

THE Fueller

The official journal of The Worshipful Company of Fuellers

Issue 69 June 2024



Woodmongers' Banquet

A joint celebration with the Carmen

The Future of Hydrogen
18th Ezra Memorial Lecture

**Energy Transition in the
Defence Realm**

Fuellers' Advantage Group
presentation



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Editor's note

Lynn Postle FICME, Editor

Our new Master's theme for his year is 'onward and upward', an optimistic and enthusiastic mantra that enables continued growth and a mindset of looking to the future. I was reminded of the importance of marrying the past with a determination to drive forward at the Woodmongers' Banquet when, sat with Fuellers and Carmen we were able to park past "disputes", albeit from centuries ago, and look to the future we have together as vibrant livery Companies in this great city of ours.

The notion of what we can all achieve as a collective force is particularly comforting and provides a sense of hope in the current climate of discontent that the mass media informs us of daily! A collective force for good, making genuine strides and changing lives is something to be proud of.

It is also reassuring to hear that those working in science and technology outnumber those in the world of finance in the city we all relish (see page 12) – another thread between Fuellers and Carmen and the quest to find common ground and practical solutions for real-world problems.

With this latter thought in mind, this year's 18th Ezra Memorial Lecture put great minds and considered problem solvers on centre stage to debate the future of hydrogen and the possible way in which it can offer a solution to some of our energy concerns now and into the future.

Indeed, debate and often discord, leads to insightful thinking, something we have always and will always need to enable us to stimulate change and to inspire us to do better. Our Fuellers Advantage technical meetings consist of a series of presentations identifying thought-provoking matters and considering them in open forum. This issue includes a report on one of our Fuellers Advantage events held in October last year (page 19).

One thing is for sure, collectively Fuellers will be able to effect change and, by working closely with fellow livery Companies, said change may happen at a greater pace and with greater force.

I encourage those of you who have yet to attend a Fuellers Advantage meeting, Ezra Lecture or other such event to consider adding them to your diary...you will be made to feel very welcome, and you will be contributing to your livery Company, your community and your society.

I would like to thank everyone who has assisted in the preparation of this issue of The Fueller.

Next issue: Autumn 2024



Join the conversation

Private

Private

Public

Public

Public

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

James Cripps considers the Fuellers' objectives



James Cripps, Master Fueller

I started this article on a sunny Sunday evening, sitting with my laptop in our garden after a busy week of livery activity.

After a bank holiday on the Monday, I joined many other Masters processing in our robes (again) before and after a beautiful choral service at St Paul's Cathedral, followed by a first class dinner at Plaisterers' Hall. The next day Margaret and I enjoyed an extremely amicable lunch with nearly forty other Masters and Consorts in the cellar of the Stafford Hotel before walking to the first of the two 2024 Buckingham Palace Garden Parties, made notable by the King's return to public duties. Then, on Thursday, I attended a very jolly reception as a guest of the

Mercers Company in their Hall. Life as your Master can be tough, but also interesting – and almost always fun!

These social pleasantries are, however, not what the Fuellers is really all about. Our objectives include to become a, if not 'the', principal 'energy' Company in the City. This entails providing detailed information about different aspects of the energy industries to our members, potential members and guests and offering opportunities for our members to meet and share experiences, expertise and knowledge across the many different segments that comprise the energy sector.

In this article I examine our recent progress, in contrast to my monthly blogs which simply review what my successors can look forward to! At my Installation last October I nominated as the theme for this year: 'onward and upward' - and the message is that we are on track.

I have been very fortunate to host two major 'energy events': the first, the Duke of Edinburgh Future Energy Conference, last November; and the second, the Ezra Lecture, in March. Both were definite successes and have raised our profile in both the City and the energy sector generally.

The conference content was of a very high standard and the audience included

a significant number of senior energy professionals, as well as our Past Royal Master. Particular thanks are due to the many members of the Industry Group who spent considerable time and energy in the organisation of what was a very interesting and worthwhile day. The next conference is scheduled for late 2025 and the growing membership of the Industry Group bodes well for the conference going from strength to strength.

The Ezra Lecture was our first joint venture with the Energy Futures Laboratory ('EFL') of Imperial College, for which we were very fortunate to have the Lord Mayor as our main speaker. He was assisted by a distinguished panel that included Jon Clark, the Chair of our Industry Group, which was moderated by Dr Carole Nakhle, who had spoken at the conference and whom I have since welcomed to membership of the Company. Both are to be congratulated on their contribution and particular thanks are due to Elena Oderstone, our Senior Warden, and Peter Evans for their time spent negotiating with EFL and the Imperial events team. The fact that these two events were held in different seasons of the year was also a major contribution to us having the resources available to make each a success.

While these were the headline events, our programme of Advantage meetings and industry visits continue to be an important part of the Fuellers package. We are also raising our profile by accepting the Lord Mayor's invitation to host one of his 'Coffee Colloquy' series in October with our subject being 'Hydrogen'. We have

[Continued/...](#)

been invited to take part in Knowledge Miles, the Lord Mayor's online lecture series which explores the role of the Square Mile as 'The World's Coffeehouse' addressing diverse global challenges, with our challenge being, unsurprisingly, the progress to net zero. We have also announced a new initiative assisting energy industry visitors from overseas following the success of the breakfast meeting at the Canadian High Commission we organised for a group from Alberta Energy in March. Court Assistant Iain Poole is leading on this with Ash Shastri, our Junior Warden who organised the meeting.

This all reflects growth in both the attendance at Industry Group meetings and the number of members actively contributing to our 'energy package', which is going from strength to strength. New members are always welcome and are encouraged to contact Jon Clark. The only requirement is an interest in energy combined with the desire to learn more!

This is not to underestimate the vital role played by the Communications Group, Chair Michael Green, in publicising our events and supervising and maintaining our private and public groups on an increasing number of social media platforms. Recently a new sub-committee has taken over responsibility for the website design, content and update and this has already resulted in a significant improvement. Furthermore, a website design expert has been commissioned to review the design and suggest improvements. The resources willing and able to monitor and update parts of the website are a major constraint on website design. Volunteers willing to assist are strongly encouraged to contact Michael Green.

The bottom line, however, is the need for the Company to increase both our membership and the number of our members who take an active part in Company activities, not only joining the groups and sub-committees but also participating in our range of events, both social and industry based.

The Membership Group suffered during and in the aftermath of the pandemic and Ash, our Junior Warden, agreed to take over the Chair early in the year. Something needed to be done and I have been very happy to assist him and the members of the newly established group. Improvement is now a work in progress, with the first stage – a review and simplification of our new member application process – now completed. Our next project is to improve our welcome to new members and their introduction to all our various activities.

I must also stress the importance of our charitable activities, both financial contributions and volunteering. These are undertaken in collaboration with the Fuellers Charitable Trust Fund, which makes grants to assist other charities and to fund annual prizes for our military affiliates and educational establishments with whom we have relationships. Our members also act as mentors, judges and hosts and we host an annual lunch at Trinity House for senior officers and teachers and the prize winners. The Master also raises contributions personally during his or her year of office by raising money and I was delighted to lead a team volunteering to help the Hygiene Bank charity at the [Holy Sepulchre London](#), where our Chaplain is the [Priest-in-charge](#) and organiser for the charity in the City of London in March. Margaret and I will also be walking the Ridgeway with our two labradors over the summer (further details to follow).

Charity is at the heart of the livery movement and I would encourage all Fuellers to contribute, whether by donations or taking an active part (preferably both!) – and you are strongly encouraged to contact the Chair of Trustees, Past Master Chloë Andrews-Jones, if you are able to contribute in any way.

So, in summary, there is much progress to report but much remains to be done – and I hope to be reporting more good news in my next and final message as your Master.



Pictured are (from left) Elena Oderstone, Mike Kennedy, Martin Hewitt, Chloë Andrews Jones, Chair of the Fund, my Consort Margaret, Alex Maclean Bather, Simon Brewster, Ash Shastri, Peter Evans, Jan & Peter Harrison, sorting donated hygiene products into bags to facilitate their distribution to families in need in and around the City. During the volunteer day at the Holy Sepulchre London we discussed the work of the Fund and offered practical support for The Hygiene Bank, including a detour to a local chemist to purchase the hygiene products we were then to pack. Our Chaplain, Nick Mottershead, gave an informative introduction to the very active role of the Church in the charity and more generally in the community.

Installation Dinner

Welcoming the new Master

11 October 2023
Stationers' Hall



James Cripps is installed as the new Master at Installation Court in October

The Fuellers welcomed six new Liverymen at Installation Court which was held prior to the Installation Dinner at Stationers' Hall on 11 October – Dr Stephen Wells, Stewart Peter, Dr Michael Parmar, Dr Antony Richards, Henry Michael Tarr and Ashley Boolell. In addition, the Master Carman-elect, David Pugsley, was welcomed as an Honorary Liveryman. The then Master, Peter Harrison, in his final act as Master, welcomed them to the Company before installing James Cripps as the new Master for the ensuing year.

Following Installation Court, the Installation Dinner attracted 120 members and guests, including five Masters and one Master-elect. The guest speaker was Dr Frederick Lough MD, who spoke of his eventful fifty plus years as a heart surgeon, thirty of which he served in the US Army Medical Corps. This included two tours of Afghanistan and an award for meritorious conduct under attack. He then provided an insight into the challenges he faces in his new role as the Director of the US Department of Defense Medical Ethics Center in Washington DC before finishing by making the traditional toast, 'The Worshipful Company of Fuellers, Root and branch, may it flourish forever'.



New Freemen with the then Master Peter Harrison (centre), Master-elect James Cripps (far left) and Senior Warden-elect Elena Oderstone (far right)



Freeman Dr Stephen Wells



Freeman Dr Antony Richards



Freeman Stewart Peter



Freeman Henry Tarr



Freeman Dr Michael Parmar



Freeman Ashley Boolell



Honorary Liveryman David Pugsley, Master Carmen-elect



Guest speaker, Dr Frederick Lough MD



New Master James Cripps with his Consort Margaret Cripps

Woodmongers' Banquet

People make the difference

22 April 2024

Mansion House



Senior Warden Elena Oderstone (far left), Junior Warden Ashutosh Shastri (far right), Master James Cripps (centre) with the new Liverymen Dr Antony Richards (left) and Sina Mirshahi (right) at the Woodmongers' Banquet

Lynn Postle, Fueller Editor

The delightful music from the Royal Marines Association Brass Quintet set the tone for this historic evening, one that celebrated the joint efforts of the Fuellers and our closest associates – the Worshipful Company of Carmen.

The proceedings commenced with guests being presented by the Beadle to the receiving line of the Officers and Consorts, followed by a convivial pre-dinner drinks reception which enabled Fuellers and Carmen to mingle and connect in the chandelier-adorned Salon, before moving through to the Egyptian Room for dinner and formal proceedings.



Fuellers Ceremonial Court, April 2024



Drinks reception prior to Woodmongers' Banquet in the spectacular surroundings of the Salon at Mansion House

Grace preceded the dinner, toasts and the presentation of the Carmen Company Awards to the worthy recipients who would later be encouraged to join one or both Companies by the Aldermanic Sheriff, who urged Fuellers and Carmen to harness their “energy and enthusiasm.”

In proposing the toast to the Lord Mayor, the City of London Corporation and the Sheriffs, our Master James Cripps said, he hoped the 2024 Woodmongers’ Banquet would “be the beginning of more joint events, having put past regaled disputes aside.”

Indeed, the event, in the majestic surroundings of Mansion House by kind permission of the Lord Mayor, marks our origins in the Worshipful Company of Woodmongers in the sixteenth century and is a celebration of the work undertaken by both Companies, rich in history but grounded in the quest to offer modern solutions for prevailing dilemmas.

Toasting the guests, the Master Carman and Honorary Fuellers' Liverymanr David Pugsley spoke of “what connects us all.” He highlighted the willingness of those present to support endeavours as being the strength of both Companies, in his words: “joined long ago, but now thriving in our own Companies.” He said: “It is the work that drives us together in this great city of ours. There is a richness of course, plenty of it, but there is another type of richness – people, they make up the richness.”

Responding on behalf of the guests, the Lord Mayor’s representative the Aldermanic Sheriff Broniek Masojada said he could “sense the warmth and enjoyment” in the room, which he said showed “the livery at work, changing and adapting as the world adapts.” Referring to past disputes between the Companies he joked: “With the history between the Carmen, Woodmongers and Fuellers offering more twists and turns since succession, it is amazing that we have enjoyed this evening with such good humour!”



The Royal Marines Association Brass Quintet providing musical entertainment

Noting the relevance of both Companies to the modern world, he said: “The Lord Mayor’s goal is for the Square Mile to be a centre of global trade. More people in the City work in science and technology than in financial institutions. The City’s strength is solving global problems.” With that notion set in everyone’s minds, the room joined in the toast to the Carmen and the Fuellers root and branch, may they continue to flourish forever.

Earlier in the day, prior to the social aspects of the evening, our Master James Cripps was enrobed as an Honorary Liveryman of the Carmen. In the Fuellers Ceremonial Court, we also had the pleasure of admitting five new Freeman – James Burdass, Jonny Chapman, Nuno Fernandes Pedro, Robert Holt OBE and David Sanderson – and enrobing two new Liverymen – Sina Mirshahi and Dr Antony Richards.

As a joint event, our Officers were of course two by two. Senior Wardens, Elena Oderstone (Fuellers), Leon Daniels (Carmen); Junior Wardens, Ashutosh Shastri (Fuellers), Andrew Miles (Carmen); Clerks, Alex Maclean Bather (Fuellers), Captain Julian Litchfield RN (Carmen).



Senior Warden Elena Oderstone (far left), Junior Warden Ashutosh Shastri (far right), Master James Cripps (centre) with the new Freeman (from left to right), Bob Holt OBE, Nuno Fernandes Pedro, Jonny Chapman, James Burdass and David Sanderson at the Woodmongers’ Banquet



The Master, James Cripps, congratulates Dr Antony Richards on being enrobed as a Liveryman



The Master, James Cripps, congratulates Sina Mirshahi on being enrobed as a Liveryman



Freeman James Burdass



Freeman Jonny Chapman



Freeman Robert Holt OBE



Freeman David Sanderson



Freeman Nuno Fernandes Pedro

Fuellers Activities

Charitable Trust Fund

Past Master Chloë Andrews-Jones, Chair of Trustees

Governance

At the end of last year, Past Master Carrie Marsh retired as a Trustee. Thanks to Carrie for her enthusiastic support of the Trust during her tenure. Our two Trustee vacancies were filled by CA Martin Hewitt and Past Master Prof Averil Macdonald OBE. We also welcomed Sarah Inge Parker as an Advisor.

Governance isn't just about raising funds and distributing grants; there are lots of other tasks we must do as we manage our Charity. Like most things, these need periodic reviews and we'll be looking at various aspects this year.

This issue's 'Meet the Trustee' features Past Master Deputy Shravan Joshi MBE CC, I'm sure you'll find his piece interesting, a retrospective on his service to the Trust over many years.

Would you like to learn more about the Trust by joining us as an Advisor? These posts are for one-year periods, so you're not necessarily signing up for a long-term commitment. If you're interested, please drop me a line to my email: chloeandrewsjones@gmail.com

Update from Community Energy London

In December the Trust gave CEL (Community Energy London) a grant so they could distribute Winter Warmer boxes to households in the Middlesex Street Estates in the middle of January. Filled with LED lightbulbs, leaflets containing tips and instructions on energy efficiency – just as important – the boxes enable the start of a conversation on what can be a delicate subject for people struggling to meet their bills.



CEL Winter Warmer boxes

Livery Food Initiative ('LFI') support of City Harvest

A real pan-livery effort, if you have any doubt as to this cause, consider this: in inner London 30 per cent of households are in distress and for some groups the rate is even higher, reaching 53 per cent for single parents. Between 2008 and 2021 food inflation was 28 per cent. Between 2021 and 2023 it was also 28 per cent.

Having covered the three-year running costs of the first LFI van for City Harvest, in December the LFI launched their 'ask' for 2024. The main goal is raising a further £270,000 to cover the three-year running costs of a larger, refrigerated truck.

Funds raised by Elena Oderstone and Ashutosh Shastri in the Royal Parks Half Marathon were some of the first allocated to this new target. By mid-March the total raised exceeded £150,000, enabling the Lord Mayor to hand over the keys of the new truck to City Harvest in a ceremony outside the Mansion House in March.



Senior Wardern Elena Oderstone and Past Master Chloë Andrews-Jones celebrate how the Livery Food Initiative is supporting City Harvest to distribute food to those in need

Meet the Trustee



Deputy Shравan Joshi MBE CC

When I joined the Fuellers Company, I remember being told in no uncertain terms by Sir Antony Reardon-Smith (then Clerk to the Company), that it was expected of Liverymen to donate to the Charitable Trust Fund. Supporting the pillar of charity is critical for all Livery Companies, whose combined donations add up to over £72m annually. This gives the Livery movement a phenomenal power to do good, which is regularly evidenced through some of the great work done to support those who are most vulnerable in society.

I was attending a Freedom Ceremony at the Chamberlain's Court the other week and read a piece from Victorian times, bemoaning the City Corporation for "doling" out money to the poorest souls in London, which the author felt would do no good, but instead breed idleness and only go to support the tavern owners of the City. It read as a very hard and unsympathetic view to take on the "have-nots" in those times, but I am glad it featured in the Chamberlain's Court, rather than be cancelled out, so that future generations can understand different perspectives over time. Attitudes to poverty have changed. Whilst the State today provides a safety net, many on the margins are not protected. With the right, targeted support, those vulnerable people can become productive and contribute positively to society, whether that is through education, training, a "leg-up" with costs of living, or mental health support, to name a few.

I joined the Fuellers Charitable Trust Fund in 2013 when it was under the stewardship of Past Master Nigel Draffin and had not realised the extent of the work that the CTF undertakes. The support provided to such a vast array of charities, spanning education, energy research, relief of poverty and military organisations seemed unfathomable for a relatively small Trust, with a modest income from the Fuellers' membership.

The structure of the CTF and its relationship with the Company have been the subject of many debates over the years, but I do believe that there is currently a happy equilibrium, where the arm's-length legal requirement is balanced alongside a healthy reach within the membership to donate to some excellent causes. Whilst I may not take the hard line approach of our former Clerk, I do encourage members to give what they can and to study the CTF reports, which demonstrate our far-reaching impact.

The CTF definitely punches above its weight. Whilst we do give money, we also offer our members' time. Helping young professionals, inviting schoolchildren to attend industry events, celebrating our Military affiliates and offering hands-on-deck for cross-Livery initiatives.

I remember when I first initiated contact with Platanos College and had gone to meet the Head. We spent a fair portion of that first meeting discussing "what is a livery company?", before we went on to form a friendship and alliance with the school, which continues to this very day. It is a great example of how members' donations have been well-spent on delivering long-term, life-inspiring changes to young people in inner city London. As I step off the CTF this year, I look back on that and many of the amazing donations we have made over the years, which in turn have enhanced the reputation of the Fuellers Company within our industry and increased our stature amongst City Livery Companies.



Shравan Joshi and his wife Mira during the Three Peaks Challenge, which they both undertook whilst Shравan was Master Fueller to raise funds for the Charitable Trust Fund

Fuellers Arkwright Engineering Scholarship

These scholarships are not just about the grants we give to nominated students in year 12 and year 13, working with other Fueller Groups, we look for opportunities to engage the students in suitable events. The last few months have seen our y13 scholar attend the Energy Conference (and consequently an event at the Institute of Physics) and both our y12/y13 scholars were at Imperial to attend the Lord Ezra Memorial Lecture and subsequent reception. A few snippets from them:

"I was especially interested in the panel on innovation."

"It was so interesting to see how all of the exhibiting companies and organisations were using physics in the industry to help combat climate change and how this links in with the economy."

"The panel discussion gave me the opportunity to hear scientists and business professionals debate issues surrounding hydrogen ... it allowed me to meet with some professionals from within industries that interest me, offering insightful advice and inspiration."

"The experience was very valuable. I learnt a lot pertaining both to my industry of interest and others."



Fuellers Arkwright Engineering y13 scholar Emma at the Duke of Edinburgh Future Energy Conference 2023

Fuellers Charles Stephenson Clarke Prizes, City University

Six students from City University presented a snapshot of their theses to a panel of two Trustees and two other Fuellers before being grilled in a short Q&A. All were studying for an MSc Course in Energy & Environmental Technology & Economics and have gone on to work in and around the energy sector. The panel decided on three prize winners this year, with two second prizes awarded in addition to the first as the judging results were so close.

We were delighted to welcome the winner to the Affiliates Lunch & Prizegiving in early June and will look to involve them in more Fuellers events in the hope that they might consider joining the Company in due course. Read more about the winners and the subjects covered by all nominees [here](#).

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](#).

Livery Climate Action Group

Prof Averil Macdonald OBE, Past Master

Creating a Climate Action Plan

Fuellers involvement with the Livery Climate Action Group continues. There are now over one hundred livery companies signed up as members and each one has their very own SPOC (single point of contact).

Currently the focus is on each Company creating their own Climate Action Plan with regular on-line meetings to support each SPOC as they put their ideas together. The Fuellers Climate Action Plan features on the LCAG website as one of seven exemplars [Climate Action Plans – Livery Climate Action Group \(liverycag.org.uk\)](#).

There are regular seminars – details on the [Events/News tab Events – Livery Climate Action Group \(liverycag.org.uk\)](#)

There are also regular newsletters that anyone can sign up for or find on the website – again under the Event/News tab on the Home Page [Home – Livery Climate Action Group \(liverycag.org.uk\)](#)

The next big event will be the LCAG Conference in late October – watch this space for more news on this.

HMS Sultan

The Fuellers Charitable Trust Fund sponsored the prizes for the graduates of the Systems Engineering Management Course (Air Engineering) at the HMS Sultan Affiliates Day (see report in *Event highlights* on page 23).

Presenting the prizes, Senior Warden Elena Oderstone said: "The Fuellers takes great pride in our affiliation with HMS Sultan, the educational base for this exceptional course.

"The sky is not the limit; it is just a starting point for these air engineering maestros. May their achievements continue to soar to new heights, and may the skills and knowledge acquired during this course propel them to a future filled with success and accomplishment."

Industry insights

The 18th Ezra Memorial Lecture 2024 The Future of Hydrogen – the Ends of the Rainbow?

Lynn Postle, The Fueller Editor



The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor of London, Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli

Held on 13 March, this year's annual Fuellers' energy lecture was presented by the Lord Mayor of the City of London, Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli, who addressed the future of hydrogen. The event was held in partnership with The Energy Futures Lab at Imperial College London and hosted at Imperial's prestigious City and Guilds Hall in South Kensington, London.

As Professor Mainelli stood to deliver the prestigious annual lecture, he warned the packed auditorium that they were not only to expect an evening “full of fun” but also “heated debate”.

With the use of ASK Consulting's hydrogen rainbow, Prof Mainelli highlighted the image problem associated with hydrogen and how, despite it being a colourless gas, it does as far as the industry is concerned have a multitude of colour associations. He took as his basic theme the notion that the profusion of hydrogen colours (blue, green, etc.) is due more to the optics of economics than science and engineering. Increasingly these economic sub-systems leading the hydrogen markets to interact with the carbon markets.



Green – produced via electrolysis and powered by a renewable electricity source. Thus, the most climate-friendly option for hydrogen production.



Blue – produced from natural gas. The resulting CO2 is captured and stored underground.



Pink/Purple – like green but produced using nuclear power.



Turquoise – produced from natural gas. The by-product is solid carbon.



Grey – produced from natural gas. CO2 is released into the atmosphere, so contributes to greenhouse gases.



Brown/Black – Produced from coal. Contributing excessive carbon.



White – naturally occurring hydrogen.

The lecture concluded with some observations on how hydrogen economics is analysed.

Looking at hydrogen as an industrial or a domestic power system solution he said: “I believe in options – dual power systems.”

He spoke of the financial investments, amounting to billions, in a national hydrogen strategy as part of the growth in energy trading. He also noted the efforts made throughout the east now to decarbonise steel and chemicals production and that the UK is one of the top five countries with green hydrogen plans.

Professor Mainelli’s presentation established that “there is something over the rainbow” in terms of a transport mechanism, an industrial and domestic power system, and as an energy trading mechanism.



An engaged audience at the Ezra Lecture

The presentation was an optimistic view of a very real shift in opinions – from image problem to one of the solutions to our energy dilemmas.

The annual lecture was established in 2005 by Lord Ezra, and has had a lineup of esteemed speakers, including Lord Ezra himself. The presentation was followed by a panel discussion, chaired by Dr Carole Nakhle, CEO of Crystol Energy. The panel consisted of Jon Clark, Partner EY and Chair of the Fuellers Industry Group; Professor Stephen Skinner, Research Chair in Electrochemical Devices for a Zero Carbon Economy at Imperial College London; Dr Angela Needle, Director of Strategy, Cadent Gas.

Key moments from the panel discussion included: how we transition the gas network in the UK to other fuels; hydrogen is not a direct replacement for natural gas but it offers things that electricity can’t; hydrogen technology exists but the issue is the infrastructure; a good deal of work needs to be undertaken on transportation and public perception; green hydrogen makes no sense unless there is a green supply.

The evening was wound up by the Master James Cripps and Professor Peter Childs of the Imperial Energy Futures Club.



This year’s Ezra Lecture panel answer questions from the audience



Group image above of the contributors to the lecture, from left to right: Sir Adrian Montague, Chairman, Cadent Gas; Dr Angela Needle, Director of Strategy, Cadent Gas; Elena Oderstone, Senior Warden Fuellers; Ashutosh Shastri, Junior Warden, Fuellers; Peter Childs, Co-Director Energy Futures Laboratory, Imperial College; Jon Clark, Partner EY; Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli, Lord Mayor of London; James Cripps, Master Fueller; Dr Carole Nakhle, CEO Crystol Energy; Richard Walsh, Cadent Gas

Fueller's Advantage Event

The Energy Transition in the Defence Domain, Fast Follower to First Mover

Presentation and discussion with Squadron Leader Greg Curtis RAF, 25 October 2023



Squadron Leader Greg Curtis speaking at the Fuellers Advantage Meeting in October, Source: Michael Green

Dr Edward Libbey, Court Assistant

As part of the ongoing Fuellers' Advantage group's focus on the challenges facing the energy industry and the 'transition', we were delighted to welcome Squadron Leader Greg Curtis to lead the evening's discussion held at the National Liberal Club on 25 October 2023. His topic was 'The Energy Transition in the Defence Domain – Fast Follower to First Mover'. He was until last year Chair of AFSEA – Air Fuels and Sustainable Energy Association – coordinating a tri-force approach to responding and being a leader in the energy transition as it impacts the UK military.

Fuellers had spoken and contributed to AFSEA conferences in 2022 and 2023 and Greg was on the podium at the Fuellers' Duke of Edinburgh Future Energy Conference in November 2023, building upon the strong and long relationships between the Fuellers and many sectors of the UK military.

He has been at the centre of thinking about how the whole military, not just the RAF, meets the energy transition challenges, and finds solutions to the consequences of climate change and secures optimum approaches to ensure sustainable energy supply to meet the military's long term energy needs. These challenges include both the energy products themselves and also, crucially, the supply and logistics associated with operating in hostile and distant environments. As history has shown, failure on either front can be fatal to any military campaign. The presentation title 'Fast Follower to First Mover' says it very succinctly – it cannot afford to wait, but must be helping set the route map going forward.



Inflight refuelling of two F35 Lightnings by RAF Voyager, Source: RAF

The issues facing the military are in many ways similar to those of the commercial world – just more so! Most of the fuels themselves are intrinsically no different from those used elsewhere, whether it be jet fuel or diesel, gas or nuclear power, but the focus on guaranteed security in what appears to be an increasingly unstable and volatile global environment must also be recognised. The demands put upon the military are increasingly diverse but in some cases novel or unique.

Looking at some of the specifics, the military is facing the same demand to replace existing fossil fuels with sustainable or synthetic alternatives; new fuels need to be compatible globally with both military and civilian partners' needs and uses. Interoperability remains key.

Greg outlined how the military must be on the development curve as new technologies evolve and will ride with both the successes and failures. This will require the MoD and the Services to ensure they are an integral part of innovation in fuels supply and development whereas in the past they had been siloed research and development, which with devolved financial authorities, had inhibited rapid delivery into the operations.

The military faces a broad spectrum of challenges in fuel uses and facilities, the development of sustainable and synthetic fuels, estate and equipment innovation and the need to be at the forefront of IP evolution. The military has always shown the ability to exploit technology, particularly at the time of war and conflict, but now needs to bring the same vigour when the conflict risks are less transparent or ill-defined.

Fuellers were most appreciative of Greg's clarity of presentation as well as his addressing our many and detailed questions! The dialogue developed with Fuellers engagement with AFSEA has, I believe been rewarding for both the Company as well as our military affiliates.

The Master thanked Greg for the enthusiasm with which he and his colleagues have engaged with the Fuellers at many levels.

Look out for further evening meetings of Fuellers Advantage, which is open to all Fuellers and their guests, and the Science Circle of the National Liberal Club. The most recent took place on small nuclear reactors on 28 May 2024. All meetings include a lively discussion and a drinks reception afterwards.

Fuellers Advantage is a series of technical meetings, held jointly by the Worshipful Company of Fuellers with the Science Circle of the National Liberal Club at the National Liberal Club, 1 Whitehall Place, London SW1A 2HE, UK.

News

Dick Austen 1929-2024

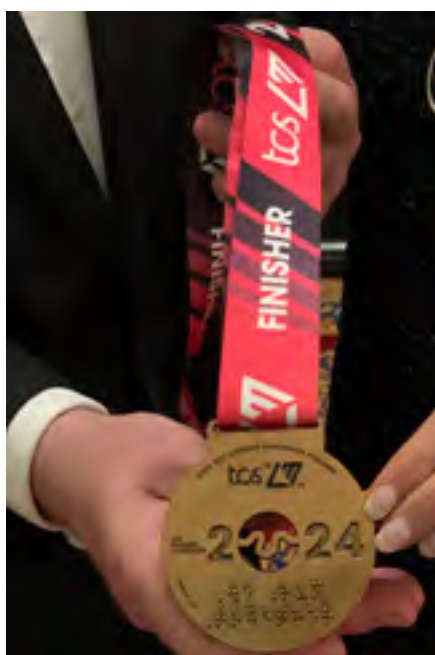
It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Dick Austen on 3 January 2024 in Australia – four days short of his 95th birthday. He was a great supporter of the Fuellers despite living in Australia and had many friends amongst our members.

He had a long career in the coal industry in Australia and worked closely with the British Coal Board and Lord Ezra.

He was admitted as a Freeman in September 2000 and enrobed in the Livery in 2002. He regularly attended the Installation Dinner, travelling the long distance from Australia. Unfortunately, due to his senior age and health issues, attending events became too much and he was sorry to resign from the Fuellers in 2018.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his widow Yvonne and all of his family.

He will be greatly missed by the Fuellers.



A 'marathon' commitment

Undeterred by sore feet and aching limbs, Fueller and Carmen Carl Lomas MBE, attended the Woodmongers' Banquet brandishing his London Marathon medal, just 24 hours after taking part in the iconic event.

Being committed to both Companies and keen to celebrate finishing the London Marathon in less than six hours, Liveryman Carl swapped his running shoes for dress

shoes and enjoyed the festivities at Mansion House on Monday 22 April.

"I'm tired but happy to be here," he said as fellow Fuellers and Carmen tried his finishers' medal on for size.

"This is a fabulous way to end the weekend," he enthused.

Well done Carl – what an achievement! Here's to next year.



Fueller and Carmen Carl Lomas MBE delights in showing his London Marathon finishers' medal to Senior Warden Elena Oderstone during the Woodmongers' Banquet on 22 April

Fuellers Interview with Honorary Freeman Wing Commander Jon Smith RAF, Tactical Supply Wing

We are delighted to have released a further Fuellers' interview featuring Honorary Freeman Wing Commander Jon Smith RAF.

Jon kindly shares details of his fascinating career in the RAF, his long association with Tactical Supply Wing and the impact that the Fuellers' affiliation has with TSW.

This turned out to be an extremely well timed video as it was subsequently announced that Jon was to be posted away from TSW on promotion. Our congratulations to him!

[Enjoy watching](#) and feel free to share on your social media channels.



Fuellers' interview featuring Honorary Freeman Wing Commander Jon Smith RAF (main image); TSW in action (left – top); Affiliates Prizegiving 2023 at Trinity House (left – bottom)



Help us provide 'inspiration' at The Lord Mayor's Show (Celebrating RNLI and the Fuellers)

This year is a special year for both the RNLI and the Fuellers – the RNLI is celebrating its two hundredth anniversary, it is also forty years since the Company was granted Livery status to become The Worshipful Company of Fuellers and it is twenty years since the Fuellers Charitable Trust Fund began supporting the RNLI's Tower Lifeboat Station.

To celebrate this historic milestone Elena Oderstone, our Senior Warden and Master-elect, has been working on a project for a joint RNLI and Fuellers float at this year's Lord Mayor's Show on Saturday 9 November 2024.

The float will feature an Atlantic 85 lifeboat which will be accompanied by around one hundred people, including RNLI volunteers and rescuees, Sea Cadets and members of the Fuellers.

The core theme is INSPIRATION – to inspire a future generation of lifesavers and supporters with a particular focus on youth engagement. Such is the interest from the organisers that it is looking likely that we will be among the first in the parade.

Elena and others, including a number of Fuellers, contributed the funds required for the float to join the Parade and offered the Company the chance for the float to be joint with the RNLI. The Company was delighted to accept her offer and thanks Elena for all her hard work and everyone who contributed for their generosity.

Join the conversation

Private

Private

Public

Public

Event highlights

A round up of Fuellers recent events

Inter Livery Pancake Races

13 February 2024

James Cripps, Master and Paul Mott



The first third of my term as your Master ended on Shrove Tuesday, 13 February, when, slightly against my better judgement, I agreed to join our team for the annual pancake races held at the Guildhall. Sadly, the Senior Warden Elena Oderstone, who won the ladies race in the previous two years and holds the record, was unavailable, but Court Assistant Louise Thompson gallantly volunteered and combined this with joining Past Master Chloë Andrews-Jones in collecting donations for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution. The other team members were Antony Richards (novelty costume category) and Liveryman Paul Mott, our captain. Novelty costumes are designed to be in the theme of the Lord Mayor's charities, which this year included numeracy and mental health themes. Antony's well made, imaginative and humorous costume (read it!) attracted positive commentary from the judge, and looked like a close call, though he didn't triumph.

We all dressed in anticipation of a cold and breezy morning only to learn, on arrival, that the races had been cancelled as

overnight (and continuing) rain had made the course dangerous. We were instead all photographed in various groups before being ushered into the Guildhall crypt for the alternative 'competition' – pancake tossing by the Masters present, all of us in full ceremonial dress (hats, gowns and badges).

Masters were asked to toss the pancake as many times as possible in thirty seconds and judged on speed. I was going well until my pancake missed the pan and landed on the ground..... which was captured on a video taken by my wife that caused much merriment, particularly in the USA when circulated on the extended family WhatsApp group. The large crowd meant the crypt was exceedingly warm and it was a relief to be able to return to normal dress for the convivial buffet lunch that followed.

Veterans' Garden

20 February 2024

James Cripps, Master



On 20 February Chloë Andrews-Jones, the Chair of the Trustees of the Fuellers Charitable Trust Fund (FCTF), and I attended the official launch of the Veterans' Garden for this year's Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch in the Guildhall Yard.

The Duke of Kent was the guest of honour. The launch was a preliminary to the Big Curry Lunch and the many associated events which raise money for the Army Benevolent Fund. The Big Curry Lunch has certainly mushroomed and is now an increasingly significant annual fundraiser for a very important cause. I attended the first ever Big Curry Lunch, in 2008, with two of my clients as my guests both of whom are now Past Masters of the Company: recruitment brings many rewards!

After the launch, Chloë and I took the opportunity over lunch to catch up with developments and plans for the FCTF and the relationships we maintain with many of the charities both our entities support.

HMS Sultan Annual Affiliates Day

5 March 2024

James Cripps, Master



For my first event as Master in March I joined several Fuellers and others on the HMS Sultan annual Affiliates Day in Gosport.

HMS Sultan is the home to the Defence School of Marine Engineering and the Royal Naval Air Engineering and Survival School. Responsibilities include training the Fleet's Engineering Officers and

Ratings and the base is located within what was once a fort built to defend against a Napoleonic invasion. Very little except the boundaries has remained unchanged!

The theme of our visit was the holistic elements of training that support the core engineering training and I enjoyed my first virtual flying lesson: take-off was straightforward but landing less so.

There were presentations by senior Royal Navy personnel and the day also included a tour of Gosport on HMS Sultan's 1920's Steam Truck, which the Fuellers Charitable Trust Fund helps to fund. We also enjoyed a more than adequate refuelling at lunch in the Officers' Mess.

We are long term supporters of HMS Sultan and I could not help remembering, as I drove home to Buckinghamshire, my first visit with four of our children, then all under nine: our fifth and youngest, now 26, had only just been born. We were royally entertained – on both occasions. The site of that first visit is, however, now a housing estate!



HMS Sultan Annual Affiliates Day

Canadian High Commission Presentation

13 March 2024

James Cripps, Master



It was a busy day on 13 March, with the Ezra Lecture in the evening and the opportunity to take part in a breakfast meeting sponsored by Export Development Canada at the Canadian High Commission.



The meeting enabled a visiting party organised by the Alberta Department of Energy to meet some Fuellers active in the UK energy sector. As Master, my role was accordingly limited to welcoming the guests and thanking the sponsors, though the discussions improved my knowledge, not least of the Canadian energy industry plans for net zero.

This was the first in what I hope will be an exciting new programme of engagement with the energy industry outside the UK, more details to follow.

United Guilds Service

15 March 2024

James Cripps, Master

Our Clerk Alex Maclean Bather and I joined the Senior Warden Elena Oderstone at St Paul's Cathedral for this year's United Guilds Service, which marks and gives thanks for the work of the Livery Companies. Elena and I enrobed outside before moving to our designated seats for the event.

The service was first held on 25 March 1943 with a view to lifting morale as London recovered from the blitz. The sermon this year, by the Lord Bishop of Southwark, finished on a note very much still in people's minds, the terrorist atrocity in Westminster in March 2017.

The service, attended by the Lord Mayor and the Bishop of London, is one of the few occasions that members of all livery companies and guilds gather together.

Lunch followed where we joined the dozen Fuellers and guests who had attended the service in Pewterers' Hall. The current Master Pewterer is a retired Old Bailey judge and I have been lucky enough to hear her speak on several occasions. She

did not disappoint with another witty and amusing speech. Then a pause and a change of clothes before family dinner to celebrate my birthday – and escape to the country on the Saturday morning for a rest.



Thanksgiving Services, Affiliates Lunch and Prizegiving

Monday 3rd June

The report will be published in the next issue.



Clockwise from above: The Master, James Cripps and Senior Warden Elena Oderstone on the steps of St Paul's Cathedral; The Officers with The Father of the Company, Brigadier Edward Wilkinson CBE (centre) and Past Master Chloë Andrews-Jones, Chair of Trustees (right); The Officers and the Commanding Officers of our Military Affiliates; The Officers with the Affiliates Prize Winners; The Officers with Leandro Iturralde, Winner – Charles Stephenson Clarke Prize, Past Master Chloë Andrews-Jones, Chair of Trustees, Lemuel Oderinde, Prizewinner - Platanos College Harrison Cup.



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

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.

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



See the full range: www.fuellers.co.uk/shop/

From the Clerk

Alex Maclean Bather

Get involved



It's been a busy and varied few months for the Fuellers – from the more formal Woodmongers Banquet and Affiliates Lunch & Prizegiving, through to the Fuellers Advantage meeting on small modular reactors, the excellent and highly enjoyable Master's Weekend, and Air Power Capabilities demo at Brize Norton followed by air to air refuelling the next day.

If you think that's a busy program, then spare a thought for your Master who is usually out several times a week selflessly representing the Fuellers with the Wardens assisting him when needed – for example the first week of June when we had two hugely interesting net zero events at Mansion House and Kings College London to attend at the same time.

Going forwards we have the Midsummer Dinner and Common Hall Election of the Sheriffs before the livery world heads off for the summer and a well-earned break. Even further out, planning is just starting for our next Ezra Lecture and Duke of Edinburgh Future Energy Conference – make sure you get them both in your diaries when the dates are announced.

We have been listening to your requests for more opportunities to meet in different and less formal settings and the programme is now starting to reflect this and will do so more going forwards.

I often get asked how people can become more involved with the Company and the answer is straightforward: speak to one of the Officers or myself as we are always looking out for people to help on committees and other interesting projects. The Trust is also always interested to hear from anyone who can help them particularly with mentoring and other volunteering (see the article by Past Master Chloë Andrews-Jones on page 14).

I hope to see many of you for the Midsummer Dinner at Innholders Hall on Thursday 11 July and wish you all an enjoyable and slightly sunnier summer!

Alex Maclean Bather – Clerk
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Dates for your diary

July

Monday 24 June

Common Hall Election of Sheriffs

Guildhall followed by Lunch at
Wax Chandlers' Hall

July

Monday 8 July

Industry Visit to Hinkley Point

Thursday 11 July

Fuellers Midsummer Court

Innholders' Hall, 3pm, followed by

Fuellers Midsummer Dinner

Innholders' Hall, 6.15pm

September

Wednesday 11 September

Visit to Hattingley Valley Vineyard

Thursday 19 September

Annual City Livery Concert and Reception

Barbican Centre, 7pm

Friday 20 September

Sheriffs' Ball – London Calling

Guildhall, 6.30pm

Monday 30 September

Common Hall Election of Lord Mayor

Guildhall followed by lunch at Armourers' Hall

October

Thursday 31 October

Fuellers Installation Court

Mercers' Hall, 3pm, followed by

Fuellers Installation Dinner

Mercers' Hall, 6.15pm

November

Sunday 3 November

Fuellers Sunday

Saturday 9 November

Lord Mayor's Show

City of London, 11am

Wednesday 13 November

Industry Visit to Rolls Royce

Filton, Bristol

Wednesday 20 November

Festival of St Cecilia

Westminster Cathedral, 10am

December

Monday 2 December

Fuellers Carol Service

St Vedast Alias Foster, 6pm, followed by

Christmas Supper

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

THE **Fueller**
The official journal of The Worshipful Company of Fuellers

