



# THE FUELLER

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Registered at Stationers' Hall

## Welcome Support for Mansion House Lunch



*This formal group, taken at the Mansion House Lunch, comprises, left to right: David R T Waring JP, Senior Warden; Kay MacLeod; The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor, Alderman Richard Nichols; Colin J MacLeod, Master; June Garner, and Alderman David Howard MA, Sheriff.*

It takes a great deal of time and effort for a small Livery to organise a function in the splendid setting of the Mansion House. Congratulations are therefore due to all concerned that the Fuellers Company were able to seat 168 members and guests at the Livery Luncheon on the 30th of March.

The event was preceded by Divine Service in St Michaels, Cornhill, attended by the Master, Colin Macleod; Senior Warden, David Waring; Past Masters; Members of the Court of Assistants, and members and their guests. The congregation listened to a stirring address by the Chaplain to the Company, the Reverend Basil Watson, before walking the short distance to the Mansion House.

The top table guests included The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor, Alderman R Nichols and his wife; the Sheriff, Alderman D Howard; Mr J E Ratcliffe, Master, Worshipful Company of Carmen; Mr G C Bond, Master, Worshipful Company of Glaziers; Mr R Paice, Master, Worshipful Company of Pattenmakers; Mr I W Menzies, Master, Worshipful Company of Arbitrators, and Commodore J Clayden, HMS Sultan.

After a splendid lunch, members and their guests turned to listen to the several speeches, which included a toast to the guests by the Senior Warden, David Waring, followed by the response by the Rt Hon The Lord Mayor, Alderman Richard Nichols.

The final response was made by The Master, Colin MacLeod, who took the immediate opportunity to say how pleased he was to see the presence of the Reverend Basil Watson after his long illness. He then congratulated the new Junior Warden, Brian Harrison, upon his election, especially in view of his responsibility of leading the company, as Master, into the Millennium.

During the course of his address he also spoke of the contraction of the UK coal industry, a situation which had deeply affected everyone involved in the fuel sector. However, the Fuellers Company and the Coal Trade Benevolent Association owed much to one of the participants in the lunch, Richard Budge, who had supported both organisations - apart from struggling to maintain what was left of the British coal industry.

Mr MacLeod then expressed the Company's thanks to the Past Master, Michael Bryer Ash, for his splendid donation of the Masters Goblet. This vessel was an exact replica of the Ridges Cup, presented to the Skinners Company in 1327 to commemorate their first charter.

At this point, Mr Bryer Ash rose to make the formal presentation of the goblet. He observed that the occasion had added significance inasmuch that his mother was in lineal descent of Sir Crispin Gascoyne, a brewer, who would no doubt have approved of the choice of a drinking chalice. He was the first Lord Mayor of London to occupy the Mansion House in 1753, after it was built.

Mr Bryer Ash then referred to one of the Lord Mayor's chosen charities - The British Diabetic Association. It so happened that his son was a research scientist working in America on the development of new therapies for the disease, and a possible cure. Aware that the Lord Mayor's son had diabetes, Mr Bryer Ash's son had written to the Mayor assuring him that whilst much remained to be done, tremendous strides were being made, both in juvenile and adult onset diabetes, and also in the development of new therapies. The charitable appeals and fund raising activities, promoted by those in such influential positions as the Lord Mayor, were vitally important to the global research community in this field.

The Master then continued the formal proceedings with an account of why Warrant Officer M Sedgley of HMS Sultan had been nominated as the sole recipient of this year's Fuellers Prize. He then invited W O Sedgley to come forward to be presented with the Daedalus medallion by the Lord Mayor.

During the course of his final remarks, the Master thanked the Company's participants in the "City Dip '98", and especially Jane Ayre for organising the initiative which had raised over £1,000 for the Lord Mayor's Appeal.

# Art Underfoot - The London Coal Plate



**G**enerations of art students have been attracted to the multiplicity of designs cast into the surface of one of London's most ubiquitous items of street furniture - the coal plate cover. The cast-iron plates set into the pavement fronting many Victorian properties still bear witness to the huge quantities of coal once used for commercial and domestic heating. Each coal plate gave access to the chute which fed fuel into the cellar of the property.

The designers of the plates, most likely the patternmakers at the foundries which produced the items, could not resist embellishing the surfaces with an astonishing diversity of patterns. As a result, every imaginable design was employed - concentric circles, sunbursts, stars, lattice-work, snow

crystals and even flowers. It is said that more than 150 different versions are to be found in Central London.

Many coal-plate covers - although by no means all - carry the name of the ironmonger or foundry which supplied the item. Yet others are perforated with ventilation holes - often part of the design - or, more rarely, are inset with discs of green glass to light the chute beneath.

As Victorian houses are refurbished or swept away as a result of redevelopment, coal plates are fast disappearing. Even so, there are many examples to be found in the City of London, despite the wartime destruction and waves of new development. For example, the Basinghall Street entrance of the Guildhall is flanked by two such plates and the large office building,

BNZ House (1912) fronting the Guildhall, in Gresham Street, has no fewer than four inset with hexagonal glass panes.

Lest it be thought that this decoration of coal plates is an isolated example of a bygone folk-art, look again at their close cousins, the manhole cover. Throughout the world - America, India, China, Australia - designers have not been able to resist the temptation of ornamenting the surface of such prosaic items - past and present.

Perhaps the culmination of this art form is to be found in Japan where covers bear portrayals of birds in flight, mountain scenes and banks of flowers, all fully illuminated in vitreous-enamel colours.



## Fuellers Prize for 1998 awarded to Warrant Officer Sedgley

Warrant Officer Sedgley, attached to the Air Engineering and Survival Department of HMS Sultan, was the recent recipient of the Fuellers Prize for 1998. In the citation supporting his recommendation it was said that he epitomised all the finest attributes required of a senior naval non-commissioned officer. His undiminished enthusiasm, outstanding managerial skills, and inspiring leadership are exercised in a pleasant and businesslike manner, as a result of which he is respected, appreciated and trusted. Professionally, he displays the highest levels of devotion to duty and personal standards, with a natural ability to get things done, invariably with outstanding results. Always keeping situations in their true perspective, he has a warm sense of humour, a sensitive nature, and a prodigious reputation for fairness, honesty and helpfulness.

After detailing his work in charitable, administrative and youth group enterprises, it goes on to say that his natural leadership qualities, adaptability and cooperation are always evident. Furthermore, his dealings with outside agencies are a credit to the establishment.

This glowing account of Warrant Officer Sedgley's attributes given at the recent Livery Luncheon at the Mansion House caused the Master, Colin MacLeod, to ask Mrs Sedgley how she could live with such a paragon!

## A Relic of the Coal Trade

A chance remark by Past Master Michael Bryer Ash to the effect that he had been associated with Toomers, the Reading coal merchants rang a bell. A search of the Editor's attic unearthed a long-forgotten relic of the company's horse-drawn delivery round - the wooden pattern for a drag. Some of our older members might just remember the cast-iron brake-shoes, or drags which dangled from looped chains under the delivery waggon - and indeed from all horse-drawn vehicles. These artifacts were dropped in front of the wheels to provide braking on steep hills, or to prevent the cart being moved. The wheel would ride up on the drag, providing sliding friction against the road surface.

This wooden pattern, with the name "Toomer" inserted on the sole with lead letters, was used by the iron foundry to produce the coal merchant's order for drags - an expendable commodity. The castings were made by a country foundry, Hedges of Bucklebury, who held several different-sized Toomer patterns of this design



*This wooden pattern was used to produce cast-iron braking shoes for Toomers, the Reading coal merchants.*

# Fuellers Dip Deep for Lord Mayor's Appeal



The Fuellers team at this year's City Dip comprised, left to right, Andrew Ayre, Julia Cloke, Jane Ayre, Lorna O'Neill, and Marjorie McCombe.

Five enthusiastic swimmers, representing the Worshipful Company of Fuellers, participated earlier this year in the City Dip, one of the Lord Mayor's charity events. The team, led by Jane Ayre, included Julia Cloke, Lorna O'Neill, Andrew Ayre, and Marjorie McCombe. Each sponsored individual elected to swim a kilometre in the pool within the Golden Lane leisure Centre, on the

perimeter of the Barbican Centre. In total, the team raised £1,202.28p for the Lord Mayor's chosen charities - The British Diabetic Association and The NCH Action for Children.

This is the first time that the Fuellers, as a body, have taken part in one of the Lord Mayor's charity events. Jane, the prime mover in the project, has expressed her appreciation of the generosity of both members of the Company and the many other friends who sponsored the swim. Congratulations are also due to the young people who took part, and who raised £40 on their own account.

The culmination of the event took place at the recently Livery Luncheon at the Mansion House, when the Lord Mayor, Alderman R Nichols was photographed handing the City Dip certificates to Jane Ayre and Marjorie McCombe.



The Fuellers team being briefed before embarking on their one-kilometre swim.



Swimming for £1,200 were Marjorie McCombe, foreground, and Andrew Ayre.

## The Master's Goblet

The Master's Goblet, recently presented to the Worshipful Company of Fuellers by the Past Master, Michael Bryer Ash is a faithful replica of the Ridges Cup. This rare goblet was originally given to the Skinners' Company upon the granting of their first charter in 1327. The Skinners' formerly controlled the fur trade. They acquired their wealth through supplying furs to the upper classes, the wearing of which was a reflection of their dignity and position. The Skinners', it may be recalled, occupy 6th and 7th positions, in order of precedence, on alternate years, with the Merchant Taylors' Company.



The Master's Goblet, recently presented to the Fuellers' Company by Michael Bryer Ash. The gift is a faithful replica of the Ridges Cup of 1327.

Michael Bryer Ash's gift was made some 70 years ago by the Silversmiths and Goldsmiths. It is engraved on one side with the arms of the Fuellers' Company and on the reverse with the words "The Worshipful Company of Fuellers". Around the base of the vessel is engraved "Presented by Michael Bryer Ash, Master, 1995-1996".

## Award to Frances Alger

The retirement of Frances Alger, our Assistant Clerk, was marked by the presentation of a modest token of the Company's esteem. Frances took up her position in October 1990. She was both Assistant Clerk to the Fuellers' and Clerk to the Coal Meters Committee. Frances, and her husband Derrick, were invited to a Burn's Supper at the Caledonian Club earlier this year, an occasion which provided the opportunity of handing her a small gift - a pair of binoculars - in recognition of her loyal service to the Company. Frances enjoyed her task. In her own words, it brought her into contact with many charming and interesting people who she might never have met, but for her day-to-day responsibilities - and it gave her a fascinating insight into the City of London's history and its present role.

## New Commodore for HMS Sultan

HMS Sultan has a new Commodore. The Company welcomed Commodore John Clayden to the recent Livery Luncheon, at the Mansion House.

John joined the Navy as a cadet in 1963. His early training years were spent at BRNC Dartmouth; at sea in HMS London, Opportune and Renown, and at RNEC Manadon and ARTE Dounreay to obtain a London University Degree, and a Nuclear Submarine qualification.

Submarine appointments followed: AMEO in HMS Warspite for a Chatham refit, HMS Onslaught as MEO and HMS Warspite again, this time as MEO for post-fire repair, deployment and second refit, balanced in between two years as the University Training Officer at BRNC Dartmouth. Promoted to

Commander in 1982, he joined HMS Turbulent for her build in Barrow, survived the JSDC and served as Head of the Reactor Design Section, DGSM/SM612, and as MEO of the Second Submarine Squadron. In 1989, London beckoned and he joined DNOA(E) as the ME Appointer.

Promoted to Captain in 1991, he joined DGSR as the Submarine Project Manager and had a close involvement in the formation of the submarine support element of the NSC before becoming the Chief Staff Officer (Engineering) to Flag Officer Submarines in 1994. He was appointed an Aide-de-Camp to Her Majesty the Queen in 1998.

The Fuellers' Company wish him every success in his future career.

## Fuellers attend Divine Service in the Tower of London



*This photograph, taken at the reception at Trinity House, includes left to right, Brian Harrison, and Gerry and Christine Garwood, in conversation with a member of the Builders Merchants Company.*

Nine representatives of the Worshipful Company of Fuellers recently attended the Annual Divine Service at St. Peter ad Vincula, within the Tower of London. This event was organised by the Worshipful Company of Builders Merchants. The service was conducted, and the sermon preached by the Builders Merchants' Honourary Chaplain, the Reverend Paul Abram. The highlight, for many of the congregation, was the opportunity to listen to the Choir of the Chapel Royal.

The service concluded, members and guests from both liveries walked the short distance to Trinity House for a reception and supper.

The Fuellers were led by the Junior Warden, Vaughan Williams. The party also included Brian Harrison, Junior Warden Elect; the Clerk, Simon Lee, the Assistant Clerk, Ralph Riley; Jane Ayre; Roger Cloke; Gerry and Christine Garwood, and Mac McCombe.

The party were impressed by the grandeur of the setting within Trinity House. The building was built in 1793-6 to the designs of Samuel Wyatt. Like many other sites in the City, the structure was bombed in the Second World War, being rebuilt in 1953 behind the 18th Century facade which had survived the destruction.



*Taken at the reception at Trinity House were, left to right, Roger Cloke; Ralph Riley; a Past Master of the Builders Merchants, and Simon Lee.*

## Tracing our Past

Although the Worshipful Company of Fuellers, in its present form, only received Livery Status in 1984, it can trace its history, indirectly, back to the Woodmongers Company which existed in the 14th Century. Readers who are interested in learning more about the ancestry of the Company and its relationship with the other bodies involved in the London coal trade may gain a fascinating insight into the past from the following publications:

The Worshipful Company of Fuellers - an Introduction; a pamphlet published by the Company.

The Livery Company of Woodmongers & Coalsellers and The Society of Coal Merchants, 1376-1979; a booklet published by the Society of Coal Merchants, 1979, 20 pp.

R. S. Brown; Digging for History in the Coal Merchants' Archives - The History of the Society of Coal Merchants; published by the Society of Coal Merchants, 1988, 68 pp.

R. Smith; Sea-Coal for London - A History of the Coal Factors in the London Market, published by the Coal Factors Society, 1961, Longmans; 388 pp.

## CITY AND COMPANY DIARY OF EVENTS - 1998

Month	Day/Date	Time	Event	Venue	Attendance
June	Saturday 13th	10.00	Court Meeting	Carlton House, Newark, Notts	Court
	Saturday 13th	11.30	Company Barbecue	Carlton House, Newark, Notts	Court/Livery/Freemen
	Wednesday 24th	12.00	Election of Sheriffs	Guildhall	Court/Livery
	Wednesday 24th	13.30	Lunch	Stationers Hall	Court/Livery and Ladies
July	3rd - 5th	-	Weekend Trip	Alderney	Court/Livery/Freemen
August	Wednesday 19th	10.00	H & E Ctte	Bridge Wharf	Committee
	Wednesday 19th	11.30	F & GP Ctte	Bridge Wharf	Committee
September	Tuesday 29th	12.00	Election of Lord Mayor	Guildhall	Court/Livery
	Tuesday 29th	13.30	Lunch	Stationers Hall	Court/Livery and Ladies
	Tuesday 29th	15.15	Court Meeting	Wax Chandlers Hall	Court
October	Thursday 15th	18.15	Installation Ceremony	Armourers Hall	Court/Livery/Freemen
	Thursday 15th	19.15	Installation Dinner	Armourers Hall	Court/Livery/Freemen
November	Saturday 14th	10.45	Lord Mayors Show	City of London, St. Pauls	Court/Livery/Freemen
December	Thursday 17th	18.00	Livery Company Carol Service	St. Mary-at-Hill	Court/Livery/Freemen
	Thursday 17th	19.00	Carol Service Supper	Bakers Hall	Court/Livery/Freemen

The above dates are correct at the time of going to press

This publication is produced and distributed by the Worshipful Company of Fuellers. Comments on this edition and suggestions for inclusion in future issues are welcomed and should be directed to :

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