



*THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF BASKETMAKERS*



# Griffin News

## Autumn 2010

*Welcome to this issue of Griffin News to keep you informed on some of the events going on in your Company.*

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## *Basketmakers' Autumn 2010 Newsletter*

### *Editorial*

It has been both a sad and exciting time for our Livery Company since the last issue of the Griffin News. Sad in so far as three members of the Court have been taken from us, as reported under 'Obituaries' in the Clerk's Office News. Exciting, as you will read on this page a new initiative entitled, "Willows 49 Project", has been instigated to encourage new members to join our Livery. The ability of the Company to get younger persons involved is essential to our future.

In April of this year I represented our Company at the end of winter celebrations in Zürich, the Sechseläuten, on the invitation of one of our Honorary Members, Raymond Porchet of the Letzi Guild. My wife, Julie and I will be leading a party of eight over to Zürich in November to celebrate another festival, their Martinimahl, also reported in the Clerk's Office News.

As I write this column it is hard to believe that Christmas is only a couple of months away, do I hear you say, "Don't mention Christmas." By the time you receive this edition of Griffin News the installation of our next Prime Warden on Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup> October, will soon be upon us. It hardly seems nearly a year has passed since our Prime Warden, Mike Stemp, took office! May I conclude by wishing you all an autumn of mellow fruitfulness and mulled wine?

### *Willow 49s Project*

This is the first of two articles relating to an initiative of our Prime Warden Mike Stemp. Mike asked Liverymen Keith Graham, Govind Kanagaratnam and Mark Cooper to form a working party to look into ways of encouraging new young members to join the Company and also to increase the involvement of our younger members in our Company's activities. I was asked to be the liaison between the working party to the Court via the General Purposes Committee. At our initial working party meeting, we mutually agreed to call the project **Willow 49s** in the recognition of the focus age group that we were addressing and, of course, also the traditional material used in basketmaking. Willow is of course young, flexible and strong!

Before thinking of the future, we thought that it was important to understand today what the younger members' perceptions and experiences were of our Company. We designed a survey specifically for those Liveryman and Freeman under the age of 49. Its design included a mixture of gathering specific data and also giving members ample opportunity to express their views on a number of questions. With the full support of our Clerk it was distributed via e-mail or post to 66 members and 18 completed surveys were returned. A return of only 30% of those sent out was initially considered disappointing by us particularly bearing in mind that it was a user friendly survey and the under 49s are the future of our Company. However, based on external commercial survey data we believe that a 30% return is apparently considered to be good.

All the returns have been collated into a report with recommendations from the working party. Due to the timing of General Purposes Committee meeting dates, they or the Court have not yet seen it but I thought that you would be interested in the above data:

We think there is some very interesting feedback in the data. In terms of the individual comments from participants, we have also learned a lot and they have been key influences in the working party recommendations that are going to be made in November to the General Purposes Committee and to the Court meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> December.

I will write an update article about the implementation of the **Willow 49s** project for the next edition of Griffin News, so Watch this space!!

Article by Peter Allen



## Reports From Our Three Service Affiliations

### *H.M.S. Richmond*

On the morning of 5 July rush hour traffic in London came to a stand-still as one of the Royal Navy's finest warships passed beneath Tower Bridge. HMS Richmond and her crew were visiting London for seven days to show-case the Royal Navy to the City of London and demonstrate the broad utility of a modern-day frigate. It also presented a cracking opportunity to re-invigorate the strong ties with our affiliates including the Worshipful Company of Basketmakers. During her stay, HMS Richmond had the privilege of being berthed outboard the HMS Belfast.

During her visit the Ship hosted many high-profile events over the course of the week and welcomed on board a number of VIP guests including the Prime Warden, Mike Stemp. By far, the highlight of the entire visit was for the Ship's Company to exercise their freedom of the Borough of Richmond-upon-Thames on 9 July. The Parade involved a short ceremony during which the Mayor, Councillor David Marlow, inspected a guard and three platoons from the Ship's Company totalling 96 Officers and Ratings. The ceremony took place outside the Town Hall before the Ship's Company marched through the streets of Richmond accompanied by a band from HM Royal Marines. The parade was well received by the public.

When the Ship returned home to Portsmouth, the Prime Warden was on board as one of our guests, along with Lady Hill Norton our Lady Sponsor. Prior to Summer Leave, the Ship hosted a visit from The Secretary of State for Defence, Dr Liam Fox, who embarked via the Ship's Merlin Helicopter spending a busy few hours on board, which included taking part in a Fire Exercise as well as helming one of the Ship's boats and firing some of the small arms weaponry.

August provided a well-earned rest for the Ship's Company as they enjoyed summer leave and time to spend with friends and family. On return to the Ship HMS Richmond went into a maintenance period in order to prepare for her new tasking - a deployment "East of Suez" in the New Year. Currently HMS Richmond and her crew are preparing for a period of sea training off the South coast prior to Christmas.



HMS Richmond passing Canary Wharf

Report by Lt. Kayleigh J. Wilson.

### *100 Yeomanry Regiment RA*

Lt. Col. Andy Brown is the new CO of 100 Regiment. Andy was commissioned into the Royal Regiment of Artillery in 1990. He has been deployed to Germany, Northern Ireland, and in 1994 completed 2 tours in the Balkans. After which he was based in Cyprus for 2 years, returning to Bosnia in 2001. He has completed his Masters and returned to HQ Cyprus.

Andy has also seen duty in Helmand province in Afghanistan before being appointed to 100 Reg. Liveryman Sir David Richards and I attended the regiment's camp at Sennybridge Brecon beacons as part of the polar express operation. Wet and Windy but thoroughly enjoyable. We were able to see firsthand the training programme in place and the activities associated with the course. One of which was the planned attack on a bunch of insurgents. The Group of Soldiers had been out all night and had to get within shooting distance of the activists, laying down smoke screens and decoy attacks from a different direction. All of which was very successful. The insurgents were removed. After talking to the men we adjourned to a tent for lunch out in the field. It was great fun, and the weather played its part in full.



Report by PW Mike Stemp

### *No.5 (Army Co-operation) Squadron*

The Squadron being fully deployed has had a busy year and the Association Reunion Weekend was delayed until 10th September.

The Prime Warden, Mike Stemp, together with Diane and I attended the Reunion and met many new and old friends. The Commanding Officer, Wing Commander Richard Barrow and members of his staff, had organised a somewhat different but nevertheless interesting and enjoyable weekend. Despite the weather being unsettled, a B-B-Q lunch was organised and a fly-past of several classic aircraft including an impressive display of a tandem-seater Spitfire Mk 9 that then landed and became a centerpiece display in the Squadrons hangar for the afternoon.



Tandem-seater Spitfire Mk. 9

Later that evening, the Squadron entertained us and other members of the Association with four Vignettes covering the history and outlining the distinguished service of the Squadron, focusing on the Mohawks in Burma, the Lightning during the height of the Cold War and the role of the Tornado F3 during the Iraq conflict. Two members of the Squadron then outlined the intelligence role during the current deployment and interestingly in manpower terms, the Squadron is the largest in The RAF. Report by

PPW Richard Bundock



## [Court News from the Clerk's Office](#)

### [Installation Day](#)

Following the great success of having an evening event for the Installation Day it has been decided to try this again in 2010. The annual service will take place on 20th October at 6.00pm at St Margaret Pattens and we will then process back to Skinners' Hall for the Installation of the new Prime Warden together with the new Upper and Under Wardens. This will then be followed by a dinner. Due to this change the Court meeting that would normally be held on that day will now be held on 1st December, prior to the Court Dinner.

### [Company Banner](#)

Some of you may have noticed that the Company Banner has recently been looking a little frayed around the edges! Not surprising when you think that it has been in constant use for over 60 years. Past Prime Warden Graham Redcliffe has kindly offered to pay for the restoration of the banner and the production of an improved storage container. Work is currently being done on the banner and we await its return with anticipation.

### [Charitable Trust](#)

As you will be aware the Company held an auction at the Summer Dinner and thanks to the generosity of those Members who donated some great prizes and those Members who bid for them, the Trust is now some £4,345 better off. Incidentally there is still time to sponsor Liveryman Richard Collis who is currently trying to reduce his weight and is looking for sponsors to raise some money for the Trust. His Pound for Pound scheme has already received numerous pledges but more are needed. Please contact the Clerk to offer your support.

### [Martinimahl](#)

This is the autumn festival in Zurich marking the start of the winter season and this year Past Prime Warden Norman Woolley will be leading a group of intrepid Basketmakers over there to join the Leitzli Guild in the celebrations – sore heads are guaranteed for all I gather.

### [Court Appointments](#)

At the April Court Liveryman Stephen Gee and Peter Rooke were elected as Assistants and will be installed at the Court meeting to be held on 1st December together with the new Stewards, Mrs. Christine Broomhead, Mrs. Edith Colston, Dr Ian Fifield and Kenneth McLachlan. We congratulate all on their appointment.

### [Obituaries](#)

We are very sad to report the deaths of three Members of the Court. Past Prime Warden "Ted" Hipkins who was the father of the Company having joined in 1945 and was Prime Warden in 1975. Past Prime Warden Geoffrey Rowley who was at one time the Town Clerk of the City of London. He had been a Member of the Company since 1971 and was Prime Warden in 1990. Assistant Malcolm Moss had been a Member of the Company since 1988 and who for the last 5 years had been Chairman of the Finance Committee."

## [Visit to the Cabinet War Rooms Museum in London](#)

On the 26<sup>th</sup> May a goodly number of members of the livery gathered for lunch at the Farmers Club, by kind permission of Liveryman Richard Collis. We enjoyed a finger buffet and several glasses of wine before making the 5 min. walk to the Cabinet War Rooms. Once inside we were equipped with our own voice guides which were most helpful. It was quite astonishing how much time had been paid to detail and the keeping of the original furnishings. Some of our more senior members remembered this time well, almost as if it were yesterday. It was good to see the father of the Company, the late Ted Hipkins present with the family members. This was a great day as the weather was co operative for a change.



## [441st Annual Banquet](#)

The Basketmakers' were again very fortunate in being allowed to hold their Annual Banquet at Mansion House and to have the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, together with the Sheriffs and their ladies as our guests. Over 260 people were present and it was encouraging to note that around a third of these were Members of the Company. Once again Past Prime Warden Richard Walduck generously invited the Yeoman to join in the evening and 5 of them were able to attend with their partners. Also present were representatives from our three affiliated services and the Officer Commanding from the Light Cavalry, HAC who provided a splendid Carpet Guard.

The Prime Warden proposed the Civic Toast, thanking the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress for all the hard work that they have done during their year to keep the profile of the City so high on the international and national stage. He was also able to present the Lady Mayoress with a beautiful picnic basket made by Melanie Carroll, one of our Yeomen. The Lord Mayor in responding paid tribute to the hard work that the Basketmakers' Company does to support the Mayoralty and the City and its various charities as well as encouraging and supporting the basketmaking trade. The Upper Warden, Peter Yarker welcomed all the guests on behalf of the Company and Sir Robert Nelson QC responded with a very witty and interesting speech which ended in his asking all those present to toast the Basketmakers Company and its Prime Warden.

As we had kept very much to time there was an opportunity for all those present to linger a while in the reception area and meet old friends before once more making their way home. A great evening was had by all and we look forward in anticipation to the 442nd Banquet next year!





Anthony ( Tony) JK Woodhead  
CBE FCA

## WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF BASKETMAKERS



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### Anthony (Tony) J K Woodhead CBE, FCA

As a Liveryman of the Basketmakers since 2006 I am honoured this year to have been appointed Master of the Guild of Freemen of the City of London. In that capacity I am following in the footsteps of the late Bunny Morgan (referred to in Griffin News Spring 2010, in the article about Past Prime Warden Graham Redcliffe). Bunny Morgan was both a Past Master of the Guild and a Past Prime Warden of the Basketmakers Company.

I was born in 1936 and educated at King Edward VII Grammar School, Sheffield. Also a member of the Scout movement and became a Queen's Scout in 1953.

On leaving school I started accountancy training in Sheffield, but in 1956 moved to London, and qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1958. After a few years I joined Peat Marwick Mitchell (now KPMG) and remained with them during my working career in a number of different roles.

I joined the Young Conservatives in 1958 and held many offices for the next few years in Woodford culminating in being Winston Churchill's YC Chairman. Subsequently I held office as Treasurer & Chairman of Wanstead & Woodford Conservative Association. From 1984 to 1990 I was Treasurer of Greater London Area Conservatives and also served on Party's National Union Executive and General Purposes Committee.

I was a General Commissioner of Income Tax 1977-2009, Governor and (part of the time) Chairman of both Redbridge College 1989 - 2008 and of a large comprehensive school in Redbridge 1978 -2008.

I became a Freeman of the City of London in 1989 and joined The Guild of Freemen of the City of London in 1993, becoming a Court Assistant in 2000. Subsequently advancing through the Warden positions I became Master for 2010-11.

I am also a Liveryman of The Worshipful Company of Tax Advisers, Member of Royal Society of St George (City of London Branch), United Wards Club, and Castle Baynard Ward Club.

Other current positions held are – Treasurer of The Churchill Centre-UK and Vice Chairman of Epping Forest Conservative Association. Other interests are Inland Waterway cruising in our boat, visiting National Trust properties, walking, and local Probus Club events.

Awarded CBE in Queen's Birthday Honours 1990 for political services.

I married Katy, MBE, in 1964 and we have one son, Nicholas.

### Forthcoming Events

#### 2010

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October Visit to Magic Circle

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October Installation Day, evening service and Livery Dinner at Skinners' Hall

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November Opening of Garden of Remembrance, St. Paul's  
Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November Lord Mayor's Show, lunch Farmers and Fletchers' Hall

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November Stewards' Club Dinner, Imperial Hotel

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November Basket Making Day, Royal National Hotel

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> December Court meeting & Court Dinner, Skinners' Hall

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December Carol Service St. Margaret Pattens, supper at Waterman's Hall

#### 2011

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January Court Meeting & Livery Dinner, Skinners' Hall

February Visit to Bank of England Museum - Date to be confirmed

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March Basket Making Day, Royal National Hotel

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March Inter-Livery Pancake Races

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March Inter-Livery Bowling Competition

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April United Guilds Service, Lunch at Skinner's Hall

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April Court meeting & Livery Dinner, Skinners' Hall

