

THE Fueller

The official journal of The Worshipful Company of Fuellers

Issue 72 August 2026



An Injection of a Healthy Dose of Reality to the Energy Transition

The Duke of Edinburgh Future Energy Conference Report

Energy Transition in the Commonwealth
Industry Insight

Are We Prepared?
Livery Climate Action Group Conference Report





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Editor's note

Lynn Postle FICME, Editor

There is a distinctly international tone to this issue of The Fueller, with a report on the energy transition in the Commonwealth and an insight into the innovations driving South Korea's clean energy transition. In addition, the recap of the Duke of Edinburgh Future Energy Conference, held in November, highlights the global situation and the UK's role for future energy transition.

The issue also reinforces the Fuellers commitment to the City and the vital role we have to play in its prosperity, as extolled by the principal guest – James Thomson CBE, Deputy Chair of Policy, City of London Corporation – at the Installation Dinner last October.

We are midway through our new Master's year where he has committed for the Fuellers to be more involved with other Livery companies and with the City. Since his installation as Master, the Company has lived up to this objective, with several new initiatives and this issue of The Fueller serves as a record of some of the activities of the past few months.

I am enthused to see that an increasing number of Liverymen and Freemen are working together to further develop the Company and tackle the burning issues of an ever changing energy landscape. As Heraclitus said: "The only constant in life is change." This has surely never been more apt as it is in the twenty first century. We know that to survive, we must adapt and thanks to a wealth of experience in the Company, partnered with a new generation of Fuellers, we can strive to ensure we are always developing the initiatives and tackling the hard conversations needed to continue to "flourish forever."

I thank the contributors to this issue for their wisdom and their conscientiousness, and I wish our Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden an enjoyable remainder of the year.

Next issue: January 2027



Join the conversation



Public



Public



Public



Public



Public



Private



Private

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

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Message from the Master

The Power of Involvement



Ashutosh Shastri, Master Fueller

As of writing this piece in May 2026, I am almost half way through my year as Master Fueller and the thought foremost on my mind, despite the positive impact we continue to make as a company within the Livery and the City and beyond and the wonderful highs of our events just past, is that what an immense privilege it is to represent the Fuellers.

I feel grateful. I also want to take this opportunity to thank every one of you who has supported the Company over the years and who continue to do so with such gusto and a sense of ownership and involvement.

From the time at Installation Court in October when the theme for the year, INVOLVE, was announced till at the present time of writing, I am delighted to note how beautifully that word has come to life – so many of you have volunteered in leading and supporting the many activities the Company is involved in.

From developing our programme in the industry group, to the well co-ordinated membership process, this is beginning to show excellent results to the highly polished and professional communications across our traditional and social media platforms.

A special thank you to Chloe Andrews-Jones, Edward Libbey, Andy Spinks in particular for making the recently concluded Fuellers' Weekend in Norwich so successful – I just would not have been able to pull off such a smooth and well organised weekend without your help; and a huge thanks to all those who graced the weekend with their love and affection. This was but one example of how the theme has come to life.

This sense of involvement is one to behold – our ethos as “the friendly fuellers”- it is what makes our company in the livery world special. This is what I continue to hear about our Company in my cohort of 2025-25 Livery Masters and in

my conversations within the City. I am immensely proud of how we have come back in strength five years on, post Covid.

I want to record a sincere “thank you for your selfless service” to our three Court Assistants who now take position on our Honorary Court: Bill Fortescue, Michael Kennedy and David Lewis and I also want to offer a warm welcome to our new court assistants, Neil Atkinson and Manahel Thabet – we look forward to your leadership in years to come. The Company, I feel, is also going through a very imperceptible generational shift – this is the natural course and we are preparing to welcome at least two more court assistants in the year who will take office in October 2026. The new court assistants will bring their own new energy, talent and networks that will enable us to make even greater strides in the coming years – about this I am in no doubt.

I have often been asked about what the highlight of the year has been so far?

While the pages in this issue will speak for the range of successful and enjoyable events we have enjoyed so far and while we continue to fill our ranks with exceptionally talented and accomplished energy and energy related industry professionals, and while our flagship biennial Duke of Edinburgh Future Energy Conference has been an immense success, the single most important aspect of the year so far, for me, has been the exceptional interest in our Company arising from the external geostrategic and economic discontinuities we continue to experience, from other livery companies and institutions and officials I have engaged with within the City.

We continue to attract interest within almost every livery company in the City; not because all of them continue to experience the exceptionally high costs of energy but also because the transition to a low carbon economy, decarbonisation and sustainability are issues that have begin to permeate the activities of almost every livery company in the City – be they in the traditional trades of foundry, carpentry, blacksmithing or the modern professional services oriented liveries of asset management, tax advisers, actuaries, insurers, arbitrators, solicitors, engineers or educators, international bankers or the newly minted liver companies of HR professionals or communicators.

To my mind this is the most exciting development for us as a company arising from the times we live in – this is an opportunity for us to punch way above our order of precedence; it also offers us opportunities to meaningfully engage with the livery community and the City.

Finally, over the rest of the year, I am very much looking forward to the Midsummer Court and Dinner where we will enrobe Alderman Tim Hailes as our Honorary Liveryman. Subject to election, Tim will assume office as the next (698th) Lord Mayor of the City in November and will thus become only the second Honorary Liveryman in the history of the Fuellers – in our avatar as a Modern Livery – to ascend to the high office of Lord Mayor.

We also have various industrial visits, meetings of the Cross Party Parliamentary Group and our Annual Lecture taking shape and I very much look forward to seeing you at the upcoming events.

The popular/appropriate pre-holiday greeting in the natural gas/LNG industry that I am associated with in my day job is: “Wish you a very nice and cold winter” (being a prayer for peak gas demand and good handsome profits) and taking cue from that, may I also

take this opportunity to wish each one of you very breezy and hot summer holidays – (may the belly of the energy ‘duck curve’ grow even bigger)

With warmest regards

Ash



Installation Dinner

Welcoming the new Master

8 October 2025

Drapers' Hall



The outgoing Master symbolically passes the Mace to the new Master, by placing hands on it

Lynn Postle, The Fueller Editor

Following a Ceremonial Court earlier in the day, the Installation Dinner was held in the sumptuous surroundings of Drapers' Hall on 8 October 2025. The newly installed Master, Ashutosh Shastri welcomed Fuellers, their guests, and the principal guest, James Thomson CBE, Deputy Chair of Policy, City of London Corporation, to the event which kicked off his year of office.



The splendour of Drapers' Hall

Despite the pomp and pageantry, the Master highlighted that the day's proceedings had begun on a rather "sombre", following the news of the passing of Past Master John Bainbridge, (a tribute is included in this issue). He noted the contribution made by John to the Fuellers.

He paid tribute to Immediate Past Master Elena Oderstone on her "stellar year", in which he said she "brought style and energy to the role".



The Master's Response to The Principal Guest

In highlighting the role played by Fuellers in the Company, he also welcomed the three new members of Court admitted earlier in the day – Prof Manahel Thabet and Neil Atkinson (in attendance) and Carl Lomas, who was unable to attend. He also welcomed the new Liveryman and nine new Freeman admitted (see later in this issue).

A special mention was also made to the Master Carmen-elect Andy Miles, who had been enrobed as an Honorary Liveryman of the Fuellers during the Court meeting; a reciprocal agreement, the Master was looking forward to the following week when he would be enrobed as an Honorary Carman.

He informed attendees of two important developments.

Firstly, the Company has now taken over the running of the secretariat of the Cross-Party Group on Energy Costs at Westminster – resulting in every member of the Company automatically becoming a member of this group. He said: “This allows us to convene expert conversations with participation from industry and academia to inform parliamentarians on the pressing issues in our industry. This will be an a-political and independent initiative, and we hope to involve as many of us to make this a success and fly the Fuellers flag high in helping shape our energy policy – especially addressing the issue of energy costs. The Company is grateful to Hon Court Assistant David Lewis who made this happen for us.”

In addition, the Master said: “I am delighted to announce that the Company will be further strengthening its relationship with our defence forces; our well-established relationship with AFSEA will be enhanced with the signing of an MoU with AFSEA, which will be signed at the next AFSEA conference on 29 January at Worthy Down. We are also further strengthening our relationship with the OEA; we will be supporting the UK Defence Energy Conference 2026 in Spring 2026.

“For this success, the Company is grateful to Liveryman David Marsh who now leads a team of Fuellers – Liverymen Guy Sawyer and Andy Spinks.”

In proposing the toast to the Worshipful Company of Fuellers, Principal Guest James Thomson CBE, Deputy Chair of Policy, City of London Corporation said: “Based at the ancient Guildhall, the City Corporation’s democratic organ – the Court of Common Council – first met in 1273, with forty members. We are, therefore, the oldest continuously elected municipal democracy in the world.”

He spoke of the importance of the energy sector, “Your industry isn’t just an important pillar of our global economy – it constitutes the foundational architecture of our common prosperity,” he said.

“From the Industrial Revolution to the AI age, energy generation and access have proved the indispensable enablers of innovation and progress. And energy has been the decisive catalyst in London’s extraordinary growth over centuries.

“This was the first city to draw its energy from coal. And, following the wholesale destruction left by the Great Fire of 1666, it was coal that enabled brick production for the rebuilding of the Square Mile.

“Your Company, therefore, can claim much of the credit for the very fabric of the City of London, as well as its remarkable economic productivity.”



Highlighting how Fuellers represent “the densest concentration of energy expertise in the country”, he spoke of the “profound” implications of the energy crisis for “our politics and our prosperity.”

He called for urgency on affordable and renewable energy and the upgrading of “outdated energy infrastructure” around the world.

He enthused that now represents “a generational opportunity” for the City of London. He said the establishment of the Transition Finance Council and the hosting of the Net-Zero Delivery Summit every year, “to ensure the UK’s private sector is primed and aligned to accelerate and service the green transition,” along with taking a delegation to COP, are “swift and far-reaching” actions by the City. As is the recognition that finance and national investment is critical.

He said: “The City Corporation is promoting global competition by actively driving the Square Mile’s continued growth. This work is distilled in our Destination City programme, which is oriented around consolidating our profile as a place in which people want to live, work, learn and explore. Already, it’s paying dividends. The Square Mile is experiencing a remarkable renaissance.”

He echoed that Livery Companies are “central” to the Destination City strategy, with the city being above everything else, a “community.”

He concluded with a call to action: “The Transition Finance Council will be publishing a consultation on draft Transition Finance Guidelines at COP30 in November. We want interested parties to respond.

“The Guidelines establish a common baseline for credible transition finance at the company-level... Your perspectives, as leaders in the energy sector, will prove invaluable, and I would urge you to participate in this consultation.

“The fuel metaphor is irresistible for a reason – because you really do power our economy, and the life of this Square Mile.”

In responding, the Master emphasised the Company's commitment to the City and he revealed his theme for his year as Master, to be "involve". He said: "Involve more in the objectives of the City Corporation; involve more with other liveries. We have several strategic dialogues – 'stratologues' – planned with several Livery companies about energy. Some of them are here today, Wax Chandlers, Insurers, Arbitrators, Architects, Engineers and some more are in the works. So, Fuellers, I have an exhortation for you: get involved."

He promised to be "in a listening mode internally", enthusing: "I intend to be the cheerleader for the Fuellers in the City externally."

He announced his preferred charity for the year as the Fuellers Charitable Trust Fund.

The evening concluded with the traditional stirrup cup.



The call to take seats for dinner



Liveryman Viscount Carl Nisser di Bondo saying a few words



Principal Guest James Thomson CBE



Splendid surroundings for the pre-dinner drinks reception



The Officers: Tom James, Junior Warden; The Master, Ashutosh Shastri; and Louise Thompson, Senior Warden

Welcome to our new Freemen and Liverymen

Since the last issue of The Fueller, the following members have been admitted as Freemen to the Company.

Freemen

Kruthika Anastasia Bala, Alex Chikhani, Chris Day, Craig De Jonghe, James Dennis-Smith, Ryan Dignam, Jamie Jones, Stephen Larkin, Maia Khitarishvili, Ian Lloyd Parry, James Mackie, Sophia Nadur, Shukjun 'Daniel' Park, Iryna Pastrun, Mani Raziani, Michael Smeeth, Nina Zolotova

Freemen by Presentation

Anastasia and Liliana Oderstone

Since the last issue of The Fueller, the following Freemen have been enrobed in the livery.

Liverymen

Luc Bardin, Kurt Budge, Maia Khitarishvil, Paul McMahon, David Pringle, Andy Spinks



Liveryman Kurt Budge pictured at the Installation Dinner in October 2025 with the then Master Elena Oderstone, Senior Warden Ashutosh Shastri and Junior Warden Louise Thompson



Freemen Ian Lloyd Parry, Sophia Nadur, Shukjun 'Daniel' Park, Nina Zolotova, Jamie Jones, Alex Chikhani, James Mackie, Mani Raziani, with the Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden



Freemen by Presentation, Anastasia and Liliana Oderstone with Louise Thompson, Senior Warden; The Master, Ashutosh Shastri; Dr Tom James, Junior Warden



Freeman Stephen Larkin with the then Master Elena Oderstone, and the then Senior and Junior Wardens



Freemen Maia Khitarishvili, Chris Day, Iryna Pastrun, Michael Smeeth, Ryan Dignam, James Dennis-Smith, Kruthika Anastasia Bala, Craig De Jonghe, pictured at the Installation Dinner in October 2025 with the then Master Elena Oderstone, Senior Warden Ashutosh Shastri and Junior Warden Louise Thompson at Installation Court.



Liverymen David Pringle, Paul McMahon, Maia Khitarishvil, Luc Bardin, Andy Spinks with the Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden

Fuellers Activities

Charitable Trust Fund

Chloë Andrews-Jones, Chair of Trustees and Past Master

The Charles Stephenson-Clarke Prize – City University

Many of the Trust's grants are in the field of education, and this annual prize is no exception. Named after the Company's founder Master, the prize is awarded for the best dissertation project(s) in the MSc Course in Energy and Environmental Technology and Economics at City St George's University.

The judging panel heard presentations from four shortlisted candidates and determined to award two equal prizes. Further details should be on the website soon.

Through the assistance of Trustee Sarah Parker (herself a City Fuellers' prizewinner a few years ago), we are working with the university to set up some type of City Fuellers' contestants' alumni group, to encourage their attendance on industry type events and hopefully to them becoming members in due course.

Arkwright Scholarships

We continue to support our scholars, who all attended the DoE Future Energy Conference at Mansion House in December, being presented to HRH the Duke of Edinburgh during the day.

Two scholars also attended the LCAG Conference in January and the Fuellers' Advantage in March. There is no doubt that their attendance at such events makes a difference to these students. The Trustees have approved the funding of further scholarships in September, so we are currently looking for new mentors. If you're interested in learning more, please [contact me](#).

Recent Grants

Recent grants awarded include:

- £1,000 to [Gasp Motor Project](#)
- £1,000 to [IPR](#)

Please don't forget that these grants would not be possible without your continued donations. Thank you to all members of the Company who continue to support the work of the Trust. I encourage more of you to do so, with regular or one-off donations, by volunteering or perhaps you'd consider leaving a Legacy gift. [How to Donate](#). There is no doubt that the Trustees are better able to plan their grant giving when donations are received regularly.

Governance

At the meeting, two Trustees retired by rotation and were re-elected. There being no other vacancies, the Chair and Vice Chairs and our panel of Advisers were all re-elected.

The Trustees resolved to adopt a new Constitution, together with two Regulations thereto at the General Meeting. Thanks are due to Past Master James Cripps, Adviser to the Trust, for his hard work and guidance in the production of this document, which has been discussed during the past year.

The Third Supplemental Deed is based on the Charity Commission's suggested format and is a much more accessible document. The new Deed does NOT change any of the objects of the charity and therefore did not require permission in advance from the Charity Commission. It is also considerably easier to amend, as required and agreed, by means of the addition of Regulations rather than a revision to the Deed itself.

The accounts for the financial year ending 31 December 2025 have been independently examined and submitted to the Charity Commission. Thanks are due to our Honorary Treasurer, Past Master Peter Harrison.

The new financial year will see some changes with the introduction of the new SORP (AKA Statement of Recommended Practices). The main differences that will affect the Fuellers Charitable Trust Fund focus on additional disclosures in our Trustee report.



Arkwright scholars presented to HRH the Duke of Edinburgh at the DoE Future Energy Conference

Are We Prepared? Livery Climate Action Group Conference

Monday 26 January 2026

Professor Averil Macdonald OBE, Past Master

Over 170 people – members of the Livery, primary and secondary school students and others – gathered at Merchant Taylors Hall for the third Livery Climate Action Group Conference.

The conference opened with LCAG Founder and Chair, Alderman Alison Gowman followed by an overview by Sheriff and Deputy Keith Bottomley and Kate Neale, Climate Action Director at the City of London Corporation.

Session 1

Session 1 asked: 'Is the city prepared for reporting and responding to the financial risks that will result from climate change?' with Alderman and Sheriff Robert Hughes-Penney, Mark Babington of the Financial Reporting Council and Kevin Parry, Chair of Nationwide Building Society and chaired by LCAG Executive Member David Chitty.

Lunch, including school displays, was followed by the Keynote speaker: The Baroness Brown of Cambridge, Julia King discussing: 'Challenges on climate change adaptation.' A talk built on strong data driven evidence finished with a message that we shouldn't simply wait for a magic technology, we should just get on with it. There will be innovation, but we can't afford to wait.

Session 2

Session 2, chaired by LCAG Executive Member Gordon Masterton, and the topic: 'Risks to life', was considered by Tim Munday, the City's Environmental Resilience Officer and Dr Pierre Masselot of London School of Tropical Medicine, who looked at the direct impact of temperature on mortality. Tim's lasting advice was to keep a clean bucket in the house in case of disruption to water supplies, while Pierre pointed out that the risk of mortality from cold is nine times that from heat. But climate change has already led to excess deaths and this will only get worse in the future. We need to consider how we adapt to heat as well as reducing emissions.

Session 3

Session 3 offered more worrying insight. Chaired by LCAG Executive Member John Pike, considering the topic of: 'Are our buildings prepared for climate change?' was discussed by Philippa Simpson, Director of Buildings at the Barbican, Dr James Ritson of University of the Built Environment, Reading and James Fisher of BRE Group. The short answer is "no". Philippa described the challenge of adapting a heritage building while James Ritson indicated there was a "tipping point" of spending on house retrofit. For a pre-1919 building a spend of three to four thousand pounds will typically improve energy efficiency by fifty per cent, fifteen thousand pounds will raise this to eighty per cent, but further spend results in limited additional benefits.

Session 4

Finally, session 4 was probably the most worrying of all. Alison Gowman chaired the session: 'How fragile is our food chain?'. Lucinda Langton, Head of Sustainability at M&S and Prof Tim Lang of City University spoke. Lucinda outlined the efforts made by retailers to secure food supplies but Tim referred to his report for the National Preparedness Commission [NPC-Just-in-Case-Main-Report_PDF-Download.pdf](#) indicating that the UK has almost no food storage capacity and is failing to prepare for future food shocks such as global crop loss while distribution is too centralised, with ninety five per cent of food going through only 131 hubs which could easily be sabotaged.

The overriding conclusion was that "no we are not prepared" and that we are very naïve in what we consider may be coming along the tracks.



Join the conversation



Public



Public



Public



Public



Private



Private

[Continued/](#)

Annual Thanksgiving Service and Affiliates Luncheon and Prizegiving 8 June 2026

Louise Thompson, Senior Warden

The Fuellers Annual Thanksgiving Service and Affiliates Luncheon and Prizegiving took place on Monday 8 June.

Donned with Fuellers umbrellas to combat the rain the Master, Wardens, Chair of the Charitable Trust, representatives from our Affiliates and Fuellers processed from Trinity House to St Olave's Church for the Thanksgiving service behind Beadle James Hasler. With readings from the Master Ashutosh Shastri and Senior Warden, Louise Thompson, the service was led by Reverend Phillip Dawson who highlighted that the church was about to celebrate its 75th anniversary of the laying of the first stone by the King of Norway, which began the restoration of the church after bomb damage during the war.

The Fuellers Charitable Trust is proud to support the annual prizes awarded to the Company's military and educational affiliates. The Chair of the Trust, Chloe Andrews-Jones highlighted the importance of the Trust and the great work that they do, not only on a financial basis but also judging competitions and mentoring students.

Citations for the military were read by the Junior Warden, Dr Tom James and the prizewinners are as follows:

- Royal Fleet Auxiliary, The Husband Rose Bowl – Chief Officer Jed Bower.
- HMS Sultan / RNAESS, Daedalus Trophy – AET Lewis Preece.
- 152 (North Irish) Regiment RLC, The Woods Trophy – Sergeant Stuart McLean.
- 10 Squadron RAF – Flight Sergeant Becky Edwards.
- RAF Tactical Supply Wing – Sergeant Craig Smith.
- Operational Energy Authority – Katie Foster.

Like all charities, the Trust has several objectives and many related to education. This was covered in the second group of winners who Chloe welcomed and introduced:

- The Harrison Cup – Nicole Leanos Mosquera, Platonos Academy.
- Arkwright Engineering Scholarships – Daisy and Lina.
- Petroleum Operators in the British Army – Private Parveer Tiwana.
- Charles Stephenson Clarke Prize – Laris Petrokova.
- Charles Stephenson Clarke Prize – Aranya Bhaduri.

The prizes were presented by our Principal Guest Air Commodore Nick Huntley.

Nick commissioned into the Royal Air Force as a Logistics Officer in 1994 and has built a distinguished career spanning more than thirty years in logistics, air mobility, operational planning and strategic leadership. After graduating from the Royal College of Defence Studies, he was promoted to Air Commodore in 2024 and appointed Head of Defence Operational Energy and Support Futures, leading work on defence energy resilience and the energy transition.

We heard from both our Principal Guest who spoke about the importance of fuel supply within the military and the challenges they are now facing within the current geopolitical landscape and the Master who responded and thanked Nick for joining us.

This event in the Fuellers calendar is a great opportunity to show our support for our affiliates and the importance of the Trust.

We were delighted to see that so many Fuellers attended.



Front Row (L-R) Tom James, Junior Warden, Air Commodore Nick Huntley, The Master, Ashutosh Shastri, FCTF Chair and Past Master Chloë Andrews-Jones, and Louise Thompson, Senior Warden

Back Row (L-R) Commanding Officers and representatives of the Company's Military Affiliates





Front Row (L-R): Tom James, Junior Warden, Air Commodore Nick Huntley, The Master, Ashutosh Shastri, FCTF Chair and Past Master Chloë Andrews-Jones, and Louise Thompson, Senior Warden



Aranya Bhadur and Larisa Petrokova – winners of the Charles Stephenson Clarke Prize from City St George's University, flank the Master, Ashutosh Shastri (centre)



Arkwright Scholar Daisy, The Master, Ashutosh Shastri, Air Commodore Nick Huntley, FCTF Chair and Past Master Chloë Andrews-Jones



The Master, Ashutosh Shastri, Air Commodore Nick Huntley and FCTF Chair and Past Master Chloë Andrews-Jones with FCTF's Prize for Petroleum Operators in the British Army winner Private Parveer Tiwana



With Harrison Cup prizewinner from Platanos College Nicole, and her mother Ms Mosquera with Tom James, Junior Warden, Air Commodore Nick Huntley, The Master, Ashutosh Shastri, FCTF Chair and Past Master Chloë Andrews-Jones, and Louise Thompson, Senior Warden

Industry insights

Energy Transition in The Commonwealth: Walking the Thin Line of De-carbonisation and Growth

Ashutosh Shastri, Master



The 2015 Paris Climate Agreement set the stage for a global commitment to curtail carbon emissions and pursue efforts to limit the global temperature rise to less than 1.5°C by the end of this century and as a means of achieving this objective set the stage for a low carbon economic trajectory. The Glasgow Agreement at COP26 endorsed the commitment of many developed and developing nations like China and India to achieve 'Net Zero' carbon emissions by mid-century.

Subsequent COP meetings following Glasgow that set the stage for 'Net Zero' – COP27 at Sharm El-Sheikh in Egypt, COP28 at Dubai in UAE, COP29 at Baku in Azerbaijan and the recently concluded COP30 at Belem in Brazil – all made progress but a broad scan of the results that were achieved across these annual conferences indicates a shift in emphasis. That emphasis is away from the ideologically motivated 'Net Zero' to a 'Just Transition', a fairness mechanism that enables nation states around the world their energy sovereignty, the flexibility to balance energy policy objectives that solve for economic growth, decarbonisation and energy resilience but most importantly access to the finance and carbon emission trading mechanisms necessary for implementing these policies.

The last three COP meetings taken together also suggest that the subtle course correction it triggered is now a full blown emphasis on "resilience" – energy security; 'just transition' instead of "rapid decarbonisation" or "ambitious reductions in carbon emissions" or "race to net zero" in the wording of the COP 30 documentation and a growing emphasis on energy transition finance!

After three decades of COP ('Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC' to give its full name, an annual conference that forms the basis for international climate negotiations), COP fatigue has now set in just when the discussion has moved in the realm of energy/sustainability finance and carbon emissions trading.

The Commonwealth group of nations plays a significant global role by uniting 56 countries that together represent about 2.5 billion people (roughly one-third of the world's population), with a strong youth majority. Economically, Commonwealth countries contribute a substantial share of global GDP (over \$13 trillion combined), spanning advanced economies and rapidly growing developing markets. Trade within the Commonwealth is notably efficient due to shared legal systems, language (primarily English), and institutional frameworks – often referred to as the ‘Commonwealth advantage,’ which reduces trade costs by around twenty per cent!

Beyond economics, the organisation promotes human development through co-operation in education, governance, gender equality and sustainable development, with many member states working collaboratively to improve living standards, democratic institutions and resilience against global challenges like climate change; and yet despite all these attributes, especially its importance to global challenges like climate change, the UN designed COP system does not recognise the Commonwealth as a formal negotiating group in the global climate negotiations – which have now been going for three decades! Is it a wonder that after three decades of international negotiations, a global UN mechanism that leaves a third of humanity on the periphery of decision making, now appears fatigued?

I believe this is where we as a country, and the City of London in particular, have an opportunity to make a difference and the time is now.

Britain helped establish the Commonwealth as many of its former colonies became independent, and today it remains one of its most influential members. HM The King serves as the

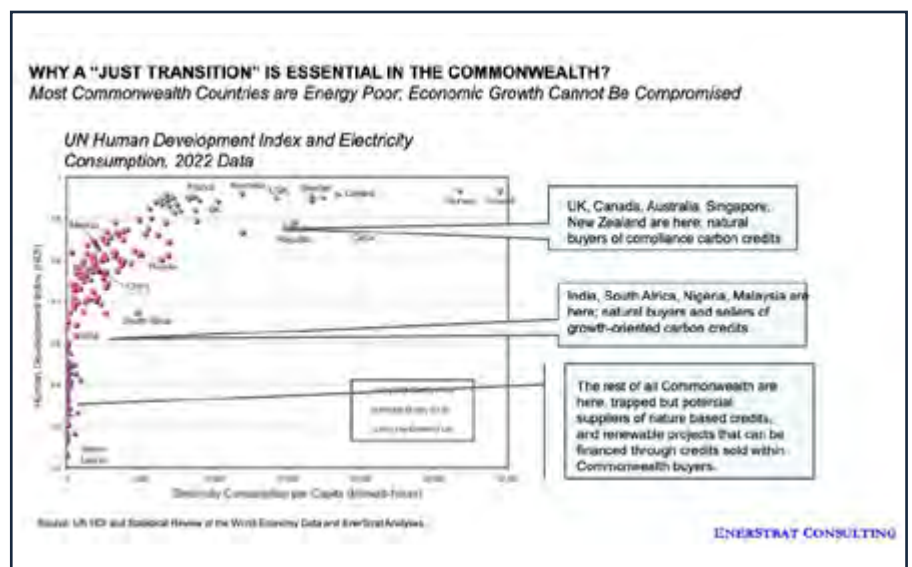
ceremonial Head of the Commonwealth, symbolising unity rather than exercising political control. In practical terms, we contribute to funding, supporting development programs, and promoting shared values such as democracy, rule of law, human rights and climate change.

The Commonwealth operates on principles of equality and voluntary co-operation, meaning our role is one of leadership through partnership rather than authority. The City of London remains the leading global city for energy and sustainability finance, and we now have in the City the institutional architecture in place to play the lead role for enabling the energy transition finance that has the potential to drive a just energy transition, enable our shared prosperity and our common sustainable future.

The remainder of this article makes the following three points:

- 1. The Commonwealth is largely ‘energy poor’ and requires substantial, reliable and dense forms of modern energy for its prosperity** – low energy density renewable sources like solar and wind, though important, are not sufficient. The energy sovereignty principle for member states needs to be respected. The finance required to be raised for this task – for which London is uniquely positioned – needs to recognise this principle. Ideological refusal to not finance fossil fuel projects will only hand over this opportunity to our adversaries.
- 2. If well implemented, the Commonwealth is structurally well positioned to emerge as the largest carbon emissions trading market in the world** – bigger than the European Union Emission Trading Scheme and also bigger than the Chinese Emission Trading market that is taking shape. This grouping has a natural mix of suppliers and buyers of high quality carbon offsets: members who are natural sellers across Africa, Asia and Australasia but also large buyers in the industrial economies like Britain, Canada, Australia and Singapore. Then there are the growth economies like Indonesia, Malaysia, India, Pakistan, Nigeria and South Africa who can benefit from being both buyers and sellers in this market.
- 3. Most importantly, the opportunity is before us now;** the UK Emissions Trading Scheme that is now well-established following Brexit contains some important design provisions that could allow this mechanism to be extended to cover the commonwealth countries; thus making the UK and the City of London the centre for the next generation of energy/sustainability finance and carbon emission trading.

This article will conclude with an idea for exploring the possibility for an intra-Commonwealth Cap-and-Trade based Carbon Emission Trading scheme, like the one now successfully working in Britain for the last five years and in the EU for the last 21 years.



Let us consider some, now well established, facts about the global energy systems that highlight the challenges for the commonwealth countries in the energy transition; why the system of COP meetings has been unable so far to offer the solutions that this grouping deserves and explore what is it that the countries themselves with co-operation – which has worked very well so far – could achieve.

The Human Development Index (HDI) is a composite index that gives a snapshot of the quality of life in individual countries, developed by the UN, it is updated regularly and provides a snapshot of global quality of life parameters that make for relatively easier comparisons. It has been well established that this HDI is highly correlated with the levels of energy access and energy consumption; in other words, economic development and a rise in the standard of living and quality of life is highly correlated and to some extent dependent upon per capita energy consumption.

The insights from the HDI reports suggest that to achieve a ‘middle income’ country status, per capita energy consumption has to be between 90-100 GJ per annum. Consensus also appears to be that a middle income country status is consistent with an HDI of around 0.85-0.90.

Recent findings reveal that progression from an HDI of 0.75 to the middle income range of 0.85-0.9 call for a very significant increase in per capita energy consumption – indeed many of the rapidly industrialising countries like China, Mexico, Turkey and India are therefore also likely to absorb significant rise in per capita energy consumption. It is also suggested that no country has achieved an HDI above 0.95 without achieving a per capita energy consumption of 146 GJ per annum!

In contrast, most commonwealth countries lie in the lower tier where the per capita energy consumption is not even 25!

To expect this group of countries to curtail their energy consumption in order to achieve a low carbon energy transition at the cost of economic wellbeing is therefore, Marie Antoinette-esque!

To achieve per capita energy consumption close to even fifty would require huge energy resources – renewable energy technologies such as wind and solar alone will not help to achieve these huge targets – fossil fuels – such as clean burning natural gas – will be essential!

The slide also demonstrates the huge variations in the commonwealth membership – the UK, Canada and Australia have a completely different energy system, and consequently, a large carbon footprint as compared to say India, Pakistan, Ghana or Nigeria; and these systems are altogether different to the systems in smaller island development states that form a significant proportion of the membership of the Commonwealth.

The UN system has historically focused on these differences and appears to have ignored the appeal of what the Commonwealth can collectively deliver – the sustainable growth opportunity for a third of humanity.

What this means is that not only will as much renewables that get developed in the Commonwealth be absorbed in order to quench this energy demand (and thus provide attractive returns to investors) but non-renewable/ fossil energy sources such as nuclear, coal and gas will also be required. The City of London financial institutions need to recognise this reality – an ideological opposition to any fossil fuel energy projects would not only be irresponsible but self-defeating, our adversaries will simply fill that vacuum.

The UK Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) is the United Kingdom’s carbon pricing system, created after its departure from the European Union Emissions Trading System following Brexit. When the UK left the EU in 2020, it also exited the EU ETS, which had previously regulated emissions from its power, industrial and aviation

sectors. To maintain a market-based approach to reducing greenhouse gases, the UK launched its own ETS in 2021, closely mirroring the structure of the EU system with a ‘cap-and-trade’ model that limits total emissions and allows companies to buy and sell allowances. However, the UK ETS was designed to be more ambitious, initially setting a lower emissions cap (about five per cent below the UK’s notional share of the EU ETS cap), thereby tightening supply and encouraging faster decarbonisation. While similar in design, the two systems now operate separately. A unique feature of both the EU and the UK ETS is a mechanism called ‘The Linking Directive’, which allows the scheme (the addressable market) to be extended.

One idea is to exploit the current provisions of the linking directive within the UK ETS to countries like Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Singapore as well as high growth countries such as India, South Africa and even Nigeria – all these countries already have some form of a traded market for carbon emissions making this possible.

Market based mechanisms like emission trading have already been recognised as significant instruments to achieve the transition. Art. 6 of the Paris Agreement creates this pathway for the low carbon energy transition.

Should such an emission trading system be launched within the Commonwealth, there exist significant sellers and very substantive buyers within the Commonwealth. An internal market for carbon emissions operating smoothly across the 56 member states is achievable, indeed it can be very desirable.

Ashutosh Shastri is also the founder director of EnerStrat Consulting, a London based advisory practice focused on the global energy transition from whom the graphic in this article is sourced.



Fueller's Advantage Event

Discover the Innovations Driving South Korea's Clean Energy Transition

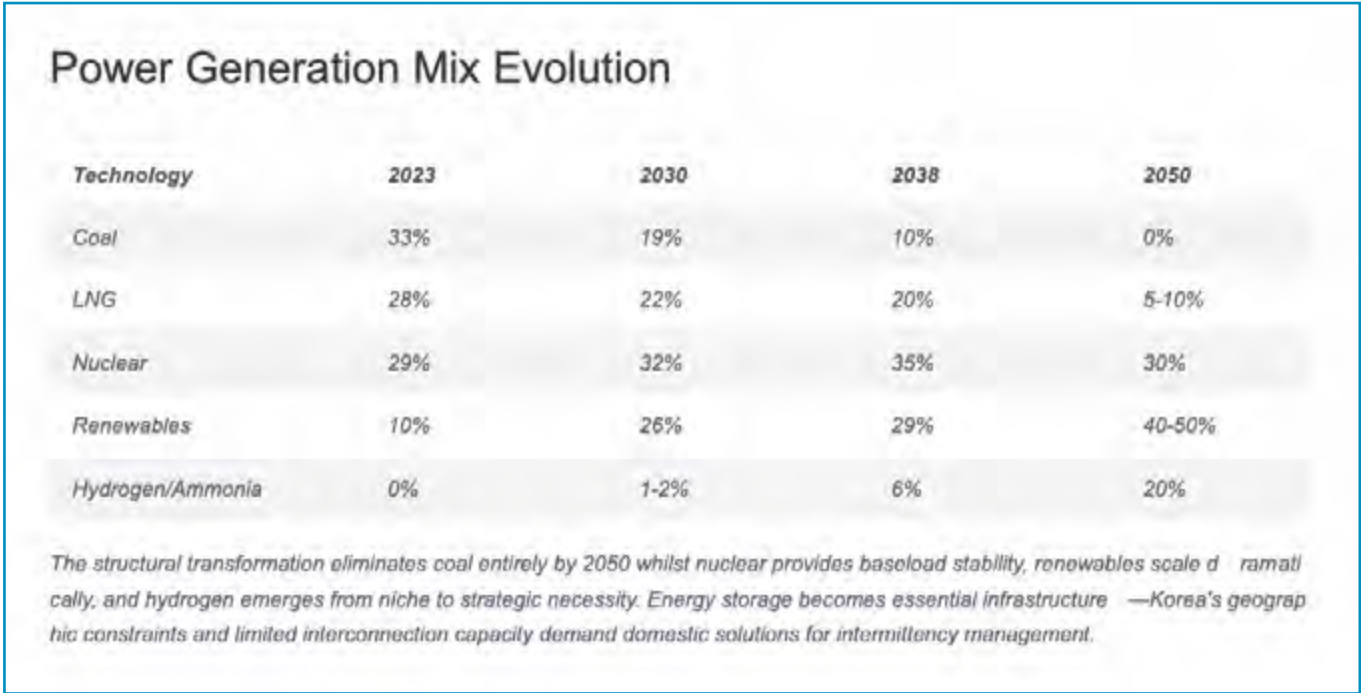
Presentation by Daniel Shukjun Park, Commercial and Investment Professional, Hartree Partners

Simon Parsons, Liveryman

Some 26 people attended the Fuellers Advantage Event, jointly held with the Energy Circle at the National Liberal Club on 20 November 2025.

Daniel Shukjun Park started with a brief overview of Korea and its economy, noting that it is now the twelfth largest global economy, with a GDP of US\$1.9 trillion in 2024. The country's family controlled conglomerates have driven an incredible industrialisation since World War II. These corporations are called 'chaebols'. The Korean economy also operates in a way where the private sector aligns closely with state priorities for energy development, reinforcing the strong relationship between conglomerates and government.

The structure of the power market is very much controlled by the Korean Electric Power Corporation (KEPCO). KEPCO is responsible for both power generation and grid supply infrastructure. The power generation mix consists largely of coal, LNG, and nuclear. As part of the energy transition, coal consumption will be phased out by 2050. LNG will also decline and is expected to account for five to ten per cent by 2050. Nuclear power will continue at around thirty per cent. Hydrogen and ammonia are also expected to increase.



Compared to the UK, the Korean decarbonisation plan involves central government ownership of grid-scale storage assets. The Korean decarbonisation transition will be slower in implementation but more co-ordinated with industry. The western coastal areas of Korea are expected to experience significant renewables investment, managed by a new Climate Energy Ministry.

Energy storage systems are a central part of the energy transition for Korea, and the country is also the world's leading producer of storage systems. These systems are expected to provide long duration capability of up to six hours. Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) projects are owned by the private sector rather than the government, with the government providing Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) payments for availability guarantees of these assets, helping to balance the power grid.

Korea has launched a Clean Hydrogen Power Supply Scheme (CHPS), which appears to have had limited success to date. The scheme offers a capacity of 6,500 GWh, of which only 750 GWh (around eleven per cent) has been awarded so far. These schemes are offered on fifteen-year agreements with Contracts for Difference (CfD)-type revenue certainty. The limited response to the auction appears to be due to barriers to entry, including upstream fuel security guarantees, ammonia cracking infrastructure readiness, localisation requirements, and long-term Henry Hub indexation exposure. A company called Korean Southern Power has emerged as the sole successful bidder.

Daniel provided a fascinating whistle-stop overview of the energy transition in Korea. The country has approached the transition with ambitious long-term goals and rigorous policy initiatives to drive progress. While progress has been reasonably slow so far, Korea remains a dynamic country with strong industrial capability to deliver on these ambitions.



Simon Parsons, Liveryman with Daniel Shukjun Park of Hartree Partners and The Master, Ashutosh Shastri

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

An Injection of a Healthy Dose of Reality to the Energy Transition

2 December 2025, Mansion House

Ashutosh Shastri, Master

One of the first open events of the year was The Fourth Fuellers' Duke of Edinburgh Future Energy Conference in the magnificent setting of Mansion House on 2 December 2025.

The day was attended by our Royal Past Master, HRH The Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh, who was received in the traditional manner by the Lady Mayor, Dame Sue Langley and the Master, Ashutosh Shastri.

The Lady Mayor delivered the plenary address – it was Dame Sue's first conference at Mansion House since having taken office in November 2025 – and she spoke extensively about the need for clean, affordable energy. "We want to see the UK as a clean energy superpower. The City is a global financial centre ready to support this transition" she said in her address.

We were privileged to hear from an extraordinary line-up of industry leaders shaping the future of energy, addressing both the opportunities and the challenges we face in the energy transition.

The event highlighted the importance of the Livery in bringing together all sectors of the energy complex under one roof to share knowledge, insight and collaboration.

The topic of tackling the transition took centre-stage, interspersed with discussions on renewable energy, oil and gas, hydrogen, geothermal and emerging climate technology solutions; concerns were expressed at the event about both the speed and the costs and actual efficacy of the transition solutions being proposed.



HRH The Duke of Edinburgh addresses delegates at the Future Energy Conference in 2025

The conference was organised as a series of five interlinked plenaries with the initial opening addresses given by Rt Hon Dr Charles Hendry, former UK energy minister, who provided the UK policy context while Dr Lucian (Lou) Pugliaresi, President of the Washington DC based Energy Policy Research Foundation (EPRINC) provided a global/ transatlantic perspective.

"Where there is uncertainty, energy cost rises. We must move on from 'net zero' – the final step to net zero is expensive. Balancing security and affordability for de-carbonisation is essential – we cannot de-carbonise at any price!" was his message.

Dr Lou Pugliaresi highlighted the role US shale gas has had to play in the global energy transition underway, "If someone asked me to point to an example of cost effective decarbonisation in the energy transition era, I'd quite frankly point to the power sector's switch from coal to natural gas, which has done more to lower the world's carbon footprint than any renewable energy solution in the last decade."



Introducing the plenary sessions, Ashutosh Shastri, Master Fueller said: “The energy transition doesn’t need to be a doctrine or a blind race to one particular fuel medium or the other. It needs to be about making the right decisions in a timely manner, having stakeholders in the entire energy spectrum talking and collaborating with each other, and ultimately having more data driven conversations from natural gas to nuclear, and all else in between.”

While it is impossible to fit in the summary details of all the five plenary sessions in this short report, the following important takeaways emerged during the course of the day:

1. **Geopolitics and the economics of energy supply chains in an ever-changing world – how the strategic minerals, metals and rare earths required for the energy transition will be developed.**
2. **How is the nature of future energy risks changing? Are we in the developed world now caught in the high energy price trap?**
3. **The race to new dense forms of non-fossil energy: role of nuclear technology and its roll out and how the problems emerging from intermittent renewables can be mitigated?**
4. **The demand shock: Is the role of AI an unidirectional trigger for greater energy demand, or will AI also enable energy system efficiencies?**
5. **Growth of electrification: with greater urbanisation will we see greater electrification of the economies and what role will heat play, especially in hard to abate industrial sectors?**

An area where there appeared to be emerging consensus was that the energy transition is no longer just about carbon. It’s about security, sovereignty and supply chains; and it is a large ship that will require careful manoeuvring to transition to a modern low carbon competitive energy system.

HRH The Duke of Edinburgh attended and actively participated in the plenary discussions that followed and towards the end of the plenary sessions that covered the “challenges and the context” the “technologies to address the challenges” and the “business models to power the clean power plan” addressed the conference extempore. He expressed satisfaction as to how the biennial conference has evolved since its inception and highlighted three possible areas for the conference to consider moving in over the next two years. The three areas the Fuellers were urged to consider for the next conference were:

1. **Demand and how it’s likely to evolve, not just in the UK but also the emerging markets – especially The Commonwealth.**
2. **The business models to deliver the technology solutions developed in the UK to create the export markets.**
3. **The role of the UK as a centre of excellence for energy transition technology and finance.**

In the concluding session, summing up the discussion during the day, Christof Rühl, international economist and senior research scholar at the Center on Global Energy Policy at Columbia University in New York, said the world needed to cut through the hype. “In pure transition terms, what we have achieved in the last 35 years is nothing to write home about, as energy demand is still largely predicated on oil and gas, and coal remains in use for power generation.”

Referring to the energy price spikes in the wake of the Russia-Ukraine War of 2022, and the subsequent cooling and normalisation, Rühl said fossil fuels and not renewables had in fact ultimately “saved the day” when the world faced a price shock.

The conference was attended and covered by several expert commentators in the energy media, in his piece published in ‘Forbes’ magazine (and subsequently translated into Japanese for ‘Forbes Japan’) the well-known energy correspondent, Gaurav Sharma summed it up neatly in his headline –

“A healthy dose of energy reality.”





Immediate Past Master Elena Oderstone pictured with the George III silver cup, engraved with the sentiment: Fuelling the Future

A generous gift

As Elena Oderstone stepped down as Master last October, she marked the moment with a beautiful gift to the Company – a George III silver cup, a collectable piece and survivor from another age.

Crafted in London in 1776 by Charles Wright, and weighing 36.9 troy ounces, it stands as a testament to sustainability in craftsmanship.

Uniquely, across more than two and a half centuries, its cartouche has never been erased – preserving the integrity of its long history.

Now, newly engraved upon its cover, are the words that reflected the Master's vision and the theme of her year: 'Fuelling the Future.'

She presented the silver cup to the Fuellers at Installation Court on 8 October 2025.

Fuellers launch LinkedIn Podcast on CCUS

The Fuellers and the New Energy Advancement Hub (NEAH) have jointly organised a LinkedIn Podcast on CCUS (Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage). The full title of this podcast is: 'CCUS: Between the Headlines, the Hopes and the Hard Numbers'. The first of these live podcasts took place on Thursday 13 November 2025 at 3pm.

Our Master, Ashutosh Shastri, has had a longstanding friendship with NEAH and its founder Dr Tatiana Mitrova. The Master explains: "The Fuellers take pride in our origins starting from wood in the Medieval Age, transitioning to coal and then onto today's complex and rapidly evolving energy mix. We first addressed the subject of CCUS in 2009 and as interest in CCUS returns worldwide, and particularly in the UK, it's perhaps the right time to revisit this topic. We will be hosting a series of YouTube live podcasts to explore the technologies, policies and strategies shaping the energy transition, starting with CCUS.

Some said "CCUS is proven – Sleipner, Quest, Gorgon, Petra Nova!". Others insisted it's too costly, too inefficient, and far too small to matter. Both views reveal part of the truth – but neither captures the whole picture.

CCUS does work – technically. But the question that really matters now is whether it can work at scale, at cost, and in time to make a difference.

Here's what the numbers tell us today: 77 operational projects capturing ~64 Mt of CO₂ each year – real tonnes, not PowerPoints. Over 500mt of capacity announced – mostly in early stages.

So where does that leave the energy sector, industry, and investors? That's exactly what we discussed in this podcast, which put CCUS Under the Lens: Scale, Costs and the Real Numbers for Gas with involvement of the Fuellers on both sides – the interrogator and the witness.

New Freeman, Kruthika A Bala and Dr Tatiana Mitrova teamed up as interrogators while Master Fueller, Ashutosh Shastri and Mohamed Hassan (previously the DESNZ negotiator for CCUS) now representing Carbon Direct participated to provide the evidence.

The discussion addressed issues beyond ideology and into commercial reality:

- What's truly investable?
- What's working (and not) across the UK, US, Middle East and Asia?
- Can CCUS for gas ever reach climate scale – or will it remain a niche – industrial clean-up tool?

If you joined the debate, a huge thanks. For those unable to attend, you can watch the recording on both [LinkedIn](#) and Youtube.

Obituaries

Past Master John Bainbridge

1946-2025

Past Master John Bainbridge died on Wednesday 8 October.

John was born in 1946 in York Road, Westminster, "outside Waterloo Station" as he would put it. He joined Blakemore, Elgar & Co as an articled clerk in 1964, qualified as a chartered accountant and subsequently headed up their principal auditing department. On being offered partnership in 1973 he decided to see life outside the profession for a couple of years and joined the investment division of Schroders where he spent thirty enjoyable years. He progressed to Executive Director of Schroder Investment Management Limited, as well as Chairman of Schroder Investment Management (Guernsey) Ltd and Schroder Investment Management (Ireland) Limited, as well as various other directorships within the company. Following the disposal of the investment banking business in 2000, he became Group Company Secretary of Schroders plc. His eventual retirement at the end of 2003 was marked in the Daily Telegraph's Alex cartoon.



John and Marilynne Bainbridge following his Installation as Master from The Fueller

John was admitted as a Freeman of the Fuellers on 26 January 1998, enrobed as a Liveryman on 27 October 1999 and joined Court in 2004. He was installed as Master on 15 October 2009 at Clothworkers' Hall and presided over the Company's 25th Anniversary Year.

As a Past Master he remained an active member of the Company: he was editor of The Fueller magazine for many years, was responsible for researching and recording much of our history and artefacts and was one of the main driving forces in the production of our Company history 'The Fuellers Tale.' He was a Trustee of the Fuellers Charitable Trust Fund for thirteen years, many of which as Honorary Treasurer – he stepped down from his second stint only in 2024.

News of his death reached the Company shortly before the start of Installation Court. On its opening, Court stood to observe a minute's silence in his memory.

John's funeral was attended by the Master, seven Past Masters, the Clerk and other Fuellers. Past Master Mike Husband spoke on behalf of the Company.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his widow Marilynne and all his family.

Penelope, Lady Newall MBE

1943-2025

Penelope, Lady Newall MBE died on Friday 21 November.

Penelope was the widow of Honorary Freeman Sir Paul Newall, who was the 666th Lord Mayor of London.

Her funeral was held on Thursday 18 December at St Mary The Boltons, London.

Our thoughts and prayers are with her sons, Rupert and Jamie, her five grandchildren and all her family.

Robert 'Bob' Edwin Perrin

1924-2026

Bob Perrin died on 14 January 2026.

He was a former Chairman of the National Fireplace Council and helped ensure the formation of the National Association of Chimney Sweeps.

Bob was admitted as a Freeman at Election Court on 20 April 2012 at Mansion House.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Aloysius 'Alec' Ray

1945-2026

Alec Ray died on 2 April 2026.

Alec was admitted as a Freeman at Midsummer Court on 19 June 2010 and was enrobed in the Livery at Election Court on 14 April 2011 at Merchant Taylors' Hall.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Susan and all his family.

Andrew Bainbridge

1934-2026

Past Master Andrew Bainbridge died on Monday 20 April 2026.

Andrew began his career aged 16 as a journalist in the North East, joining a leading UK public relations consultancy some five years later where he helped companies such as British Oxygen, Pilkington, Boots and Ford. At the age of 24 he established his own public affairs and marketing consultancy cutting his teeth in the energy industry for multinationals such as Johnson Controls and Satchwell.

[Continued/](#)



Andrew set up the Major Energy Users' Council in 1983 on the advice of Lord Derek Ezra, one of the founders of the Fuellers and a former Chairman of the National Coal Board, who was MEUC's first President.

Following the energy industry privatisation by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, MEUC provided advice on buying and using energy, water and telecoms to the UK's largest consumers and organised meetings for energy professionals which enabled large customers to develop relationships with all the leading suppliers and secure the fairest prices and trading terms. Three successful Trade Missions were organised in Brussels. In 2011 Andrew received the coveted EMAP 'Outstanding Contribution to the Energy Industry' Award.

A Fellow of the Institute of Directors and a member of the Carlton Club, he was particularly proud of his involvement with the Honourable Society of Masters, which offers counsel, support and protection to the business leaders within its ranks.

Andrew was admitted as a Freeman on Thursday 28 April 1994 at Election Court held at Bakers' Hall, enrobed in the Livery the following year on Thursday 27 April 1995 at Election Court held at Watermen's Hall and joined Court in 1999. He was installed as Master on Thursday 3 October 2002 at Merchant Taylor's Hall, announcing that it was "...the second most important thing to happen to me in recent years...even more important is that I have just become a grandfather!"



Andrew and Marianne Bainbridge pictured at his Installation
[The Fueller No.19 - December 2002]

Fuellers merchandise

Merchandise

Please take a moment to check out the Fuellers Shop in the Members' Area on the website. Ties, bow ties and umbrellas are just some of Fuellers merchandise that is available.

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

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



Event highlights

A round up of Fuellers recent events

Lady Mayor's Show 2025

Saturday 8 November 2025

Past Master Carrie Marsh

The Lady Mayor's Show took place on Saturday 8 November 2025 as the 697th Lord Mayor of the City of London, Dame Susan Langley DBE, processed from Guildhall to the Royal Courts of Justice to take her oath of allegiance. A fantastic spectacle that winds its way from the City of London to the City of Westminster ... and back again!

Dame Susan, previously of Aldgate Ward, is only the third woman to hold the post in over eight hundred years, and the first ever to be titled the 'Lady Mayor of the City of London'.

The day began with members of the Worshipful Company of Fuellers gathering at Piccolo Café near Guildhall for the obligatory sausage sandwich, while watching the parade preparations. Our Master, Ashutosh Shastri, Senior Warden Louise Thompson and Junior Warden Tom James, accompanied by our Military Affiliates Liaison and Banner Bearer for over twenty years, Dave Marsh, assembled in high spirits. This year the Master had instigated a WhatsApp group for all those attending, and it proved a superb tool for co-ordinating our presence in the parade and for meeting up afterwards and sharing photographs.

One of those moments, most spontaneous, happened even before the parade began. As they stood waiting and taking in the lively atmosphere, the State Band of India struck up a Bhangra

rhythm. Without a hint of hesitation, and accompanied by Master Information Technologist, Gus Muschado, our Master broke into an enthusiastic Bhangra dance that had everyone around him in high spirits, including all the Bhangra dancers who joined in. It was great fun to watch, entirely in the spirit of the day and, fortunately, captured on the WhatsApp, ensuring no one missed this wonderful moment!

At precisely 11am the procession set off from the official starting point. We were treated to a fly-over by a Catalina flying boat, which added a stirring aerial flourish to the start of the event. The day marked the first-ever use of the title 'Lady Mayor's Show' as the new office-holder, Dame Susan Langley DBE, took office as the 697th Lord Mayor, but the first Lady Mayor of the City of London, the first person to do so under that style in the city's eight hundred-year tradition.

The parade was truly a spectacle. Over seven thousand participants, around 250 horses and more than fifty decorated floats made their way from the Mansion House to the Royal Courts of Justice and back, stretching a route of some three miles. Along the way we noted the military bands, the colourful dancers, the Pearly Kings and Queens, and the fantastic diversity of costume and background from all corners of London and beyond. Among the entries were the restored Bluebird hydroplane carriage and a Drum and Bass marching band from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

As they marched, the cheers from the spectators were encouraging and happily the weather held dry. At St Paul's Cathedral there was a blessing for the Lady Mayor, adding a contemplative moment amid the pageantry.



The Fuellers, led by the Master and supported by his Wardens and Banner Bearer paraded with the Modern Companies float

During the lunch pause, some of our Fuellers families met up at one of the several Livery Halls inviting ticket holders for refreshment.

Once the second leg of the route was complete, we regrouped as a troupe of Fuellers at a pub not far from where we began, also joining with Past Master Shravan Joshi resplendent with his new top hat, and his wife Mira. To our delight we also found the Carmen gathered outside. As Dave Marsh would say: a splendid day, and an excellent way to start the Lady Mayoress's new year. If you didn't make it in 2025, it's well worth seeing if you can come and join in later this year!

Fuellers Carol Service and Christmas Supper

Monday 1 December 2025

The Fuellers annual Carol Service jointly held with the Worshipful Company of Fan Makers took place on Monday 1 December at St Vedast-alias-Foster church on Foster Lane.

The Parish of St Vedast is known from the 12th century, with the church traditionally claimed to have been established in 1170. It has been altered, enlarged and restored many times and rebuilt at least twice, the last time by Christopher Wren, after the Great Fire of London in 1666. Having been completely burnt out during the Blitz of World War II, the church was restored under the direction of its Rector, Canon Mortlock.

The service was led by our chaplain Revd Nick Mottershead with readings from the Masters and Wardens of both Companies



and overseen by the Beadle, James Hasler. The choir serenaded us with their beautiful voices creating a truly festive feeling for all.

After the service the Fuellers made their way to the Lamb and Trotter for a hearty Christmas supper.

New Year Court Dinner

Wednesday 14 January 2026

The Master welcomed the consorts of the Officers, Court Assistants and members of the Honorary Court at the annual New Year Court Dinner held at the Guildhall, this year held on 14 January. Principal speaker was Fueller Per Wimmer, astronaut, adventurer, philanthropist, entrepreneur, global financier, author and private island owner who spoke about his extraordinary journey.



Per Wimmer with the Master at the New Year Court Dinner

In the spirit of this year's theme, Involve, we're celebrating the remarkable accomplishments of our own members and Per joined the Company last year. His life's story is one of exploration, pioneering spirit and turning ambitious dreams into reality – not only through his own adventures and upcoming trip to space, but by inspiring children worldwide to pursue their own aspirations. One commentator described him as "a true Indiana Jones meets 007 James Bond."

Per is expected to become the first private Dane in space. He has completed extensive space training, including zero gravity flights, high altitude MIG 25 missions over Siberia at Mach 3, L 39 fighter jet training, medical exams and centrifuge launch simulations. A founding astronaut with Virgin Galactic since 2005, he will fly on one of the first commercial SpaceShipTwo missions.

A respected figure in the global space and exploration community, Per is a Fellow of the New York Explorer's Club, the Royal Geographic Society, the Royal Aeronautical Society and the Scientific Exploration Society. In 2022, he completed zero g flights with Apollo astronaut Charlie Duke and ESA astronauts Thomas Pesquet and Jean François Clervoy.

In 2008, Per and Ralph Mitchell completed the world's first tandem skydive over Mount Everest, jumping from 29,500 feet in -50°C conditions and landing at 12,350 feet after a sixty second free fall. This spirit of pushing boundaries and pioneering new experiences defines Per's approach to life.

His adventures span the globe: living with Amazonian tribes, participating in a land speed record attempt, driving a modified F 104 Starfighter Jet in Nevada and walking over volcanoes in Hawaii.

In 2022, he completed a 'Top Gun' style experience, landing and launching from the USS Nimitz on a C2 Greyhound Navy aircraft.

Per is deeply committed to inspiring young people and works with UNICEF, the Hospice Foundation, Ideas Foundation, Share Space and other charities.

He shared his extraordinary journey with us in an audio visual presentation at the dinner.

United Guilds Service

Friday 20 March 2026

The sun shone brightly for the 82nd United Guild Service held at St Paul's Cathedral on Friday 20th March. The service dates back to 1943 when it was established as a



The Master, Senior Warden and Clerk enjoying the splendour of St Paul's Cathedral

co-ordinated response to the challenges faced by the City of London following the Blitz, as well as a reminder of the religious origins of the Guilds.

The service was led by The Dean, the Reverend Andrew Tremlett, and attended by the Lady Mayor, Sheriffs, Chief Commoner, and the Court of Aldermen, alongside representatives from the Livery Companies and Guilds – all resplendent in their ceremonial robes.

The Master, Senior Warden, Clerk, and fellow Fuellers were also in attendance, and the steps of St Paul's have rarely looked more colourful. The Fuellers even attracted the attention of a group of tourists, who were keen to capture the moment for their holiday albums.

Following the service, Fuellers gathered for lunch at Pewterers' Hall. Guests were warmly welcomed by Master Pewterer Charles Robinson, with a response on behalf of the guests from Master Broderer James Neill.

Election Luncheon and Court

15 April 2026, Grocers' Hall

Election Luncheon immediately followed Election Court where the next Junior Warden and new Court Assistants were formally elected with the results being announced by the Master during the luncheon.



Guest speaker Chris Hayward, Policy Chairman of the City of London Corporation, who proposed the toast to the Worshipful Company of Fuellers: "Root and branch, may it flourish forever"

The event took place in the stunning surroundings of Grocers' Hall on 15 April. After the Elections for the upcoming year the Master Ashutosh Shastri installed nine new Freeman, two new Freemen by Presentation and enrobed five new Liverymen. Senior Warden Louise Thompson welcomed the company's guests before we heard from our principal guest Chris Hayward, Policy Chairman of the city of London and then the Master in response. As is customary we all ended up in the Counting House afterwards to continue the celebrations.



The Master enjoys the beauty of Grocers' Hall

The Worshipful Company of Grocers is one of the Great Twelve Livery Companies and ranks second in the order of precedence. The Company originated as the 'Pepperers', which was first officially recorded as a Guild in the Pipe Roll of 1180. In 1345, the Pepperers formed a Fraternity with St Antonin as their patron saint.

A Ceremonial Court took place immediately before the Reception to formally admit new Freemen and enrobe new Liverymen.

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



Visit to RNLI Tower Lifeboat Station

25 April 2026

A big thank you to Stephen Wheatley and his team who welcomed the Fuellers to the RNLI Tower Lifeboat Station on the Thames for what was an incredible and educational visit.

Tower Lifeboat Station is the busiest in the UK and has participated in 11,700 shouts since 2002 saving 530 lives. In a busy urban city it is easy to forget just how important the Thames is and also how dangerous it can be.

It costs £190 million per year to fund the RNLI's operations, with £650,000 for the Tower Station. Every penny is raised from donations and partnerships.

The Fuellers Charitable Trust Fund has been supporting them for over twenty years contributing towards the fuel that keeps the lifeboat running. Past Masters Doug Barrow and Chloë Andrews-Jones presented the first cheque to them in September 2004 and Chloë was there to present this year's grant to the team.



The Master gets 'geared up'



The Master thanks our hosts for the visit

Master's Weekend 2026

15-17 May 2026

The sun shone brightly for a wonderful weekend in Norfolk.

Fuellers enjoyed a welcome barbecue, a visit to Blickling Hall Estate, the City of Norwich, a boat trip on the Norfolk Broads and a celebratory dinner at Sprowston Manor.

During the weekend, participants raised money for the Fuellers Charitable Trust Fund and enjoyed a fun quiz night. There were a lot of laughs showcasing fellowship at its best!



From the Clerk

Alex Maclean Bather

Get involved



What a busy Industry-focused year we are having! This started with the extremely successful Fourth Fuellers' Duke of Edinburgh Future Energy Conference at Mansion House for which we have received so much praise. We are already starting to plan the next conference in November 2027 and I will share the date when this is confirmed. Under the Master's guidance, the Fuellers continue to be represented across many energy and City events. The Embassy Series Group is starting to move ahead and the Cross Party Group on Energy Costs has held its first meeting under the Fuellers' control.

Away from our formal dinners and luncheons there are many events and visits both within the City and further afield – many industry related or with our Military Affiliates. We have also now set up 'Meet the Fuellers' which is an informal chance to get together after work in the City, in order to network and socialise over a quiet drink. These meet-ups will take place several times a year at either a specified venue or event – like the recent City Beerfest. Please feel free to drop in at any time for as long as you can and bring any friends or colleagues, especially if they might be interested in joining. If you have any thoughts on future meet-ups then please let me know

If you are looking to get more involved in the Company then our various committees are always looking for members to join them, and each year our Trust also looks for mentors for our scholars and judges for various awards. If this is of interest to you then please get in contact with me and I can give you further details.

I was delighted to see many of you at Midsummer Dinner and especially at Ceremonial Court beforehand when we admitted Alderman Tim Hailes as an Honorary Liveryman. Subject to election in September, he will be installed as Lord Mayor in November and as we heard will have an energy focus to his mayoralty, which is of great interest to the Fuellers.

Looking further ahead to future events, the list of the main events is published on the following page, and at the bottom of each mailout you will also find the latest list of those events that are currently booking and those that have confirmed dates. Please put these dates in your diaries at the earliest opportunity to keep them free.

Finally, with the end finally in sight of the high temperatures, I wish you all an enjoyable remainder summer and look forward to seeing you in September!

Alex

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



linktr.ee/fuellerscompany



Dates for your diary

August 2026

Thursday 20 August

Industry visit to Grain LNG [FULLY BOOKED]

September 2026

Date: TBC

Fuellers Annual Energy Lecture

Imperial College

Sunday 27 September

Woolmens' Sheep Drive

Southwark Bridge [FULLY BOOKED]

Tuesday 29 September

Common Hall Election of Lord Mayor

Guildhall, followed by

Lunch at Armourers' Hall

October 2026

Thursday 15 October

Inter-Livery Golf Competition (Dowgate Challenge)

Tuesday 20 October

Fuellers Advantage

National Liberal Club

Wednesday 28 October

Installation Dinner

Merchant Taylors Hall

November 2026

Sunday 1 November

Fuellers Sunday

Tower of London

Saturday 14 November

Lord Mayor's Show

City of London

Monday 30 November

Annual Carol Service

St Vedast-alias-Foster Church, followed by

Christmas Supper at the Lamb & Trotter

December 2026

Tuesday 8 December

Oil Industries Club (OIC) Christmas Lunch

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



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