



The Hackney Carriage

The Magazine of the Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers

Issue Number 27

Spring 2016



Magical Taxi Tour 2015

WELCOME TO THE HACKNEY CARRIAGE

On behalf of the PR Committee, which I chair, welcome to the latest issue of *The Hackney Carriage* magazine.

Throughout the year our diverse membership is involved in many different activities.



Since our last issue members have enjoyed the Spring Court Dinner, where the Guest Speaker was Dr Sinclair Rogers, Chairman of the Agincourt 600 Committee.

We also gave our Military Award to its recipient Lance Corporal McNamara. Then it was the Election Court Lunch at The Guildhall and in June it was Founders Day Lunch at Trinity House. The new Master was installed in September, followed by the Installation Dinner at the Drapers' Hall.

The last dinner of 2015 was the annual Liverymen's Dinner, this year at the Apothecaries Hall. At this dinner we made some of our annual awards. We have also attended St Paul's Cathedral for the annual Livery Companies United Guilds service, taken part in the Pancake Races at the Guildhall Yard and been a part of the ceremonies for the Election of the new Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs.

Charity events have included the Southend Bike Ride to raise funds for our Disney trip, and the annual Christmas fund raising event at the Marriott Hotel.

Throughout all these events, formal and not so formal, the joining together with like-minded people to promote all that is good about London's world class taxi service is a testament to all that is good about the WCHCD and the trade it serves.

As this magazine is being prepared, the final event of the year will be the Carol Service at St Bartholomew the Great.

We are proud to have completed another successful Magical Taxi tour to Disneyland Paris, one of the charitable endeavours of the WCHCD that receives a great deal of attention and is admired by many other Companies.

This year Phil Davis received an award for his work in organising the trip, which he accepted on behalf of all his committee.

So begins 2016 when we will once again be busy with events; but perhaps more importantly we will be enjoying the fellowship that our Company members have.

Sandie Goodwin



NEW LIVERYMAN AND FREEMEN 2015

The WCHCD congratulate the following Freeman who have been clothed in the Livery during the past year.

Kevin Hennessy, John Barker, Lorenzo Bugliari-Goggia, Roy Ellis, Christopher Hearnden, Michael Kingham, Luke Merriman & Stephen Newson.

Also welcomed are the new Freeman who joined during the same period.

John Budgen, Ian Gray, Steven Hill, David Ollier, Anthony Swire, Stephen Taylor, Ian Butcher, Antony Gillam, Tony Gutteridge, Michael Kingham, Ian Skeffington, Steven Wright., John McDonald, David Hyatt-Mailes, Stephen Newson, Vincent O'Malley, Simon Pancutt, Eugene Parete, Danny Sivanesan, Steve Vare, Jon Wheeler, David Clements, Hannah Downing, Carl-Peter Forster, Richard Gordon, Kevin Nutley & Stephen Nutley.



THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS

The Hackney Carriage
www.hackneycarriagedriverscompany.com

PUBLISHED BY: THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS 01494 765922
PR COMMITTEE: SANDIE GOODWIN, DAVE ALLEN, MALCOLM PAICE. PRINTED BY: IMAGES IN PRINT

NEW WCHCD MASTER INSTALLED

On 9th September 2015, The Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers held a Court Meeting at which they installed Colin Evans as their Master for the ensuing year. Handing over the tenure at the Court Meeting was Malcolm Paice, now Deputy Master.

Colin has been a licensed taxi driver for 42 years and joined the Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage drivers in 1999. In 2010 he became a Court Assistant. As Lower Warden he chaired the membership committee. Apart from being a regular driver on the company's Children's Magical Taxi tour to Disneyland Paris, he is also a Trustee of the Cabmen's Shelter Fund which looks after the famous "green huts" providing refreshments for taxi drivers.

He has been married to Janice for 44 years and they have 2 daughters, Nicola and Lynsey. The family live in Hertfordshire today, although Colin was born in 1949 in Tottenham, North London - just a stone's throw from the football ground which makes him a big Spurs fan. He later moved to Enfield where he attended the local school and because of his love for sport took his eye off his studies. This resulted in him leaving school with a few O levels and the need to finish his education in the University of Life.

So he started work as a telegram boy in the City of London and then went on to work in a number of fields including the wine trade specialising in Champagne - which he now only drinks in moderate amounts. Starting an Office Cleaning company in the 70s he eventually sold up and decided to study the Knowledge of London and achieved his badge in 1974. He went on to represent the taxi trade under the old TGWU, now Unite Union, and was elected in 1993 to be Executive Director of a new taxi trade body dealing with the BAA at Heathrow. He went on to serve that body for 20 years the last 10 years as Chairman.

WARDENS AND COURT ASSISTANTS FOR 2015-2016

During the same meeting that Colin was installed as Master, Alan Roughan was installed as Upper Warden, Dave Cannell as Renter Warden and Lower Warden for the year is Rick Alford. The Master and his Wardens are all working cab drivers who have a passion for the City and its Livery companies.



L-R Rick Alford, Dave Cannell, Alan Roughan,
The Master and Malcolm Paice

Four new Court Assistants were also sworn in; namely they are Wendy Sorrell, Gavin Cooper, Tony O'Brien and Dean Thomas. The Court of Assistants support the Master and his Wardens in the day to day decisions of running the Court and it is through being a Court Assistant that Liverymen can be elected to the position of Master.

INSTALLATION DINNER AT DRAPERS' HALL

At the end of the Court Meeting the latest 104 Club prizes were drawn. The first two winners were Phil Davis and Malcolm Linskey, who both immediately donated their prize money to the Disney charity fund. The third prize went to Liveryman Dan Heath, who is an active member of the WCHCD. He is the current Liaison Officer for the WCHCD affiliation with 20 Transport Squadron.



This was followed by the Installation Dinner at the Drapers' Hall. Founded over 600 years ago, the Drapers' Company is incorporated by Royal Charter and is one of the Twelve Great Livery Companies in the City of London. Their stunning Hall, richly decorated and containing many wonderful works of art, is often used by film makers, with one of the most famous being the setting for the film *The Kings Speech*, dinner was enjoyed in the magnificent Court Room, where the gold and silver collection of The Honourable Company of Master Mariners, along with works of art, is housed.

The Master introduced his guest speaker, Sheriff Fiona Adler. He said how honoured he was to have Fiona as his speaker. Fiona was the first female to be a Freeman, Trustee of the Benevolent Fund and subsequently Master, of the Worshipful Company of Tobacco Pipe Makers and Tobacco Blenders, in the Company's history. On her installation as Master, she was following in the footsteps of her Father and Grandfather. She gave a very entertaining speech and said she will also be at Canary Wharf to watch the departure of the Magical Taxi Tour.



The Master with guest speaker, Sheriff Fiona Adler

MY YEAR AS MASTER by Malcolm Paice

My year as Master of The Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers started in September 2014, on board the HQS Wellington, the only Livery Hall floating upon the Thames, which I chose for my installation as Master as it is the 'home' hall of the WCHCD. My guest speaker was Mr Doug Cheshire, former Chair of the London Vintage Taxi Association. By a strange quirk of fate he was also my former woodwork teacher when I was in high school! Doug was a great sport and donned his old white workshop overcoat and pulled me up on my appalling dovetail joints when I was a pupil of his. It was great fun and a fantastic start to my busy year.

My first official duty was attending the annual Children's Magical Taxi Tour. The breakfast send off for the trip at Canary Wharf is well attended by the parents and children, as well as so many of the sponsors and supporters of the trip. Over the course of the weekend I made a point of meeting as many of the children, parents and supporters of the trip as possible, including the many medical experts and the police outriders. I took the opportunity to take my young daughter with me on the trip, which made the whole experience all the more poignant and it certainly brings home to you, as a parent, how much difference this trip makes to the families it touches.

September brought the election of the Lord Mayor for the following year, a formal City affair, with all the Masters gowning up at the Guildhall where a church service, followed by the election itself, takes place. The vote is an old fashioned 'show of hands' and quite a spectacle to behold.

The opening few months as Master are a whirlwind of social engagements, lunches, dinners and receptions, usually hosted by other City Livery Companies. But there are also a number of lectures and more 'educational' appointments, some of which shed entirely new light on a whole range of subjects. The number of trades, professions and industries represented across the Livery is vast and it is a fascinating insight into the City and the remarkable history of the Livery Companies.

November saw me and Mary Whitworth, our Company Clerk, attend the Garden of Remembrance service at St. Paul's Cathedral. This moving service closes with the Masters and other guests planting memorial crosses in the gardens. November also required me to chair the WCHCD's very first Common Hall - essentially the equivalent of an AGM for Livery Companies. This required me to deliver a report of the year, the Company's position on

its finances, membership and affiliations. Being a Master is not just about ceremonial duties, you are also essentially the CEO of a functioning organisation!

The Common Hall was followed by a Court Meeting and our 11th Liverymen's dinner, which was all held at the magnificent Cutler's Hall. I was very privileged to have Colonel John Bridgman, Master of the Company of Turners as my principal guest that evening. In December it was the Carol service and 'nine lessons' at St Bartholomew the Great, the very church where our Royal Charter is now proudly displayed.

In February of 2015 the WCHCD held a very successful Open Day, courtesy of the London Taxi Company, who hosted the event for us at their showroom in Brewery Road. Several taxi drivers visited and signed up to join the Company. I think new members are always surprised how relaxed and friendly our Company is. February also saw me attend the annual Pancake Race at the Guildhall, with an impressive showing from so many Livery Companies. I'm afraid I did not make the final heats of the race - but I will blame that on having to run in a full Master's gown while flipping pancakes.

In amongst all the fun of February was also the saddest moment of my year as Master, as I joined many others from our Company and across the cab trade in attending the funeral of Past Master Alan Parker. Alan had made so many close friends in and out of our trade, and it was quite moving seeing how much love and affection there was for the great man. He will be sorely missed for many years to come.

There is a huge number of events to attend in the Spring time. The WCHCD held their Spring Court Dinner which, in my year, took place at the Vintner's Hall - one of my personal favourites. We hosted a truly impressive tally of Masters and Clerks from a multitude of other Companies in the City and I was deluged with letters of thanks and praise afterwards.

In March I attended the Old Bailey, purely in my capacity as Master I can assure you! After a reception with the Sheriff, Ms Fiona Adler, there is an opportunity to meet the Judges, who we also joined for lunch. Speaking to them about their daily workload is certainly humbling. Some truly remarkable men and women there. March is a busy month and plays host to one of the biggest City events of the year - the Lord Mayors' Banquet at Mansion House. Pretty much every single Livery Company is represented at this white tie event,

and spectacular to behold it is too. The hall is vast, with an impeccable service for so many people. The day after the Mansion House banquet was the United Guilds Service at St. Paul's Cathedral, making those two days some of the most intensive in the Livery calendar.



I was also spending as much time as possible with our affiliate school - the Royal Docks Community School in Newham. This affiliation received a great shot in the arm as our Past Master, Andrew Overton, took up a place as Governor to the school, meaning we can be involved in a more meaningful way. In May, Andrew and I unveiled a new orchard at the school, made possible by a donation from the WCHCD to celebrate their award of the Royal Charter the year before.



An early start one day in May saw all the Masters gather early in the morning at London Bridge to collect money for the British Red Cross. This meant getting gowned up at the nearby Fishmonger's Hall and standing with a collection bucket during morning rush hour to get donations from the thousands of commuters. I was surprised at the generosity of the busy Londoners.

May saw one of my proudest moments as Master when I joined our Past Master and Chair of the Disney Organising Committee, Phil Davis, as he received the City Livery Club Root & Branch award for his long commitment to the Disney Charitable endeavour. At the end of May I attended the Garden Party at Buckingham Palace, along with my good lady wife, who had the rare chance to join me at a City function. Again, we were blessed by the weather and had a really nice afternoon courtesy of Her Majesty the Queen.

The summer goes by in a blaze, and there were a lot of events to pack into June, including our own Founder's Day luncheon at Trinity House, where my guest of honour was Carl Peter-Forster, Chairman of The London Taxi Company, who also sits on the Geely board. Coming the day after the anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo, we had a themed lunch menu (Beef Wellington) which was paraded into the hall in spectacular fashion with both Nelson and Napoleon factions!



That was actually the last time I addressed the WCHCD as Master, even though I still had 3 more months to serve. As Master you are kept busy right up until you leave the chair, which for me was early September 2015, and there is a very busy diary of events from across the other City Livery Companies.

It is a busy but thoroughly unique experience and one that I will hold dear for many years to come.

AWARD FOR PHIL DAVIS CHAIRMAN OF DISNEY ORGANISING COMMITTEE



Past Master Phil Davis has been awarded the City Livery Company Root and Branch Award for 2015. Phil joined the WCHCD in 1990 and was Master during 1997. Phil has headed up the organising committee of the annual Children's Magical Taxi Tour since 1994. He says he is delighted and honoured to have been given the Award but that the trip is not just his work, but that of everyone else involved, from the committee to the drivers. The City Livery Club Root and Branch Award recognises exemplary works from within the City Livery Companies from individuals who have made a noteworthy contribution to charity and the Livery. The criteria and competition is tough, with many remarkable nominations coming from across the eclectic range of City Livery Companies.

This is only the second such award. Phil's tireless work on the annual Children's Magical Taxi Tour has touched the lives of thousands of children and their families over the past 21 years. The fact he has engaged the support from such a variety of Livery Companies is a testament to his incredible contribution to the City Livery movement and he has always acted without seeking reward or recognition. The judges look, amongst other things, for leadership and personal commitment. All those involved with the Children's Magical Taxi Tour can testify how much work Phil has undertaken during the years he has been involved; not only in the planning, but also during the trip when he is meeting and greeting guests at the Big Breakfast Send Off before donning his high-vis jacket to direct the drivers. Once in his support vehicle he is in constant touch with the other committee members and support vehicles, liaising with both the UK police and the French gendarmes. Then he is directing operations at the fuel stop and on arrival at the Disney resort he is busy directing the parking of cabs. He is extremely busy all weekend and that is why it is rare to find a photograph of Phil at Disney - he does not stand still long enough! Before leaving France, the following year's dates are booked in with the hotel, and all the fund raising starts again. During the rest of the year he is tireless in his fund raising activities - he can be found on the rank during Wimbledon shaking a bucket, organising the fund raising dinner held each December, as well as talking to sponsors throughout the year.

An incredible number of children have benefitted from the annual trip; the 2015 trip means the total is well over 5000. The logistics involved in arranging the children, the helpers, the ambulances and support vehicles, not to mention around 100 cabs and drivers each year is the equivalent of a full time job in terms of hours spent organising everything. When asked about the Award, Phil said: "My aim is to put smiles on the faces of these children and I could not attain this goal without their support, and that of many City Livery

Companies, to organise the Magical Taxi Tour every year." The 687th Lord Mayor of London is Alderman Alan Yarrow. He said: "Phil has done an amazing job and he fully deserves his Root & Branch Award. It is a great example of the Livery Companies' work - work which has gone on, in one form or another, for hundreds of years. I know first-hand that the Livery is stuffed to the gills with people young and old who work tirelessly to help their by raising money, giving time and supporting people. Thank you to everyone involved with this work."

ALAN PARKER

On 18th February 2015 Past Master Alan Parker passed away. Alan was such a character in the trade that he was as well-known by his nickname "Henry VIII" as he was by his name. Alan was renowned and respected for all the right reasons.



He was born in Inverness, Scotland in 1946. Within a year of his birth the family moved south to London although Alan spent a large part of his childhood in Boarding Schools with medical facilities due to his prevalent asthma. Despite this when leaving School he started work in the motor insurance industry but unfortunately the company he worked for collapsed. Undeterred he joined another motor insurance company which also sadly collapsed. This gave Alan the impetus to move into the cab trade, initially as a Yellow Badge Driver in Harrow and then as a Green Badge driver in London. Thus opened up a rich vein of opportunities for him and within a short time he was helping out despatching on Radio Taxis. He followed this by exploring the potential for a Taxi Centre and spending a spell as a Union Rep at Heathrow. After this he changed direction by enrolling onto a City of London Guiding Course and subsequently qualifying as a Tourist Guide. He had now found his true niche in the industry.

Alan's love and knowledge of history, combined with his mediaeval style beard and his magisterial stature made it inevitable that he would become affectionately known as Henry VIII. Following his guiding experience he joined the Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers in 1997 where his care and passion for the trade became even more evident. He was the creator of the now well established City Guiding course, chaired the Awards Committee and generally helped the Company move forward. The culmination of this involvement was Alan's election in 2007-2008 to Master of the now elevated Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers. Throughout his period on the Court Alan was quietly working away helping anyone in the trade that needed it.

His devotion to his wife Christine, his daughter Joanne, son Darren, daughter-in-law Rachel and his two grandchildren Jake and Immy was heartening. We hope that they can take some consolation in the fact that a great many other lives have been enriched by knowing Alan, who will be sorely missed.

CHILDREN'S MAGICAL TAXI TOUR 2015



The countdown ribbon cutting took place after the Big Breakfast Send Off inside the East Wintergarden on 18th September; this event marks the beginning of the trip and is attended each year attended by a number of the trip's sponsors and dignitaries. The Chairman of the Organising Committee, Phil Davis, is extremely grateful to everyone who helps in making the trip possible, from the larger corporate sponsors all the way through to those making donations through JustGiving via the website. The Marriot Hotel Canary Wharf provided everyone with packed lunches and the London Taxi Company donated the spending money for the children. Ampersand sponsored the breakfast itself.

This year the ribbon was cut by the Lord Mayor Locum Tenens Alderman Sir David Howard and the Master of The Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers, Colin Evans. Then the convoy of almost 100 taxis, with around 400 people set off on the trip, taking children with life limiting illnesses on this magical journey. The long line of taxis was escorted by City of London Police and the Gendarmerie Nationale, as well as support vehicles, including the AA, medical teams from the hospitals where the children are patients and London Ambulance Service. Heading off down to Dover, the magical journey had begun. Boarding a P&O ferry to Calais was quick and easy and the ferry trips are donated kindly by P&O. The car deck full of London taxis is quite a surprising sight to fellow travellers on the ferry.

Once in Calais, the convoy reassembled and the journey down towards Paris and the Disneyland resort commenced. A fuel stop at the Aire De Repos Assevillers Ouest services gave the opportunity for a taste of the fun to come at Disneyland. As the taxis arrived, a band was playing and characters were on hand to greet the children. With refreshments all laid out ready in welcome, face painting opportunities – not to mention the chance to enjoy some candy floss, everyone was refreshed and ready for the remainder of the journey. In recognition of the Award made to the service area for their warm welcome each year, the Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers had made an Award last year to the staff at the service area and a short speech was made by Kevin Deneux and Mickael Bruder welcoming everyone once again.

The weather on the journey through France was punctuated by some very heavy rain and so it was a welcome sight when the Hotel Cheyenne car park was finally reached a little later than usual. Everyone checked in to their hotel room and then headed off to the Chuck Wagon for an evening meal. Then it was time for sleep before a busy day in the Disneyland Park and the Studios.

On Saturday morning the children ensured their carers and taxi driver hosts were up bright and early ready to make the most of the day in the resort. Once in the Park the children have fast track passes to ensure they do not have wait in long queues for the rides and experiences. Walking round the park and seeing the excitement and delight on the faces of the children it is clear to see how worthwhile this trip is for them. It is a wonderful day away from the rigours of their treatments in the magical environment that Disneyland provokes, as well as a chance for the taxis to take a rest in the car park of the hotel being admired by the guests who wonder quite why so many London taxis are parked in there!

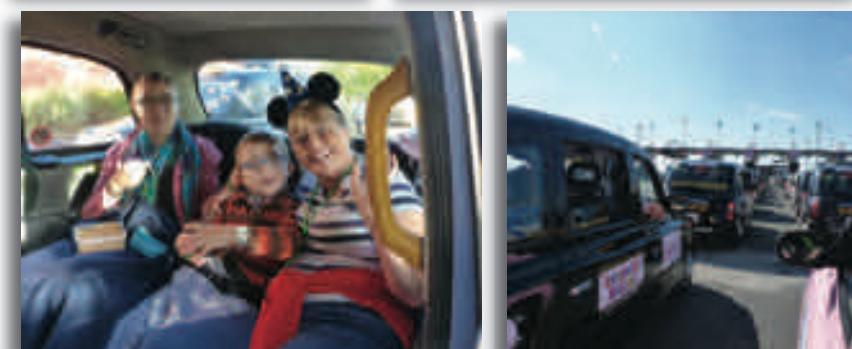
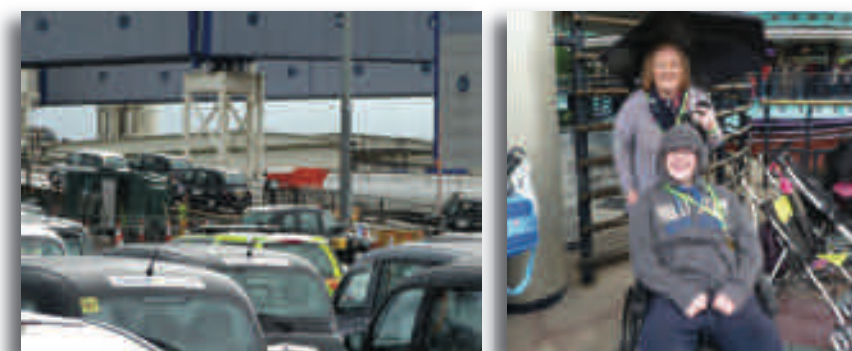
Following the day in the park, there is a Gala Dinner where the guests are joined by some very famous characters; Mickey and Minnie Mouse, Goofy, Pluto, The Chipmunks, Donald and Daisy Duck to name just some. These characters were kept busy all evening signing autographs and posing for photos with the children before joining in the disco dancing. Not too many people can say they have been dancing with Mickey Mouse and his pals at a Saturday night disco.

The following morning saw the convoy regroup and head off back to Calais. There was a fuel stop on the return journey at Assevillers, somewhat quieter than the outgoing visit, but thanks to some lovely sunshine the children were enjoying their packed lunches out on the grassed rest areas. Soon the convoy was back in Calais where the ferry was waiting for them to board. A calm crossing soon saw the ferry docking in Dover where everyone said their goodbyes and headed off in different directions taking the children back to their hospitals and homes.

This was the 22nd annual trip that had been organised by the WCHCD; it is a testament to the kindness of the drivers and all the support services and their generosity in giving their time and vehicles freely. Throughout the trip people were telling the committee what a great time they were having which is what makes all the hard work preparing for the trip and fund raising so worthwhile. This year one of the drivers had set up a Facebook page for the trip and regular images and updates were published throughout the weekend. This has proved very popular and following the trip many of the parents and carers had commented on how much the children had enjoyed the trip. The power of social media meant many people were able to see the regular updates as they happened in the resort.

More about the Magical Taxi Tour, including a photo gallery, can be found at www.magicaltaxitour.com

The CHILDREN'S MAGICAL Taxi Tour
www.magicaltaxitour.com



COMMEMORATION SERVICE FOR 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF GEORGE CROSS



Liveryman Steve Thomas is a licensed taxi driver and also a KoL examiner for TfL. Before becoming a cabbie Steve was with the Metropolitan Police and served on the Flying Squad. He is also the proud recipient of the George Medal for Bravery. In September 2015 he attended a special commemoration ceremony at the Royal Hospital Chelsea to mark the 75th anniversary of the George Cross and George Medal. Commemorative coins were given to the recipients by the Duke of Kent. He spoke of the event: 'It was a terrific day and the coin is beautiful.'

Back in 1988, whilst working undercover for the Flying Squad, Steve got shot. He says: 'Would you believe that when I got shot I was in a surveillance team driving a black cab!' He continued: 'I was on a case involving four gang members who were committing armed robberies to sponsor their drug deals. I was in the taxi outside their flat in Acton and could see them putting balaclavas on and dressing up so I knew something was going to happen. They went out to hold up the local post office and myself and my colleague followed, standing outside while they went in. Within seconds someone pressed the alarm and they all came running out and it ended in a 24 bullet shoot-out across the pavement.' Stephen fired six bullets; so did his colleague and the gang fired 12 back. Stephen was hit in the groin, just missing his major artery. He was lucky not to die. He was given his George Medal by the Queen in a ceremony at Buckingham Palace in May 1992.

A VISIT TO THE OLD BAILEY

By Jim Rainbird Past Master

The Old Bailey is a globally known landmark and an integral part of the square mile that most taxi drivers pass by a few times a day without a second glance. Our large group, consisting of members of our livery with friends and family, were fortunate to have a

behind the scenes tour of the most famous legal institution in the world. After being met by a member of the 'Bailey's' staff, we were ushered into the imposing Court No. 1 where we were met by our host, Charles Henty, the Secondary of London, Under Sheriff and High Bailiff of Southwark.

A terrific title, but in brief, he is like the 'managing director' of The Central Criminal Court. Something he conducts with obvious military precision due to his previous career in the Coldstream Guards. He not only explained his own position and responsibilities for running the Old Bailey but also the reasoning behind the layout of the court and the uniqueness of this legal facility. The only Criminal Court run by a local authority. He continued with stories of past defendants that had appeared in the 'dock' of the famous Court No.1 like; Lord Haw Haw, Dr Crippen, Ruth Ellis, The Krays and The Yorkshire Ripper. Some items that have appeared on the evidence bench included, a large metal tent pole used as a murder weapon, machine guns and Dr. Crippen's bath!

With historical tales of jury's being sent to the cells for failing to "reach the right verdict" and grisly details of bodies in suitcases being thrown into the Thames, we were also privy to the list of trials currently being heard. No information, just the charge details. Sadly, quite a few involved murder but Charles insisted that this was "a quiet day"! He was also quick to point out that if you were looking for a plot for that book that everyone has in them, then there was no better place than the public gallery to glean ideas. It never fails to amaze him, as he put it, "what one human can do to another human". We were given the origin of the terms 'pressing the point' (gaining an admission of guilt by torture) and 'double crossing' (used by the 18thC thief taker general, Jonathan Wild in his ledgers). The details of how the Old Bailey deals with juvenile defendants, those with disabilities and those "special cases" where armed police are in attendance were explained and were real eye openers.

After the scarily impressive Court No.1 we were then taken to the classical Grand Hall which had one end rebuilt and restored in the 1950's after being 'remodelled' by the Luftwaffe in 1941. This space is astonishingly beautiful and you really couldn't see the join! Then down to the "custody facilities"! These consist of over 50 cells, interview rooms and admin offices that deal with Category A, B, C, etcetera defendants and includes a Category A* 'suite' for those extra special 'guests'!

We finished the tour in Court No.13 which is

in the 1970's built extension and the contrast with the older courts is striking. It has a secure dock (completely enclosed) and accessed only from the cells. The old main building dates from 1907 and is about to undergo major refurbishments costing approximately £37 million, mainly funded by the Corporation of London. This will be stage managed by Charles so that the Old Bailey will never have to close, Something that would be unthinkable. Charles Henty is obviously very proud of his position and the facility that he oversees. And rightly so because its eighteen courts are presided over by the finest judges in the land. Each member of our party donated to The Sheriff's and Recorder's Fund, a charity based at the Old Bailey that helps with rehabilitation of ex offenders. We raised £390 and had a great evening as well.

The Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers would like to thank Charles for an amazing tour given in his spare time. He finished with two points. The first courtesy of his children - as he is The Secondary then surely their mum (and Charles' wife) is the Primary! The second was his parting comment "You are all free to go!"

MILITARY AWARD



Each year, the WCHCD makes a Military Award for Excellence to a member of the 20 Transport Squadron Royal Logistics Corps. This year the Award was presented to Lance Corporal McNamara. He joined the Army in 2008 and attended his basic training at the Army Training Regiment, Pirbright. On completion of his basic training he moved to The Princess Royal Barracks to attend his trade training which would see him qualify as a driver once completing his B,C and C+E Licence, combat drivers, skid car and dangerous goods training courses. After completing his Driver training he was posted to his first unit, 13 Air Assault Support Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps within 63 Air Assault Support Squadron.

Here he completed his driver upgrade training as well as multiple vehicle familiarisation courses.

In 2010 he was deployed on OP HERRICK 13 to Afghanistan where he completed multiple Combat Logistic Patrols within the HELMAND province, resupplying forward operating bases with urgent supplies and equipment. During his deployment he was also selected as a driver for the Force Protection group which would see him drive and operate the British Army MASTIFF protective vehicle. On return to the UK he was again selected due to his absolute professionalism the Public Duties Squadron which would see him as the ceremonial guard at Buckingham Palace, St James Palace, Windsor Castle and The Tower of London.

In 2013 he was posted to 20 Transport Squadron and immediately joined the tasking troop completing his advanced Staff Car Course. He has completed transport operations in support of the Royal Household, transporting the Royal Family's personal belongings between Royal residences, including Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle. He has also driven for many Senior Officers from within MoD Main Building and Horse Guards, cementing his status as the top Private soldier within 20 Transport Squadron. This position was recognised in August 2013 where he was selected and promoted from the rank of Private to Lance Corporal.

Since promotion he has completed his All Arms Physical Training Instructors Course ensuring all soldiers' fitness training within 20 Transport Squadron is at the very highest levels and in addition the rehabilitation of injured soldiers through physical training. As well as his normal driver duties he has also taken up the position of Squadron Quarter Master Second in Command, overseeing and running the inventory accounts which support the Logistic requirements within Regents Park Barracks. An onerous task which on many occasions he has had to do without supervision and to his credit, he has taken this all within his stride. He routinely makes decisions well above his rank and has proven to be an exceptionally level headed individual who is not only prepared but ready for the next rank up.

This year's recipient is well respected by his peers and the Chain of Command, this year he will have the strongest recommendation to promote to the rank of full Corporal, ahead of his time. He is a soldier mature beyond his years with a bright future ahead of him. He is the very best of his peer group and a credit to himself, 20 Transport Squadron and the Royal Logistic Corps. Master Malcolm Paice presented the Award to the Lance Corporal saying: 'It is my great

honour to announce that Lance Corporal McNamara has been singled out by his Commanding Officer to receive the Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers Military Award.'

HITCH AWARD FOR BRAVERY



This WCHCD Award has been given to London cabbie Natalie O'Reilly. One day in July she finished work early and offered her daughter Rosie who works in the City a lift home in the taxi. Whilst driving through St John Street, Clerkenwell EC1 Natalie became aware of a young man who seemed to be desperately running along the pavement in the opposite direction being pursued by another young man. The young men then ran into a group of people standing at a Bus Stop and Natalie's daughter Rosie became aware that there was a stabbing taking place and called for her Mum to pull over so she could call the Police.

However Natalie didn't pull over but did a U-Turn and pulled up at the incident shouting at the assailant to stop. When he didn't respond Natalie got out of her taxi and bravely confronted the knife wielding individual, who after considerable hesitation decided to run off. There was no assistance forthcoming from those standing at the Bus Stop. Meanwhile when the victim, who had blood pouring from his head and torso, became aware that Rosie was communicating with the Police and became very agitated and demanding "No Police" be involved. They managed to bluff him by saying that they were actually calling an Ambulance.

As he was bleeding so badly from his wounds they decided to put him in the taxi and take him directly to St Bartholomew's Hospital. On arrival he was put on an emergency transfer to the Royal London Hospital. Natalie, who also had her cab impounded by the Police for two days because of the blood

evidence, was never informed what happened to both youths after that.

OUR ROYAL DOCKS SCHOOL AFFILIATION

by Andrew Overton, Past Master and Governor of Royal Docks School

This year has seen our affiliation with the Royal Docks Community School really take off. One of the things we did for the first time was to offer a prize to the top 10 science students to go on a day's Gliding Course. This was a subsidised course organised by the Worshipful Company of Air Pilots and Navigators and the London Gliding Club. We managed to choose the hottest day of the year, which presented a few wind problems that fortunately soon abated and a great day was had by all, with the instructors allowing the students to take over the controls in the air, which was quite a thrill. One of the students, Taiwo Orekoya, said: "Our gliding experience was something never to be forgotten. Away from school and our comfort zones, we set out to learn how to glide. Having heard a lot of things regarding the task, we were very enthusiastic and excited to see what was to come. Communication and team work was a key aspect and we had to trust that our pilot would keep us safe. We had the opportunity to fly it ourselves and it was magnificent. The view was amazing and we saw things from a whole different perspective. Our instructors were very polite and kind enough to teach us all they knew and learnt from past experiences. Overall it was a brilliant day."



Another major event in March 2015 was a trip to the Barber Surgeons Hall in the City. 20 students who are passionate about being doctors were able to talk to a real Surgeon, take blood samples and do some practice suturing...not on a real person! They heard from Kings College what was required in terms of qualifications to enter the medical profession and thoroughly enjoyed their tour of the Hall itself. We are now hoping to set up another visit with the new year 9 students.

Shufaa Sharif said: "Our visit to Barber-Surgeons' Hall was very good and I have learnt a huge amount about studying medicine. This was useful to all of us because the speeches inspired us to aim higher. We also realised that we don't need to go to a private school to go to a top university; all it takes is hard work. The three different activities gave us a good understanding of what it would be like for us."



Three students labelling the blood samples they have just taken

We also organised a trip for Year 9 students to attend the annual 'Livery Showcase Event' in Moorgate to find out about future careers and broaden their knowledge of the world of work. There were over 30 different Livery Companies there on the day, from Bakers and Basket Makers to Insurers and Stone Masons.... but no Hackney Carriage Drivers... yet!

We are launching a program of speakers from across a wide section of the professions trade and industry who will go to the school every Monday lunchtime so that the children better understand the connection between the world of work and what they are learning at school. Aspiration is a key word in this diverse school and we seek to help the school in different ways to achieve the aim that all students will see why doing their best is so important. So if you know any likely candidates I would love to hear from you.

Although exam results still have some way to go, the Ofsted visit this year rated the school 'Good' for management, which is a big step forward and the Head Teacher, Wendy Bower was very gratified to receive a personal letter from Sir Michael Wilshaw, the head of Ofsted, praising her efforts to upgrade the whole teaching and learning experience at the school. The quote from the Ofsted report was "The Head Teacher has been relentless in her pursuit of excellence." We all hope her efforts will bear fruit for the students of Royal Docks.

OUR MILITARY AFFILIATION

by Dan Heath

The WCHCD Military Affiliation with 20 Transport Squadron Royal Logistics Corps continues with the annual Driving Skills Day.

The Squadron also assist at The Big Breakfast Send Off.

Driving skills put to the test

Thursday 30th July 2015 saw a twenty strong team of members of the WCHCD embark on the annual Driving Skills Day at Regent's Park Barracks. The rendezvous was tea and coffee in Dunkerly's, an area of the barracks eponymously named after a fraudulent bogus military man who had once occupied the room, taking it as his office, after which we were sent off in teams to discover what challenges lay in store.

Six stands had been devised by the Soldiers; a remote control taxi manoeuvre course guiding a remote control Taxi around an indoor track with reverse park, parallel park and a bridge cross; bicycle obstacle course involving riding a bike through a series of cones and tight turns, over a spring board and between narrow passages; blindfolded van reverse where the driver was blindfolded and guided by one team mate as a passenger watching the near-side while another team mate gave guidance from the off-side; a navigational/treasure hunt exercise which pitted the team member/navigator's K.O.L. against the clues set by the hosts which were answered by those in the back of the vehicle; a highway code test, with the twist that the highway code in question was that of Kenya; and another blindfolded vehicle manoeuvre, this time driving a hatchback around an obstacle course with parallel and reverse parking thrown in for good measure and just one pair of eyes to assist the driver.

With three challenges completed by lunchtime the teams were able to enjoy lunch in the canteen before re-grouping for the afternoon push towards the finish line. Last year's victors for the WCHCD, led by Carlos Oliveira, were a man down this year but continued undeterred in an ebullient mood, but it was the team from Just Taxis who would eventually go on to win the prize for best team morale and were never spotted without smiles on their faces. Six tasks down and it was back to Dunkerly's for much needed liquid refreshment and a BBQ courtesy of personnel from 20 Squadron, followed by the prize giving.



With five teams from the WCHCD against just one from the Army due to their heavy workload victory for the Cabbies was assured surely? Alas this year wasn't to be. The Army team showed that instinctive military team work and stoic mindset (and possibly the benefit of a dry run, just to make sure that the challenges complied with health and safety of course) is the stuff that makes winners and lifted the trophy for first place. Just Taxis' team made it a double by taking the runners-up prize.

Nonetheless, a good day was had by all and arrangements are already being made for next year's contest as well as other events between the two organisations to help continue the strong ties between us. A big thank you to Captain Lee Weedall and his team at 20 Squadron for all their hard work and the enthusiasm they put into this occasion.



Quiz Night

This year for the first time, we were invited to join the Squadron for a Quiz Night. Colin Evans accepted the invitation and put together a motley crew of WCHCD members, their families and friends to take part at Regent's Park Barracks on 28th October.

Seven teams were formed, mixing the WCHCD with the Military to create a competitive, though convivial, atmosphere. Questions compiled by Sergeant Hannah Moffat were delivered by Quiz Master WO2 Lee Fairbanks. Categories ranged from Films, Music and Sport to Picture Quizzes on international landmarks and celebrities as babies.

If you knew that London's oldest football club is Fulham, the street adjoining Coronation Street is Rosamund Street and don't mistake a picture of the supreme leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Kim Jong-il for Tennessean troubadour and Traveling Wilbury Roy Orbison, then you could have been in with a chance. A break for Pizza and a round of "Easy Stuff" did much to repair a bit of diminished confidence halfway through the proceedings.

Eventually first place was taken by a team made up of WCHCD Charles Amis and Pete Waterfield (pictured far left and far right) and 20 Squadron's Michaela Briley and Don Conboy (centre left and right), despite some quite impressive long range lip reading attempts by one team to try and gain an advantage.



The evening was rounded off with a presentation of medals to the winning team and a very heartfelt thank you from the Squadron for the £500 donation from WCHCD towards their adventure training weekend. Master Colin Evans in turn thanked the Squadron for hosting this event and all involved hope that this will be the first of many similar initiatives to come.

INTER LIVERY PANCAKE RACES AT THE GUILDHALL



The 2015 Pancake Race at the Guildhall took place on Shrove Tuesday, 17th February. This year's event took place in the Guildhall Yard by kind permission of the Chief Commoner – and the shone on the course.

Each team taking part consists of The Master, a Freeman and a Liveryman and a Lady from the Company. This year this was Master Malcolm Paice – running very bravely as he had not been well – Liveryman Divyesh Ruparelia and our Lady representative was Leigh Dargun, also a Liveryman of WCHCD.

Finally our runner in the Novelty Race was Freeman Mark Brown. The rules were a little more relaxed than in some previous year's – ladies were allowed to run wearing trousers whereas previously they had raced wearing skirts. The heats were fiercely fought and the rules were strict – a time penalty was

imposed on any team member who had not stopped and tossed their pancakes at the proper point.

A penalty was also imposed on anyone not ending the race wearing their chef's hats, and at the start all teams had to have on their Livery gown, their apron, their hat and gloves. In the case of the fancy dress race, gowns were not worn but the fancy dress had to be in keeping with the Lord Mayor's chosen charity for the year and the entrants were all judged for their costumes before their race began.

The Races began at 12 noon with a loud bang from the Gunmakers Company and the heats soon got underway. Although WCHCD did not win the coveted engraved frying pan prize this year, there is always next time! Everyone enjoyed the event and a large crowd was in the Guildhall Yard to watch the races, particularly as it was half term.

FROM THE EXAMINER'S POINT OF VIEW

The WCHCD Guide Course is still popular and students attend a course held at the Museum of London. At the end of the September 2015 course, Eddie Crossley joined the team who run the course to be an examiner for the practical section of the Guiding examination, which took place on Saturday 7th November.

A Past Master himself, Eddie enjoyed the day and sent the following report. "After the theory test at the Museum of London 22 students, four examiners, of which I was one, together with two of the course tutors - Graham Woodhouse and Dave Cannel - all met in the Guildhall Yard and divided up into two groups on a very wet and windy day."

"The guided tour started at the Guildhall and each student took it in turn to explain many of the different and historic buildings and places - 24 in all - in our great City. The weather was definitely against the students as it poured for most of the two-and-a-half hours walking tour. I was hesitant to accept the position as examiner, but Dave Cannel gave me a number of bullet points that should be mentioned at each place of interest we stopped at, which did help me to judge the knowledge of each student, but also I had to treat this day as a tourist and mark accordingly as to whether I would have paid for the tour not only for the vast amount of information explained but how the student put himself across to the public. For example, if he was audible, friendly and conscious of my safety when walking around the City, especially when crossing busy roads."

"I must comment on the excellent level of knowledge gained by the students in just eight weeks and put across in such a professional manner. Also mention must be made of the hard work and dedication of Graham Woodhouse and Dave Cannel for their time and effort to run these courses on behalf of our Company."

"After the tour had finished and our assessment papers had been handed to the tutors of the course, we all headed to the pub for a pint which was well-earned by all concerned. This gave me a chance to talk about WCHCD to inform and encourage the students on the course to join. I was pleased with the conversations I had as there was a positive response."

All the students passed their course this time and received the certificates and badges at the November Liverymen's Dinner.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2016

DINNERS AND LUNCHES

Thursday 3rd March Spring Court & Dinner, Saddlers' Hall
 Thursday 19th May Election Court & Lunch, Guildhall
 Friday 17th June Founders' Day Charity Lunch, HQS Wellington
 Wed 7th September Installation Court & Dinner, Haberdashers' Hall

OTHER COMPANY EVENTS

Date to be advised Driving Skills Competition, Regents Park Barracks
 Tuesday 9th February Pancake Race, Guildhall
 Friday 11 March United Guild Service, St Paul's Cathedral
 Friday 24 June Election of the Sheriffs, Guildhall 11.a.m.

Additional City and Company Events will be advised throughout the year, details will also be available on our website
www.hackneycarriagedriverscompany.com

JOIN THE 104 CLUB

Monies raised from the 104 Club go to the WCHCD Charity Trust. Those who join have the opportunity to win quarterly cash prizes, which in a year will equate to 30% of the money given.

Members of the Company, their families and friends can donate just £5 per month (paid quarterly) to join, and the more members who are enrolled, the bigger the prizes become. You do not have to belong to the WCHCD to join the 104 Club so why not get your family and friends to join and support our worthy causes.

Further details can be obtained from
 The Clerk, Mary Whitworth.



The Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers Charity Trust

Reg. No 1026395

104 Draw Club

Name _____

Draw Number(s) _____

Thank you for your generous support towards the work of the Charity Trust.
 The 104 Club Draw will take place quarterly in March, June, September and December.

Details of the winners will be published on the Company Website
www.hackneycarriagedriverscompany.com

The printing of this issue of the magazine was kindly sponsored by

MARTIN CORDELL & CO
 ACCOUNTANTS

The **CHILDREN'S MAGICAL** *Taxi Tour*

www.magicaltaxitour.com



Images-In-Print