



# THE FUELLER

ISSUE No.5

JANUARY 1995

Registered at Stationers' Hall

## Installation Dinner Merchant Taylors' Hall

Approaching 100 members and guests supported Master William Pybus at his Installation Dinner which followed immediately after his Installation on Wednesday 5th October 1994 at Merchant Taylors' Hall.

The evening commenced in the Court Room where Master Paul Glover welcomed members and guests and gave a report on his year of office. While he regretted our absence from the magnificent Livery Exhibition he was

The new Wardens and Master read and signed their respective declarations and were invested with their robes and jewels of office. Our new Beadle, John Langston, proudly announced 'Your Master, Mr William Pybus' which had the acclaim of the assembled company.

The guests of honour at Dinner included Sir Peter Parker and Captain David Newberry RN of HMS Daedalus. The proceedings concluded with the ceremony of The Loving Cup.



Master William Pybus greeting Captain David Newberry RN - Installation Dinner, Wednesday 5th October 1994.

encouraged to report that 23 new freemen had joined the Company, including representatives from Gas, Electricity, Nuclear, Energy Conservation and Consumer Protection bodies.

Past Master John Boddy formally presented a silver loving cup to the Company to commemorate both his own year as Master and the long association of the Boddy family with the Coal Industry.



Junior Warden Edward Wilkinson greeting Sir Peter Parker - Installation Dinner, Wednesday 5th October 1994.

## The Fueller

The Court has recently reviewed the first year of the Worshipful Company of Fuellers publication 'The Fueller'.

It noted that within a couple of months of the appearance of its first issue the Company was receiving letters and comments of congratulations and the publication was Registered at Stationers' Hall.

Readers may like to know that The Fueller, which has a print run of only 300 copies, is distributed to all Liverymen and Freemen of the Company and is sent, free of charge, to the Mansion House, the Guildhall Library and to all Clerks of the other City Livery Companies plus a number of other useful contacts in and around the City.

Following the encouraging response, from both within the Company and other recipients, the Court has decided to formalise the publication of 'The Fueller' and publish it on a more regular basis.

In future instead of producing an issue 'as and when we have something to say' we are committing ourselves to issuing 3 copies, spread evenly through the year.

These will be distributed towards the end of the months of January, May and September.

We will continue to welcome comments, suggestions and contributions which, of course, should be directed through the Clerk.

# Fuellers Prize Winner 1994

## Petty Officer Paula Price



Master Paul Glover presenting Petty Officer Paula Price with the Fuellers Prize - HMS Daedalus, Friday 23rd September 1994.

Paula Price joined the Royal Navy in 1987 as a Wren (Quarters Assistant). After serving in a number of establishments in UK she was rated Leading Wren and completed three years managing accommodation in a Joint Service organisation in SHAPE, Belgium.

Paula is an outstanding young Petty Officer whose 'nothing is too much trouble' approach to her work has earned her considerable respect amongst her colleagues and superiors. She has used her considerable tact and determination to overcome a number of challenges in her everyday work and has been much to the fore in organising social and fund raising activities.

She provided particularly valuable service to HMS Daedalus during the busy period surrounding the D-Day 50th anniversary commemorations. This required extensive co-operation with the

other Services, and civilian organisations, in order to ensure accommodation was provided for the many visitors and temporary augmentees, as well as considerable perseverance and flexibility in acquiring furniture to re-equip out-of use blocks.

Her outstanding recent achievement has been the successful creation of a day nursery for children of people working at HMS Daedalus, using space in the former PO Wrens' Quarters. Paula was the driving force behind this project which she managed to get up -and running in six months from its inception.

As well as putting in many hours of work in procuring at low cost a range of necessary equipment, Paula drafted the contract for the agency staffing the nursery and conducted all the staff interviews.

## Michael George Locket

It is with sorrow that we record the passing of Michael Locket a loyal supporter of this Company since its inception.

Michael was the fourth generation of his family to enter the coal distributive trade and was one of those special characters that you come across so rarely in life. Everyone who knew him will always remember all that he so proudly stood for.

His life long connections with the Coal Trade are known to us all and have been recorded elsewhere. However his involvement with the armed services, and especially the Special Air Service, are less well documented.

Michael left his school, Downside, at 18 in 1941 to join the Army. Unlike his contemporaries he decided, for a variety of reasons, not to join the Irish Guards but chose instead to serve in the Sherwood Foresters. This tendency not to 'join the crowd' was a distinguishing mark which set him apart from time to time throughout his life. He liked to be thought of as being 'a bit of a rebel'.

Having been commissioned in the Foresters in 1943 he found himself, at quite a young age, instructing, as a Captain, at a Battle school run by the 76th Division. Not unnaturally he felt somewhat embarrassed instructing much older officers in techniques in which he was not truly qualified, if at all.

Getting a posting away might have proved difficult but, again perhaps swimming against the crowd, he discovered that if he was prepared to drop a rank and volunteer for airborne duties he might be able, in his own words 'to do a bit of proper soldering'.

A chance meeting with a Major in the SAS gave him the

# TRADITIONS OF CITY OF LONDON LIVERY COMPANIES

## NUMBER 2 - THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF BAKERS



Michael George Locket

opportunity he wished for and he was transferred to the 1st SAS on 9th July 1944. He served with the regiment, of which he was always extremely proud, in North West Europe and more especially 'The Battle of the Bulge'.

Michael also went to Norway with 1st SAS in company with the 1st Air Landing Light Regiment to accept the surrender of 350,000 German troops. As the entire British force numbered under 6,000 the operation required considerable coolness and confidence.

He always claimed that the three months he spent in Norway in the late spring and summer of 1945 was the best holiday he ever had, as a bachelor, in his life.

After the 1st SAS was disbanded served for a short spell in the North German Coal Control. He used to say that he learnt two important things during that time which became very valuable with the advent of Nationalisation and his future dealings with the National Coal Board. They were how to handle the frustrations of bureaucracy and the value of friends.

His main interests, apart from work, which he found tedious, were the Coal Trade Benevolent Association and horse racing. Luckily he was able to continue these two interests after he retired.

He married Helen Mary Hibberdine in 1949, who predeceased him. His son, John Locket, survives him.

Ever mindful of the need both to continue and create traditions the Court of the Company of Bakers, with the approaching completion of the Company's fourth Hall on the present site, decided in July 1963 to appoint a special committee to formulate a ceremony for the Annual Rent Giving to the Lessor. The previous Hall had been destroyed in a bombing raid during the night of 29th December 1940.



The Committee based the Ceremony on the past ceremonial of the ancient Bakers' Court of Halimote which could trace its existence back to the thirteenth century. Originally this Court was responsible for ensuring that bread was of the size, quality and standard specified by the Assise of Bread regulations laid down by the City Authorities. Petty offenses were dealt with by the Court and more serious ones, after thorough investigation, were passed to the City Courts. The Company of Bakers held the Right of Assise until 1815.

The new annual Ceremony of Rent Giving takes place in Bakers' Hall on Midsummers Day when the Master, Wardens and Members of the Livery and Freemen of the Company appoint a Court of Jurors. This is led by the Senior Past Master present who is appointed the Foreman and presented with a sword, a symbolic 'fair large knife', as a badge of office. The Junior Assistant present is appointed the Examiner for the occasion.

The aim of the Ceremony is to examine in every way samples of bread so that a great 'Festival' white loaf, 2 further white loaves and three brown loaves can be presented to the Lessor, or his representative, as rent for the

ensuing year. The 6 loaves, all supplied by staff and students of the National Bakery School, are each of a specific type thus maintaining the various craft skills practised during the Middle Ages.

The Ceremony is also an occasion to enhance the association with the National Bakery School with whom the Company has close links, particularly in the sponsorship of students and the granting of bursaries and awards. The examining and weighing of the loaves is undertaken in the full presence of all in the Hall and there is much encouragement, jollity and comment while the work is being carried out.

At the conclusion of the examination the Foreman reports to the Master that:- 'We have examined the great 'Festival' loaf set before you, made for the honour of this occasion, set with the Arms of the Company. We have weighed the five Common loaves upon the scales of the Company and have found them to be of just weight. Of all the loaves we report them to be of dough well mixed, properly fermented, correctly moulded and well risen, of good texture and properly baked in accordance with the best traditions of the Mysterie of Bakers.'

The gathering accepts the report of the Foreman and then the Master and Wardens formally describe the different types of loaf and present them to the Lessor indicating they are:- 'of honest weight and quality' and 'are samples of the bread that has been baked through the ages, in full and final satisfaction of rent for the coming year.' The Ceremony concludes with the sealing of the bargain by the drinking of the Loving Cup.



# CITY AND COMPANY DIARY OF EVENTS

1995



Thursday 26th January	Hospitality & Entertainment Committee and Court Meeting Hobart House	Wednesday 31st May	Evening Visit and Supper Tower Bridge
Thursday 23rd March	Hospitality & Entertainment Committee and Finance & General Purpose Committee Meetings Bridge Wharf	Saturday 3rd June	Livery Day Ironbridge Gorge Museum
Friday 31st March	United Guilds Service St Paul's Cathedral	Wednesday 14th June	Court Meeting & Court Luncheon Cavalry & Guards Club
Thursday 27th April	Election Court Meeting Watermen's Hall Divine Service - St. Mary-at-Hill Livery Luncheon Watermen's Hall	Monday 26th June TBA July	Election of Sheriffs, Guildhall Visit to Royal Tournament Earls Court
Wednesday 10th May	Divine Service with Builders Merchants Company Chapel Royal Tower of London	Thursday 10th August	Hospitality & Entertainment Committee and Finance & General Purposes Committee Meetings Bridge Wharf
		Friday 29th September	Election of Lord Mayor Guildhall - Court Meeting
		Wednesday 11th October	Installation Ceremony & Installation Luncheon Mansion House

For further details of Company events please contact Wg Cdr H C F Squire OBE, The Clerk of the Company of Fuellers, 4 Maycross Avenue, MORDEN, Surrey SM4 4DA. Telephone: 0181-543 9446.

## Coal Tax Posts

There are currently 219 Coal Tax Posts around London although over 250 such posts, covering five counties around London, were in place around 1890. Most were erected under the London Coal & Wine Duties Act of 1861 although some go back to the seventeenth century or earlier.

The Corporation of the City of London exercised the right to measure coal since medieval times and the collection of fees for weighing and measuring meant that the City could raise extra revenue for public works.

Up to the end of the 18th century all coal was brought to London by sea and the duties were payable before unloading commenced. When the canals and railways were constructed, in the nineteenth century, revised arrangements were introduced for collecting the

duties brought in by them.

Boundary marks were set up and the duty had to be paid on coal taken past them. The onus for paying the duty was on the Coal Merchant receiving the coal, though the City appointed collectors to receive the duty.

Some of the monies went to the rebuilding of St Paul's and churches destroyed during the Great Fire of London. From 1767 taxes were used for roads and other improvements, including rebuilding Blackfriars Bridge and building Holborn Viaduct.

In 1861 the boundaries were brought into line with those of the Metropolitan Police Districts and in 1862 the duties were transferred to the Metropolitan Board of Works which carried out more improvements including a vast drainage scheme.

## New Liverymen and Freemen

The following new Freemen were received into the Company at the Court Meetings held on Thursday 29th September 1994 and Thursday 26th January 1995

**Dennis JOYNSON**

**Riccardo DI MASCIO**

**James Clifford WRIGHT**

We all look forward to meeting and welcoming them during our activities over the coming months.

This publication is produced and distributed by the Worshipful Company of Fuellers. Comments on this edition are welcomed and should be directed to The Editor, "The Fueller", c/o 4 Maycross Avenue, MORDEN, Surrey SM4 4DA. Telephone: 0181-543 9446.