

## 15<sup>th</sup> Liverymen's Dinner

## Armourers' Hall

13th November 2019



Rick Alford presided over his first full event as Master of the WCHCD and what a way to start, with a bumper evening.



In the Court meeting the Master was pleased to clothe Tom Hutley in the Livery of the Company. Well done Tom and welcome to you as our newest Liveryman.

Common Hall was then opened. This is a very important part of the WCHCD Calendar as it gives the Master, Wardens and Court a chance to report the goings-on of the Company to all members. It is held annually and all are encouraged to attend.

The Court were then joined by Graduates of the CabGuide Course who were received by the Master and presented with their certificates, and the all-important badge, by Past Master Graham Woodhouse and Deputy Master Dave Cannell.



We then adjourned to a reception prior to dinner, after which the Awards Committee Chairman, Past Master Colin Evans, was pleased to announce the recipients of this year's awards (listed over page). The Master then gave his address (also listed over page) before we were entertained by a wonderful medley of tunes, from Dave Brubeck to the Rolling Stones, by Harpist Valeria Kurbatova.



1 to r: Clerk Belinda Tregear, Upper Warden Mick Cullen, Liveryman Tom Hutley, Master's Consort Maggie Alford, Master Rick Alford, Deputy Master Dave Cannell, Lower Warden Wendy Sorrell, Renter Warden Steve Plumb, Honorary Chaplain The Revd Marcus Walker.

# Award Recipients & Citations

## CHARITY AWARD



The recipient of our Charity Award this evening goes to a Lady who has worked as a social worker at Great Ormond street Hospital for some 22 years. In that time, she has been charged

with looking after the welfare of sick and terminally ill Children and their Families.

Many of the Children at GOSH have come from all over the UK to undergo leading specialist treatments and they are often accompanied by their parents who want to be with their Children to give much needed support at this difficult and emotional time. This can mean that other siblings are left at home, looked after by their father who in turn cannot work.

This support is often at great cost to families at what is an immensely stressful time and it is this lady who takes these families under her wing to make sure they get the emotional and financial help they sometimes desperately need.

She is constantly fund raising to make sure they are cared for and helping them get through their treatment to a successful conclusion.

It is through the Worshipful Company's connection with Great Ormond Street Hospital that it is felt this commitment should be acknowledged, especially as the recipient retires this year.

Our Charity award goes to **Rowena Ellis.** 🚗

## FRIEND OF TRADE AWARD



What can I say about our recipient of Friend of the Trade Award.

She used to run the tea hut at the top of Blackheath, keeping all those Hairy Bikers in order;

drove a London Routemaster play bus for

Surrey County Council, keeping those Kids in order and, for the last 6 years', has been running the Russell Square shelter, keeping all those Cabbies in order.

Many of the drivers here tonight are aware of the input she has made into managing that shelter and she has a loyal Cabbie following.

In the summer it is adorned with hanging baskets; outside, benches are supplied for her take away customers. She is well known in the area and her customers include students from the surrounding Universities, Police, Fire Fighters, Ambulance and the many film Crews that have made News stories about our great City.

However, tonight is about her charity work for the taxi trade charities and her work for the War veterans and the Homeless.

Over the last few years she has regularly come up with new initiatives to boost our many taxi trade charities and this year she has a new initiative to raise even more money and divide it equally.

This has not got in the way of her commitment to the homeless, last year supplying over 200 much needed Christmas boxes containing hats, gloves, scarves and some food and drink. She even keeps the shelter open late on Christmas Eve to make sure as many as possible receive that support.

If anyone here tonight has not made a visit to the Russell Square shelter then I recommend you give it a try; just ask for Kate.

Our recipient of the Friend of the Trade award is **Kate Simmonds.** 🚗

## HITCH AWARD FOR BRAVERY



The Hitch Award is presented to someone within the Hackney Carriage trade who we feel has shown great bravery and acted beyond the call of duty. The Award is named after

Frederick Hitch who was to become a London cabbie after he won the Victoria Cross for his bravery at Rorke's Drift in 1879.

Our recipient this evening we feel has also shown bravery in his actions on an evening in the February of 2018.

I hope you will spare me a moment to explain why this recipient should receive prestigious award.

On the 16 May this year our then Master, Mr Phil Davis received a letter from a Detective Constable Vanessa Cadrecha-Paolucci of the British Transport Police. In that Letter the Detective explained about an incident that occurred at Charing Cross Railway Station whereby she was tasked to investigate an offence of Grievous Bodily Harm when a Railway staff member incurred horrendous facial injuries which required emergency surgery after a cowardly and unprovoked attack from two young men.

This incident was happening just as our recipient, who was working in his cab that evening, was passing Charing Cross Station. He noticed one of two young males assaulting a Railway Staff member who appeared to be trying to reason with them.

Our recipient then saw both males running away and without hesitation mounted the pavement to try and block the suspects from exiting but unfortunately, they evaded his actions.

Our recipient then shouted to another railway staff member to attend to the victim and he would try to follow the two men. The recipient began to follow both suspects and called 999 to report the crime and alert the Police of his actions. A chase then ensued whereby the men were followed for some 20/25 mins down Northumberland Avenue, Whitehall Place, Whitehall Court, Horseguards Avenue down to Victoria Embankment and after losing them for a short while the assailants took the footpath past Westminster Pier going towards Westminster Bridge. Fortunately, he was opposite New Scotland yard and he managed to speak with two Police Officers waiting in their car outside and explain what he had seen and that he was following the two suspects which he had lost. However, as he was having the conversation with the Police Officers, he noticed both suspects appear some 150 yards down the street and identifying the two males the police apprehended the suspects there and then.

The case went to trial in February this year whereby both assailants were found guilty of GBH due mainly to the evidence supplied by this evening's recipient.

The Judge in the case also recommended that the actions of the recipient receive a commendation for his actions.

The Company would not have been aware of these actions if it was not for the letter we received from Detective Cadrecha-Paolucci of the British Transport Police who also recommended recognition for his actions. We hope you will see we have gone some way to address that request this evening.

Please all give a good reception to the nominee of this year's Hitch Award for bravery **Mr Carlos Oliveira.** 🚗

### **LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**



Our last award of the evening, The Lifetime Achievement award, goes to a gentleman who needs no introduction. One of the founder members of our

Company he has steered it from a Fellowship to a Company without Livery; to full Worshipful Company status and has been instrumental in compiling the Ordinances we abide by to this day. This recipient was our first Master after moving on from a Fellowship around 1997. No Stranger to Awards he has been awarded Honorary Companion to the Security Professionals, an award from the PR Practitioners and the City Livery Root and Branch Award. In fact, he has amassed so many awards the lapels on his dinner suits are always the first to wear out. However, it is for his tireless work on the company's Annual Magical Taxi Tour to Disneyland Paris which he is best known.

After last year's trip in 2018 he retired from his 25 years as Chairman of the Magical Taxi Tour and in 2018/2019 served a year as Honorary Master of The Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers. With his ability to succour donations from all manner of organisations it is recognised in the City as being one of the best supported Charities within the City of London Liveries.

I think we should be aware that, without his total commitment to the Magical Taxi Tour to Disneyland Paris, some 5000 very sick and terminally ill children would never have had the opportunity to enjoy a weekend of such a Magical Experience.

I ask you all to stand and welcome our Lifetime Achievement Award recipient this evening **Mr Phillip Davis.** 🚗

# The Master's Speech in Full



Wardens, Liveryman, Honoured guests, welcome to the fabulous Armourers' Hall.

I would like to thank the Master and Court of the Armourers Company for allowing us to use their Hall this evening. The Armourers & Brasiers Company was founded in 1322 for overseeing the production of armour. They received their Royal Charter from king Henry VI in 1453 and are number 22 in order of precedence. The hall is Grade 2 listed and the Company has been on this site since 1453.

I would also like to thank Eugene Parate and Vincent O'Malley from Black Taxi Rentals for their kind donation toward tonight's dinner.

At our Court meeting I was delighted to clothe Tom Hutley with the Livery of our Company. Congratulations Tom.

As you know this is our Liverymans' Dinner tonight, so if you are a Liveryman and have been in the Company for a while, and would like to become more involved, there are several committees within the Company, some of which may need extra help. If you feel this is something you may wish to get involved with you can speak to our Clerk.

One of our committees is Education. Part of their remit is to run our CabGuide Course, which over the last 12 years has developed into one of the best guiding courses in London. It is organised and run by past masters Dave Cannell and Graham Woodhouse. Today at our court I was pleased to hand out 23 badges and certificates to our latest successful students, many have joined us here tonight. Well done to you all.

Unfortunately, this is the last course that Past Master Dave Cannell is going to be involved with, and I would like all our Company members to thank him for all the hard work he has done over the last 12 or more years to make this course so successful. Many students have passed this course and many have gone on to become members of our Company, some of which I am sure are here tonight.

I'm pleased to say that Liveryman Steve Bates has taken up the mantle, and with Graham's help will run a new course starting next February.

There are more changes as the PR committee Chairman, Past Master Malcom Paice, who has been Chair of this committee for more years than I can remember, is stepping down so he can concentrate on his work commitments. Unfortunately, Malcolm could not be here this evening but I'm sure we would all like to thank him for his hard work.

Hopefully all our members received, via email, our new magazine The Dashboard. We hope to get several more editions out each year, and if you have something that you think our members may be interested in please contact the Dashboard Team at the email address on the Dashboard magazine.

Two months ago today we set off on our fantastic trip to Disneyland Paris, what a great time was had by all. We have received many letters of thanks from the Lord Mayor, Lady Mayoress and the Sheriff's, as well as many Livery Companies who sponsored cabs and attended the big breakfast. I now realise, after talking to so many of the other Masters at the various events, how highly regarded our Company is by the other Liveries for its Magical Taxi Tour to Disneyland. Well done to all the Disney Committee for their hard work.

Normally I would take a family in my cab to Disney, but this year as Master I was driven splendidly by Past Master Brenda Bartlet in a brand new Electric taxi. Thank you, Brenda, from myself and Maggie for a safe and pleasant trip.

Attending the dinner this evening is Joanne Taylor, who has helped for the last 18 years organise the big breakfast. She is now retiring for a well-deserved rest, thank you Joanne.

At the election of the new Lord Mayor, attended by all 110 Livery Companies, the outgoing Sheriff Liz Green was kind enough to mention our Company for its Big Breakfast and Disney trip. This was quite unusual as we were the only Company mentioned. Not bad for one of the modern Companies.

Now, of course, I would normally say a little about my guest speaker! Who was to have been the MP for Ilford North, Mr. Wes Streeting, Chair of the cross-party committee on taxi and private hire. However, as we are all now aware Boris has called an election, and Wes has had to decline the invitation at the last minute.

No doubt you might be pleased that there will be one less speech!

I hope you will now all enjoy the replacement for the guest speaker. A young lady who has played for such diverse audiences as His Royal Highness Prince Michael of Kent and Ronnie Wood of the Rolling Stones. So please welcome Valeria Kurbatova. 🚗

## Are you in the Club?

Along with Fellowship and Education, one of the cornerstones of the Livery movement is Charity.

One of the main charitable causes that the Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers supports is the annual Children's Magical Taxi Tour. We also support trade charities, to mention a few: donations to the Widows of the City of London Police; the East London Cabbies Outing; the Military Veterans Trade Charity; Our military affiliations, and the Royal Docks Academy.

As a member of the Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers you may wish to consider joining the **104 Charity Draw Club**, please do not hesitate to contact the Clerk if you are interested in taking part in the quarterly draw as it is an important way of raising charitable funds. All monies raised support the WCHCD Charitable Trust (Charity Incorporated Organisation Registered No.1172474).

The 104 Charity Club Draw is drawn quarterly (March; June; September and December) and it costs £15 a quarter (paid by standing order) to take part (or have one share in the Draw).

30% of funds paid will go to prizes, the balance going to charity funds. The prize money is divided into 50% for first prize, 30% for second prize and 20% for third prize. The actual amount of each prize will depend on the number of those participating in the Draw and the number of shares sold. In the last 104 Club Draw, held September 2019, the first prize winner won £310.00; 2nd prize winner won £186.00; 3rd prize winner won £124.00.

104 Draw Christmas Gift cards will be available if you would like membership of the 104 Club for a family member or friend as a Christmas present, or they may wish to join themselves and, of course, Liverymen and Freemen are always welcome to join.

Please contact the Clerk for further information: 🚗

[clerk@hackneycarriagedriverscompany.com](mailto:clerk@hackneycarriagedriverscompany.com)

## About becoming a Liveryman

It isn't always obvious what joining the WCHCD is all about so we asked our newest Liveryman, Tom Hutley, to pen a few words on his experiences in the Company so far. Here's what Tom had to say:

"Taking the freedom of the City was an incredible experience, it's a huge honour to continue a tradition which has existed for almost 8 centuries.

It gives me real pride in knowing that I represent the City of London. As a driver and within the Livery.

It was also remarkably easy! I urge all Freeman of the Company to take their Freedom of the City, you never know when you might want to drive your sheep across London Bridge!"



On becoming a Liveryman/Lord Mayors show:

"It is a huge honour to be clothed in the Livery of the Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers.

I became a Freeman in April 2019 and after my first Company lunch at Watermen and Lightermen's Hall I knew that being part of the Company was something special.

While I have only been within the Company for a few months all of the members have made me feel incredibly welcome, being invited to take part in the Lord Mayor's Show and have lunch onboard the HQS Wellington!

I am excited to progress and become more involved with the activities of the Company, it is a wonderful tradition and a cause that I hope to support for many years." 🚗



## At The Lord Mayor's Show



The Master was joined by Upper Warden Mick Cullen, Lower Warden Wendy Sorrell and Liveryman Tom Hutley for the 804<sup>th</sup> Lord Mayor's Show to represent the WCHCD in the Modern Livery Companies section.

Afterwards a dinner was provided on HQS Wellington.

The definition of a Modern Livery Company is one formed since 1926 and, as a rule of thumb, that encompasses the Companies from number 78, the Master Mariners, onwards (although there are some anomalies in the Order of Precedence).

Further back in the parade Court Assistant Dan Heath was acting as Beadle for Langbourn Ward, walking alongside Alderman Sir David Wootton's carriage.

The Ward Beadles begin their duties, attending to the Alderman of their respective Ward, with breakfast at the Guildhall and are pictured below having stopped for a well-earned rest at the Royal Courts of Justice before commencing the homeward leg of the parade in some heavy rain, as often befalls this November ceremonial occasion. 🚗



## 20 Sqn Quiz Night



The Annual Quiz Night with 20 Transport Squadron Royal Logistic Corps was another successful evening with over 50 attendees packing the Warrant Officers and Sergeants Mess at Regent's Park Barracks.

In what became a hotly contested event we were treated to a wide variety of quiz formats which also included a race night element.

Our Quiz Master was Cpl Chris Jervis and Major Richie Habbershaw was on hand to announce the winners, the Green Stripe Team, captained by Master Rick Alford (of course). We look forward to welcoming Maj Habbershaw to our dinner in March - along with the recipient of the award to 20 Sqn and the other Military affiliation representatives and award winners - but sadly it will be his last event with us before he moves on to a new posting a few days later. 🚗

### Company Events 2019 - 2020

7 December 2019	Disney Dinner & Dance
17 December 2019	Carol Service & Supper
5 March 2020	Spring Court Dinner
13 May 2020	Election Court Lunch (Court Members Only)
19 June 2020	Founders' Day Lunch
2 October 2020	Disney Trip Departs

### City Events

25 February 2020	Pancake Race
27 March 2020	United Guild Service
24 June 2020	Election of the Sheriffs
14 November 2020	Lord Mayor's Show

## Got a Story?

Email The Dashboard at [wchcddashboard@outlook.com](mailto:wchcddashboard@outlook.com)



### The Clerk's Office

Please contact the Clerk, Belinda Tregear for further information on anything in this Newsletter: [clerk@hackneycarriagedriverscompany.com](mailto:clerk@hackneycarriagedriverscompany.com)