

Worshipful Company of Builders' Merchants

Jane, Lady Hilliard
Clerk



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RECORD OF A MEETING OF THE INSTALLATION COURT GENERAL HELD AT MANSION HOUSE, LONDON, EC4N 8BH

4.00 pm on Friday 24th October 2025

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|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| PRESENT: | S.K. Boyer | Master |
| | L.M. Di Stazio | Senior Warden |
| | K.P. Fenlon | Junior Warden |
| | J. Milligan | Keeper of the Roll |
| | A.K. Hawkins | Immediate Past Master |
| | J.E. Langford | Bursar |
| | J C. Ledigo | Almoner |

PAST MASTERS: D.C.R. Hesketh, M. Pares, C. G. Bence, J.A. Adams, R. J. Taylor, G. J. Hopkins, A. G. Ballinger; J.C. Poore, S. J. Turner, S.W. Pierce, R. W. Hill.

COURT ASSISTANTS: J. Milligan, R. Singh Sumal, J. Crean,

FIXED-TERM COURT ASSISTANTS: H. R. Grant.

CLERK: J. Hilliard

At 4.00 pm, the Court of Assistants being present, and the Company being assembled, the Beadle called the Meeting to order. The Clerk declared the Court in session as a Court General.

5161 MASTER'S WELCOME TO THE LIVERYMEN

The Master welcomed all Liverymen and Freemen

5162 SIGNING OF THE RECORD OF THE COURT GENERAL HELD ON 23rd April 2025

The Record of the Election Court General held on 23rd April 2025, having been circulated, was approved at the Meeting.

5163 ELECTION OF THE ALMONER

The Master, Stephen Boyer addressed the Court on the Election of the Almoner:

“It was reported in the Minutes of the Election Court General of 23rd April last, that Almoner Charles Ledigo had indicted his resignation as Almoner in October 2025 and that a new Almoner would be proposed and elected in due course. John Charles Poore has since been proposed as the new Almoner”.

The Master then proposed that Past Master John Charles Poore be elected as Almoner for the ensuing year to which proposal the Court signified its approval by assent. The Almoner Elect thanked the Court and said he would serve the Company to the best of his ability.

5164 ADMISSION OF NEW COURT ASSISTANT

The Master, Stephen Boyer, addressed the new Court Assistant, Jon Crean:

“At a meeting held on 15th September last, the Court approved Jon Crean as a Court Assistant. According to the decision taken by the Court, new Court Assistants will, where possible, be admitted at a Court General, in the presence of the assembled Liverymen and Freemen”.

The Master then installed the Liveryman Jon Crean as a Court Assistant. In accepting office, Jon Crean pledged himself to serve the Company to the best of his ability.

5165 ADMISSION OF FREEMEN TO THE LIVERY

The Clerk reported that due to the number of candidates being admitted into the Livery and limited space at the Court, that the new Liverymen would be admitted in two batches. The Clerk then called upon the following 7 Freemen to make themselves known to the Meeting:

Roll No. 578 James Edward Hipkins
Roll No. 599: James Stanley Gibson McMeckan
Roll No. 605 Timothy Jerrard – Dinn
Roll No. 620 Timothy Christopher Hanlon
Roll No. 621 Glenn Joseph Paddison
Roll No. 629 Mark Raymond Morris
Roll No. 636 Matthew Simon Huskisson

The candidates in turn then made the following declaration:

"As a Liveryman of this Worshipful Company I repeat the Solemn Declaration which I made upon Admission to the Freedom and will continue to do everything within my power to support the Company and its objects."

The candidates then repeated the wording of the Solemn Declaration.

The Senior Warden then allowed the Freemen to sign the Roll.

The Clerk called upon the following 6 Freemen to make themselves known to the Meeting and the process was repeated.

Roll No. 640 Paul Stephen Conboy

Roll No. 643 Lee Hudson

Roll No. 645 Christine Janet Jones

Roll No. 646 Andrew John Miller

Roll No. 647 Antony John Sharkey

Roll No. 651 Jamie Herd

After the above new Liverymen had signed the Roll, the Master addressed all 13 new Liverymen:

"I welcome you as a new Liveryman of this Company and remind you of your responsibilities as a Liveryman to appear and vote at the election of the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs and to support the Company by attendance at its Courts General and Dinner, its Awards Luncheon and its Divine Service, and to continue to support the charitable objects of the Company through making an annual donation".

The Master then welcomed the new Liverymen and presented them with their Certificate of Admission.

5166 MASTER'S FAREWELL ADDRESS

"Good Afternoon, Past Masters, Fellow Liverymen, and Ladies and Gentlemen

As I come to the end of my year as Master, I find myself reflecting on what a privilege it has been, and how much Pauline and I have enjoyed sharing the journey with you. I will not speak of the amazing places, people and events I and very often Pauline have attended over the year; they were all incredible in so many different ways.

I have tried to run the Court in a way that is professional and even-handed, respecting our traditions, but without worrying if every word was perfect or if someone was slightly out of place. We are not, after all, actors on a stage, we are people in fellowship. I hope that spirit has come through this year.

In fact, I only had to call on my Immediate Past Master to deputise once at the PWRR Carol Service in Canterbury. As it happens, he loves that service, so I suspect he considered it as a favour to him!

Some have even suggested I've been more generous than I admit, particularly on our wonderful Cyprus trip, where I gather wallets remained largely untouched. I'll leave others to judge whether that was down to my generosity or their craftiness!

We've also taken some careful steps in modernising the Court, including proposals around voting and other ways of ensuring we remain relevant and welcoming to new talent. These things need handling with tact, and my motto has been simple: little steps.

One area I feel strongly about is growing our membership. It keeps us vibrant, alive, and engaged. Yes, sometimes it feels like we're only just keeping ahead of the Grim Reaper, but what a joy it has been to see the enthusiasm of our new members. The downside, of course, is that events are now so popular that I couldn't even get into a Consorts' event unless I booked everything in August for the whole year ahead. A wonderful problem to have, but perhaps a gentle reminder that sometimes less is more.

Beyond numbers, our profile has grown enormously, both in the industry and across the City. We've launched the new website, introduced online booking, and produced the Company handbook for all members. These may sound like small things, but they've raised our visibility and strengthened our standing.

And as a member of the ESG Committee, I've seen us gain real clarity. Environmentally, we now know what is — and isn't — possible for a peripatetic Company. Socially, we have shaped our charitable giving towards the education and development of young people. And in governance, our Trustees have ensured that we understand our investments better than ever, with real transparency from our advisers. Clear progress, and real clarity.

I also want to take this moment to thank all our invaluable Sponsors who have helped financially support the Company. Their generosity has made a real difference and enabled us to do more this year than would otherwise have been possible.

But above all, this year would not have been possible without the incredible support I have received. My heartfelt thanks go to our Clerk, Jane, to Lady Hilliard, to my wife Pauline and my family, and to all Liverymen, Past Masters, Officers, and members who joined me along the way.

Looking back, I am filled with pride for what we have achieved together — and with hope for the future. I have endeavoured to serve with dignity, passion, and authenticity. In doing so, I have gained not only treasured memories but a deeper appreciation for the spirit and strength of the Worshipful Company of Builders' Merchants.

It has truly been a year to remember. Thank you for the privilege of serving as your Master. Thank you".

5167 INSTALLATION OF THE MASTER FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

The Master, Stephen Marsh Boyer, addressed the Master – Ms Lucia Maria Di Stazio:

“Lucia Maria Di Stazio, at the Court General held on 23rd April last, it was the unanimous wish of your fellow Liverymen that you should serve them as Master for the ensuing year.”

The retiring Master then installed the Master Elect Lucia Maria Di Stazio as Master. In accepting office, the Master pledged herself to serve the Company to the best of her ability.

5168 INSTALLATION OF THE WARDENS FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

The Master then installed the Senior Warden – Elect, Kevin Peter Fenlon, as Senior Warden. In accepting office, the Senior Warden pledged his service to the Master and the Company.

The Master then installed the Junior Warden-Elect, Stephen Daniel Durdant - Hollamby, as Junior Warden. In accepting office, the Junior Warden pledged his service to the Master and the Company.

5169 INSTALLATION OF THE KEEPER OF THE ROLL

At the Court General on 23rd April 2025, it was decided to elect Julian Milligan as the Keeper of the Roll. Julian Milligan was duly confirmed in that office and pledged his support to the Master and the Company.

5170 INSTALLATION OF THE BURSAR AND ASSISTANT CLERK

At the Court General on 23rd April 2025, it was decided to re-elect Julie Elizabeth Langford as Bursar and Assistant Clerk. Julie Elizabeth Langford was duly confirmed in those offices and pledged her support to the Master and the Company.

5171 INSTALLTION OF THE ALMONER

Earlier at today’s Court General, it was decided to elect John Charles Poore as Almoner. John Charles Poore was duly confirmed in that office and pledged his support to the Master and the Company.

5172 APPOINTMENT OF THE LEARNED CLERK

At the Court General on 23rd April 2025, it was decided to approve the continuance of the appointment of Jane, Lady Hilliard, as the Learned Clerk for the ensuing year. Jane, Lady Hilliard, was duly confirmed in that office and the Learned Clerk pledged to continue to serve the Master and the Company to the best of her ability.

5173 INSTALLATION OF THE IMMEDIATE PAST MASTER

The Master thanked Stephen Marsh Boyer for his year as Master and installed him as Immediate Past Master. The Immediate Past Master thanked the Master and pledged his continued support to the Master and to the Company.

5174 ADDRESS BY THE MASTER

The Master then delivered her Address to the Court General:

"It is an absolute honour to stand here today as your new Master, and as the 4th female Master of our esteemed Livery Company.

My year as Master coincides with the election of a new female Lord Mayor and on behalf of our Livery, a huge congratulations to Dame Susan Langley DBE, who will take office on the 7th November as the 697th Lord Mayor of London and only the 3rd female to hold this office. Sue aims to champion a 'Modern Mayoralty' and will be the first female in office to use the title of Lady Mayor. I look forward to supporting Sue throughout her term.

Today's special and unique occasion represents not only a significant personal milestone, but it is also testament to the great work, leadership and unwavering commitment of the Masters before me, and of the hard work and dedication of our Committees and Committee Chairs, whose efforts lay the foundation upon which we continue to build and thrive as a Livery Company.

The record attendance in today's Court General, our 13 newly installed Liverymen (congratulations to you all) and achieving full capacity at this evening's dinner are all reflections of the continuing growth and strength of our Livery Company and the high regard it holds in the City and across our industry.

Every Master takes on great responsibility in leading their Livery Company - encouraging positive change and embracing new opportunities, while respecting and upholding core values and traditions that define and shape City Livery Companies as a whole.

So my sincere thanks to our Immediate Past Master Steve and his Consort Pauline for their dedication, guidance and generosity over the last 12 months, and for giving us such a memorable Master's weekend in Cyprus.

As we gather today in this historic Hall, Merchant Taylors' being one of the Great Twelve Livery Companies of the City of London, with origins dating back to the 14th Century, we are reminded of the rooted history of Livery Companies, and their enduring dedication to fellowship, education and philanthropy.

The Livery Impact Report published earlier this year gives a strong reminder of the true significance of the Livery movement and the scale of philanthropic support Livery Companies provide to deserving causes.

The latest survey, carried out in 2024, reports that the aggregate giving by Livery Companies reached an extraordinary £81 million. Support to education and to young people remained the largest category with an increase to £33.9 million in 2024, while volunteering support to frontline charities in a wide range of activities increased by 18% over the last three years to 44,000 hours per annum. These are significant numbers that would not be possible without the collective efforts and contribution of Livery Companies and their members.

As Mike and I embark, what I'm sure will be, a busy and exciting year, we will do our very best to serve our Livery Company in the City and in our industry.

A central theme for me will be education and opportunity.

Education and Training is a core objective of our Livery Company, and I firmly believe in the windows of opportunity our Livery and industry opens for young people and for those looking to grow and develop their careers.

Education in whichever form it takes, creates opportunities for individuals and businesses alike and when combined with positive guidance and mentorship, it fuels ambition and fosters achievement.

Certainly, education, mentorship and opportunity were factors that featured strongly in my own development and early career, which is why I have a passionate belief in their importance.

I'm proud to be part of a people industry and as a sector we are incredibly fortunate to benefit from a wealth of knowledge and talent that has made and continues to make our industry great today.

It is therefore important we retain, encourage and develop talent from within as well as attract new skills and with that, the diversity of thought, ambition and experience.

Our Livery Company is fortunate to have a dedicated Education & Training Fund. Through close collaboration with our industry's trade body and other organisations, we aim to achieve widespread awareness of our bursaries to support learning and ultimately make a difference to many young people and individual careers.

I'd like to finish by saying a huge thank you to all of you here today and to the generous support of the Sponsors of my year.

I have been truly touched by the extent of support and the encouragement and kind words.

Mike and I look forward to welcoming Liverymen, Freemen and Guests to our Company's events over the next 12 months.

The 2025/2026 programme is available this evening so please make sure you take it away with you and note key dates in your diary, in particular our popular City & Awards Lunch in March, the Election Court General in April which is a key one for all members to attend as we elect our Master, Wardens and Officers for the ensuing year, and our summer event in early July at the RAF Club with hopefully a bit of Italian flair!

Enjoy the evening, and hope your guests do too, and thank you”

5175 OTHER MATTERS AS MAY BE PERMITTED BY THE MASTER

The Master then enquired of the Clerk if there was any further business.
The Clerk reported the following:

“A Notice of Special Resolution to amend the Bylaws of the Worshipful Company of Builders’ Merchants in accordance with S. 6 of our Bylaws was sent to all Liverymen and Freemen of the Company on 2nd September 2025. The proposed amendment aims to limit the voting rights of Past Masters from a period of 15 to 10 years following the passing of the chair with the provision that the present voting rights remain should a Past Master serve on a committee.

May I propose that this is a further opportunity to take comments of questions before the proposal is put to vote.

All those present and eligible to vote, please indicate by a display of hands if you are in favour.

Those not in favour, please indicate by a display of hands”.

After a unanimous vote in favour of the proposal, the Clerk declared the proposal passed.

Also, for clarification the Clerk went on to report:

- “Starting from October 2025, Past Masters will transition to Honorary Court Assistants after 10 years unless a Trustee or serving on a Committee;
- Past Masters who attained their status before October 2025 will remain under the original 15 year period before becoming Honorary Members unless a Trustee or serving on a Committee;
- The exception is Past Master Pepperrell and Past Master Graham Ballinger who agreed to become Honorary Court Assistants before the 15 year period was complete”

Death of Past Master Hugh Robertson

The Clerk reported of the sad passing of Past Master Hugh Robertson, who peacefully left us at his home in Alicante, Spain on Thursday, 9th October. Hugh was surrounded by his family including his daughter Caroline. His wife, Janice had passed away in 2017. PM Robertson became a Freeman in October 1993 and a Liveryman in April 1995. He served as Master of the Worshipful Company of Builders' Merchants from 2005 to 2006.

A celebration of Hugh's life will be held in Spain on 1st November, following his cremation service. Post Court General Note: Subject to venue confirmation, there will be a final celebration of Hugh's life held in London on 26th November.

The Court rose to observe a Minute's silence.

Freeman Jamie Pierce

The Clerk reported that Freeman Jamie Pierce of Agency53 was awarded the Young Supplier & Service Provider of the Year at the Builders Merchants Federation Annual Awards held on Thursday, September 19th at the Hilton Metropole in Birmingham, recognising his nearly 20-year career in the building materials sector, his innovative work, industry contributions, and commitment to supporting future talent.

5176 CLOSURE OF THE COURT GENERAL

The Master declared the Court General closed. The Junior Warden thanked God for His blessing and asked for His protection and guidance during the coming year.

APPROVED

Elis Hazle

MASTER *Lucia D' STAZIO*

DATE *24/10/2025*