



THE FUELLER

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The Official Journal of The Worshipful Company of Fuellers

Registered at Stationers' Hall

To the Clyde and back

It all seems long ago that the Fuellers were invited to join the officers and crew of RFA Wave Knight, our newest military affiliation, on a voyage from Portland to the Clyde and return. The objective, last summer, was to assess the ship's magnetic signature.

Wave Knight, with a crew of 80, has a gross displacement of 23,294 tonnes and is powered by an Alstrom 14 MW propulsion unit. The Fueller's party consisted of David Bell, at that time Senior Warden; Michael Husband, then Junior Warden; John Bainbridge, Michael Byrne, Court Assistant and his brother, Nigel Byrne; Rex Rose and his wife Shirley, and their friends, Mr and Mrs Peter Grabowski.

Wave Knight embarked from Portland at 10.00 am on a quite beautiful morning, passing the length of the West Country on route for Lands End. Our first exercise was to become familiar with the "abandon ship routine", together with a briefing from the Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Operating Officer. We were advised that the ship, during its voyage, was pretty much "teetotal". This presented the Fuellers' group with something of a challenge, as they had brought aboard two polypins of local Kentish ale, called appropriately Spitfire to share with the vessel's Officers.

Tuesday saw the ship sailing up the Irish sea, again in quite beautiful weather. The main part of the day was taken up with a detailed visit to the engine room, which provided an opportunity to examine the component parts at first hand. Early arrival at our destination, Loch Striven, allowed plenty of time for the crew to complete the intricate tasks which were the objective of the mission. Guiding a ship of 23,000 tonnes over a small target, at a range of speeds up to 16 knots, was a task which could raise the hairs on the back of your neck!. The sea loch where the trials took place was particularly narrow with the added hazard of small boat traffic. To the visitors, the tests seemed to involve quite amazing feats of seamanship by the Captain and his Officers. After the trials were completed, the Fuellers were provided with a demonstration of the armaments carried as back-up, in the event of the ship being attacked.

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Photographed during the voyage to the Clyde were, left to right, Court Member Michael Byrne, Executive Officer Andy Gudgeon, Captain Ian Pilling and Master David Bell.



View from the bridge as RAF Wave Knight enters the Clyde.

Jessica Bell

Members of the company were shocked to learn of the sudden death of Jessica Bell, the Master's wife on Sunday 17 February. Jessica was very supportive of David as he undertook his duties as Almoner of our Livery and then later as Junior and Senior Warden. And like David, she was looking forward to participating in what was likely to be a most memorable year. She had already made her mark on social occasions as an elegant, glamorous personality with an impeccable taste in dress. She was also an amusing and intelligent conversationalist and made many friends amongst the partners of our Members. The respect and high regard in which Jessica was held was reflected in the funeral service at St Mary Magdelene church in Albrighton, attended by more than 300 people. The Fuellers' Company were represented by the Senior and Junior Wardens, Members of the Court, including Several Past Masters, Liverymen, and their respective partners.

To the Clyde and back

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After a special circuit around Ailsa Craig for the benefit of John Bainbridge, we then commenced our return journey to Portland. During our penultimate day, we were given the opportunity, under supervision, to take turns in steering, thereby learning at first hand the challenges involved in keeping the ship on a steady course for many hours during an RSA (Replenishment at Sea). Captain Ian Pilling had been concerned at the start of the voyage that the Fuellers' party might find it difficult not being bored. However, the participants found the reverse to be true. During each day, there was the opportunity to explore all parts of the ship, from stem to stern and from the bridge to the bilges. At the same time, our number were continually fascinated and intrigued by the detailed descriptions of the Wave Knight operation by the vessel's Officers and Crew.

The evenings were taken up by dinner with the Officers and our attempts not to leave our hosts with unwanted beer! On the final evening, the latter task was taken too seriously, resulting in a male-voice choir on the stern singing all the songs they had learned in their misspent youth. Regrettably, the participants subsequently learnt that their songs had travelled, via the air conditioning system, around the entire ship.

Friday morning saw our party arrive back at Portland, where we took our leave of our many new friends aboard RAF Wave Knight.

As a Company, we look forward to an ongoing and mutually-rewarding association with RAF Wave-Knight and its Crew.

Michael Husband

* A recommended book for those with an interest in the RAF is "No Sea to Roogh" by Geoff Puddefoot



Senior Warden Michael Husband imagines that he is in complete control of RAF Wave Knight, watched by Master David Bell.



Amateur matelots under instruction; left to right are Peter Grabowski; Nigel Byrne; Michael Husband; David Bell; Operations Officer Tony Day, and Michael Byrne.



Senior Warden Michael Husband presents Captain Ian Pilling with a Fuellers' baseball cap bearing the Company crest.

Fuellers and Water Conservators join in enjoyable carol service

One of the last events in 2007 was the annual carol service, held jointly with the Worshipful Company of Water Conservators, in the Church of St Michael's, Cornhill. The Company's Chaplain, the Rev Dr Peter Mullen was at hand to greet the members of the two Liveries who sat, rather like guests at a wedding, Water Conservators to the left, Fullers to the right. The Church choir under the direction of Jonathan Rennert sang "Hosanna to the Son of David" as the Masters and Wardens walked in procession to their pews. The congregation joined in the singing of well-loved carols with good voice, led by the Choir. The six readings were given by the Masters and Wardens and the seventh by the Chaplain. After the carol service, the two companies adjourned to the City University Club for supper preceded by mulled wine; the Chaplain said grace before the meal. It proved, as ever, a very happy and friendly occasion.

Jane Ayre

Fuellers have fun, but score zero, in Pancake Race

By now, the annual Pancake Race, held in the Guildhall Yard, has become an established event in the Livery calendar. Once again, the Fuellers were one of the participants, fielding a team which included the Master, David Bell, Senior Warden Michael Husband, Court Member Michael Byrne and Paula Pantaney. Sadly, the Fuellers failed to secure a place, but had a great deal of fun.



Participants in the Fourth Pancake Race were, left to right, Senior Warden Michael Husband; Paula Pantaney; Court Member Michael Byrne and Master David Bell.

Armourers' Hall was venue for Ladies' Dinner

The historic Armourers' Hall was the setting for the first social event of the year, the Ladies' Dinner. This occasion, previously known as the "Valentine's Dinner", provides the Master with the opportunity to thank the wives and partners of



Enjoying the evening were, left to right, Court Member Stuart Goldsmith, Immediate Past Master Nigel Draffin and Past Master Doug Barrow.

Court Members for their support over the previous year. The guest of honour and speaker on the evening was The Venerable Peter Delaney, Archdeacon of London. The Dinner attendance numbered 36. The event also provided the opportunity for the Master to admit Ms Jennifer Ann Bonathan as a Freeman of the Company.



Left, Master David Bell in conversation with Neville Chamberlin and his wife Joy.



Left, the speaker for the evening, The Venerable Peter Delaney, Archdeacon of London, in conversation with Bill and Eileen Pretswell.



The Master, David Bell, photographed with Pam Boddy.



Mrs Christine Draffin, left, photographed with Mrs Elinor Goldsmith.

Drapers' Hall provided glittering setting for Installation Dinner

The Installation Court Dinner was held in the splendidly opulent surroundings of Drapers' Hall. The event was preceded, as usual, by the installation of the new Master, in the presence of many of the Company's Members and their guests. David Bell, Senior Warden, was robed as Twenty-fourth Master of the Company, by the retiring Master, Nigel Draffin, amid acclamation. The new Master then, in turn, installed Michael Husband as Senior Warden, and John Bainbridge as Junior Warden. Prior to this ceremony, the Court had taken the greatest pleasure in admitting ten new Freemen to the Company, namely Neville Brown JP; Michael Duggan; Alan Feakins MSc; Elaine Gibson-Bolton; Thomas James PhD; Carl David Nisser; Christopher Nowakowski; Michael Saunders; Lawrence Slade and Richard Stephenson Clarke. The Court also enrobed John Hallet and Carl Nisser as Liverymen.

Following the dinner, which was attended by 175 Members and their guests, Senior Warden, Michael Husband rose to propose the toast to the guests. Michael said he had particular pleasure in welcoming the principal guest, Mr Howard Flight, MP for Arundel between 1997 and 2003, during which time he was Shadow Economic Secretary, Post Master General and Chief Secretary to the Treasury. Mr Flight had also worked as a Merchant Banker in Hong Kong, India and London. Among other valued guests were Nick Meyer, Master Carmen and Colin Drummond, Master Water Conservator. Michael said the Company was also delighted at the presence of several guests from those branches of the armed forces with whom the Fuellers had an affiliation, including Brigadier Ian Abbott OBE, Defence Fuels Group and Commodore Robert Thornton, RFA.

The response on behalf of the guests was given by Mr Howard Flight who provided a fascinating insight into the conflicting factors and interests affecting the guarantee of a secure energy supply for the UK. He also commented on what he saw as a sensible approach to climate change. Mr Flight ended his remarks by inviting the assembly to rise for the toast "The Worshipful Company of Fuellers — root and branch — may it flourish for ever"

The final address was given by the new Master, David Bell. He thanked the Company for the great honour which had been bestowed upon him and expressed his gratitude to his wife Jessica for the ready support which would be forthcoming in the forthcoming months. He said he was delighted that the Company appeared to be in good heart, with a healthy intake of new Freemen. He was confident that the Fuellers would go from strength to strength.



Photographed at the Installation Dinner were, Left to right, Mrs Susan Hallet; Mr John Hallet; Mr Stephen Belcher; Mrs Caroline Cooke; Mrs Jessica Bell, and Miss Elizabeth Runham.



Left, Past Master Brian Harrison photographed with Janet and Peter Harrison.



David Bell receives his badge of office as Master of the Company.



Court Member Jane Ayre mans the merchandise stall at the Installation Dinner.



Outgoing Master Nigel Driffin reviews his year in office.



The Installation Ceremony was exceptionally well attended.



Left to right, Marilynne Bainbridge, Junior Warden John Bainbridge and Senior Warden Michael Husband.



Representing 216 Squadron were, left to right, Wing Cmdr Steve Chadwick and Flt Lt Phillip Watton, photographed with Chloë and Doug Barrow (Past Master).



Three Court Members were, left to right, Bill Pretswell; Colin Brinkman and James Bellew.



Guests at the Installation Dinner included, left to right Susan Sharp, Marjorie McCombe and Eileen Pretswell.

Meet the Master

Our Master, David Bell, was born in Harrow on the Hill, Middlesex. Having a bent for all things banauistic, he was educated at Acton Technical College, later securing an apprenticeship with WR Anderson & Sons of Harrow, Engineering and Founders. In parallel with his apprenticeship, he attended Borough Polytechnic, and later started at the National Foundry College and Aston University. During his teens, David was an enthusiastic scout, achieving the award of Queen Scout and an ASM. Aged 23, he joined Qualcast Derby, followed by a post with Westinghouse at Bristol. At 25, he joined the Brockhouse organisation in Birmingham, a group specialising in engineering, forging and casting. He was 31 when he was appointed General Manager of the company's Iron Foundry Division. Amongst all this activity, he found time in 1961 to marry his wife Jessica.

In 1970, he was appointed to the Management Board of Birmal — Midland Motor Cylinder Company, responsible for three large foundries, with a payroll of 980 people and a



David Bell

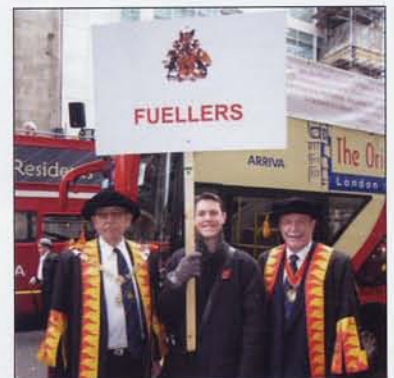
weekly output of 1,000 tonnes automobile blocks and heads. In 1973, he was employed by Glynwed as General Manager of three foundries — two in Shropshire and one in Larbert, Scotland. It was in 1977 that he joined a Danish company, Dansk Industrie Syndikat A/S (DISA). Shortly afterwards, he was responsible for building and equipping a large iron foundry in Tabriz, North West Iran, designed to produce automobile castings. Unfortunately, the country was in turmoil at the time, the unrest culminating in the Islamic Revolution. As a result, having almost finished the task, he was forced to leave the country precipitately in only the clothes he stood up in. Arriving back

in England, he took up the position of General Manager of DISA's UK operation, based in the West Midlands. His task included developing the market for a line of specialised sand moulding lines, based on the Disamatic principle, for producing volume castings. In 1993, he was appointed Managing Director of the UK company, finally retiring at the age of 67.

David, throughout his career, has been involved with both his local community, service clubs and church. In the 1970's he served as a Parish Councillor and then as District Councillor. At that time he was also Chairman of the local Round Table club. He has been President of his local Rotary Club on two occasions and is currently a Volunteer Supervisor of a local "Special Needs" club. Two years ago, he acted as Project Coodinator in the construction of a new church centre for his parish church. For a number of years, he has been Almoner of our company. His interests include travel, history and languages. David has three children and five grandchildren.

Modern Companies out in force at Lord Mayor's Show

The Master, David Bell, and the Senior Warden, Michael Husband, processed in the Lord Mayor's Show, accompanied by the Learned Clerk. As has become customary, the Fuellers' banner was carried by David and Carrie Marsh. The Modern Companies' float and accompanying vehicles, including a tractor and plough, courtesy of the Farmers' Company, was the longest attraction on the day. The Fuellers' Company actually featured fleetingly in ITV's coverage of the event. As usual, the Modern Companies took a lunch-time break to avail themselves of the hospitality of The Master Mariners aboard HQS Wellington, moored off the Embankment.



The Master, David Bell, banner carrier David Marsh, and Senior Warden Michael Husband participated in the Lord Mayor's Show.

New History of St Michael's Cornhill

A new history of St Michael's Cornhill, written by Peter Hughes, has been published. Copies, price £10, can be obtained from the Rev. Dr Peter Mullen, The Watch House, 10 Giltspur Street, London EC1A 9DE or through the St Michael's website: www.st-michaels.org.uk

Lincolnshire power plant visit was great success

A party of Fuellers and several of their friends visited Sutton Bridge power station — an 800 MW combined heat and power facility — and Gedney Drove End Windfarm, in Lincolnshire, at the end of February. The event was largely organised by Liveryman Paul Mott. The participants viewed the two 260 MW gas turbines and the 270 MW steam turbine which together can provide up to 2.5% of the UK's requirement for electricity. The party subsequently took a scenic route to see a six-unit wind farm near the Wash, each turbine being rated at 2 MW. A full account of this tour will appear in the next edition of *The Fueller*.



Station Manager Trevor Thorpe explains the layout of the Sutton Bridge gas-fired power station to members of the Fuellers' Company and their friends. Left to right are Alan Gifford, Michael Byne, Richard S Clarke and Past Master Edward Wilkinson.



The exterior of the waste heat boilers at the Sutton Bridge 800 MW combined heat and power generating facility.

The "History" – a plea for social and formal photographs

The compiler of the forthcoming history of the Fuellers' Company, Roderick Braithwaite, is seeking any photographs taken at Company events over the last 24 years, and especially in the first decade. Roderick is seeking to build up a pictorial review of the key social and ceremonial events. He suggests that if each Past Master, for example, could provide just two photographs from his period in office, that would be a useful start. Roderick Braithwaite's address is Corner Cottage, High Street, South Moreton, Oxfordshire OX11 9AD. Roderick will file and conserve all material, acknowledging receipt, and will return it to the sender at the earliest opportunity.

Spend some money!

The Fuellers' Company offer a tempting array of merchandise. Items include:

Green silk tie with Company crest	£ 21.50
Blue silk tie with Company crest	£ 21.50
Company crest on a bar brooch (ladies)	£ 5.00
Company crest label badge (men)	£ 4.50
Company crest cuff links	£ 11.00
Wooden Company crest wall plaque	£ 35.00
Company crest Lady Liveryman brooch	£ 71.50
Golf umbrella in Company colours with crest	£ 21.50
Baseball hat with company crest	£ 11.00

Postage and packing included.

All items may be had of:

**Mrs Jane Ayre, 68 Portway, Baughurst, Tadley,
Basingstoke RG26 5PE**

Tel: 0118 981 3700; e-mail: ayrejaycee@aol.com

OBITUARIES

Jessica Helen Bell

As has been indicated on the front page of this Journal, the Company has been taken aback with the news of the sudden death of our Master's wife, Jessica Helen Bell, at the age of 68. She was born in Tipton in the West Midlands. After leaving school, she studied Catering, Nutrition, Electrical Appliances and Commercial Sales at Wolverhampton Technical College, and in due course joined Hotpoint as a Sales Demonstrator. It was during her time at college that she met David Bell who was training in foundry management at the National Foundry College. They were married in 1961 and in subsequent years were to have three children, Caroline, Matthew and James. For almost the whole of their married life, David and Jessica lived either in or close to the village of Albrighton, near Wolverhampton. Jessica took a very pro-active part, both in village life and in the activities of the local church. In 1986, when James went to secondary school, Jessica began working for David as his Secretary. Jessica was to retire in 1999 and David in 2002. Over the years, she achieved an enviable reputation as an accomplished hostess, entertaining with style and panache. Jessica was a devoted wife and mother and an enormously proud and loving grandmother. As David assumed growing responsibility within the Fuellers' Company, she accorded him every support and encouragement and was looking forward to participating in many of the functions which mark the Master's year in office.

Christina Wakefield

The company was greatly saddened to learn of the death of Christina Wakefield, age 86. Her late husband, Martyn Wakefield, was a retail coal merchant, based in Bearsted, near Maidstone in Kent. Although Martyn was our first Senior Warden, following the restoration of our Charter, he was forced to stand aside through illness, before becoming our third Master in 1986 – 87. Christine was always very supportive of Martyn during his year in office. She was in the first group of Past Masters' partners to be awarded Freedom by Presentation at our Election Lunch in 2001, in recognition of the support given to their respective partners. Christine valued her own membership of our Company and demonstrated her continued interest in our affairs by regularly attending our Election Luncheons where she was seen proudly accompanied by one of her daughters. Martyn was also influential in regional and national coal trade affairs — he was an active Member and Chairman of the Society of Coal Merchants, as well as being a Coal Meter and Chairman of the Kent & East Sussex branch of the Coal Trade Benevolent Association.

CITY AND COMPANY DIARY OF EVENTS 2008

Month	Date	Event	Venue
<i>March</i>	Tuesday 11	General Purposes Committee and Livery dinner	Brew Warf, Borough Market, Southwark
	Wednesday 19	Charity Trustees Meeting, followed by Fuellers' Carvery lunch	Butchers' Hall
<i>April</i>	Wednesday 9	Election Court, Thanksgiving Service, and Election Court Lunch	Mansion House and St Michael's Cornhill
	Friday 25	Visit Precision Disc Castings and Defence Fuels Group	Poole and Wimborne, Dorset details tba
<i>May</i>	Wednesday 7	General Purposes Committee and Fuellers' Lecture	SJ Berswin, Head Office, Queen Street Place EC4
	Wednesday 14	Visit Dennis Severs' House Museum followed by lunch	Folgate Street, Spitalfields
	Wednesday 21	Inter-Livery Clay Pidgeon Shoot	Holland & Holland, Ruislip
<i>June</i>	Wednesday 18	Court Meeting followed by Dinner	Watermans' Hall
	Tuesday 24	Election of Sheriffs followed by lunch	Guildhall, Lunch tba
	Wednesday 25	Visit to EDF nuclear power station	Gravelines, Northern France
<i>July</i>	Tuesday 8	Visit to National Maritime Museum	Greenwich
	Wednesday 9 (to be confirmed)	Charity Trustees meeting followed by Fuellers' Carvery Lunch	Butchers' Hall
<i>September</i>	Date tba	General Purposes Committee Meeting	tba
	Monday 8	Fuellers' Golf day	Wellingborough Golf Club
	Date tba	Visit Fawley Refinery	Southampton
	Monday 29	Election of Lord Mayor followed by lunch	Guildhall
<i>October</i>	Tuesday 14	Installation Court, Master and Wardens Installation Ceremony, and Dinner	Drapers' Hall
<i>November</i>	Sunday 2	Fuellers' Sunday followed by lunch	St Michael's Cornhill and "The Baltic"
<i>December</i>	Thursday 4	Joint Carol Service followed by Dinner	St Michael's Cornhill and the Little Ship Club

Note, the Company will continue to organise a monthly luncheon table at Butchers' Hall on the last Wednesday of April, June September and November. There is a minimum number of eight at each lunch; guests are welcome. Please book with the Clerk at least a week beforehand.

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: 'The Editor - The Fueller' c/o 26 Merrick Square, London SE1 4JB. Tel/Fax: 020 7234 0760. Email: clerk@fuellers.co.uk