



The PAVIOR

The Magazine of the Worshipful Company of Pavors

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09-Jul: Barbican Theatre Night

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www.paviors.org.uk

Installation of New Master



On Tuesday 4th March 2008, Christopher Laing was installed as new Master at the Church of St. Martin -within- Ludgate. Oliver Whitehead handed over the Master's robe prior to a well attended and very enjoyable service of thanksgiving and dedication. During the Service, the Reverend Canon Bernard Metcalfe delivered a delightful sermon, with colourful clarity during which he reminded some of us of the joys of staring at clear night skies in far off places and all that great travel experiences unveil.

The ambience within St Martin, as with previous installations, is "special" and it is always a surprise to walk into the Church from the busy street into the calm and peace of this historical building. The wonderful choral "back drop" of the Allegrì Singers, conducted by Keith Roberts added to the special feel of the occasion.

Our new Master was escorted to Cutlers' Hall by newly installed Upper Warden Andrew Panter and Renter Warden Tom Barton (both robed prior to the same service). The Installation Dinner at Cutlers' Hall was well attended and again, very much a family event.

Everyone enjoyed this happy occasion which will be remembered for its relaxed and friendly atmosphere, a poem to the new Master written by guest speaker Richard Stillgoe and Christopher Laing's speech, which left us with no doubt that he is very much looking forward to his year.

Christopher will make an excellent Master and will take the opportunity to continue and develop key elements of the Livery.



CHRISTOPHER LAING (OBE DL PPCIOB)

Christopher Laing was admitted to The Paviers in 1971. After completing his school education at St Lawrence College in Ramsgate, Kent he moved on to Hertfordshire College of Building where he obtained an HND in Building Management. This gave partial exemption to the CIOB qualifications, but he became a full member of the Institute in 1980 – his admission being signed by then President, fellow Pavior Tony Barry. He became President of CIOB in 1992.

He joined John Laing plc and was dispatched with his new bride, Diana, to Edinburgh to work as a Trainee Site Manager at the new Heriot Watt University at Riccarton. This was a testing time but gave a valued training in the realities of construction life. He recalls being told that “you have not made it as a manager until you have been called a 'xxxxxxx xxxxxxx' by the workforce”! Normally regarded as a proper gentleman he set out to obtain this accolade, which was won four weeks later! This period also provided lunchtime tuition in dominoes and cribbage – perhaps there is a possibility for a new Paviers’ tournament?

Edinburgh was followed by a move further north to construct a distillery for Chivas Brothers near to Tomintoul, Glenlivet. More training followed – this time into the gentle flavours of MacAllan and Mortlach whisky. It was here also that his eldest child, Paula, was born – in Dufftown, under the towers of the Glenfiddich Distillery. Sadly this has not given her a liking for the amber nectar.

Reality had to follow and the next project was at Rochdale in Lancashire – Gracie Fields and Cyril Smith country, but also one of the wettest parts of the England. It was here that he first met Immediate Past Master Oliver Whitehead, who was at that time a District Manager for John Laing Construction Ltd. Milton Keynes was next on the list and then it was a posting to Head Office to obtain experience on the Personnel and Marketing sides of the business. Then in 1998 Christopher was appointed Director of Environmental Affairs for John Laing, which was a most informative time and it was from this moment that he gained his interest in sustainability and environmental issues, which he retains today.

He retired from John Laing in 2002, but immediately took up positions within the Voluntary Sector. Christopher was Chairman of the National Playing Fields Association from 1993 - 2000 and is currently a Vice President. Other posts have included trustee positions at Global Action Plan and Hertfordshire Community Foundation. He was High Sheriff of Hertfordshire in 2001 and he is a Deputy Lieutenant of the County. He is Chairman of Eskmuir Properties Ltd and is President of Hertfordshire Groundwork Trust. He is also a Trustee of The Lord’s Taverners, which is to be his charity of the year.

Christopher and Diana live in Ayot St Lawrence, Hertfordshire and have four children, Paula, Michael, Carla and Stewart and with Stewart having been admitted as a Freeman of the Company. With two grandsons and one granddaughter Christopher has ensured there is succession on various fronts of the Laing dynasty.

Christopher's other interests include golf, walking, shooting (full-bore and shotgun) and holidays at their home in Menorca, but this year all will take second place to the Master's role for The Paviers which he is looking forward to with relish.



New Master at the controls



Luncheon Club

RAF CLUB

Over recent years the Luncheon Club has held a lunch at the RAF Club on the day of the Paviers' Lecture at Imperial College. This year was no exception and 33 Members and guests sat down to a meal in the President's Room at the RAF Club on 12th February.

The event, attended by both the Master and Upper Warden, followed our normal relaxed format with pre lunch drinks and a traditional meal centred around steak and kidney pie and the Club's wines. Business was kept to a minimum with members being reminded about the next event at Finos on 26th March and given the date of 9th July for the Barbican musical evening. As usual the event proved to be a very enjoyable occasion after which many of the Members felt suitably fortified for a leisurely walk across the Park to Imperial College, where joined by many others we were treated to an excellent lecture by Michel Virlogeux the designer of the Millau Viaduct.

CHRISTMAS AT CUTLERS



Cutlers' Hall was once again the venue for the Luncheon Club's annual Christmas Dinner on 17th December 2007. As was the case the previous year the event was a "sell out" with the maximum possible turnout of 120 festively dressed guests, which regrettably left a number of Paviers on the waiting list. Despite our best efforts one Pavior turned up without having booked a place but fortunately for him another Member's guest had to "cry off" at the last minute and the problem was resolved.

Seating at this event is always decided by drawing coloured tickets, the colour depending upon the number of people in each party. Unfortunately on the evening it appeared that at least two of our members were either colour blind, or had taken full advantage of the pre dinner drinks, as they drew tickets for parties of four when they only had two people in their group.

Throughout the meal members and guests demonstrated their prowess with the rocket balloons and party poppers provided. The Master proved extremely adept and showed by the number of hits achieved that his many hours of shooting practice had certainly improved his accuracy with rocket balloons. The learned Clerk also entered into the spirit of the occasion and was particularly pleased to have found a comb in his cracker.

After dinner musical entertainment was provided by Inzare A Cantare, a group of students from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, who sang a selection of Christmas carols. As is traditional at this event guests joined in the singing and demonstrated their musical ability despite the efforts already expended in blowing up the balloons. The programme was briefly interrupted when one of our members was so overcome by the occasion that he had to be carried from the room. Fortunately he recovered and the singers were able to resume with the programme ending on a high note with a very boisterous rendering of "The Twelve Days of Christmas".

During the evening a raffle was organised by John Price, raising over £1,000 for the Starlight Children's Foundation, which makes wishes come true for seriously and terminally ill children. The Charity committee had agreed to double the figure raised on the evening so a total of £2,050 will be sent to the Starlight Children's Foundation. A fitting conclusion to what had been a festive and enjoyable evening.

Andrew Panter



Mistress Pavior's Year



It hardly seems possible that the last twelve months have gone so quickly, the old adage about time flying when you are having fun must surely apply!

Oliver and I have represented the Paviors at events far too numerous to list here, but each of them have been delightful in their different ways. The weekend at Ironbridge was a highlight of the year since it gave us the opportunity to socialise with many other Masters and their wives. (I was very quickly to learn that not all Master's wives are called Mistress!) We hope to continue many of the friendships formed with the 007 club for the Masters in office during that year, at their various social occasions.

My favourite event of the year was the Silent Ceremony which takes place as the old Lord Mayor hands over to the New Mayor, which actually occurs at the moment when the old Lord Mayor takes off his tricorne hat and the new Mayor puts his on. The whole ceremony takes place in complete silence and was a strangely moving experience, with all the various ceremonial items being presented and accepted.

The Ladies' Lunch at the Bakers' Hall on the 11th February was very much enjoyed by nearly forty ladies who attended. This was a new departure for this lunch which had the dual purpose of allowing anyone who wanted to attend, as numbers were not limited and also gave us the opportunity of seeing another Livery Company's Hall. The Beadle of the Bakers' Company gave us a potted history of the Livery while we were enjoying the pre-lunch champagne. He told us of the strict regulations in the Middle Ages when bread was sold by weight, and any Baker found putting foreign substances in his bread could face a severe punishment which involved his ovens being broken up and him being banned from working in London again, and in fact having to go 80 miles from London before he could practice his trade. The city that was 80 miles from London was Coventry, and it is from this that the old saying about being sent to that city originates. So worried were the Bakers about this happening that they added extra when selling their loaves and rolls, hence instead of a dozen they gave thirteen, the baker's dozen! The Hall itself is the fourth on the site, the last one having been bombed in the war. The new one is splendid with some beautiful John Piper stained glass windows in the hall where the delicious lunch was served.

It has been a delightful year and one I shall remember always. Thank you to everyone for your support and encouragement throughout the year, and to John White for his help and advice. My best wishes go to the new Mistress Pavior, Diana Laing, for her year. I hope she enjoys it as much as I have done.

Stephanie Whitehead



Oliver Whitehead Signs Out

During the first few weeks I felt that there seemed to be so little notice regarding diary dates and events to attend. I think that the ideal situation would be to have a year off work! I was advised to attend as many events as possible, which is not always easy with other professional commitments.

Highlights have indeed been many. I have to say that The Lord Mayor's Dinner at Mansion House was a good start. Processing into St Paul's for one of the key services was a special event, The Ironbridge week-end visit too. Representing the Company at so many events has been a great privilege and I cannot count the number of breakfasts, lunches and dinners that Stephanie and I have attended. Not to mention lectures too.

Being a member of the Lord Mayor's and Sheriff's committee gave a great insight into the formal process of electing the Sheriffs and the Lord Mayor.

Processing around Guildhall wearing gloves and carrying a "Kant" was a unique experience on the night of the Lord Mayor's banquet, and on this occasion, Gordon Brown did wear a white tie!

I have met some great people, made some friendships and joined the 007 Masters Association with the objective of maintaining contact with all the Masters in office during the past year. Seeing many magnificent halls and learning that most companies do not have their own halls and, like us, have to work hard to raise charitable funds.

The blend of serious business and great humour has been uplifting and reassuring at the same time.

As one approaches the end of the Master's Year, and sees familiar faces at most functions, we all realise that we have now got the hang of it as our time runs out.

A fabulous experience.

Oliver Whithead (Immediate Past Master)

A Poem For the New Master



Guest Speaker Richard Stilgoe recites his poem during at Cutlers' Hall Installation Dinner

Let us sing of Master Laing, who is hosting this shebang,
He is here tonight, and on his best behaviour.
For his fellows in the hall have decided, one and all,
That for this year, he should be the Master Pavior.

You should perhaps recall that we're here in Cutlers' Hall,
Even though tonight's, of course, a Pavio's bender.
But they haven't got their own – they've got the plans, they've got,
But six hundred years the job's been out to the stone tender.

I would not suggest your going has enrolled Master Laing,
Because you thought the company needs a saviour.
But a Laing seems to be here almost every other year,
So it's not surprise they've made him Master Pavior.

I have known young Master Laing since before the first big bang,
He will treat you well – not bully or enslave yer.
With great care, he'll place you all – not flat – with a slight fall.
As you might expect from any Master Pavior.

I have just been handed this – a hand written note from Chris,
"Just one more word from you Richard, and I'll shave yer!"
So that's my final shout – I'll leave you to top him out,
And salute Chris Laing, your brand new Master Pavior.

Richard Stilgoe – March 4 2008



General Items

Swimathon 2008

The Swimathon is set for the 28th April. We already have two full teams of swimmers, but could do with a few more to complete the third. Each person swims up to 1,000 metres and we are also looking for more sponsors for the Lord Mayor's Appeal (www.thelordmayorsappeal.org). The Lord Mayor's charitable theme for the year is investing in healthy lives, healthy vision, healthy futures as it most encapsulates the work of his two chosen charities, Wellbeing of Women and ORBIS. The Mayor has long supported both organisations, and funds raised through this Appeal will make a big difference to their work.

Wellbeing of Women is the only UK charity dedicated to funding research that will benefit these women and their families. The charity also supports the training and development of specialists who will diagnose and treat them. ORBIS is a founding member of 'Vision 2020 - the right to sight' a global initiative led by the World Health Organisation (WHO) to end avoidable blindness by the year 2020.

The competitive nature of the Swimathon is to raise money, so all donations or sponsorship of our teams would be most welcome. We have won the silver plate for raising the most money three times in the last ten years, and would like to win again this year so we need a good uptake of volunteers prepared to swim.

We would be very grateful if you could make any cheques payable to the Worshipful Company of Paviers' Charitable Trust and please send these to Sue Illman, Ashmeade Lodge, Leckhampton Hill, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL52 2NF (Tel: 01242 521 480). You can also e-mail to sue.illman@illman-young.com for further information. All help and support will be greatly appreciated.

Sue Illman

Military Links



Being very aware of the difficult role now being played by each of our armed services, often with limited resources and constant public examination in the various media, the Company is reviewing the association with HMS Argyle, the 3rd Battalion PWRR and No. 29 R Squadron of the RAF.

To this end three Past Masters have been appointed by the Court to liaise with each affiliate. John Cruse, John Carpenter and John Mills will be the links with the respective services. The formal contacts will remain with the Clerk to the Company.

The aim of this Services Committee is to strengthen the relationship with each service and to identify the help required which the Paviers Company might be able to provide in addition to that already given.

It is intended that the support will be both practical and social.



Obituary and New Members

Trevor Koch

Paviors' Liveryman, Trevor Koch has died aged 64. Trevor's childhood was spent in Kent, followed by an electrical engineering apprenticeship with Bowater. Trevor then entered the construction building services industry. In 1970, with family members, Trevor established, the successful RTT Engineering contracting firm.

Trevor had a great love for the City of London and its ways, he will always be remembered for his rare personal qualities, his integrity and as a leading figure in the mechanical and electrical sector of the construction industry. Our thoughts go out to Sandra his wife and his six children. Sandra bravely nursed Trevor to the end.



Barbara Penrose

It is with great sadness that Barbara Penrose, wife of Liveryman Ross Penrose, also passed away in March. A funeral service for Barbara was held at Randall's Park Crematorium, Leatherhead Surrey.

On behalf of the Company, our deepest sympathy goes to Liveryman Ross Penrose and his family.

2 New Members



*Christopher Plant (Left):
Director of Contracting;
Lafarge Aggregate Limited;
Sponsor, Dyfrig James*

*Roy Fenn (Right):
Group Chaplain, Historian
and Archivist; Aggregate
Industries; Sponsor, Angela
Yeoman*



Amberley Working Party

A very encouraging number of volunteers helped at Amberley Working Museum on Sunday 9th March 2008 and having finished a few hours of washing, dusting and sweeping, the Pavior’s Museum of Roads and Road Making Exhibition looked ready to for another season. Master Christopher Laing also attended with Diana Laing and both contributed to the morning’s efforts. (See opposite). The hard work preceded a picnic lunch and a tour around the museum in an old trolley bus.

Robin Wilson had packed a large flask of rather warm and wonderful mulled wine, which was enjoyed by a number of us, depleting Robin’s “supply quota” for March!

The Paviors’ Family Day at Amberley Working Museum (www.Amberleymuseum.co.uk) will be held in the Summer (date to be confirmed). The day will be arranged to co-incide with an event at Amberley and further details will be provided shortly The day is enjoyed by younger family members, and children will be offered a free educational pack which will add to their enjoyment of the museum.

Options for extending the space at Amberley are under consideration, particularly with respect to housing the steam rollers and heavier working equipment, with the creation of a mezzanine space above the main entrance (which will also be modified in the process). Funding and the final solution are to be agreed.

James Dickson



Diana Laing lends a helping hand



Over there please !



Sophie and Callum Dickson



The Working Party ?



The Millau Viaduct

Some 250 members of the Company, their guests and students of Imperial College listened in wrapt attention on 12th February to Dr Michel Virlogeux, as he related the story of how the world-famous Millau Viaduct in France was conceived, designed and constructed.

The viaduct forms part of the strategic motorway route from Clermont Ferrand running south to Béziers. The route passes through very hilly terrain and required a range of valley and river crossings as well as provision for several over bridges. All were designed with the aim of fitting the construction into the landscape and through the application of various innovative solutions.

The largest challenge was presented by the section required to bypass the town of Millau, located at the confluence of the rivers Tarn and Dourbie. A number of alignments were considered from engineering and aesthetic standpoints before the road engineers, rather than their structural colleagues, suggested the one which was selected.

Dr Virlogeux, who headed the bridge design team and had previously also lead the Normandy Bridge engineers, described the options considered to accommodate the tallest bridge piers in the world for the high level crossing that was selected. The interactions between structural and architectural considerations presented a fascinating insight into professional expertise of the highest calibre, represented by Dr Virlogeux's team and that of the famous architect Lord Foster. Constructability was a major consideration for this 2.5km long crossing incorporating six 342m spans and two 204m end spans. The tallest of the seven piers was 240m and the road deck, at its highest point, was 270 m above the valley, similar to that of the top observation platform in the Eiffel Tower. This led to unfortunate newspaper speculation that drivers were likely to suffer from vertigo.

Steel was selected as the main construction medium, following the development of competitive designs in concrete. The box girder deck was supported by cable stays attached to elegant, structurally stiff towers. Wind tunnel tests on the deck and towers led to modifications to the architects' preferred shapes to improve aerodynamic performance.



The lecture told an exciting story, which highlighted the key technical problems both in design and construction of this world famous bridge and provided a marvellous example of civil engineering at its very best for the large number of young people in the audience. It also provided a most interesting insight for Liverymen and their guests before they adjourned for dinner in the College afterwards.

Professor Stephen Brown



Lost and Found



*Pop your teeth in here Sir
please*



Oh my goodness !

Roquefort

Since the New Year, I have resolved to spend time researching the background of the Company. To this end, I have spent an afternoon each week going through archived documents at the City Museum where Ian Johnston has been very helpful, both in retrieving a wealth of documents and advising where to go to follow up lines of research. One particular area of Ian's expertise covers the formation of the early guilds and their practices and their members.

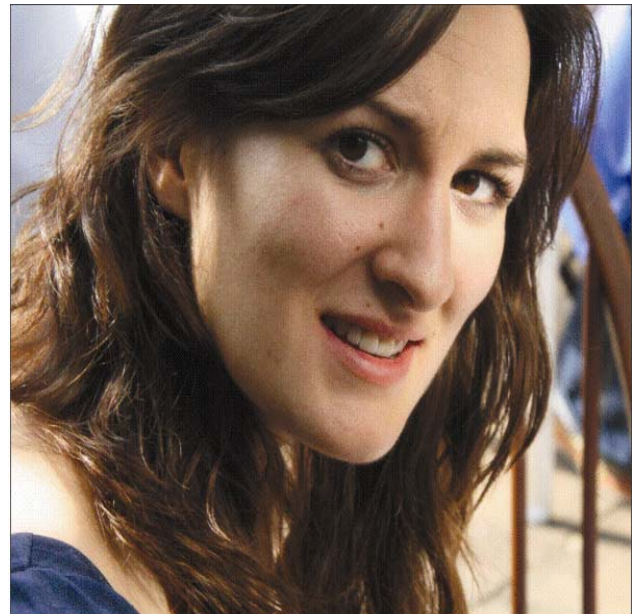
Two names in particular I found most interesting in the fifth visit to the Museum; one, a very early "Master of the Craft" in 1492, and the second, later in our history of Irish descent, a John McKee. The first and earlier name is Richard Roquefort – nothing to do with cheese! He was a mason of Norman descent who was appointed as "Master of Works of Stone" at The Tower of London. A particular skill passed through his family was in the dressing of granite quoins for the Tower – Les Roches Fortes and hence the derivation of the family name – the strong rocks or stones. Roquefort was accredited with the first use of these granite rocks as pavings in the Tower courtyard. I found this fascinating. There is a further and equally fascinating report, which I found in the same bundle of early papers referring to Roquefort, which I will write for the next edition of the Pavior, which also links to the later craftsman, McKee.

David Laing (Past Master)



Bursaries

Melanie Lang obtained a first class honours degree at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in 2006 and has been in receipt of a Paviers' Bursary for the two years of her studies on the postgraduate Opera Course due for completion this year. She is a mezzo-soprano who was born in the US of Austrian and American parents but has lived in the UK since she was two. She tells us that 'My singing career started on the back of my mum's bike and I have had a passion for singing ever since'



With respect to the course, she says, 'I have learnt an irreplaceable amount about the profession and myself as a performer. Without the help of your Trust I would be unable to gain the important experience the Opera Course enables me to, to further my education and career, and I am much indebted to your kindness and generosity'.

Melanie played the part of Metella, the romantic courtesan, in Offenbach's 'La Vie Parisienne' during the week beginning 10th March which gave her important exposure to the media and the talent scouts.



Abdelhamid Beshara (*above right*) is a second year PhD student at Imperial College and was awarded the Paviers'-Laing Travel award in 2007, which he used to fund a visit to Egypt in connection with his research on hazardous waste management being conducted in the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department. He is working on Spent Bleaching Earth (SBE), which is a solid waste produced from the refining of vegetable oils and fats. It is highly flammable with a 20-30% oil content. He explains, 'My research project aims at developing a multistage treatment for SBE which will enable its recycling through the refining process. The main objective of the travel was to collect essential and up to date information as well as gain first hand experience.' He visited various companies in and around Alexandria and arranged for samples of materials to be shipped to the UK to assist with his work. He reports that 'The travel was very successful, it had a positive impact on my PhD project and my future plans in general. I got all the information, data and samples I needed for the continuation of my PhD and I made very useful contacts for my future career. I would like to kindly thank the Worshipful Company of Paviers for providing me with such a wonderful opportunity'

Professor Stephen Brown



Other Items

15th INTER LIVERY CLAY SHOOT

The 15th Inter Livery Clay pigeon shoot will be held on Wednesday the 21st of May 2008. The event will be again held at the shooting grounds of Holland and Holland Northwood Middlesex.

Last year's event was very successful with over 92 teams representing 54 Livery Companies and with £4,750 being raised for various charities.

Due to the high number of teams, of variable standards cash prizes will be presented to the 1st, 15th, 25th, 35th, 45th, 55th, teams, to be donated to the charities of their choosing. Prizes will also be awarded for top gun, highest flush, best side by side single and team, best lady, Horner's prize past masters team and the highest non livery team.

The cost of the event is £145 per gun, which is inclusive of insurance, cartridges, clays and the famous buffet lunch, roast pig, breakfast, morning coffee etc. All teams will be seated to table plan.

CLERK'S JOTTINGS

Corresponding by e-mail has proved generally very successful, however there have been one or two "hiccups" which required rectifying.

The main problem has been non receipt of Company messages sent on my behalf by Liveryman Stephen Winspear.

It would appear the reasons for this are :- (1) the rejection of copied messages by some computer systems, particularly business systems. (Stephen sends to one member and blind copies to the rest, consequently you do not receive every e-mail address each time a message is sent) and (2) Members not informing me of changes to their e-mail address. I would urge all members to visit the Company's web-site www.paviors.org.uk. (A show of hands at Common Hall indicated that only about a third of members have signed-in). All of Stephen's messages are recorded on the Company's News page so if you miss something from Stephen, by viewing this page regularly, you will keep up to date.

To log-in to the web-site click on 'sign in' top right Home Page. The Page will move to the right. Enter your e-mail address and password if you already have one.

If you do not have a password look down the screen and you will see 'If you have not received your login details, please click here' By clicking here, a computer generated password will be sent to you by e-mail. Repeat the log-in procedure entering the computer generated password which will give you access to the members section and the opportunity to change the password to one of your preference. Any problems please give me a call.

John White

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Tel: 01932 252275 Fax: 01932 252276**



Contact the Company

To learn more about the **Worshipful Company of Paviers** contact the Clerk, John White, on 020 8366 1566, or write to him at 3 Ridgemount Gardens, Enfield, Middlesex EN2 8QL, or e-mail him at jlwhite@talk21.com. The editor of this edition of *The Pavior* is James Dickson (tel: 0789 9892 057 – email: jdickson@sense-limited.co.uk)
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