

THE Fueller

The official journal of The Worshipful Company of Fuellers

Issue 70 December 2024



Lord Mayor's Show

Joint float with RNLI – Fuelling the Future

Simple Facts of Energy Transition

Industry Insight

**Small Modular Nuclear Reactors –
Hope or Hype?**

Fuellers' Advantage Event



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Editor's note

Lynn Postle FICME, Editor

It's been another busy year for Fuellers, with a wide-ranging calendar throughout 2024 and even more interesting and, most importantly, topical events to support in 2025. Our new Master, Elena Oderstone talks of "fresh ideas" and I am sure this will enable the Company to appeal to many more Liverymen and Freemen in the coming months. Part of the benefit of membership is coming together to meet like-minded people to support causes close to the heart of all Fuellers, and the forward calendar offers plenty of scope to do this, in both formal and informal settings.

As detailed throughout the pages of this issue of The Fueller, there are a number of challenges to overcome, with many pressing matters for us all in terms of energy transition. There are some big decisions to be made and a clearer understanding of the benefits and potential consequences of any "change in direction" will be needed. Throughout the world there is a change of leadership and

there are some strong voices to be heard, as Fuellers you will all have your own opinions and you will be intrigued by the future of the sector at all levels and in all regions. What better way to stay informed and to contribute to the debate than be actively involved with the Livery?

The Master is keen to hear what you have to say and we encourage you to get involved in whatever way you can to steer the Company in the right direction.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to The Fueller this year for which I am truly grateful. As we enter the New Year, we are met with renewed enthusiasm and vitality. It is a special time of year when we can express how thankful we are for what we have and hold most dear. I wish you all a peaceful festive season and I look forward to working with you all again in 2025.

Next issue: Summer 2025



Join the conversation

Public

Public

Public

Private

Private

Comments and suggestions on this and future editions welcomed to editor@fuellers.co.uk. Past copies are available for download at www.fuellers.co.uk/the-fueller

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Message from the Master

Fuelling the Future



Elena Oderstone, Master Fueller

It is with profound honour and deep gratitude that I address you as the Master of the Worshipful Company of Fuellers. As we stand on the threshold of a transformative era, this is a pivotal moment for our Company to lead with purpose, passion, and vision.

My theme for the year, *'Fuelling the Future'*, embodies both our storied heritage and the bold aspirations that will guide us forward as we continue to grow in relevance and influence.

For four decades the Fuellers have stood at the crossroads of energy, commerce, and innovation. Today, as the world navigates the complexities of the energy transition,

where energy must be sustainable, secure and accessible, the Fuellers stand as an impartial and trusted membership body, using their convening powers to unite leaders across sectors. Committed to sparking vital debate, the Fuellers are on a mission to bring together all parts of the industry to discuss ideas and uncover solutions for a sustainable future.

Throughout the coming year, I pledge to build upon the remarkable foundations laid by my predecessors while infusing our endeavours with renewed energy and ambition. Our membership is our greatest strength, our greatest fuel. Together, we will harness this strength to inspire fresh ideas, forge new connections, and deepen our impact on the world around us. Whether you are a longstanding member or one of our newer Fuellers, I invite you to engage with our events, contribute your insights, and make the most of the unique fellowship our Company offers

I am filled with excitement for the Fuellers in the year ahead, and my year is already underway. On 3 November, we celebrated our traditional Fuellers Sunday with afternoon tea at St Andrew-by-the-Wardrobe, the first Grade I City church to achieve carbon neutrality. The following weekend (see more in the article in this edition), we collaborated with the RNLI at the Lord Mayor's Show to commemorate

our respective anniversaries – two hundred years for the RNLI and forty years for the Fuellers.

Then on 13 November, we visited Rolls-Royce at Filton, Bristol, thanks to Tom Burgess, RR Vice President, to learn about small modular reactors (SMRs), sustainable aviation fuels (SAF), and hydrogen technologies, accompanied by the Worshipful Company of Carmen and the Air Fuels Sustainable Energy Association (AFSEA).

In the New Year, our Industry Group will be meeting at the Shell Centre in London, hosted by Shell's new Country Chair – and our fellow Fueller – Ulf Nahrath, Vice President at Shell. Many other events, such as the Fuellers Annual Energy Lecture on 10 September, the signing of the Armed Forces Covenant during our Annual Thanksgiving Service followed by the Affiliates Luncheon & Prize-giving and luncheon on 9 June, and our charity fundraising dinner in support of the Livery Food Initiative and City Harvest London on 28 May, amongst others, will take place in 2025.

I am particularly inspired by our commitment to nurturing young talent as through this we are investing in the leaders and innovators of tomorrow.

As we embark on this journey together, I encourage you all to share your ideas and join me in celebrating what it means to be a Fueller today. Together, let's make this a memorable year, full of progress, connection, and inspiration.

Here's to Fuelling the Future —together!

Installation Dinner

Welcoming the new Master

31 October 2024

Mercers' Hall



Liveryman – Sina Mirshahi Alamuti MSc

In a magnificent ceremony imbued with deep tradition, historical resonance, and a compelling vision for the future, Elena Oderstone was installed as the new Master of the Worshipful Company of Fuellers at the prestigious Mercers' Hall on 31 October 2024. The evening was marked by camaraderie, purpose, and a renewed commitment to the future of the energy sector, under Master Elena Oderstone's chosen theme for her year as Master, 'Fuelling the Future.'

The installation was graced by an array of distinguished guests, including Alderman Alastair King DL, who was installed as the 696th Lord Mayor of the City of London the following week. We were especially honoured to welcome our Principal Guest, The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE, installed as the 133rd Bishop of London at St Paul's Cathedral on 12 May 2018 and the first woman to hold this historic office. Dame Sarah delivered an eloquent address on 'Sustainability, The Importance of Connectivity, and Relationships in Building a Sustainable Future.' Grace for the evening was given by The Reverend Canon Thomas Woodhouse, Chaplain of The King's Chapel of the Savoy within the Duchy of Lancaster, Chaplain of the Royal Victorian Order, and Deputy Priest-in-Ordinary to His Majesty The King.

The ceremony was further enriched by the music of the Four Piece Salon Orchestra of the London Banqueting Ensemble, who played throughout the evening and brought the night to a lively close with the ever-popular Post Horn Gallop.

In her speech the Master recounted her personal journey from Latvia under Soviet rule to becoming the fifth Lady Master of the Fuellers and the first Latvian to become Master of a City livery company. She spoke with pride of her family's resilience, describing how a vision for a life in England, born from her family's endurance through historical hardships, became a powerful drive in her own life. Reflecting on her background in corporate finance, shipping, and energy, she expressed the responsibility she feels to support and advance our Company's role in a sustainable energy future. Her journey embodies the very theme of her term: overcoming challenges to fuel progress and inclusivity.



The Master Elena Oderstone with Senior Warden Ashutosh Shastri and Junior Warden Louise Thompson



(From left) Junior Warden Louise Thompson, Liliana Oderstone, Andrew Marsden, Alderman Alastair King DL, Lord Mayor Elect, The Master, Rt Revd & Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE, Bishop of London, Honorary Liveryman Alderman Canon Alison Gowman CBE, Alderman Simon Pryke, Revd Canon Thomas Woodhouse, Anastasia Oderstone, Senior Warden Ashutosh Shastri

Our new Master acknowledged Dame Sarah and the Lord Mayor Elect for their inspiring contributions that evening. She presented each with a copy of *The Fuellers' Tale*, a book that traces the Fuellers' roots back to the Woodmongers and the 14th Century. She said: "Dame Sarah, page 61 tells how the coal duty helped rebuild London's churches and St. Paul's Cathedral after the Great Fire," adding a playful reminder of the Fuellers' historical significance in London's heritage.

With a nod to our Company's past and future, Master Elena Oderstone celebrated the Fuellers' forty-year anniversary as a modern Livery Company, honouring the vision and dedication of past members who have built a legacy that today's Fuellers continue to uphold. She toasted our Past Masters and invited the Company to join in a collective "taking wine" in their honour.

Looking ahead, our new Master outlined a year filled with opportunities for the Fuellers to deepen their connection to the energy industry. Events in the coming months include a fully booked visit to Rolls-Royce, the Industry Group meeting at the Shell Centre, and the 20th anniversary of the Fuellers Annual Energy Lecture with the Energy Futures Lab at Imperial College. With each of these occasions, she emphasised: "We will fuel our future by fostering debate, uniting industry leaders, and seeking sustainable solutions."

True to her theme, the Master underscored the importance of sustainable practices within the Company and beyond. She noted how in a few days after the Installation Dinner, the Fuellers would gather for Fuellers' Sunday, which includes a conversation on sustainability at St. Andrew by the Wardrobe, the first Grade I City church to become carbon neutral. She encouraged Members to support the event and acknowledged Honorary Liveryman Alderman Canon Alison Gowman CBE, Past Master Paul Cuttill OBE, and our Honorary Chaplain Revd Nick Mottershead FCA for their efforts in organising this occasion.

In addition to supporting sustainability, our new Master announced continued engagement in charitable causes, speaking of how Fuellers would participate in the Lord Mayor's Show with a joint float celebrating our longstanding support of the RNLI, which has been protecting lives at sea for two hundred years. Additionally, the Fuellers will continue to work with City Harvest London through the Livery Food Initiative, helping to alleviate food insecurity while reducing waste across the city.

The Master also emphasised the Fuellers' commitment to charitable work through our own Charitable Trust Fund. She outlined plans to strengthen ties with the City of London Corporation and expand collaboration, especially in supporting City-based charitable initiatives.

The evening concluded with the introduction of our newly admitted Freeman and Liverymen, who were invited to stand as the Company extended their warmest congratulations. In traditional style, The Master expressed her gratitude to the Mercers' Company, their caterers, and the evening's supporters and the London Banqueting Ensemble.

As the dinner drew to a close, she wished everyone a safe journey home and an inspiring year ahead, Fuelling Our Future together.



Alderman Alastair King DL, Lord Mayor Elect



Having presented the Master's Cap, the Installing Master symbolically passes the Mace to the new Master, by the placing of hands on the mace and saying:

"Master I ask you to accept this Mace as a symbol of your office as Master of the Worshipful Company of Fuellers."



The Principal Guest, The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE, Bishop of London



Post Horn Gallop



All the fun of the Loving Cup

Ceremonial Installation Court



Immediate Past Master Peter Harrison presents a certificate to the Master Carman, Leon Daniels OBE on his being enrobed as an Honorary Liveryman for the year of his office

At the Ceremonial Court, held prior to the Installation Dinner at Mercers' Hall on 31 October the following were installed into the Company:

Honorary Liveryman

Master Carman – Leon Alistair Daniels OBE

New Liverymen

Jai Ferguson and Sarah Inge Parker

New Freemen

Gagan Deep Singh, Sheyi Lisk-Carew, Nick Mansell and Per Wimmer

Immediate Past Master Peter Harrison admitted new Freemen and enrobed new Liverymen



Liveryman Jai Ferguson



Liveryman Sarah Inge Parker



Freeman Gagan Deep Singh



Freeman Sheyi Lisk-Carew



Freeman Nick Mansell



Freeman Per Wimmer

Industry insights

Simple facts of energy transition

Mike Lakin – Master Fan Maker (and Geologist)



Mike Lakin – Master Fan Maker

“Could the unintended consequences of the UK’s net zero ambitions be unlocked by nature itself and trigger a serious escalation of the energy crisis?”

As current Master of the Worshipful Company of Fan Makers, you might be wondering what fuel and energy has to do with fan making? The easiest answer is to watch the last Lord Mayor’s [‘Connect to Prosper’](#) talk.

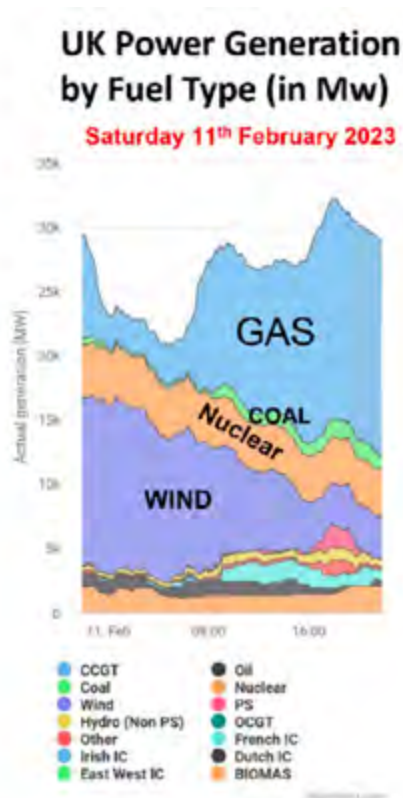
This article is, however, of being a guest at the new Fuellers Master’s Installation Dinner at Mercers’ Hall, where as a geologist in the upstream sector, with over forty years spent helping to find what is still responsible for eighty per cent of the world’s achievable, secure and affordable energy, I was asked if I would comment on the energy transition dilemma, which I’m always eager to share.

I have to state right up front that I do believe in the need for transition which could improve the world by reducing waste and doing whatever can be done to preserve our planet, even though I think some of the green emotion we’ve experienced the last decade is simply not factually supported. I do equally believe transition should involve more and new sources of cleaner energy, but this needs to adhere to what I call the 3A’s of energy transition i.e. **Achievable**, **Affordable** and therefore **Acceptable**.

All I see currently is action based on a simply unachievable plan, which to me appears based more on ‘emotion’ rather than the ‘scientific facts’ and an achievable and affordable formula and on a totally ‘unachievable timeline’. I’m equally surprised that some of the media seems blind to the facts or does not want to subvert the uniformed political

messages which seems to be driving the energy transition rather than the facts and science. I love the passion for change and proactivity, but have we not learnt from what Germany did! They decommissioned all their nuclear generation and dismantled its domestic oil and gas activity to become 'green', but in the process simply became reliant on Russia for eighty per cent of its energy as gas via pipeline. The huge unintended consequence of this bold political decision changed overnight with the invasion of Ukraine. Germany now relies on coal again to generate much more of its energy so are now more emissive than before the decision to cut domestic production in order to go green.

In the space I have, let's just look at one example of this country's determination to do the same with the belief that renewable energy from wind turbines can replace the dependence on hydrocarbons (i.e. gas) to generate all the electricity as and when it's needed. Also, that based on statements at COP 29 that this can reduce the country's emissions by eighty one per cent over the next decade. Here are the simple facts that expose the unintended consequences of this plan.



1 Wind

Wind is not 'secure' as it's completely dependent upon the weather, so when it's not windy it cannot generate the power when needed without secure and dependable back-up. The screen shot of the UK's energy sources from a day in February 2023 clearly show this. The wind dropped and reduced from generating some fifty per cent of the country's need to less than ten per cent in a 24-hour period. Without any current ability to store excess wind energy when not needed or gas, we'd all be sitting in the dark, with no IT, phone charge, heating or ability to cook, until the wind blows. Gas is 'secure', however and the least emissive of the currently achievable sources of energy as one can switch on and off when needed!

Other big influences include: (1) The fact that wind project economics currently offer much lower returns, even with subsidies, so the investment needed is way short of what is needed.

(2) Wind turbine blades are made of complex hydrocarbons and cannot be sustainably recycled, so most used blades are simply cut up and buried (.....not so green then!)

2 Unintended Consequences

There is nothing wrong with supplementing as much of the country's power with wind, but with this determination to eliminate the remaining domestic exploration and production of new gas (by over taxing the UK Oil & Gas Industry), the UK will simply become one hundred per cent reliant on gas imported elsewhere in the world. Like Germany, this is clearly both a security risk and will lead to the following unintended consequences:

- The potential loss of up to 200,000 jobs and related industries, including all their revenues, creating huge new unemployment.
- An overall increase in emissions of transporting the gas from long distance, including the USA and Qatar (compared to producing the gas locally from the North Sea) although

the political statistics do not seem to account for the carbon footprint of transporting the gas to the UK!

- The loss of tens of thousands (potentially hundreds of thousands in the supply chain) of jobs and tax receipts, albeit the counter is that they can be redeployed to run alternative energy, even though it's questionable how this could generate the same profits needed to employ all the newly unemployed.

The Answer

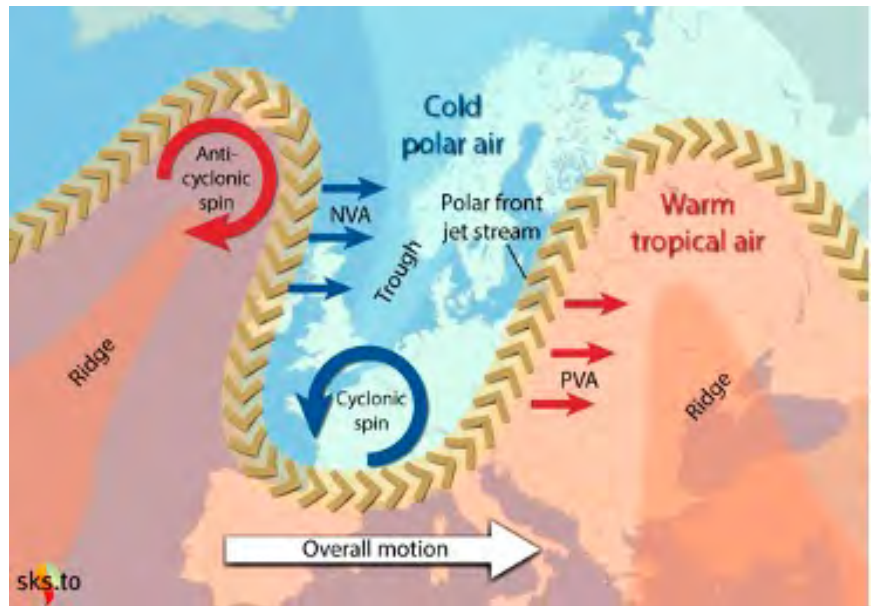
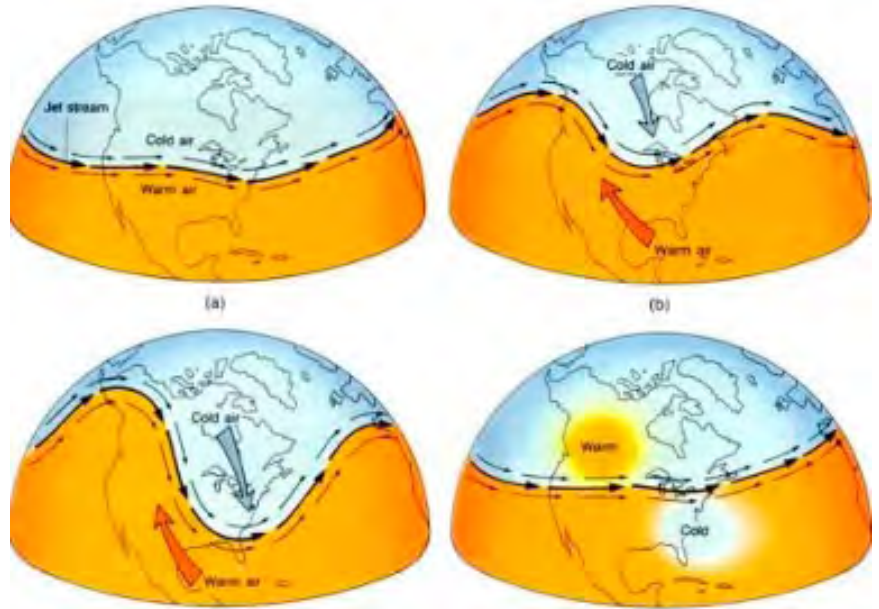
Is there an answer to this dilemma? Yes, there always is. In this case it needs a connected and realistic transition plan which is supported by the scientific facts, in a truly realistic timeframe which the media need to report in a way that the voting population can hold the politicians to account, and hopefully limit the unintended consequences. It will inevitably need everyone to buy into real change (i.e. it's not just the oil and gas companies' fault that the population is reliant upon the resources they are still using at no lesser rate!). This needs to be properly supported by regulation phased in over an achievable timeframe in a truly achievable energy transition plan over the next 30+ years. This needs to replace the current series of emotional politically motivated 'knee jerk plans', which are currently unachievable with current technology in the very short unrealistic timeframes being set without any real evidence or factual support.

The new energy mix almost certainly has to include lots more secure and emission free nuclear, and particularly small modular reactors (SMR's), a massively upgraded power infrastructure but the immediate endorsement to maintain and increase the search for domestic UK gas until this new, safer nuclear can be researched and built along with new technologies which will inevitably come out or need as the costs of power increase.

The Reality

I suspect the only way such realistic decision making is ever likely in our democratic society, however, is crisis which is the biggest unintended consequence of short term supported decision making and in this case a lack of any form of realistic achievable energy plan.

Weather could be the ultimate cause of the crisis in NW Europe, related to the nine to twelve year cycles caused by 'Rossby Waves' (a google search will explain in detail if anyone is interested) but in essence the phenomenon causes freak weather where in the UK, after several very mild winters and nice summers, the greater sinuosity of the jet streams is likely to now bring much colder weather further south and could lead to a series of much colder winters. With the state of our domestic gas sector, already stretched power infrastructure capacity and reliance on gas imports and unsecure wind, this could indeed lead to issues including local or even more country blackouts. Whatever the crisis, energy supply could well be what is needed to encourage our leaders to seek the expertise on offer and accelerate the creation of a truly achievable, affordable and therefore acceptable energy transition plan.



Small modular nuclear reactors: hope or hype?

A Fuellers Advantage Event jointly held with the Science Circle of the National Liberal Club on 28 May 2024

Liveryman Simon Parsons reports on the presentation by Dr Mike Bluck, Director of the Centre for Nuclear Engineering and Director of the Rolls Royce Nuclear University Technology Centre at Imperial College.



Liveryman Simon Parsons

To dispel a few myths, Mike Bluck started by explaining that small modular nuclear reactors are not the same as those of nuclear submarines – nuclear submarines have to go fast and slow and up and down. He explained that this adds much complexity and costs to those reactors, which can be avoided for onshore reactors.

Dr Bluck ran through the current UK status and the fleet of existing reactors which provide some fifteen per cent of the UK 40GW demand. Much of this fleet consists of the aged advanced gas cooled reactors and will require decommissioning over the next few years. New units at Hinkley Point are due to be completed in 2029 and at Sizewell C in 2035.

Only twelve per cent of UK energy is low carbon and with climate change and the objective of Net Zero by 2050 the demand for electricity is expected to increase with 24GW of electricity being required by 2050. There are some 430 large reactors worldwide and the development of those reactors was based on economies of scale which led to the development of the large reactors.

The merit of nuclear power continues to be debated, and many people are sceptical. There are some well-known notable accidents at Three Mile Island, Chernobyl and Fukushima that still haunt the industry and the populace. Waste is a particular concern with difficult to site geological repositories required. Despite all these safety concerns, the nuclear industry has, to put it crudely, killed very few people.

Dr Bluck went on to demonstrate that countries serious about carbon reduction have no alternative but to utilise nuclear power as part of the energy mix. With safety a major concern, but seemingly manageable and low carbon energy critical to mitigate the effects of climate change – nuclear seems a tool that must be deployed.

As countries decide to deploy nuclear power, the next concern is the cost and time required to build these mega scale nuclear plants. In the West, project after project has been late and increasingly over budget. The skills available in the 1960s and 1970s to manage and construct these mega scale plants are now increasingly limited. This has an impact on the confidence of governments to move forward with such projects and this is before the increasingly complex environmental studies required prior to starting work. There are limited resources in a few countries, particularly for key components such as the forging required for the nuclear reactor pressure vessel.

With the aforementioned in mind Dr Bluck posed the question: is the answer small modular nuclear reactors?

With some fifty designs worldwide on the drawing board with a range of technical approaches, the SMR offers many advantages. With a strict definition of under 300MWe (although some are larger) the SMR offers the potential for much economy by the large production numbers that may eventually be achieved over time. SMRs could be deployed at industrial centres and near populations sites.

As director of the Rolls Royce Nuclear University Technology Centre, Mike Bluck is certainly concerned that the UK fully utilises technology developed in the UK so that manufacturing and engineering skills are developed to serve this nascent industry. As with many such major technological developments, government funding is essential to get it moving but with the long-term potential in skills development and export opportunity – the time seems right for SMRs to be a useful tool in the shifting energy landscape.

Nuclear energy has developed a long way from its early development by Ernest Rutherford developing the atomic nucleus in 1911 and Admiral Hyman Rickover in the USA pioneering the nuclear submarine. Dr Mike Bluck is among a select group driving the next phase of the nuclear age with the small modular nuclear reactor and having the potential to change our energy landscape.

Fuellers Activities

Charitable Trust Fund

Past Master Chloë Andrews-Jones, Chair of Trustees

Governance

Past Master John Bainbridge had to step down as our Treasurer in the summer. We are all very grateful to him for returning to the Trust when IPM Peter Harrison was serving as Master and will miss his wise counsel and advice. We wish him well.

I'm pleased to report progress in various Governance items. We have recently implemented a revised Risk Register, introduced a Trustee/Advisor Skills Matrix, and looked more formally at succession planning. Whilst not particularly exciting, the Trustees are responsible for the governance of our charity and must run it in a way that complies with both the charity's governing document and the law.

This issue's "Meet the Trustee" features Honorary Liveryman Bill Walworth CBE, well known to many of you as the Company's former Clerk.

Fuellers Arkwright Engineering Scholarship

I thought I'd spend a little time on an individual grant for this issue. You may remember these engineering scholarships are granted to students nominated to the Trust by Arkwright (part of The Smallpeice Trust). The students must successfully undertake a rigorous application process and interview prior to a scholarship being awarded for their final two years' study at school. The grant is split between their school and the scholar themselves.



Elena Oderstone and Ashutosh Shastri in the Royal Parks after completing the Royal Parks Half Marathon.

The Trust aims to support one new scholar a year, meaning we usually have two at school in any one calendar year. We try to provide a mentor for each new scholar, and to engage students in appropriate Fueller events. We encourage Arkwright to nominate students from state schools located inside the M25 making their attendance more likely.

Our "graduating" scholar this year, Emma attended the last DoE Conference, the Fuellers Annual Lecture in March, and an event at the Institute of Physics. She has really appreciated these opportunities and actively participated in the events. I was really pleased to hear Emma received four A*s at A level and sailed into the University of Birmingham to read physics. I'm keeping Emma informed of other Fuellers events she may be interested in. Congratulations Emma.

Our Y13 scholar Charlotte (who also attended the lecture in March) has had a chance to attend BIEE events with her mentor and together with our new Y12 scholar Amy, was very happy to attend the recent Livery Climate Action Group Conference entitled "Planning for a Resilient Future". They are pictured here with the Lord Mayor, the then Master and Junior Warden, and Trustee Martin Hewitt who maintains a watching brief on the Trust's relationship with Smallpeice and Arkwright. The Lord Mayor, in a letter to LCAG, said he was heartened to see the involvement of students and commented that their passion for addressing climate challenges offers hope for the future.



At the conference, which featured speakers from the Company, they learned of new approaches to environmental challenges, and heard from people involved in managing the City's biodiversity, in a challenging urban setting. They also appreciated the opportunity to meet their peers and industry and educational experts who offered help and guidance for their future studies/careers.

Recent Grants

Holding meetings each quarter, I can share news on the grants awarded by two meetings since the last issue. They include:

- £1,600 to [Inspire Walworth](#) to support their “Good Food Fridays” youth club sessions, dedicated to creating a safe, welcoming and engaging space for 11-18-year-olds to enjoy Friday events filled with good food and exciting activities. The centre serves two of the main social housing estates in Walworth, Southwark, London; 95 per cent of the young people who attend are from ethnic minorities and more than thirty per cent of the young people in the local area are thought to lack regular access to safe, plentiful, and nutritious food.
- £1,000 to [GenerosCity](#), which works with the City of London Hygiene Bank, was set up by the Company’s Hon Chaplain Nick Mottishead, and seeks to end hygiene and related poverty in the City of London. The application specifically requested support for the work they do with schools (currently 15,000 families at 62 schools). One large tote bag for a family unit costs around £25.00-30.00, with the expectation that it lasts around one to two months.
- £1,500 to the [Livery Food Initiative](#). Once again, Elena Oderstone and Ashutosh Shastri stepped up to the Royal Parks Half Marathon challenge again this year – and the Trust made the grant in view of their efforts for such a worthy cause. As the LFI enters the third year of its support for City Harvest, it has raised £206k of the £270k to support their truck for three years, having already covered three-years’ running costs for the LFI van. Well run Officers!

A reminder that details of the grants made by the Trust, including those we strive to make on an annual basis, are published in our Annual Accounts and available to view on the Company’s website (Members’ Area/Governance).

Thank you for your Donations

Thank you to all members of the Company who continue to support the work of the Trust. I encourage more of you to do so, with regular or one-off donations, by volunteering or perhaps you’d consider leaving a Legacy gift. [How to Donate](#).

Join the conversation

Public Public

Private Private

Meet the Trustee



Trustee and Honorary Liveryman Bill Walworth CBE

“You get out of the Fuellers what you put in,” we are enjoined by the Master. Many of us contribute to the professional energy events held by the Company with great success. Less members are engaged with the Fuellers Charitable Trust Fund (FCTF), yet the charity is a key role of the livery, as important as the energy events. My connection started in 2014 when I became Secretary. I was already an experienced Trustee and was struck by the businesslike approach of the Fuellers, led by the Chair Michael Husband. Stuart Goldsmith followed Michael and now Chloë Andrews-Jones is Chair. The consistent theme is the way the Trust Fund is run. When I retired as Fuellers Clerk, I was surprised to be invited to become a Trustee and honoured to accept.

So, what does the FCTF do and where do the funds come from? The curious can check out our entry on the Charity Commission website, setting out the constitution, but the headlines are: relief of poverty; advancement of education in any manner of persons engaged or desiring to engage in the energy industry; awards to persons intending to be engaged in the energy industry or elsewhere; assist in general, industrial or commercial education any persons in necessitous circumstances preparing to enter the energy industry commerce or industry. Within that wide set of criteria, we down select potential causes using a scoring matrix.

We support Platanos Academy in Stockwell, several students, two Arkwright Scholarships, The Livery Food Initiative, the fuel for the Tower RNLI Lifeboat Station at Waterloo Bridge and backing for Energy Sparks providing support to teachers and pupils learning about energy and climate change, and Generating Genius and TeenTech. We are sometimes asked for mentors and judges, and several Fuellers have enjoyed this interaction.

Our funds come from investments based on a legacy from the late Lord Ezra and regular donations from a small number of Fuellers. Fuellers are always encouraged to make donations to the Trust Fund, I hope this insight into the probity with which your donations are managed, and the deserving causes we support, will encourage you to support the Fuellers Charitable Trust Fund.

LCAG Conference – ‘Planning for a Resilient Future’

22 October 2024

Professor Averil Macdonald OBE, Past Master

The Livery Climate Action Group, founded by Alderman Alison Gowman, celebrated its third anniversary and its third conference thanks to Merchant Taylors' Hall, hosting the event and the Worshipful Company of Mercers as sponsors.

Almost two hundred people congregated for an early lunch and the opportunity to peruse stands by Institute of Physics (promoting their publication ‘Physics Powering the Green Economy’), [The Institution of Environmental Sciences](#) and Pollinating London Together, as well as speaking to students from City of London School for Girls, Simon Langton School, Hugh Myddelton School, St Saviour's and St Olave's School and Walsall Academy.

The Lord Mayor

Following a welcome by Alderman Gowman, the Lord Mayor, Prof Michael Mainelli, opened proceedings keen to emphasise the progress made by the City Corporation through its Climate Strategy and proud to point out that London was the first city in the world to bring in a Clean Air Act. He closed with explanations of the role of the City in carbon pricing to encourage reduced emissions.

Setting the Scene

Anthony Bicknell threw down the gauntlet identifying the main challenged facing not only the City but also the world if we are to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

- **Energy: is there a joined-up plan?**
- **Water: oceans will rise, are there enough reservoirs?**
- **Temperature: hotter summers lead to more forest fires, even in London.**
- **Skills: we don't have the engineers.**

The Panels

Four themed panels discussed a wide range of issues facing the City and beyond if we are to achieve a resilient future. The key ideas from each panel are outlined below:

Water chaired by Prof Carolyn Roberts with Tim Munday and Dr David Loyd Owen

- Water is aiming to be carbon neutral by 2030 requiring £105bn investment.
- Water poses a ‘wicked problem’ – poorly formulated and understood with not understanding of the solution or even if one exists. Could the City cut through this and lead on solving the problems?
- Currently London has one hundred days of ‘water stress’ per

year where water used is greater than water treated and put into the system. The worst case scenario is population growth and zero action which leads to 360 stress days per year.

- We need to understand the nature of regulation: currently there are two different regulators – one for drinking water which is very effective and one for sewage which isn't. We need desire, data and delivery and new regulations to drive progress. The City has big role to play in this – not least raising the money.

Energy Panels chaired by Prof Averil Macdonald with Ashutosh Shastri and Jon Clark

Setting the scene, Averil Macdonald OBE, Past Master of the Fuellers, pointed out that London's Clean Air Act actually only displaced the smoke and sulphur to Wales and, today, the UK is reducing its carbon emissions by displacing them to China as it manufactures so much for the west. She highlighted the challenge in achieving net zero by electrification (and the excellent website [amakate.com](#)) and the potential of hydrogen.

1. Senior Warden Ash Shastri explained that mounting evidence globally post Covid and post Ukraine invasion was that energy security has trumped decarbonisation and hence brought energy resilience into sharp focus; hence the need for a “strategic pause” now in the UK on single mindedly pursuing “low carbon”.
2. Priority for the UK should be on “scale up” for existing low carbon technologies and greater use of “optimisation/digitalisation” rather than low energy density renewable supply (we simply do not have that space).
3. Electrification is seen as a logical decarbonisation lever but again recent evidence shows it can throw a demand amplification surprise and pose serious challenges to energy security/resilience.
4. For The City the opportunities/priorities are/ought to be:
 - Positioning as a centre for energy-energy tech and climate finance (greater international promotion than what we are already doing).
 - Focusing on existing strengths in infrastructure finance and expanding footprint in global infrastructure finance (eighty per cent of new energy/low carbon capital requirement is in infrastructure and basic materials and plays to the strengths of the City).
 - Focusing on the built environment – especially deploying optimisation/digitalisation techniques.
 - Connecting the Climate Diplomacy with allied initiatives e.g. Space Diplomacy and Fintech.
5. Jon Clark noted that:
 - Energy transition means different things to different people – but there is no doubt that the future is going to look different to the present.

- There is also no doubt that moving to a new future will require significant capital across the production, transportation and consumption of energy.
- In the UK, that dynamic is likely to see a shift to greater electrification particularly for transport, heating and industrial use, along with a move to greater non-fossil fuel sources of generation (renewable and nuclear). Different vested interests present different future energy mixes and estimates of the capital requirements for this vary significantly, but I think most would agree that the capital needs are in excess of £100 billion.
- It is worth noting that overall energy demand in the UK is declining as processes become more efficient and the economy shifts to less industry and more services – this is not the case in the world as a whole where energy demand is growing.
- To put it another way, the transition story and capital story is not the same everywhere and that is really important to keep in mind as most pools of capital are globally mobile and will go to where the ‘best’ opportunities are.
- The City can play a strategic role in these global capital flows but if we turn back specifically to the UK energy landscape, this means that as well as defining how much capital is needed, we also need to set out how to make that attractive to providers of capital.
- This requires a coherent energy narrative and policy landscape across the entire energy value chain. I think it is fair to say as a status update that the new government is “working on it” and is starting to recognise the complex moving parts and significant capital requirements that need to come together.
- When we think about capital sources for the energy sector, people often overlook the capital that is generated by existing energy companies – this internal source of capital is significant and the energy companies that call the UK their home are making decisions about where and how to allocate their capital. This is not just oil and gas versus renewables; this is UK versus other parts of the world as well.
- If we turn to external pools of capital, I am sure many in this room already recognise that not all sources of capital are equal – they target different risk and reward profiles as directed by their stakeholders.
- This can be a good thing as the UK energy sector offers a broad range of investment opportunities from emerging technologies right through to established long-term infrastructure. These asset classes have very different risk and reward profiles and the key is really in being able to properly articulate the right opportunity to the right pools of capital in a coherent framework.

6. To conclude the Fuellers panel noted that:

- Energy security has trumped simple decarbonisation and brought energy resilience into sharp focus. UK’s priority should be scale up of low carbon technologies to achieve optimisation/digitisation. For the City opportunities should focus on optimising the built environment and position London as the centre for energy tech.
- Transition will require significant capital – probably in excess of £100bn. Currently UK energy demand is reducing while demand worldwide is growing and the money will go to where the greatest opportunities are. The City can play a strategic role in global capital flows. The UK energy sector offers a broad range of investment opportunities from emerging technologies to established long term infrastructure.

Biodiversity chaired by Dr Heather Barratt-Mold with Ben Bishop and Dr Christina Banks-Leite

- Species extinction is a very real issue with biodiversity loss and climate change inextricably linked via extreme weather events – a Butterfly emergency declared this year which is a notable environmental indicator!
- We need to protect green spaces – trade off between urban landscaping vs natural landscapes – as currently urban temperatures are 7°C higher than surrounding countryside.
- Currently forty per cent of London’s canopy is plane trees. Pests and pathogens impact these increasingly with heat stress ricking shaded areas. We need to plant trees now for maturity in twenty years and second guess how they will thrive, or even survive, as climate changes.
- Biodiversity is a net gain for everyone. Our need to understand better the potential of biodiversity and technology is becoming increasingly important to monitor changes 24/7, and 365 days with processing now possible using AI.
- Current mechanisms to increase biodiversity include ‘Biodiversity Net Gain’ and ‘Nature Recovery Strategies.’

Skills chaired by Alex Hughes with Simon Sadinsky and Faiza Khan

- The issue of the skills pipeline exercises minds in all sectors – see report ‘Rise in Green Jobs 2025 and ‘Are Green Jobs for Everyone’ 2025. However, for the new ‘green’ sectors the issue is particularly pronounced as the nature of the skills requirements is still evolving. Currently ninety per cent don’t require a degree.
- Opportunity for City and Livery to provide bursaries to overcome challenges and provide opportunities. This increases confidence and leads to social mobility. We need to attract groups that do not usually see themselves working in these sectors which increases diversity of approach to problem solving.
- The Kings’ Foundation supports 17,000 learners per year and is looking for more meaningful links between industry and

education with industry defining skills gaps and co-designing training. Kings Foundation are seeking to tap into Livery knowledge and contacts.

Walsall Academy showed a video from BBC describing the eco warrior project at the school.

Keynote Speaker

Professor Thomas Waite, Deputy Medical Director, drew these themes together with a warning of the health risks facing the UK as part of a warming world. Reports UKHSA 2023 & UKCCRA3 2021 outline three concerns:

1. **Heat stress leading to heat stroke.**
2. **Water and infectious diseases.**
3. **Vector-borne diseases.**

Heat stroke occurs when core body temperature exceed 40°C and leads ultimately to seizures. Over seventies are most prone and efforts in building design and adaptation are required to mitigate this.

Both drought and excess rainfall are problems that raise the risk of infections, e.g. Cholera, entering the body via the mouth (food or water). The global stock of vaccine against cholera has all been used. We need to prioritise animal husbandry, hygiene and sewage management which all costs money.

Vector-borne diseases e.g. via mosquitoes are also more worrying as temperature rise. The Aedes mosquito (carries zika, dengue, yellow fever) has now moved as far as the north coast of France!

The conclusion – tackling climate change is essential for health.

Conversation – Dr Emma Howard-Boyd.

- Dr Howard-Boyd was previously involved in London Climate Resilience Review and Net Zero Festival and is now talking about adaptation and the need to learn from cities around the world.
- The UK is not ready for the impact of extreme heat e.g. a week at 40°C. Paris has already run ‘heat exercises’ to plan for the risks.
- The City has to be able to share across London with Lord Mayor working with Mayor of London and government.
- The UK also needs to get finance and insurance sectors involved with a notable role for private finance.
- Role of Liveries includes working with schools and caring for their property portfolios as well as reducing own emissions.



The Lord Mayor, Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli at the lectern, with Honorary Liveryman Alderman Canon Alison Gowman CBE



Liveryman Jon Clark, Chair of Industry Group, Junior Warden Ashutosh Shastri and Past Master Professor Averil Macdonald OBE



The Lord Mayor, Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli addresses the Conference

Images credited to the Livery Climate Action Group

The Fuellers Embassy Series Group

Following an approach by the Canadian High Commission in Spring this year, the Fuellers hosted for a day a delegation of Canadians from the energy industries visiting London. Pictured is the then Master James Cripps during the event. The visit was a great success, much enjoyed by our visitors, and both sides made valuable business introductions. To build on this success, the Court decided in July to set up the Embassy Series Group as a new working group reporting direct to the Court.

The Group will develop links with the diplomatic community in London and the City, and UK groups with an interest in the energy industries internationally. We believe this will add value to the Fuellers' membership offering, enhancing our profile and fulfilling a felt need of the diplomatic community and overseas energy community in London and the UK. We will liaise with embassies regarding known visits by industry delegations, and aim to assist them by hosting and providing contacts with business, the City and Government in a more informal way than that offered by Chambers of Commerce.

We will do this by:

- Developing relationships with the embassies, consulates and high commissions in London initially.
- Promoting opportunities for Fuellers to network and exchange information and ideas.
- Providing opportunities for professional and business development within the community by arranging events.
- Enhancing the profile of the Company by hosting delegations or arranging events jointly between the Company and the community.
- Exploring synergies with other UK outreach initiatives, especially the City of London, bilateral chambers of commerce, friendship groups and universities.

We expect to plan maybe two or three events in the first year, as requested by our foreign contacts, which are likely to include discussion events with specific topics of international interest, such as geopolitical developments and the impact these have on energy economics, markets and resource development, or international country risks as assessed by the London insurance market.

All Fuellers with an interest in energy and international affairs have been invited to express interest in joining the Group, and over twenty have done so already. There is cross-membership with the Court and other Fuellers committees, especially the Industry and Comms Groups, ensuring that these will be co-ordinated with the Fuellers calendar.

An inaugural meeting was held in September this year, with a further meeting in-person at Carmen Hall in October. Senior Warden Ashutosh Shastri is the representative Officer member of the Group. Court Assistant Iain Poole is the Chair of the Group, and Freeman Mehmood Hassan has been appointed as Secretary.

We have a WhatsApp group for members, and a dedicated email address will be available soon. Further information is available from the Clerk.



Event highlights

A round up of Fuellers recent events

Worshipful Company of Fuellers and Military Affiliates Liaison Visit To 152 (North Irish) Regiment RLC

30 September 2024

Liveryman Dave Marsh, Military Affiliates Liaison



On Monday 30 September the then Junior Warden Ashutosh Shastri and Military Affiliates Liaison Dave Marsh, were given the opportunity to visit our Affiliated Army Regiment 152 (North Irish) Regiment Royal Logistics Corps.

152 (North Irish) Regiment Royal Logistics Corps is a Reserve Regiment and is the only dedicated Bulk Fuel Transport and Storage Regiment in the British Army. Operating a fleet of close support tankers and unit supply tankers, the Regiment has the capability to store and distribute bulk fuel anywhere in the world.

The Regiment operates two bulk fuel transportation platforms and can independently operate fuel installations. A bulk fuel storage installation can store 600,000 litres of fuel whilst their petroleum laboratory technicians are able to test and assure fuel quality in austere environments.

Although usually based across Northern Ireland, we visited 152 (North Irish) Regiment RLC at St Omer Barracks on the Aldershot Military complex during their annual continuous training camp. On this occasion the camp was being used to ensure that as many of the soldiers as possible could become qualified in a number of roles including HGV driving, dangerous goods transportation (ADR) and refuelling from vehicle procedures. All vital bread and butter work, and all needing formal qualifications.

On our arrival we were treated to tea and coffee with a chance to meet the Regiment's new Commanding Officer and to catch up with other Officers. There followed a briefing explaining the history and roles of the Regiment, and the format of this year's training requirements and expected outcomes.



We were then taken to see an ADR (dangerous goods by road) qualification course being taught. This is a mandatory qualification for both civilians and military personnel if you wish to drive any sort of dangerous goods, especially in this case by road tanker, and it must be refreshed every five years. For more information speak to Past Master Carrie Marsh or Military Affiliates Liaison Dave Marsh who both hold an ADR.

From the classroom Ash and I were then taken onto the vehicle park to see the practical side of this training. The soldiers were physically gaining their competencies in the use of the vehicle pumping equipment and the various regulations and safe working practices involved. As a commercial tanker driver myself I was impressed by the competence of the soldiers who as reservists only do this on a part-time basis. The teaching standard is truly very high.

Lunch almost arrived too quickly, but what a lunch it was! We were escorted over to the modern cookhouse facility where, after much recommendation, we thoroughly enjoyed an excellent freshly cooked omelette.

Next was what was to be one of the many highlights of our visit. We hopped onto the Whitefleet minibus and were taken to the off-road driver training area, for some "big lorry time". And what a treat! The NCO Training Instructors showed us around the Oshkosh articulated tankers, and wow can those guys drive. The vehicles can go anywhere! Six-wheel drive, each axle also having its own diff lock, so gradients were not a problem, and neither were the five foot deep stretches of water; the Oshkosh just ploughed through. Over a "brew" the Officers and NCO's all enthused with us that they were great bits of kit, even though they are getting a little long in the tooth (the trucks that is).

What a great visit! How could it be topped off I hear you cry. Well.....with a convivial and most enjoyable meal out and a glass or two back at the Officers' Mess of course. Many discussions and conversations were had on all sorts of things: fuel, lorries, life and the state of the world to name but a few. It really had been a fantastic day.

After a quick breakfast and cheerio our visit came to an end. The officers and soldiers from 152 (North Irish) Regiment RLC had done us and themselves proud, organising such a great visit. It really was a great honour to get to share in some of what they do with such professionalism, pride and expertise. My overriding impression from our visit is one of friendship, nothing was too much trouble, and everyone was happy to share with us with enthusiasm.

152 (North Irish) Regiment RLC I sincerely thank you and may our Affiliation and friendship continue to go from strength to strength.

Industry Group visit to Greatmoor EfW

18 October 2024



Fuellers enjoyed an interesting and topical Industry Group visit to Greatmoor EfW in October.

Over 345,000 tonnes of waste is incinerated each year – rather than going to landfill – producing over 25 megawatts, which is enough to power 40,000+ homes.

Buckinghamshire Council will save over £150+ million over the thirty-year contract.

Fuellers Sunday

3 November 2024

We marked Fuellers' Sunday with an inspiring afternoon in London, blending cherished traditions with forward-thinking discussions on sustainability.

The day began with a celebratory champagne afternoon tea at the Lost Property Hotel, near St Paul's Cathedral, where Fuellers and friends gathered for lively conversation and camaraderie.



(From left) "Honorary Liveryman Alderman Canon Alison Gowman CBE, The Rt Revd & Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE, Bishop of London, The Master, Elena Oderstone, The Ven Luke Miller, Archdeacon of London, Past Master Paul Cuttill OBE, Louise Thompson, Junior Warden and Honorary Chaplain The Revd Nick Mottershead FCA

This was followed by a moving Evensong at St Andrew by the Wardrobe, led by The Venerable Luke Miller, Archdeacon of London. He highlighted the church's remarkable achievement as the first Grade I listed City of London church to become carbon neutral. This milestone was made possible by a £1.1 million investment programme, which included insulating the roof and installing six air-source heat pumps.

The Right Reverend and Right Honorable Dame Sarah Mullally DBE, Bishop of London, graced the event with her presence, adding even more distinction to the occasion.

The Sarum Impromptu Choir, led by Michael Keeley and accompanied by organist Richard Selling, provided the outstanding music. Adding a special touch, City Harvest London CEO Sarah Calcutt and Past Master and FCTF Chair of Trustees, Chloë Andrews-Jones, joined the choir, their beautiful voices truly fuelling the harmony of the evening.

In a refreshing twist, the traditional sermon was replaced by a dynamic conversation on sustainability, expertly moderated by Past Master and energy veteran Paul Cuttill OBE. The panel featured Honorary Liveryman Alderman Canon Alison Gowman CBE, Honorary Chaplain The Revd Nick Mottershead FCA

and The Ven Luke Miller, who delved into how faith, engineering and community action can drive environmental resilience.

The day concluded with a powerful call to action: work together, follow the Creator's instructions, and infuse love into every effort.

Fuellers' Sunday was not only a celebration of faith and fellowship but also a stirring reminder of the role we all play in creating a sustainable future.

Lord Mayor's Show – Joint Float with RNLI

9 November 2024



The Fuellers teamed up with lifesaving charity the RNLI for The Lord Mayor's Show to highlight our roots in the City of London, and to celebrate important milestones in 2024. It is forty years since we were granted our Livery Status, and two hundred years since the RNLI was

founded at a meeting at the London Tavern on Bishopsgate.

Thanks to Past Master Doug Barrow MBE, this year we also celebrate twenty years of contributing towards fuel costs at Tower RNLI Lifeboat Station in central London as part of our initiatives through the Fuellers Charitable Trust Fund.

Speaking about the collaborative efforts for The Lord Mayor's Show, the RNLI's Chief Executive Peter Sparkes said he was grateful for the generous support from the Fuellers and "for giving the RNLI this unique opportunity to celebrate our two hundredth anniversary, just a mile from Tower RNLI Lifeboat Station – the RNLI's busiest lifeboat station located at Waterloo Bridge."

The theme of the joint entry float was INSPIRATION. The message from the RNLI being to engage a new generation of lifesavers and supporters to secure the organisation's lifesaving services for another two hundred years. Peter Sparkes said: "2024 is also a timely opportunity to celebrate the achievements of our crew, our volunteers, our communities and our supporters and commemorate all those who have selflessly given their lives to help save others and freely given their time, energy and passion for our cause."

The charity showcased one of its Atlantic 85 class lifeboats – one of the fastest lifeboats in the fleet, which was towed through the streets of London by an INEOS Grenadier, the official vehicle



Hon Freeman Air Cdre Andy Spinks, Senior Warden Ashutosh Shastri, The Master, Elena Oderstone, Steve Hulbert RNLI, Freeman James Burdass, Junior Warden Louise Thompson

of RNLI lifeboats. Parading alongside Fuellers were volunteer crew and some of those they had rescued, together with representatives from the City of London Sea Cadets and London Nautical School Cadets.

Industry Visit to Rolls-Royce

13 November 2024



James Burdass, Chairman, Commodity Intelligence, and Freeman, the Worshipful Company of the Fuellers

On 13 November 2024, Rolls-Royce hosted an insightful event at its Filton facility, bringing together Fuellers, Carmen, and the Air Fuels and Sustainable Energy Association (AFSEA). Industry experts, military representatives and policy professionals gathered to discuss the future of UK energy and aviation.

The event was hosted by Tom Burgess, Vice President of UK MOD Business Development, with leadership from our Master Elena Oderstone, Senior Warden Ash Shastri, Andrew Turner (Past Master Carmen), and Squadron Leader Greg Curtis (AFSEA).

Discussions focused on small modular reactors (SMRs), sustainable aviation fuels (SAF), and hydrogen technologies, exploring their potential to create a secure and sustainable energy landscape. Rolls-Royce highlighted its advancements in SMR technology, showing how these modular, scalable reactors could complement renewable energy by providing flexible, reliable power.

The event also delved into SAF's role in decarbonising aviation. SAF, produced through hydrogen and carbon capture technologies, is poised to be a key player in reducing emissions in aviation, with hydrogen playing a vital role in the SAF value chain, offering a solution without requiring substantial aircraft infrastructure changes.

A key theme was the importance of public-private sector collaboration. With strong government support, these emerging technologies can be advanced to maintain the UK's competitive edge in energy and aviation innovation. Without such leadership, there's a risk of falling behind on critical global developments.

The event concluded with a renewed sense of optimism, very in line with our Master Fueller's theme of 'Fuelling the Future'. Investment in SMRs, SAF, and hydrogen technologies positions the UK as a global leader in sustainable energy, improving energy security and achieving significant emissions reductions. The discussions underscored the importance of strategic, long-term planning to address the UK's energy and aviation challenges.



Sqn Ldr Greg Curtis, AFSEA, Andrew Turner, Past Master Carmen, The Master, Elena Oderstone, Tom Burgess, Rolls-Royce Vice President of UK MOD Business Development

To find out about future events visit fuellers.co.uk/events-list

Valedictory Message from the Immediate Past Master

James Cripps, Master 2023-2024



Master's Weekend – preparing for lunch on the River Thames, May 2024

As the first (now Past) Master with a parent who was Master in the last century (1990/1) my valedictory message includes some observations on the Company's journey over the last forty plus years. This reflects that I have already described my own activities in my monthly blogs and various reports on the twenty charity dog walks by me, Margaret, Maia and Theia and several others who joined us along the Ridgeway. I must start, however, by thanking the many Fuellers, past and present, for the enormous time and effort that has led to what has been nothing less than a Company metamorphosis. It has been a privilege to have been a fellow traveller through this transition and may the journey continue as smoothly and with as much fun as it has been for most of us most of the time, to date.

When my father became Master virtually all Fuellers were or had been personally involved in the UK coal industry. The industry was, however, in severe decline and the shortage of potential future members had already triggered the opening of the membership to anyone with an interest in coal and led, soon after, to 'energy' replacing 'coal' in our statutes.

In 1990 John Major succeeded Margaret Thatcher as Prime Minister, there was no Fueller magazine, the worldwide web was less than a year old and the first social media site still six years in the future. Furthermore, the activities expected of our Master were considerably fewer than today, with 'traditions' including the Master's Weekend and monthly blogs not yet featuring – indeed the only chance the Master had to report on his (it was then only his!) year was the summary he or she still gives in a speech immediately before installing his or her successor! Unfortunately, a punctured tyre meant that I was unable to complete this task, but in practice the blogs, other activity reports and this Fueller article render the practice nearly obsolete!

From something of a social club for senior members of the coal industry, the Company has been transformed into a principal source for energy information in the City, with our aim to contribute to balanced fact based debate on the challenges facing the energy sector and the potential solutions. We achieve this through hosting conferences and lectures as well as our 'advantage' meetings allowing smaller groups to learn about different energy sectors from experts and industry visits where we are hosted by people who have day to day experience of the energy sector and are willing to share this with us.

The Industry Group has become the main source for these events, and I have been most encouraged at the recent growth in the number of active members and the different aspects of energy in which they are engaged. I particularly enjoyed organising the trip to the Energy from Waste site at Greatmoor in October and the evening visit to the Verizon Hub in London earlier in the year. This year has also seen the creation of the new Embassy Series after we were asked to organise a working breakfast at Canada House for energy professionals from Alberta to meet some of their equivalents amongst the Fuellers, thus taking our information dissemination role into new venues in the diplomatic world. I was delighted to speak at this inaugural event and very much wish this new venture every success in the years to come.

The Communications Group plays a vital role as the use of social media is key for sharing information with the membership and the wider public. It would be all too easy to underestimate the time and hard work required to maintain this, not least as the workload includes preparation of the Fueller twice each year! The Group has also taken on responsibility for the Company website, which has since been much improved and is shortly to benefit

from expert advice from India. The issues are not only accessing the ever improving technology but also ensuring we have the resources available to be able to benefit from this – volunteers are always very welcome!

Other important additions since 1990 – when there were only two committees, Finance and General Purposes and Hospitality and Entertainment – include the many collaborations with the Fuellers Charitable Trust Fund that provide mentoring and prizes for an increasing number of students through the Arkwright Scholarships and the Charles Stephenson Clarke awards. We are also supporting each of our military affiliates with annual prizes with Fuellers enjoying visits to see each of them at work. The first affiliate relationship was with HMS Daedalus in 1987, and we now have relationships with the logistics segment of each branch of the defence forces. The annual lunch we and the FCTF host for the affiliates, which includes the prizegiving ceremonies, has become a major event of the year, while the visits to their facilities are another highlight. I particularly enjoyed my trips to HMS Sultan in the spring and the day trip to the United States Air Force base at Mildenhall in East Anglia. I also much enjoyed our volunteering day at the Holy Sepulchre in support of The Hygiene Bank last spring, with one of my last appearances as Master at the service at Holy Sepulchre where Nick Mottershead, our chaplain, was installed as Rector.

Formal events, including dinners after Court meetings and our annual carol service, continue much as before and remain well attended following recovery from the hiatus caused by the pandemic, while members continue to have access to merchandise featuring Fueller emblems.

The Membership Group is being rejuvenated and the membership application process reviewed. The Group will continue to be Chaired by the Junior Warden ex-officio, reflecting its importance to the Company's future. We also held an inaugural Welcome Party for new members in September and the plan is for this to become an annual event. The importance of a continuing stream of new and active members cannot be exaggerated: to quote from the first edition of the Fueller in 1994:



My brother in law Col. Fred Lough and me at my Installation dinner, October 2023

“It is, after all, the responsibility of all members to ensure we grow from strength to strength and welcome new blood into the body of the Company”.

Some things never change! I wish the new Officers and their successors, as well as the Company and all the current and future membership, all the very best for the future and give many thanks to all who have contributed to what was, for me and Margaret (not to mention Maia and Theia!), a quite extraordinary year.



The Ridgeway walkers, August 2024

Fuellers merchandise

Merchandise

Please take a moment to check out the Fuellers Shop in the Members' Area on the website. Notebooks, ties, umbrellas are just some of Fuellers merchandise that is available. **Remember, Christmas is fast approaching.**

Log in to the Members' Area to place your order.

See the full range,
Member login to: www.fuellers.co.uk/shop/



Special awards for Fuellers



Dr Carole Nakhle of Crystol Energy (pictured above left) has been honoured with the 'Most Influential CEO 2024 – London (Business Consulting) Award'.

The 'Most Influential CEO Awards 2024' are presented by CEO Monthly and "celebrate the extraordinary achievements of the world's most influential CEOs, whose strategic acumen, transformative leadership and unwavering commitment have left a mark through every product or service that they put out to their clientele and customers."

Speaking about the honour, she said: "The energy landscape is constantly evolving and the energy transition has no shortage of challenges and complexities. Without a multi-disciplinary approach, cross-sectorial perspective and a comprehensive overview of different stakeholders' needs, we won't get too far."

Honorary Liveryman Alderman Canon Alison Gowman was appointed CBE 'For Public and Voluntary Services and Sustainability'. Alison has been involved in all aspects of the work of the City of London during her years of service and is presently a member of the City Corporation's Property Investment Board and Markets Board.

Freeman Volker Beckers (pictured above right) was appointed Honorary CBE 'For Services to Nuclear Energy'.

Congratulations Carole, Alison and Volker on your well deserved recognition.

Freedom of the City of London

Congratulations to Jai Ferguson, Tony Griffiths and Ulf Nahrath on their admission to the Freedom of the City of London.



Past Master Deputy Shravan Joshi MBE CC, Tiphaine Le Bian - Deputy Clerk to the Chamberlain's Court, Ulf Nahrath, The Master



Ms Didi Ferguson, Jai Ferguson, The Master

Trinity House Civic Luncheon

Our sincere thanks to our former Clerk, Bill Walworth CBE, an Elder Brother of Trinity House, for his kind invitation to the Trinity House Civic Luncheon. Elena Oderstone was deeply honoured to receive congratulations on her upcoming Installation as Master Fueller from HRH The Princess Royal.



(Top) Bill Walworth CBE, The Master, the Clerk, and Rear Admiral Iain Lower CB, CEO of Trinity House (Bottom) The Master meeting HRH The Princess Royal, Master of Trinity House

Fuellers Chaplain installed as Rector of Holy Sepulchre London

Our Honorary Chaplain The Revd Nick Mottershead was installed as Rector of Holy Sepulchre London on Wednesday 23 October by the Bishop of London, The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Sarah Mullally DBE.



(Centre) Our Honorary Chaplain The Revd Nick Mottershead with The Rt Revd & Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE, Bishop of London, Master and Wardens from the Fuellers and other friends

From the Clerk

Alex Maclean Bather

Get involved



What a busy start to the new livery year we have already had – there can't be many Masters who have hit the ground running at such a pace as Elena has! One of the privileges of being your Clerk is seeing the different ways that each Master prepares for their year and I have already seen the results of the old adage about prior preparation and planning, which saw the Installation Dinner sold out over a week beforehand, a fascinating Conversation held as part of Fuellers Sunday and, following two years of planning, the great spectacle of the Lord Mayor's Show where we teamed up with the RNLI for a joint float!

Looking forwards there's a varied selection of events for you all to enjoy and as always, I ask you to check the list of the main events on the following page, with the fuller list available at the bottom of each mailout and on the Events page of the website. Two that I would particularly highlight for your diaries are the Woodmongers Banquet on Tuesday 22 April, when we will again be teaming up with our friends the Carmen, and the Affiliates Lunch & Prizegiving on Monday 9 June. The latter day will be a very special day for our six affiliated military units as we not only recognise their dedication and service, but we will also be honouring them and all our country's serving personnel and veterans by signing the Armed Forces Covenant. This will happen during our Annual Thanksgiving Service beforehand and Vice Admiral Andy Kyte CB, Chief of Defence Logistics and Support, will be countersigning it on behalf of the Ministry of Defence. The Affiliates Lunch is always a special occasion for the Company and if you have never been before then please come to this one and make it an extra special day.

Our committees are thriving, but always on the lookout for new members, so if you are interested in joining one then please either contact me or the relevant Chair.

The Fuellers Charitable Trust Fund also needs your help! Firstly, they need your time and in particular if you are willing to act as a mentor or a judge either on a one-off or a regular basis, and secondly if you have a charity that you would like the Trust to consider for support. At the quarterly meetings of Trustees requests for grants are considered and they would love for more of these to come from Fuellers. So, if you have a charity that you would like the Trust to support then please get in contact with me and I can submit your charity's details to the Trustees at their next meeting.

Finally, with the nights closing in and the temperatures dropping, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Fuellers New Year!

Alex Maclean Bather – Clerk
Carmen Hall
186C Fleet Street
London
07521 992 653
clerk@fuellers.co.uk

linktr.ee/fuellerscompany



Dates for your diary

January 2025

Wednesday 15 January

New Year Court

Tallow Chandlers Hall, followed by

Court Dinner (members of Court only)

March 2025

Tuesday 4 March

Inter-livery Pancake Races

Guildhall Yard

Wednesday 19 March

Fuellers Advantage

Liberal Club

Friday 28 March

United Guilds Service

St Paul's Cathedral

April 2025

Thursday 10 April

Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch

Guildhall

Tuesday 22 April

Election Court

Mansion House, followed by

Woodmongers Banquet (with the Carmen)

May 2025

Tuesday 13 May

370th Festival of the Clergy Support Trust

St Paul's Cathedral

May 2025 continued

Wednesday 14 and Thursday 15 May

Inter Livery Clay Shoot

West London Shooting School

Wednesday 28 May

The Fuellers and Carmen Fundraising Dinner for City Harvest

Vintners' Hall

June 2025

Monday 9 June

Annual Thanksgiving Service and signing of Armed Forces Covenant

St Olave's Church, followed by

Affiliates Lunch & Prizegiving

Trinity House

Tuesday 24 June

Common Hall Election of Sheriffs

Guildhall, followed by lunch

July 2025

Wednesday 3 July

Midsummer Court

September 2025

Friday 12 to Sunday 14 September

Master's Weekend

Isle of Wight

To find out about future events visit fuellers.co.uk/events-list

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