



The PAVIOR

The Magazine of the Worshipful Company of Paviers

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2008 Events:

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2 Sep: Ashridge Golf Club

3 Sep: Luncheon Club (Old Bailey)

25 Sep: Banquet (Mansion House)

29 Sep: Election of Lord Mayor
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7 Oct: Luncheon Club (Army/ Navy)

22 Oct: Even Song Dinner: St Pauls

22 Oct: Court Meeting and Dinner

30 Oct: Tandridge Golf Club

5 Nov: Luncheon Club (Guildhall)

8 Nov: Lord Mayor's Show

20 Nov: Court Meeting and Dinner

From the moment that I took office I knew that this was going to be a year to remember. Holding office as Master of a Livery Company is a most privileged position offering many opportunities to represent the Company at dinners around the various Halls as well as other less waist-increasing events. However it is fair to say that what has struck Diana and me most has been the warmth of the welcome at every occasion – whether it was at the glittering Lord Mayor's Banquet at the Mansion House or more recently at a Spirit and Liqueur tasting hosted by the Worshipful Company of Distillers!



We have enjoyed the real sense of 'family' amongst the many Companies and we are looking forward to reciprocating whenever possible. Moments that deserve greater mention include the Annual Livery Weekend at Ironbridge, which took place at the beginning of June. First held 20 years ago at the instigation of former Lord Mayor Sir Peter Gaddesden, this weekend saw Masters and Mistresses from 87 Worshipful Companies descend upon Ironbridge where we were guided around four of the ten museums that make up the Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust and which enable visitors to reflect on the industrial past of this nation.

Of particular note is The Blist Hill Victorian Village, in which are displayed working examples of the many crafts and skills undertaken by various Livery Companies – such as Bakers; Tallow Chandlers; Masons; Carpenters and many more. It was noticeable that the Paviers were not represented and so perhaps that is something we can redress at some time. The final two weeks of June have been very active and included attendance at the Dinner and Conference of The Institute of Asphalt Technologists, and the Sheriff's Breakfast and Election in Guildhall. Spending a few hours with IAT enabled me to see the Paving Industry at its modern best and perhaps we should be looking in this direction for future members of the Company.

The Sheriff's Breakfast signalled the beginning of the end for Sheriff and Pavior, Alderman Michael Bear. I am sure that all of us will join to congratulate Michael for the manner in which he has conducted the office of Sheriff and we wish him and Barbara well as they commence preparation for higher office in 2010. In closing I would like to thank all Paviers who have brought forward candidates for admission into the Livery and to say how much we want to encourage every Liveryman to spread the word about the value of membership of our Company and to propose further candidates for consideration by the Court.

Christopher Laing

www.paviors.org.uk



Madrid

Early on the morning of the 15th May, 31 members of the Paviors were spotted arriving at Heathrow Airport - the Master's Jolly had commenced. Showing their intentions for the weekend, the party spread out and headed for the nearest bars or restaurants and started as they meant to go on. The amount of egg and bacon consumed was clearly the result of an ill founded rumour to the effect that there was a food shortage in Spain! Either that or the chaps just couldn't get away from a site breakfast.

British Airways wafted us to Madrid and deposited us at the stunning new Terminal 4 (Richard Rogers being the architect) where, after a successful display of orienteering by the Paviors, the party was reunited with our Master and Mistress. Outside a coach was waiting and we set off for the centre of Madrid – straight to 'La Trucha' a tapas restaurant where any fears of starvation were soon assuaged and 33 very well fed and watered Paviors re-boarded the coach and then paid rapt attention to the guided tour of the city that followed. It was at this point that it became noticeable that the engine of the coach was struggling to make itself heard over the sonorous noise of soporific Paviors enjoying a few "zeds".



The Ancient Capital - Toledo - with the river Rio Tajo in the foreground



Christopher and Diana Laing

Having checked in at the hotel there was just time for pre-prandial drinks and canapes courtesy of the Master before dashing off to the Posada De La Villa for a light collation of 11 courses the star of which was the traditionally cooked roast lamb. That night the area of Madrid in which the hotel was located was subjected to a continuous serenade of contented and snoring Paviors. The worries about food shortages were now behind us.

Friday started a little grey and our walking tour of the central area of Madrid was undertaken in light showers. Some of the party elected to visit Madrid Cathedral, which was completed in the late 1990's and is Spain's newest, whilst others decided that no risks could be taken in respect of food shortages and disappeared into a local bar for more food and drinks.



Master's Jolly



The Master's Jolly in Madrid

Fortunately the weather improved and by lunchtime the sun was shining and, appetites whetted by the morning's activities, we descended upon the Paradis Restaurant for another superb meal. This gave us renewed vigour for our visit to the Prado and in particular the magnificent Goya exhibition.

After the Prado some members of the party elected to go to the bull fight whilst the majority returned to the hotel and readied themselves for – more food and drink. This time the venue was the Café de Oriente and as previously the food, atmosphere and company proved most excellent.

Saturday dawned bright and sunny and after breakfast we boarded the coach again and set off for the ancient capital of Spain – Toledo. This city is a world heritage site and is spectacular whether viewed from a distance or from within its walls. We visited the Cathedral, which is a remarkably fine example of Iberian Gothic architecture, and saw what must be one of the largest collections of El Greco's works in the world. Lunch was taken at various establishments within the city after which we headed back to Madrid to ready ourselves for more – food and drink. This time we walked to a local night club, the Corral De La Moreria, for an evening of superb flamenco dancing. All the performers were excellent but the stars of the show, Leonor Leal and Miguel Tellez were simply astonishing and their fitness levels breathtaking.



Leonor Leal and Miguel Tellez;

As with all good things the end came round all too rapidly and Sunday morning found us packing bags and heading back to Madrid Airport where another superb feat of orienteering found us all in the correct departure lounge. All that remained was for 31 of us to thank profusely Chris and Diana for organising such a superb Jolly. For those having to think of what they will do in future years the bar has now been raised several notches!

John Price



Saddlers ' Hall



*Lord Parkinson:
An intriguing political
insight and response on
behalf of the Guests*

In the heart of the City of London, a few yards from St Paul's Cathedral, off an ancient street, stands the magnificent mansion house of The Worshipful Company of Saddlers, in a position it has occupied for over 600 years. On Thursday 24th April, the Spring Livery Dinner was held in Saddler's Hall and Paviors and Guests enjoyed the fabulous surroundings within it.

In the course of its long history, the Saddlers' Company has amassed a great store of valuable items, usually bequeathed by members. Despite the destruction of the Hall on three occasions, resulting in the loss of much property and subsequent financial difficulties, many fine treasures remain to this day in the Company's collection. Many of these items were on display for us to see.

We all enjoyed an excellent evening at the Hall, and to mark the Master's Jolly, both the red and the white wines were Spanish, and provided an excellent compliment to the high standard of dining.

In a lively atmosphere Christopher Laing gave a well received speech and Terry Last proposed a toast to the Guests. Lord Parkinson responded on behalf of the Guests, offering an intriguing insight into the activities of the Conservative Party.

The Livery Company is privileged to have the opportunity to receive such honoured Guests and the high calibre of the evening was certainly enhanced.

Lord Parkinson's career in politics spans from 1979 to 1998 in various roles. In 1982 he was given the added official title of Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. He was created Baron Parkinson, of Carnforth in the County of Lancashire, after the 1992 elections. Interestingly, in his memoirs in 1992, he claimed that Mrs Thatcher would have won the Second Ballot of the Conservative Leadership election in 1990, however her Cabinet had warned her that she would lose, and made a successful bid to persuade her to stand down.

We enjoyed the anecdotes and stories that Lord Parkinson recounted and this, together with the wonderful surroundings of the Saddlers' Hall made it almost impossible not to enjoy such an interesting evening.

The formalities were concluded with the toast to the Paviors given by Junior Liveryman Tom Spanner.

James Dickson



A Day In The Country



The tour of Loseley Park

Paviors' Briefing

The Paviors Luncheon Club annual “Day in the Country” this year was a visit to Loseley Park in Surrey on 11th June. Thirty-six members, spouses and friends attended, arriving at 11.00am for coffee in the Tithe Barn to be followed by conducted tours of the house and the gardens and, of course, lunch.

The house was built in 1562 on the site of an earlier house by Sir William More, a direct ancestor of the More-Molyneux family who still live in the house today. The original house, in the words of Queen Elizabeth I, was “not mete for me to tarry in”. The Queen visited several times thereafter. Needless to say the house is full of fascinating history brought to life by the excellent guide and by all the pictures, furniture, panelling and porcelain collected by a family over 500 years.

The original two and a half acre walled garden was laid out formally in the 1500’s and was partly re-designed by Gertrude Jekyll in the early 1900’s. The tour was led by the head gardener who described the work involved in managing the various elements from the rose garden, white garden, herb garden and flower and vegetable gardens. A mulberry tree in the grounds is thought to have been planted by Queen Elizabeth I and it is said that if the tree dies, the family dies with it. The tree did fall during the Second World War but it still lives and much to the head gardener’s relief some fallen branches have re-rooted giving survival a greater chance.

The famous Loseley ice cream and yoghurt are no longer made at Loseley but it is still sold in the shop, a fact not missed by past master and ice cream expert Keith White, who went home with plentiful supplies. The weather was fine and warm and a most enjoyable day concluded at about 4.30pm.

Philip Anderson



Swimathon

Inter-Livery Swimathon 2008

Expectations were high this year with two full teams entered for the Swimathon, and with the regulars challenged by the Young Paviers. Whilst the scope of the challenge was not fully developed – were we competing on our speed or fund-raising talents? – the gauntlet was most firmly thrown down. Charlie Laing bravely mustered his squad, although leaning heavily on his family connections, whilst us ‘regulars’ had a new influx of blood with the inclusion of the Master, his Lady, Daniel Rowe, and our new secret weapon, Dick Robinson.

Swimming commenced at 5.30pm at the RAC Club, but at the end of the evening we had to admit that the Young Paviers were faster, (although we questioned the advantage they gained from waxing and oiling!) but we raised more money, so perhaps we can call it quits. However, having so many participants made for a most enjoyable evening, and as ever the Paviers made their presence felt. A big ‘thank you’ to both teams of swimmers for their efforts.

An equally big ‘thank you’ must also go to all Paviers who very generously contributed to the fund raising this year. Whilst some monies are raised externally, much is given by the company, and your generosity is really appreciated. We look forward to the Master handing over our contribution to the Lord Mayor during the dinner at the Mansion House in September.

Sue Illman



Full team lists:

Regulars

Sue Illman
Christopher Laing
Diana Laing
Daniel Rowe
Dick Robinson
Keith Lambert

Young Paviers

Charlie Laing
Alex Malmaeus
Anne Edwards
Ben Laing
Stewart Laing
Tom Laing

Left to Right; Tom Laing, Chris Laing Alex Malmaeus, Ben Laing, Anne Edwards, Dick Robinson, Daniel Rowe, Sue Illman, Keith Lambert, Charlie Laing and Stewart Laing



6 New Members



*Rodney Calder: Contracting Director, Tarmac Ltd: Sponsor: Terry Last
James Campbell: Commercial Manager, SirRobert McAlpine: Sponsor: Tom Barton
Elizabeth King: Divisonal Director, Mott McDonald Group: Sponsor: Len Parker
Tom Spanner: Developer, Onslow Property Group: Sponsor: Colin McLoughlin
Christopher Webster: Managing Director, Amey PLC Maintenance and Infrastructure: Sponsor: Dyfrig James*



Michael Conway (Centre): Managing Director, FM Conway Limited: Sponsor Terry Last (Left)



Amberley Family Day 2008



Pre-Parade warm up



Don't try taking your driving test on this!

In contrast to last year, the Family Day at Amberley Working Museum on 15th June 2008 began and ended in the sunshine. Just before arrival on the Sunday morning, the backdrop of rising smoke and steam generated by a comprehensive collection of steam vehicles of all description could clearly be seen from the road leading to the museum entrance. The most impressive collection of engines was parked outside the Paviers' Museum and the smoke and steam, set against the blue sky was reminiscent of old Indian railway stations. We had a good attendance of the Paviers and respective family members who congregated in the Base enjoying lunch and casual conversation in between wandering around the museum. Set in the beautiful Sussex country side, the Museum is always a place to relax.

Amberley was animated, and during the course of the day, steam trucks and engines trundled up and down the museum roads, carrying people, even cutting logs and carrying out various other demonstrations of machinery from previous generations.

The Paviers enjoyed a presentation by Len Parker's Son, David who showed us clips from the Lord Mayor's show (the incident where the steam roller nearly rammmed into the vintage cars in front) and then gave a "mini lecture" for the children on how a steam engine works.

We all enjoyed the day, which always provides interest and enjoyment.

James Dickson





Finos in Mayfair

For the third year running the Luncheon Club met for lunch at Finos Restaurant, Mayfair on 26th March. Thirty two members attended this popular venue, which was once again arranged by John Price, who appears to be extremely well known and popular at this location.

As a result of our familiarity with Finos members now seem to have mastered the art of pre-ordering their meals and there was consequently less confusion when the food arrived at the tables. Everyone appeared to enjoy the food they had chosen, which was complimented by very drinkable Italian wine. It was disappointing, however, to find one member, not known for his abstinence, to be restricting himself to beer for alleged health reasons.

We were very pleased to welcome two new members, David Murray and Mike Tetlaw, to their first Club lunch and look forward to seeing them at future events. During the lunch the Chairman advised members that he had received a very appreciative letter from the Starlight Children’s Foundation thanking members for their generosity at our Christmas dinner in Cutlers Hall. Over £1,000 was raised by the raffle on the evening and this sum had been increased to £2,050 by our Pavors Charitable Fund. Following the meal John May on behalf of the Liverymens Committee, who had met in Finos prior to our lunch, conducted the 200 Club Draw and four more needy members of the Livery were appropriately enriched. Members then departed in good spirits suitably fortified to face the rest of the working day!

Andrew Panter

Wines of Spain and France



Alistair Moss: Wine expert



John Cruse at “Home”

Prompted by the thought that the Master was taking a party to Madrid in May, the Wine Circle’s first tasting this year focused on the wines of Spain. Most people have heard of Rioja and Cava but, as our guest speaker Alastair Moss pointed out, Spain has the largest acreage of vines of any country in the world and the range of different styles produced is very wide indeed. To illustrate his point we tasted two white and six red wines ranging from Galicia in the north west to Catalonia in the south east.

Alastair, an expert from a specialist Spanish wine importer Moreno Wines, explained the details of soil and climate which influenced the extraordinary range of styles and tastes of his selection. The tasting was then followed by a delicious three course meal, with a further three more wines, finishing with an intensely sweet sherry which we ‘drizzled’ over our apple pie and ice cream. Heaven!!

Our second event was a vertical tasting of Château de Beaucastel, a top Châteauneuf-du-Pape. The speaker, the Company Cellarer, showed seven examples of wines from the same property ranging from 1999 back to 1989. The quality and complexity of these wines shone out and – for some – justified the very high price these wines fetch in the market. Details of all 13 grape varieties that go to make the wine were described as well as the method of viti- and vini-culture. At the meal another Châteauneuf was drunk so as to compare the different styles that the area produces and the meal was completed with a fine sweet Beaume de Venise.

The third and last event this year will be on October 28th when we will be sampling various Italian wines. If you are interested in wine - and most of us are - why not come along and sample the delights to be offered. No previous knowledge is necessary, we are all learning. Details will be posted on the website to all non-members.

John Cruse



Master's Summer Event

MCC Lords

The Master's summer Event on Tuesday 24th June 2008 was held in the Long Room at the MCC, Lords Cricket Ground. For cricket fans this is truly hallowed ground and for those who do not follow the game closely it proved to be an equally splendid venue made all the more interesting by the Master's guest Mr Neil Durden-Smith OBE Regional President of the Middlesex Lords Tavernors and husband of Judith Chalmers (who also attended).

Christopher Laing entertained us with his enthusiastic welcoming speech and the response on the behalf of the guests by Neil became a "guided tour" around Lords and the Long Room in which we dined. Neil's knowledge of Lords and the history of cricket was awe inspiring and he recounted the history of the Long Room with anecdotes and interesting facts. Paviors and guests were becoming well acquainted with the historical significance of Lords, having toured the Lords museum just a few hours before hand.

Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) was founded in 1787 - a fact gathered from a poster for a cricket match in 1837 announcing MCC's Golden Jubilee. Before then, however, aristocrats and noblemen played their cricket in White Conduit Fields at Islington, London.

(Left to right clockwise) Mary Barton, Andrew Panter, Judith Durden Smith, Christopher Laing, Maggie Smith, Tom Barton, Tui Panter, Neil Durden Smith, Laing and Roger Smith.



The Long Room

Like shooting and fox-hunting, cricket was considered a manly sport for the elite - with plenty of gambling opportunities to boot. (Around £20,000 was bet on a series of games between Old Etonians and England in 1751!). As London's population grew, so did the nobility's impatience with the crowds who gathered to watch them play. In pursuit of exclusivity, they decided to approach Thomas Lord, an ambitious entrepreneur, who was encouraged by Lord Winchilsea to lease a ground on Dorset Fields in Marylebone - the site of the modern Dorset Square.

He staged his first match - Middlesex versus Essex - on 31st May 1787. Thus the Marylebone Cricket Club was formed. A year later, it laid down a Code of Laws, requiring the wickets to be pitched 22 yards apart and detailing how players could be given out.

The Master's Summer Event was a fabulous evening of history and interest, and one which many of us did not want to end! The backdrop of the cricket ground provided an added appeal, but it has to be said that the Long Room in which we dined and the stories that were recounted there will last long in memory.

This was an exceptional evening (cricket fans or not).

James Dickson



Golf at Coningsby

Having had the Golfing Gauntlet thrown down at our Spring Dinner by Squadron Leader Rich Neasom of 29(R) Squadron RAF, four of the Pavior’s Golfing Society travelled up to the wilds of Lincolnshire to RAF Coningsby, home of the Typhoon Eurofighter to pick up the challenge.

The golfers arrived at Coningsby to be met by ‘Bruffy’ (Flt Lt Colin Brough) who gave them a guided tour of the Typhoon and the aircraft of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight prior to which, stood on the runway, the golfers had a close up view of the new Typhoon performing an air display with the last surviving Spitfire from the Battle of Britain.

After a session on the Typhoon Simulator and a formal reception with local dignitaries ‘Bruffy’ entertained the Golfers in the Officers Mess trying hard to dull their golfing prowess with liberal refreshments.

The next morning they put up a brave performance at Blankney Golf Club (Bruffy’s home course) narrowly losing the Four Ball Better Ball match by three points.

A grateful vote of thanks must go to Bruffy and all of the members of our Link Squadron for an excellent two days entertainment.



Woburn Note

The Golfing Society once again staged a Charity Event at Woburn for the Bobby Moore Cancer Fund and Lords Tavernors. Needless to say, as in the previous two years, the event was a superb success and more will follow in the next issue of the Pavior.

The amount of money raised for the two charities has yet to be accounted but it is sure to be of the same level raised last year around the £50,000 mark. This again is a fantastic effort from Keith Lambert and all who have sponsored the event and/or assisted with it.

James Dickson



*From left to right
Ian Pamplin, Terry Smith, Flight Lieutenant Colin Brough (Bruffy), John Dance (Captain) and Martin Evans*



Summer Gala

The Barbican

On 9th July sixteen Luncheon Club members and guests attended the 10th Annual Summer Gala organised by the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. The event raises funds for awards given by the School and provides the opportunity for final year students to demonstrate their talent in a musical entertainment put on for their various Livery Companies and other supporters.

Following representations made by John Mills with regard to the quality of food and the service provided in recent years the format was changed this year, with the reception and dinner being held in a more attractive location on the Conservatory Terrace at the Barbican before attendees proceeded to the Guildhall School for the theatrical entertainment. The quality of the food and service, provided by Searcys, were much improved, wine was not rationed and during the meal we were entertained by a very good musical trio, with perhaps their proximity to our table being the only downside as it made conversation more difficult at times.

This year the theatrical production was the musical *City of Angels* first seen on Broadway at the Virginia Theatre in 1989 and then in the West End at the Prince of Wales Theatre in 1993. The show was set in glamorous Hollywood in the 1940s and contains a sparkling musical score, which provided a great opportunity for the students to show off their considerable skills.

A number of our members whose ability to appreciate music is at a significantly higher level than the writer's were impressed with the quality of the singing and I am sure that many of the students will be performing regularly in the West End within a few years. It is reassuring to see that some of the Paviers educational grants are being directed towards such a worthwhile organisation as the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. The evening proved to be very enjoyable for all who attended.

Andrew Panter



Summer Nights on the Terrace

Please note that from September 2008 Robert Scriven will be Editor of the Pavior.

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