Our Master - Neville Chamberlain CBE

Neville Chamberlain CBE was installed as Master at Skinners' Hall on 14th October.

After obtaining a degree in Physics and an MSc for research from Kings College, Durham University, our new Master joined the nuclear industry in 1962 as a Health Physicist. His subsequent career embraced experience in research, commercial and works management; a short spell as a Division Director led to his appointment as Chief Executive of BNFL in 1986. After 10 successful years in that role, he became Deputy Chairman before retiring from BNFL in 1999.

Neville received his CBE in 1990, an Honorary DSc from Salford University in 1989, an Honorary DSc from Chester University in 2012 and the 1989 Melchett Medal from the Institute of Energy. He is an Honorary Fellow of the European Nuclear Society and a member of the International Nuclear Energy Academy, serving as its Chairman from 2001 to 2004. He is also an Honorary Member of the French Nuclear Society and was the 1996 Chairman of the European Nuclear Council. He is a Companion of the Institute of Management, a Fellow of the Institute of Physics, a Fellow of the Institute of Energy, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

Following his ten years as Chief Executive of BNFL, Mr. Chamberlain has held a number of other Directorships and public appointments, including Chairman of Urenco Ltd, the European Industrial Chairman of the Transatlantic Nuclear Energy Forum, Chairman of the UK National Council for Training & Enterprise, Chairman of the Northern Way which was charged by the Deputy Prime Minister with raising the economic performance of Northern England, a Board Member of the NW Regional Development Agency and a Non-Executive Director of Dennis Special Vehicles plc.

He is currently Chairman of The Manufacturing Institute, Chairman of the Cheshire Business Leaders and Chairman of Structure Vision Ltd. He is an advisor to AREVA, the French nuclear builder, and to Essar who run the Stanlow oil refinery.

Neville is a family man; he and Joy, who is a qualified nurse, married in 1971 and have four children, Louise, Elizabeth, Christina and Andrew. All are science graduates and live and work in London or the South East. Neville and Joy now have six grandchildren, the latest just a few weeks old. Christina, known as Tina and married to Mike TURNER, presented Joy and Neville with new granddaughter Eleanor Lucy on 17th November. Neville enjoys swimming, light classical music & opera and follows politics - particularly energy and technology and regional issues - soccer and horse racing.
News from the Court

THE COURT
Mr Peter Harrison, elected as a Court Assistant at the Election Court, was welcomed to his first Court Meeting. Past Master John Bainbridge retired from the Court at the Installation Court and was appointed to the Honorary Court. Mr James Hill also retired from the Court and was elected to the Honorary Court in recognition of his services to the Company.

The Court thanked Junior Warden Janet Harrison for her excellent work as Honorary Almoner and welcomed her successor, Liveryman Elinor Goldsmith.

ROYAL CHARTER
The production of the Royal Charter is progressing well. The Privy Council are formally responsible for the origination of the Charter and Court Assistant Michael Shirley is in regular contact and also liaising with the printers and the scribe. The scribe should complete by early January after which the Charter will be sent to the Crown Office for the Seal to be affixed. Meanwhile, the group chaired by the Master is making preparations for the anticipated presentation on 16th March 2015 at Guildhall.

CITY BRIEFINGS
It is essential that any Liverymen seeking to be considered for election to the Court should attend one of the City Briefings. They are aimed particularly at new Liverymen and Freemen; partners are also welcome, as are Court Assistants and Liverymen of longer standing, who have not previously been to a Briefing, who are also encouraged to attend.

The Briefings give a short introduction to the work of the Corporation, especially the relationship with the livery companies. The presentation is given by an Assistant Town Clerk and a member of the Livery Committee. There is the opportunity to ask questions of the speakers and the Briefing is followed by a light finger buffet, which provides the chance to mix with other Liverymen and Freemen.

The next courses are Wednesday 18th February 2015 and Wednesday 6th May 2015. Booking and more information from www.liverycommitteecourses.org

Bill Walworth CBE – Clerk
Skinners’ Hall, 8 Dowgate Hill, London EC4R 2SP
Tel/fax: 020 7489 7655   Email: clerk@fuellers.co.uk

ROYAL CHARTER BANQUET
The grant of a Royal Charter to the Company was approved at the Privy Council meeting on 8th October 2014. Preparations for a celebratory banquet at the Guildhall on Monday 16th March 2015 are well under way.

For 800 years, Guildhall, a medieval Grade I listed building, has been at the centre of the City’s government. It is a magnificent place in which to hold our celebrations. The reception will be in the Crypt, followed by a four-course banquet, with accompanying wines, in the Great Hall.

This is a truly once in a lifetime opportunity for members of the Company and their guests to witness the presentation of the Royal Charter and dine in a magical setting that has hosted Kings and Queens, Heads of State and many other distinguished visitors. Tickets for this unique and prestigious White Tie event will be £110 per head for members and their personal guests; please ensure you have the date firmly in your, and their, diaries.

Lipmans will supply white tie at rates substantially below their competitors. Details will appear on the website in the New Year.

OFFICERS OF THE COMPANY 2014 - 2015

Master
Neville Chamberlain CBE

Senior Warden
John Ingham

Junior Warden
Janet Harrison

Clerk
Cdre Bill Walworth CBE

Beadle
Colin Smith MBE BEM
Having been press-ganged into carrying out a one-off duty as Beadle by Sir Antony Reardon Smith, Colin Smith’s first function for the Fuelers was Michael Husband’s Installation in October 2008 at Drapers’ Hall. Colin had been a Beadle for two other companies, from which he resigned after being interviewed later in the year by Michael and Antony at The Liberty Bounds Pub, close by the Tower. After which he was officially offered the job as the Company Beadle.

Colin joined the RAF in 1970 and served 31 years, the last 10 as a Warrant Officer (WO). Among other postings, he spent 12 years in Germany and was the last Catering Officer at RAF Hospital Wegberg. He played football for the RAF and Station cricket, also umpired in the final RAF/Army cricket match held in Germany, which the RAF won.

He has been a Yeoman Warder (Beefeater) for 15 years at the Tower, where he also lives, and is rightly proud of his appointment. The position of Yeoman is well sought after, with normally eighty applicants for each vacancy.

Colin entered this world on New Year’s Day 1950 in Chatham, and from the age of one to 16 lived on the Isle of Wight. He is the oldest of seven children. He married Julia in September 1970; they have one son, Robert who is an airline Captain and a thirteen year old grandson, Cameron who is a budding golfer.

Colin is a Freeman of the City, received a BEM in the 1990 New Year’s Honours for his charitable work and was appointed MBE in the 1992 Queen’s Birthday Honours for operational work. He is currently Chairman of The City of London Beadles’ Guild and is a Past President of the Toastmasters and Master of Ceremonies Federation he is also a Mason and a ROH member of The Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes, Julia says he just likes dressing up.

He continues with his charitable work, in particular with a group of gentlemen with a similar hair style, known as The Bald Eagles, who raise money for adult and child cancer sufferers and also has raised significant sums for Bart’s hospital.

- Past Master John Bainbridge

Colin Smith following his installation in May 2014 as Chairman of the City of London Beadles’ Guild. Flanked by two fellow ex-RAF Yeoman Warders

In the moat among the commemorative poppies
The splendid view of the full dining hall

A full capacity Installation Dinner and a great success

On 14th October, at Skinners’ Hall, Company members and guests enthusiastically welcomed the new Master, Neville Chamberlain CBE, the new Senior Warden, John Ingham and the new Junior Warden, Janet Harrison. All of whom had been appointed earlier that day at the Installation Court meeting. In addition, congratulations were given to the two new Liverymen, Stephen Lloyd and Peter Rixon as well as seven others on becoming Freemen. These were Douglas Adam, Andrew Caton, Kevin Corcoran, Paul Cornwell, Alison Heath, Kevin Hughes and Robertas Katilius.

The evening proceedings began with a champagne reception as members, their partners and guests mingled in a friendly atmosphere. The fanfare called everyone to dinner with the official procession, led by the new Master, his Wardens, partners and principal guests, who were clapped in as they took up their seats.

The food and wine were excellent and we all enjoyed the superb musical accompaniment and the always very popular Horn Gallop. The meal came to a conclusion in the traditional way with the Master asking everyone to join him in a Loving Cup. The diners really enjoyed the challenge of getting the ceremony for this correct or not, despite some cups lacking their lids!

Following the formal toasts, the first speaker was the Senior Warden, John Ingham, who welcomed all the guests. These included Masters from four other Companies being the Fan Makers, Carmen, Constructors and Water Conservators. He also welcomed representatives from our Military Affiliations being Captains Steve Donkersley and Duncan Lamb from the Royal Fleet Auxiliary, Commodore David Elford of the Royal Navy Defence College of Technical Training, Wing Commander Jamie Osborne and Squadron Leader Paul Summers of RAF Brize Norton and Group Captain Guy Sawyer, Head of the Defence Strategic Fuels Authority.

For the response, we were privileged to enjoy hearing the special guest speaker, Professor Ian Fells CBE, who entertained all with tales of his exceptional career, research and insights into the energy industry. He also shared a number of interesting stories from his advisory role to various governments around the world, including from during the Thatcher era. He was an early advocate of energy conservation and environmental protection and has made many TV and radio programmes. A high profile and engaging speaker, who concluded by proposing the health of the Company.

The Master, Neville Chamberlain CBE, replied. He first thanked the Immediate Past Master, Dennis Woods, for an excellent year and also thanked his wife Suzan Woods for the support she gave during the year. Neville also referred to the records that Dennis must have broken for the number of events attended and organised. A record Neville stressed that he will not be looking to break! The Master gave an overview of his plans for the year including industry and charitable events and mentioned his signature fund raising theme will be “The Fuellers Pilgrimage”. More details will follow.

The Master’s speech incorporated two important news items. The first he announced was the exciting news that the Privy Council has recently
confirmed that the Fuellers have been successful in our application for a Royal Charter. Details of the presentation, celebrations and dinner to be held on 16th March 2015 will follow. Secondly the retirement, after twelve excellent years of service, of our Clerk, Sir Antony Reardon Smith, was announced. The Master thanked Antony and his wife Sue for all their work and contribution to the growth and success of the Fuellers, and everyone attending agreed, giving a standing ovation. Our new Clerk, Commodore Bill Walworth CBE, was introduced and he will commence duties from 1st December 2014.

The evening came to a conclusion with the Master asking everyone to join him for a stirrup cup. A very successful and enjoyable evening.

- Court Assistant Peter Harrison

Photos from the Installation are available from Peter Holland Photographic Services
peterholland304@btinternet.com
tel: 07962 473164
Fuelling the next generation - A study of the UK upstream oil and gas workforce

At a glance

As part of the UK Oil and Gas Industrial Strategy, EY was commissioned by offshore trade association Oil & Gas UK, sector skills organisation OPITO and the Department for Business, Innovation & Skills to research and produce a report identifying:

- the current workforce profile of the upstream oil and gas industry
- the potential changes in the workforce profile
- the challenges facing the oil and gas industry as a result of the future workforce profile

This unique piece of research, which included in-depth interviews with representatives from HR departments from upstream oil and gas companies, educational institutions and oil and gas recruitment agencies, highlights:

- the offshore oil and gas industry currently employs one in 80 of the UK workforce
- over the next five years, total employment is expected to fall from 375,000 to 340,000 as investment in the UK Continental Shelf (UKCS) begins to naturally decline
- growing supply chain opportunities in export markets, the need to decommission North Sea assets, and new prospects for an onshore shale industry should offset the decline in employment
- the sector is making successful efforts to build a sustainable pool of talent for the future - 86% of companies have graduate and/or apprentice programmes supporting 6,000 graduates and 13,000 apprentices

Looking ahead, estimates suggest remaining reserves within the UK Continental Shelf could provide energy for at least another 35 years. Over the next five years, over 12,000 new entrants will be needed to play their part in sustaining the UK oil and gas industry’s ability to fulfill this potential.

The full report can be downloaded from Oil & Gas UK’s website: www.oilandgasuk.co.uk

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For further information:
ey.com/uk/oilandgas, EY Energy Hub: ey.com/uk/energy

Follow us on twitter:
@ey_uk_energy, @EY_OilGas
Key findings reflect a changing workforce profile

**Workforce demographics**

- The results dispel the ‘ageing workforce’ myth. The proportion of 46-55 year olds is similar to the national average and that of over 55s is lower than the national average.
- Strong recruiter of graduates and apprentices; and a track record of supporting retraining efforts using skills from other sectors (eg the Armed Forces, ship building and downstream refining).
- Still some way to go to close the gender gaps, particularly in Physics and Engineering degree disciplines, and in the number of engineering apprentices.
- There is a re-balancing of contract personnel to permanent staff. The high cost of contract personnel was highlighted as an issue, in addition to a number of behavioural and knowledge retention challenges.

“The average age of our workforce is healthy in comparison to other industries – and it is getting younger”

“We really struggle to persuade women with the required level of experience to apply for senior leadership positions in our organisation”

“Getting people with the right attitude and qualities is the most important thing when we recruit, because everything else can be taught”

The continued development of skills will be key to sustaining the sector’s contribution to the UK

**Skills in demand**

- Well Appraisal and Well Construction disciplines are currently experiencing low recruitment activity. By contrast, Operations and Maintenance disciplines are in highest demand.
- Scale of skills shortages is less pronounced than 12-18 months ago; difficulties remain in recruiting for senior-level positions within Technical Safety, Drilling, Geosciences, and Business Support services.
- Recruitment challenges are more prevalent for Aberdeen-based companies than in the rest of the UK.
- Looking ahead, Operations and Maintenance remain in high demand. Drilling, Marine/Naval, and HSSE will experience the highest growth in demand compared to 2014 - driven by increases in exploration activity, decommissioning spend, international expansion, and the potential development of onshore shale.

“Increasingly our focus is on overseas client demand with the majority of our UK workforce now serving international clients”

“Decommissioning is increasingly on our radar. We are now actively planning for it, so we’re able to provide services across the full lifecycle of a project”

“The growth in digital will help to draw more young people into the industry”
“The Fuellers are looking for a Clerk – are you interested?”

Such was the invitation extended to Sir Antony in mid-2002 by the then Junior Warden, Doug Barrow. The Fueller of the time subsequently recorded the appointment of Sir W. Antony Reardon Smith Bt. KCLJ CMLJ as Clerk of the Company effective 1st November 2002. Antony joined after a period of some uncertainty occasioned by the resignation of his predecessor. He steadied the ship, and retired this November after a record twelve years as our Clerk and having served thirteen Masters of the Company.

A gathering to say farewell and thank you to Sir Antony and to Hon. Assistant Clerk Lady Sue was held at the Guildhall Club on the 2nd of December. The 70 present included ten of the thirteen Masters. The Master praised Antony for his unique organisational skills and for steering the Company to its position today with the benefit of his extensive Industry and City Contacts, and presented him with the Company’s gift of a leather-bound copy of the Company’s history and a collection from the Company. The Master was then delighted to bestow Antony with the Honorary Livery and Lady Sue with Honorary Freedom of the Company in recognition of their outstanding contributions to the Company. To mark the occasion he also presented a framed photograph of them taken at a recent function.

The Company’s own Poet Laureate then read an ode to “the noble knight” in his inimitable and witty style and broad Liverpudlian accent. His football club could do with some good poetry at the moment.

Antony responded humorously, first thanking Jim Bellew; “the only not-to-be-Master I would have loved to have worked with”. Doug Barrow’s invitation had come via a mutual friend; Antony had been astonished to pass the necessary interview ahead of a tall blonde. He thanked Jane Ayre, Roger Cloke and David Port for their support from the early days and particularly thanked David for his perseverance as Hon. Treasurer and that they had never had a cross word. He had enjoyed working with all his Masters. He thanked some 40 Fuellers, 16 fellow Clerks, and 4 Beadles, especially Colin Smith, for their presence. Also representatives from his Mother Company the Poulters, and from the Shipwrights and the World Traders, of which he is a member and founder member respectively. Then “the most cheerful face in the Mansion House”, John Davies, Keeper of Walbrook Hall, and lastly, his beloved Honorary Assistant Clerk.

- John Bainbridge
A Liverpudlian ode

As we say farewell on this poignant night
to our treasured friend and noble knight
I am pleased to be amongst the throng,
to say these words and sing the song

To honour, thank and eulogise
a sage so sensible and wise,
so deft of touch and light of hand
that guided our oft discordant band

So thank you Antony and Lady Sue
and as we bid you both adieu
I recollect with abundant pleasure
years well spent and times to treasure

For the days ahead as you turn the page
and take your turn on another stage
We bid you comfort, good fortune and an easy ride,
- you can leave this place with utmost pride

Sir Antony has sent the Company the following message.

Dear Liverymen and Freemen,
I finished my many years as your Clerk with an excellent send-off party given for me by the Company. Thank you.
I am also honoured to be admitted as an Honorary Liveryman of the Company together with Sue becoming an Honorary Freeman. We would like to thank the Court for this. Many a kind word has come my way in these last weeks and days which is most gratifying.
Lastly I have to thank all of you who contributed to my departing gift. You were very generous and I am very appreciative of this gesture. As I am now one of you I will look forward to meeting you from time to time without the hassle of organizing you!
I thank you for your support and friendship and it has been with great satisfaction that I have shared with you the growth and success of the Company over the last 12 years.
And to my successor I add my very best wishes for a long and happy time in his onerous task of keeping you all in order.
I hope you have a Prosperous, Healthy and Happy 2015.

With kind regards
Very sincerely
Antony
First up was ‘How Was Your Night?’
A view on energy, the developing world and how it affects different world economics. Perhaps one of the more surprising titles of the Fuellers’ Conversations, supported by EY and held under the Chatham House rule, but nonetheless one of the most fascinating.

The Speaker was Raphael Vermeir CBE, Vice President Government Affairs, International at Conoco Phillips sharing his personal view of his experiences of working for 3 years in the Nigerian oil industry. Raphael was the instigator of the Fuellers Conversations in that it was he that suggested the Company embark upon a more regular series of educational and knowledge sharing events.

Raphael explained that the question posed of ‘How Was Your Night’ was one he heard regularly and rather than any hidden or salacious meaning it simply was reference to the fact that one had survived the night!

At 170m residents, Nigeria is the most populous nation in Africa and at the same time the most religiously conscious and well educated. Its oil industry is a perfect example of the dichotomy it faces – huge opportunities but operating with a fair degree of below best practice as regards governance and respect for the law.

Nigeria extracts some c2m barrels of very high quality oil per day but with the use of vivid graphics Raphael was able to show how a good slice of this, maybe 10% (the actual figure is not known), is literally siphoned off by the illegal tapping of the pipelines taking the crude from the wells to the terminal at Brass.

There is a history / tradition of how things are done which typically includes agreeing a sum of money as a facilitation payment to get the job done or in some cases to simply get a job.

This approach seems alien to the Western World but is a fact of life in Nigeria (and elsewhere for that matter) and perhaps this is why a number of oil majors have left the territory by selling their operations to local companies not, as it were in defeat or retreat, but just a realisation that perhaps it is better that such valuable assets and reserves are best owned and managed in country.

Next up was all about Energy from Waste using Advanced Thermal Treatment (ATT) and the speaker was James Brathwaite CBE, Executive Chairman of DRENL Ltd a developer of small scale community based energy from waste plants.
Jim told the gathered Fuellers that waste grows quicker in the UK than its economy as a whole and has a by-product (methane) which is 34x more potent to the atmosphere than CO2. The development of energy from waste has been prompted by not only the landfill charge escalator (soon to cost £100 a tonne) but also by the fact that the landfills are in any case filling up.

Jim explained that ATT is not incineration but the super heating of commercial and industrial (C&I) waste to produce gas and steam to run turbines – a form of pyrolysis. At 22%, C&I waste is twice as prevalent in the UK as so called black bag waste. In addition some £100m is spent exporting Refuse Derived Fuel (C&I waste when bailed) to Europe where it is used to produce energy to be shipped back to the UK through the various interconnectors.

Jim explained that whilst small at 10MW the DRENL plants will be base load renewable generation that is truly local – a real nirvana for the industry and had the potential to make a significant contribution to not only the production of local electricity but also heat.

Two very contrasting but truly fascinating Conversations. The first in how it shone a light into the oil industry as the search for crude extends to the less known, less hospitable and less understood areas of the world. The second as mankind strives to achieve a form of energy alchemy – taking waste and making it powerful!

The next Conversation will take place at the offices of EY at 1 More Place, SE1 2AF on 11th February 2015. The Conversation will be with Malcolm Webb, Chief Executive of Oil and Gas UK.

- Past Master Paul Cuttill OBE

The Fuellers’ Shop

For a limited period only, Court Assistant Patrick Helly has generously agreed to offer the bronze desk crest at £75.00 (reduced from £150).

Please send your order, together with a cheque made out to: The Worshipful Company of Fuellers, to Honorary Court Assistant Jane Ayre, 68 Portway, Baughurst, Tadley, Hampshire, RG26 5PE

Pictures of and up to date information on all items for sale may be found in the Members’ area of the website www.fuellers.co.uk


The Fuellers Charitable Trust Fund

INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT
In the first part of 2014, the Trustees decided to carry out a review of the options available for the management of our funds. This was caused by a continuing concern that Ruffers were not meeting our expectations. Ruffers were appointed in 2010 and it would be normal for your Trustees to review the market options every 4/5 years. Our fund size is now circa £500,000.

The Trustees appointed a panel, consisting of Stuart Goldsmith, Neville A Brown, Brian Lott and I, to carry out the review and report back to the Trustees. Five companies were shortlisted, being Cazenove-Schroders, Baillie Gifford, Investec, Rathbones and Sarasin. The panel had previously agreed the criteria which they wished our fund to perform by, including the degree of risk, which was circulated to the participants before their presentations. The target of RPI + 4.5% over a five year period was the benchmark.

The ‘beauty parade’ was held at the beginning of August at Skinners’ Hall. It is fair to say that the candidates differed significantly in their approach and persuasiveness. Three companies were selected for further investigation, the results of which I detail below.

The Charitable Trust Fund should in future be split 50:50 between two fund managers who offer a ‘managed’ fund. The selection of two funds spreads the investment risk and will enable us to monitor the performance of both managers so that, as and when future funds become available for investment, we will have a choice based on their performance. By selecting ‘managed’ funds we would not be incurring any extra costs or administration by splitting the portfolio between two managers.

The companies selected were Baillie Gifford and Cazenove-Schroders, with each of which circa £250,000 would be placed. The Trustees approved this decision at our September meeting and the process of transfer is currently being carried out.

- Michael Husband, Chairman

THE MASTER’S PILGRIMAGE
At the Dinner, the Master also announced that, accompanied by his Lady, he intends to visit as many Cathedrals and working Abbeys in the country as he can during his year, partly as a way of raising funds for the Charitable Trust Fund but also to recognise that we are a Worshipful Company and to signal a reaching out to the rest of the country from our capital, London.

He will be appealing for as many as will to sponsor him by pledging a sum of money for each Cathedral visited. The money raised will be divided between the Charitable Trust and a contribution to each Cathedral’s heating costs.

At each Cathedral, the Master and his Lady will be accompanied by as many Fuellers as are able to join them. The visit will embrace a short private prayer session and the presentation to the Dean or his representative of a Fuellers plaque, a suitably worded dedication and a modest cheque as a contribution to the heating costs of the Cathedral.

There are some 40 plus Anglican Cathedrals and Abbeys in England and some 30 plus Catholic Cathedrals and Abbeys.

THE MASTER’S APPEAL
At the Installation Dinner, the Master made an Appeal in support of London’s Air Ambulance, a London Soup Run charity and the Charitable Trust. The Appeal was well received and pledges made are now being redeemed. It is estimated that each beneficiary will receive some £850 in the New Year.
PLATANOS COLLEGE MINIBUS
In May, we reported the intention to assist Platanos College with a minibus for moving their students around to various events, including the various Cadet groups which our donations to the College principally support. The bus is now on order and the Trust has made an initial payment to the College.

THAMES FUELLER – UPDATE
The Trustees were very pleased to receive the following signal from T.S. Rebel:

Thank you very much indeed for the very generous donation to TS Rebel, specifically supporting the training activity of its motor cruiser THAMES FUELLER.

I have attached a copy of the 2014 training report for the vessel. Only on re-reading it do I realize how inadequate it is in conveying the real benefits to the cadets which are: the palpable development of self-confidence and the acquisition of foundation skills for future careers. In October at the UK sailing Academy, its operations director said to me “We always enjoy those students that have come to us from TS Rebel – they have so much better personal organization than the average.” Praise indeed!

The generous support that TS Rebel continues to receive from the Worshipful Company of Fuellers is much valued and enables us to continue the work. Again, thank you.

Thames Fueller was re-launched in February following her winter refit period. The annual items of engine servicing, antifouling and deep clean had all been completed; the only significant item was replacement of the log/echo multi display, which also necessitated changes to the sender skin fittings. Once back in the water she cleared her safety equipment audit and successfully passed a compliance inspection by the RYA.

The early part of the season was largely taken up providing the command vessel to the keelboat sailing activities of the TS Rebel sailing school. In this role she provided an afloat platform for the duty officer, who was responsible for safety on the water. The accommodation aboard enabled the young sailing instructors (cadets themselves) to go over theory aspects and carry out debriefs right in the training environment itself.

In addition to the support role, the vessel also carried out its own training activities under the RYA Motor Cruising syllabus, up to, and including, RYA/MCA Yachtmaster. TS Rebel has established links with the Scouts training base in Docklands, and with this newly established relationship the opportunity for Scout adult volunteers to gain qualifications was also provided; enabling them to skipper their own vessels, which are similar to Thames Fueller.

In August, TS Rebel received a request from the Haven Racing Series committee to provide the committee start boat for the Stroombank Race starting at Harwich. As always, cadets were the crew for a high profile event like this and thoroughly enjoyed their role working the starting sequence with sound signals, flag hoists, line monitoring and VHF radio timing countdowns.

Later in August she formed part of a three vessel deployment to Ramsgate Regatta week. It was a busy week for the cadets as, in addition to the yacht racing every day, the opportunity was used to exercise night exit and entries from and back in to Ramsgate Harbour. These were testing exercises for the cadets, having to contend with port communications and signals, buoyed channels, use of radar, and provided very valuable training for them.

The finale for the season for cadets was Exercise Cadet Redemption. This was a two day exercise for four vessels, including Thames Fueller, where the cadets take on the roles of Skippers, mates, navigators and radio operators. Each vessel has an adult “sea rider” aboard whose job is to ensure safety, but to do as little as possible! With all the vessels entering Shotley Marina lock at the same time, each with a uniformed crew, much positive PR was gained for sea cadets.

The winter refit period will see the vessel hauled out in mid-November, expected to be re-launched for training duty in early March.

- Liveryman Nick Moulton MBE
  RYA Principal – TS Rebel
  1st November 2014
Ephemera

Being a very old industry, there is perhaps more ephemera related to the coal industry than our other energy industries. There is nothing that connects these two vehicle photographs other than the address behind the car and on the truck. 8, Lloyds Avenue, E.C.3, was the home of John Hudson & Co. John Hudson & Co. was involved in the coal trade from 1900 and, became shipowners in 1915, forming the Hudson Steamship Co. Ltd. in 1920. In the 1960s they also traded as John Hudson Fuel & Shipping Ltd., moving to the oil trade. In 1970, the company entered the tanker business and in 1971 purchased their first 250,000 ton VLCC. In 1988 the Hudson SS Co was sold to A/S Mosvold Shipping, Kristiansand. Tugs and colliers from its parent company, Samuel Williams, took part in the evacuation of the British Army from Dunkirk in May 1940. One ship, the “Dagenham” survived to play a further part in the Normandy landings in June 1944.

The car was believed to be the only privately owned car to run regularly on coal gas and was about to set off in August 1939 from the Coal Exchange for a run to South Wales.

As for the humorous postcard, perhaps we should now substitute oil for coal.

- John Bainbridge

1939 Press Photo: “London Man Fills Automobile Tank with Coal”
The Company’s possessions no. 6

TUMBLER CUPS AND CANDLESTICKS

On 19th October 1987 at the Mansion House, Master Richard Horne welcomed Mr Alex Ramsay, a Member of the Company and past Chairman of the London Coke Contractors Association. Mr Ramsay presented two Tumbler Cups to the Company, commissioned from remaining funds following the demise of the Association. In making his presentation, he said that Tumbler Cups had been chosen as it was felt that they could be added to in the future. The Court expressed themselves delighted with the Cups and thanked Mr Ramsay for presenting them to the Company.

Subsequently, at Pewterers’ Hall on 20th April 1989, Mr Horne presented a silver Tumbler Cup as a memento of his year as Master and, in thanking him, Master John Pugh said he was delighted to add the Cup to the others presented as above.

Moving forward to January 1997, Hon. Court Assistant Roger Cloke advised the Court that a number of members who owed their membership to the late Master George McGechan wished to contribute to a suitable item in his memory for the use of the Company. He was requested to discuss the matter with Mrs Doreen McGechan and reported back that she would like it to be a pair of candlesticks. He subsequently submitted a sample pair of silver candlesticks in modern style to the Court, which were approved. A significant part of the cost had been pledged already and a note was sent to members inviting further contributions.

The candlesticks were presented by Doreen McGechan to Master Colin MacLeod at the Installation Luncheon at Barber Surgeons’ Hall on 8th October 1997. The candlesticks had been entirely funded by individuals in the Company as a permanent memorial to a good friend and a loyal member of the Company.

- John Bainbridge

Candlesticks presented in memory of Past Master George McGechan

FREEMEN ADMITTED BY REDEMPTION AT THE INSTALLATION COURT OCTOBER 14TH AT SKINNERS’ HALL

Douglas Russell Wallace Adam
Andrew Graham Glenn Caton
Kevin Anthony Corcoran
Paul Keith Cornwell
Alison Jeanette Heath
Kevin Leslie Hughes
Robertas Katilius

FREEMEN ENROBED INTO THE LIVERY AT THE INSTALLATION COURT

Stephen Kingsley Lloyd
Peter Andrew Robin Rixon
RFA ARGUS
The following exchange took place on the deployment of RFA ARGUS to Sierra Leone as part of OPERATION GRITROCK, the British response to the Ebola crisis.

Saturday, 18th October 11.13
Dear Captain Eagles,

On behalf of The Worshipful Company of Fuellers, I send our best wishes to you and your ship’s company for the success of your very important mission to Sierra Leone. During your radio interview you explained, with great skill, the complexity of the operation. We are sure that your experience post Hurricane Hannah while serving in WAVE RULER, one of our affiliated ships, will stand you in good stead.

Good luck and God speed.

Neville Chamberlain
Master
Worshipful Company of Fuellers

Due to arrive off Sierra Leone in late October so we will carry your best wishes with us.
Again, thank you and very best wishes to the Worshipful Company of Fuellers!

David
David Eagles
Captain | Commanding Officer RFA ARGUS

THE FUELLERS XV
.....they shall grow not old....

11 December Twickenham

The happy party of 16 Fuellers and friends stood bare headed in the bright but cold sunshine as the roll of the 55 ‘Blues’, both Light and Dark, was read and the haunting bugles of The Rifles sounded the Last Post followed by silence.

The game started after Reveille stopped our thoughts of those 55 strapping lads who had paid the ultimate sacrifice for King and Country. The usual spice in the game and banter between the supporters was subdued this year - but we had remembered them as we grew old.

- Hon. Court Assistant Roger Cloke

Saturday, 18th October 13.43
Good afternoon Neville and Antony,

Very many thanks for your kind message from the Worshipful Company of Fuellers. I still remember the fantastic afternoon you gave us in London (October 2009 by memory) after 3/O Lutman from WAVE RULER had won your award. We are all lucky to have such a generous Livery Company as the Fuellers affiliated to the RFA. All is well aboard ARGUS as we roll our way across the Bay of Biscay conducting our training and drills and I will pass on your best wishes to our Ship’s Company. We have another round of media interviews when we stop off in Gibraltar to load more DFID cargo so I fear you have not heard the last of me!

Sam Egerton became the first player since 1925 to score in three successive Varsity matches

Sam Egerton became the first player since 1925 to score in three successive Varsity matches

The result - Oxford won handsomely and the game was a fitting tribute to all 55.

- Hon. Court Assistant Roger Cloke

THE FUELLERS PHOTOGRAPHER
I would like to thank Michael O’Sullivan for the great assistance that he has provided since I became editor.
- John Bainbridge

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