

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2017

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A Message from the Master



It is already three months into my Master's year. The reception and Installation Dinner at Ironmongers' Hall was a wonderful beginning, thanks to the seamless organisation of our Clerk, Biagio, ably assisted by John White. I also extend a warm welcome to our new members, who were admitted the same evening. Our Company continues to grow, covering the whole spectrum of dispute resolution. This allows us to speak with authority on behalf of our profession, and to represent the interests of the dispute resolution community in the City of London.

Our guest of honour and principal speaker at the Installation Dinner was Sir Anthony Edwards-Stuart, who caused puzzlement and amusement with a dissection of our coat of arms. We were fortunate to have him, only days before his retirement as Chief Judge of the Technology and Construction Court.



Just a few days later, we were devastated to learn of the untimely death much loved Past Master James Mackie, who was presented with

his new Past Master's Badge at the dinner. The manner of his passing was a shock to us all, and you will find a tribute to him on our website. I and other members of the Company will be attending his memorial service on 21st February.



again, but we were well prepared. Sadly, however, we were unable to 'fly the flag', as Jimmy, our Beadle, would not allow us to take it out in the rain!

Our theatre trip on 22nd November was a very enjoyable evening. Following an excellent supper at Christopher's, we made our way to the Duchess Theatre to see The Play that Goes Wrong. We all rocked with laughter at the farcical antics of an amateur dramatic company making a total hash of their production.

On 10th December, accompanied by my aide-de-camp Paul Rose, I attended the Winter Camp of the Army Cadet Force for a day of training and manoeuvres. I shall leave the details to Paul to recount, but you will be pleased to learn that I survived walking blindfolded through a minefield guided only by Paul's directions. At the final parade I also

had the pleasure of awarding our prizes for Detachment of the Year and Cadet Peacemaker of the Year.

Our Carol Service at St Mary-le-Bow was, again, a joint affair with the Solicitors and the Paviers. The Reverend George Bush juxtaposed familiar carols with some unusual and quite challenging readings, followed by white wine and canapes; only white wine is permitted in the Church, as red wine stains the marble floor.

We are very grateful to Berwin Leighton Paisner, who hosted our Arbitration Competition over the weekend of 20-22nd January. We had 46 contestants in thirteen teams, drawn from leading London law firms, Chambers and Universities. A cast of four arbitrators, four witnesses of fact and two experts were played by members of the Company.



It was an outstanding weekend, and I congratulate Margaret Bickford-Smith, Chris McArdle and Nicola Cohen who, through all their hard work and determination, made it such a success.

Matthew Bastone, Master

Worshipful Company of Arbitrators Literacy Project

“The Worshipful Company of Arbitrators is committed to promoting education in its widest sense and particularly in supporting children from disadvantaged backgrounds who have fewer opportunities than others”

(taken from the WCA website)

I was delighted when the WCA Charitable Trust invited me to submit a proposal for a reading and literacy project for disadvantaged children in London. This was in light of my work as a school librarian and literacy champion, and is a passion of mine and the Master.

The OECD (Organisation for Economic Development) 2002 says *“Reading for Pleasure is a better indicator of academic success than wealth or social class”*. In 2011 the OECD said: *“Students who are highly engaged in a wide range of reading activities are more likely than other students to be effective learners and to perform well at school. Research also documents a strong link between reading practices, motivation and proficiency among adults. Proficiency in reading is crucial for individuals to make sense of the world they live in and to continue learning throughout their lives...”*

Further evidence, should we need it:

Research links career success with reading for pleasure – Oxford University 2011.

Humans have the need to read. Our brains are physically changed by reading Deep reading makes us more empathetic. If reading were to decline it would change the very nature of our species – *Gail Rebeck in the Guardian Dec 2011.*

Having submitted various proposals, the Trust kindly agreed to support the following:

Proposal 1 – Author visits

Author visits to schools are one of the best ways to inspire children and get them reading. An author in school can change a non or reluctant reader into a reader for life.

However, many schools cannot possibly afford the charge of around £500 for a day's visit. The Trust has agreed to offer an initial 10 such visits.

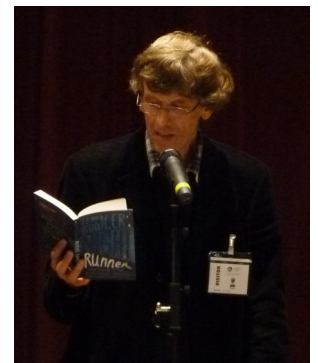


Author Steve Camden visiting a Yr 9 class

beneficiaries will be identified via online networks, schools and public library services and by completing an application form which sets strict criteria. Applicants have had until the end of January after which we will work with the successful schools to set up author visits in the second half of the Spring term or in the summer or autumn terms.

I will, of course, be reporting further on this project but if you would like more details or would like to be involved, please do contact me.

I am working with Authors Aloud UK to facilitate this project. They are nationwide providers of authors, illustrators, poets and storytellers to visit schools and inspire students. Appropriate



A reading by children's author
Tim Bowler

Sue Bastone, Mistress Arbitrator
s.bastone@btinternet.com

New Admissions and Presentations on 25th October 2016



New Freeman Louis Flannery,
James Clanchy and David Canning



New Liveryman Maria Theresa Trofaier, with
Immediate Past Master Michael Goodridge



Sergeant Instructor Alister Notridge receiving
the Adult Instructor of the Year award from
Master Matthew Bastone

The Master's Ridgeway Walk



The Master and Mistress, Matthew and Sue Bastone, are continuing their walk of the Ridgeway to raise funds for the WCA's Charitable Trust. Following a route used since prehistoric times, the 87 mile long Ridgeway passes through ancient downland, secluded valleys and woodland.

The walk started from Overton Hill, slightly east of Avebury, one of the finest prehistoric sites in Britain. Being 174m above sea level it is pretty blowy but the views are stunning.



By the time of his Installation in October, Matthew and Sue had walked 33 of the 87 miles and had reached Streatley-on-Thames in Berkshire. They have stopped over the winter due to weather and other commitments, but plan to start again in earnest in February so will have nine months to walk the next 44 miles.

Please help Matthew to raise funds for the Trust by going to our Just Giving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/MATTBASTONE>

For more about the Ridgeway, see: <http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/ridgeway>



World War I Project at Clara Grant Primary School

To reflect our support for the Clara Grant Primary School in Bow, in November we collaborated with them on a project to mark the anniversary of World War I, *Echoes Across the Century*. Organised by Livery Schools Link and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the project focuses on the role played by trades, industries and professions behind the scenes in the conflict. It has been shortlisted for an award by the charity *Remember WWI*.

Our company is one of seventeen participating. Led by Heritage Artist Jane Churchill, students aged between eight and eighteen years of age are taking part in fifteen London schools. They are exploring the human stories in the supply chain, researching the background of key heritage objects, understanding the impact of the war on those involved, and creating art work for an exhibition in their school which reveals their understanding and knowledge.

We chose peace-making and reconciliation as our theme. The centrepiece of Clara Grant's work is a striking and beautifully made "tree of peace", symbolising reconciliation and regeneration. Working with Jane, some twenty-six children made model leaves, each decorated with an angel of peace. They were inspired by a visit to a memorial at Poplar, which commemorates children who died when a bomb fell in 1917.

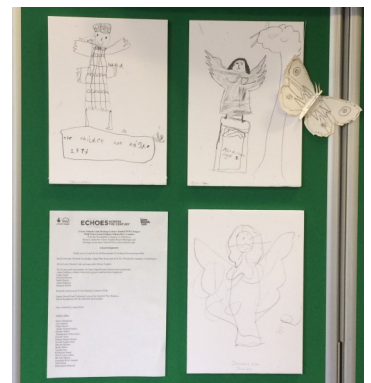


The children of Clara Grant also drew pictures and made illustrated paper butterflies, which were incorporated into the display.



The Company was well represented at the school. The Immediate Past Master and Peter King gave generously of their time. Peter and I were interviewed for a video which is being compiled to record all the livery companies' projects with schools. We recounted the stories which we had told the children about our grandfathers' experiences in WWI.

From April 2017, the art work will be on show at a major three-month exhibition open to the public. Jane reports that the exhibition will feature prominently a larger version of our tree of peace as the final exhibit, marking the end of the war.



You can read more about the project at <https://www.1echoes.blogspot.co.uk/>

More photographs can be seen by clicking on the following link: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/28gz55yabl665gp/AADy7f8WYkGrIrBl2ujFGWpGa?dl=0>

David Steward

The Master's visit to 13 Company Army Cadet Force Winter Camp

On Saturday December 10th 2016 the Master and I visited 13 Company ACF's winter camp at Longmoor in Hampshire. Accompanied for much of the time by Major Mark Gubby, we had a number of opportunities to talk to the Cadets, who were clearly enjoying their weekend away from home.

The Cadets we met were aged between 14 – 17, and they appreciated the opportunities that the Cadet Force presented to them; not only in some sporting activities such as archery, but also in learning fieldcraft, how to handle a rifle safely and even enjoying the camaraderie of parading together. The Army regard the last as necessary training and discipline.

After a Mess Hall lunch, the Master and I were escorted to the Dismounted Close Combat Trainer (DCCT) – a sophisticated indoor firing range where we competed on the snap fire exercise and the range grouping; the Master impressed the Instructors especially on the difficult snap fire exercise. We were then taken to a hanger which had been set up as an archery range, where we watched the cadets firing. They were clearly enjoying this sport, and displayed considerable talent.

We were then escorted to an open field, part of which had been taped off and littered with various objects including old tyres. This was the command course, and the cordoned area was a minefield. The point of this command course was the exercise of communication skills. We each took turns at guiding the (blindfolded) other by commands through the obstacles, achieving 100% "no explosive contact" to the surprise and delight of the Lieutenant who had expected various "explosions". We then teamed up in the woods for the paintball/target exercise. This was particularly good fun, and both of us destroyed all the targets equally.

Our sojourn in the woodlands turned into an exhausting "hare chase", when Major Mark Gubby and one of the NCO Instructors (a National Athletics gold medallist) took their turn. Racing after them through the undergrowth, we soon lost them in the woods as these chaps, being a great deal younger, were incredibly nimble, fit and fast. Only being kitted out for a country walk, care had to be taken of the slippery banks in the woods but the Master, a regular walker, demonstrated commendable fitness in preparation for his Charity walk.

Back at the Barracks, we attended the final parade of the afternoon where the Master handed out certificates to SSI Kevin Hicks (a past winner of Instructor of the Year) for Detachment of the Year and Cadet Lance Corporal Ashley McKenzie for Cadet Peacemaker of the Year. What a pleasure it was to witness not only their reaction but also the impact of what the Company's Charitable Trust does on the lives of the ACF Cadets. It was especially a pleasure to witness the reaction of amazement and delight when Ashley heard her name read out with the accompanying ovation from the assembled Company.

The Master and I were then treated to an early dinner in the Mess Hall, where there was an opportunity to talk with the other Officers and NCO instructors. Their task in handling teenagers from deprived homes in South West London, sometimes with difficult backgrounds, is not easy.

The support and recognition with certificates of achievement and monetary prizes from the Charity, given to 13 Company SW London ACF by the Worshipful Company of Arbitrators, is commended to the Court as a most worthwhile cause.

Paul Rose, 13 Company SW London ACF – Liaison.

Dates for your Diary:

- **March date TBC**
Tour of Sir John Soane's Museum, Lincoln's Inn
- **6th April**
The Master's Lecture at Simmons and Simmons, by Peter Rees QC

- **7th July**
Lunch for the Dispute Resolute Community, Bakers' Hall
- **12th July**
Nominations Court, Annual service and supper (venue TBC)

STOP PRESS!

HAY FESTIVAL WEEKEND 26-27 May

Tour of Hereford Cathedral, Mappa Mundi and Chained Library
Day at Hay Festival

Two nights & dinner at Castle House Hotel, Hereford

For more details and/or to reserve your place please email the Mistress at s.bastone@btinternet.com

The Worshipful Company of Arbitrators

Incorporated by Royal Charter

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