respect for diversity.

Similarly, the school was also fully compliant in meeting all statutory requirements, standards and regulations.

Inspectors recognised the school for its professionalism and proficiency during inspection.

Their findings were supported by the pupil and parent questionnaires completed during the inspection - the response rate and feedback for both was astonishing.

Kathy Crews-Read, Head of Wolverhampton Grammar School says, “It was satisfying how much each and every one of the inspectors understood what makes our school so special. The inspectors were rigorous in their approach, and managed to capture the very essence of what we are trying to achieve here at Wolverhampton Grammar School.”

Carrie Bennett
Royal Naval Mine Hunters have been permanently based in the Gulf for over ten years. Two Sandown Class Mine Countermeasure Vessels (MCMVs) sailed out to the Gulf in 2006 to be followed two years later by two Hunt Class MCMVs from the Second Mine Countermeasures Squadron. The four MCMVs are based out of Bahrain with crews rotating about every six months. The ships remain in the Gulf for about three years at a time before returning to the UK to be refitted and upgraded. Although MCMVs from the Second Mine Countermeasures Squadron also operate around the UK and with NATO, the Gulf is very much the focus for the squadron and its people.

The ships in the Gulf work very closely with the US in ensuring the strategically important shipping lanes across the region remain open. The ships also do a great deal of work with other regional navies including those from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman and UAE. The strong relationships built up over the last ten years by the UK MCM Force help promote stability in these areas. The MCMVs in the Gulf are supported by one of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary’s Bay Class ships, currently RFA LYME BAY. The RFA provides food, fuel and engineering assistance to sustain the ships while they are deployed away from Bahrain. The Bay Class RFA also hosts a variety of unmanned mine clearance equipment from both the UK and US, which can work autonomously alongside the MCMVs.

95% of the UK’s trade comes via the sea. The Red Sea, Gulfs of Aden and Oman and Arabian Gulf contain some of the world’s most important shipping lanes, linking the markets of China and the Far East with those of Europe and North America. 70% of the UK’s gas comes from the Gulf.

The Middle East region also includes three critical ‘chokepoints’: the Suez Canal, the Bab-el-Mendib and the Strait of Hormuz. The freedom to operate throughout the region is vital for the world economy. In order to provide better support for UK MCMVs and their crews into the future, the UK is working in partnership with the Kingdom of Bahrain to build a permanent support facility in the country. The base will be known as HMS JUFAYR and is due to be commissioned later this year. This will provide first class support to the British ships and sailors based in the region.

After ten years’ continuous service in the Gulf, the ships and people of the First and Second Mine Countermeasures Squadron work tirelessly to keep these vital shipping routes open for all.

Commander David Morgan, Royal Navy

ANOTHER COOL AERONAUTIC SUCCESS AT RAF HALTON

On 26 January this year 60 children from Weston Turville Church of England School took part in the latest ‘Cool Aeronautics’ event at RAF Halton. Cool Aeronautics are events set up by Trenchard Museum at RAF Halton, in association with the Royal Aeronautical Society, to promote aerospace and aviation to the next generation, under the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM subjects) umbrella. The events are free to attend and are a fantastic opportunity for young people to meet inspirational people from across the industry and to get involved in aerospace themed activities relevant to the current Key Skills 2 National Curriculum.

During the all day event, the children took part in exciting activities from building and firing rockets, to ‘flying’ a Chipmunk aircraft flight simulator. One of the talks was by Group Captain Mark Manwaring, a fast jet navigator and chairman of Halton Aero Club, who impressed the children with his planned 2018 ‘RAF Centenary Flight of the Navigator’ project - his attempt to break the UK and world speed records for circumnavigation of the Earth in a light aircraft.

It takes a lot of people to run these days. Thanks to the Halton Aero Club, the RAF STEM ambassadors, the London & South East Air Training Corps, the British Model Flying Association (BMFA), the volunteers of the museum and the 12 recent RAF recruits who all gave their time.

One of the teachers, Liz Hoodless, wrote afterwards: “Thank you for such an amazing and inspiring experience! All your fabulous volunteers did a great job and we teachers felt the cross-curricular learning was particularly effective. The children had a brilliant time and have not stopped talking about it.”

Jane Reilly

2ND MINE COUNTERMEASURES SQUADRON

HMS MIDDLETON operating in the Arabian Gulf
2017 marks the 75th anniversary of the formation of the Royal Air Force Regiment. Following the fall of France in 1940, the RAF Regiment was born out of the necessity for an indigenous and credible RAF ground defence force with the sole purpose of defending RAF airfields. In January 1942 King George VI signed a royal warrant for ‘a Corps formed as an integral part of the RAF’.

The week of RAF HALTON’s commemorative events started with a photo session in Halton House, with five members of the Initial Force Protection Training Flight (IFPT) dressed in uniforms of the RAF Regiment through the years. The next event was an eight mile combat fitness test, carrying 25k of weight, including rifles. The weather was not kind as they formed up at the Coslett Stand to complete the march around RAF Halton.

Later in the afternoon the Station RAF Regiment personnel gathered to toast the anniversary in a port call. Over 100 Regiment personnel ended the week of events with a formal dinner night in the Warrant Officers’ and Sergeants’ Mess with special guests Station Commander, Group Captain James Brayshaw and speaker, Harry Foxley, a life-long member of the Regiment. The Gunners performed vignettes on the Corps’ history in period costume, and toasted the Regiment. Certain fines amounting to £200 were paid for ‘misdemeanours’ and will be donated to the Combat Stress charity.

Warrant Officer Shaun Griffin from IFPT said, “The 75th anniversary has pulled together five generations of RAF Regiment Gunner, each with a common bond of brotherhood.” Group Captain Brayshaw added, “My warmest congratulations to the RAF Regiment on its anniversary. I salute their reputation for professionalism and tenacity in their role as Air Force Protection.”

In the Second World War, the RAF Regiment had a reputation for versatility and steadfastness, and has since served in all theatres of war. In recent years it has been involved in operations in the Balkans, Sierra Leone and Afghanistan, as well as maintaining Force Protection for RAF assets deployed in the Middle East. The Regiment returned to the desert in force in 2003, and the majority of squadrons were involved in the invasion of Iraq.

RAF Halton was established in the first days of the fledgling RAF in 1918. There is still an active military grass airstrip where flying has taken place continually since 1913.

Jane Reilly
Doctors’ Dinner
14 December 2016

The first record of the Doctors’ Day Dinner dates from 1564, when the examiners, who included Miles Coverdale, translator of the Bible, dined at the Hall during an interval in the examination. Since then the occasion has been observed continuously except in the years immediately after the Great Fire and during times of plagues, death and war. This year saw representatives from all ten of our associated schools, Master and Clerks from the Great 12 Livery Companies and many guests from the academic world.
**Vernon's Anniversary Service**
14 December 2016

Over 300 members of the Company attended the Vernon’s Anniversary Service at St Michael’s Cornhill. The charities supported by the Livery & Freemen Fund were represented at the Hall after the service. The Company held a raffle in aid of the LFF, which raised a total of £11,570.

**Quiz Night**
18 January 2017

The annual Quiz Night attracted over 180 people to the Hall on a chilly January night. It was great fun once again. The winning team was Alan, Alan, Alan & Steve!

2nd place was Atomic Eggs.

3rd place went to “And the winning team is ……”

**Livery & Guest Night Dinner**
15 February 2017

The Company welcomed nearly 200 Liverymen and their guests to the dinner held in February. Admiral Sir George Zambellas gave a very enjoyable and thought provoking speech and the Royal Marines Associated Concert Band provided some great entertainment, including a very impressive Post Horn Gallop.

**Introducing the Merchant Taylors’ Splendour Golden Ale.**

Brewed to perfection and infused with malted Maris Otter Barley and Kentish pilgrim Hops, Bleangate Brewery have made it their mission to produce the finest beers. Created using traditional methods, and using nothing more than malt, water, yeast and hops, Bleangate Brewery have bottled England in a beer.

Purchased and collected right here at The Merchant Taylors’ Hall, indulge and pour yourself a glass of liquid gold.

3 ales in a presentation case - £10.50
6 ales in a presentation case - £18.00

To place your order please contact Keith Thornberry on 020 8450 4457 or KThornberry@merchant-taylors.co.uk.
The Company wishes to express its sincere condolences to all the families and friends of those recently

**OBITUARIES**

**Mr James Johnson**  
Livery  
February 1934 - November 2016

**Mr Tony Hayzelden**  
Livery  
July 1932 - August 2016

**Mr Geoffrey Osborne BEM**  
Livery  
September 1937 - February 2017

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**SPORTS FIXTURES 2017**

- **3 April**  
  Great XII Challenge Cup
- **4 May**  
  MTC v MTS Boys golf match
- **9 May**  
  MTC v Skinners’ Company golf match
- **14 May**  
  MTC v Broadhalfpenny Brigands CC cricket match  
  (At Broadhalfpenny Down: PO8 0UB)  
  All spectators very welcome
- **17 May**  
  Inter-Livery Shoot
- **18 May**  
  Prince Arthur Cup golf match
- **2/3 June**  
  Great XII Sailing Challenge
- **11 June**  
  Skinners’ Company v MTC cricket match  
  Tonbridge School (TN9 1JP)  
  All spectators very welcome
- **27 June**  
  MTC v the Staff of MTS golf match
- **6 July**  
  Company Golf Day
- **17 July**  
  MTC v Grocers’ Company cricket match
- **21 September**  
  MTC v OMT Golfing Society
- **16 October**  
  MT Court v Vintners’ Court  
  If you wish to participate in any sporting events please contact the following:
  **Inter-Livery Skiing**  
  Mr John Price,  
  john.price@shelburne.co.uk
  **Inter-Livery Shooting**  
  Mr Geoffrey Armstrong,  
  Geoffrey.Armstrong@sarasin.co.uk
  **Golf**  
  Dr Julian Oram,  
  drjoram@gmail.com
  **Cricket**  
  Mr Graham Armstrong,  
  garmstrong@duncanlawrie.com
  **Tennis**  
  Mrs Kym Ash,  
  kash@merchant-taylors.co.uk

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**LIVERY & FREEMEN FUND**

This is the Members’ own fund which supports the Master’s chosen charity each year and up to four individual charities recommended by the Membership. Grants are made directly from income donated, but there is also a growing endowment fund.

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**DONATION FORM**

**Donor Information**

Name: 
Address: 
Post code: 
Telephone (home): 
Telephone (business): 
Email: 

**Donation Information**

I (we) donate a total of: £

I (we) plan to make this contribution in the form of:  
- [ ] cash  
- [ ] cheque  
- [ ] credit card  
- [ ] other

or Bacs payment:  
(Sort Code 16-00-15, Acc No 23209155, A/C Name: Merchant Taylors Charities Livery and Freemen Fund)

Please debit my card with £

Credit card type:  
Credit card number:  
Expiration date:  
Last 3 digits on the back of your card:  
Authorised signature:

I direct that this donation and all previous and future donations to the Livery and Freemen Fund (part of The Merchant Taylors’ Company Charities Fund – a registered charity) should be treated as Gift Aid donations, and that I have paid or will pay an amount of UK taxation in the relevant year sufficient for the tax applying to these sums to be reclaimed

Signature(s)
Date

Please make cheques, corporate matches, or other gifts payable to Livery & Freemen Fund and send to Merchant Taylors’ Company, 30 Threadneedle Street, London EC2R 8JB
Don’t forget to spread the word, and use us for your events!

020 7450 4445
www.mtaylorsevents.co.uk
DIARY OF EVENTS 2017

The following is a list of future events which will be held during 2017.

Further details will be sent to you closer to the time or can be viewed on the Company website, www.merchant-taylors.co.uk.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 May</td>
<td>Membership Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 May</td>
<td>Fundraising Walk</td>
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<tr>
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<td>MTC v Broadhalfpenny Brigands cricket match</td>
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<td>Election Service and barbecue supper</td>
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<td>23 June</td>
<td>Election of Sheriffs</td>
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<td>4 July</td>
<td>Livery Dinner</td>
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<td>Company Golf Day</td>
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<td>Bindings &amp; Admissions</td>
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<td>29 September</td>
<td>Election of the Lord Mayor</td>
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<td>18 October</td>
<td>Bindings &amp; Admissions</td>
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<td>Membership Lunch</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Lord Mayor’s Show</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Ladies’ Dinner and Military Affiliates Awards</td>
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