The Worshipful Company of Wheelwrights

Summer 2022

The HUB & SPOKE - The Newsletter of the Worshipful Company of Wheelwrights

WELCOME

Welcome to the Summer edition of Hub and Spoke and as I write this it is pleasing to note that our English Summer forecast is for fine weather in the days ahead. For me, this means a busy time in terms of Livery engagements, representing the Company and maintaining our presence in the City of London and beyond.

It is a great privilege to take on the role of Master for the year especially this year, when for many of us in the Livery, 2022 is the first time in two years that we have had the normal round of social and charitable events. Although difficult to select a few highlights, there have been so many, a few stand out:

⇒ Our recent Lord Mayor's Masters' Weekend in Sheffield. This exercise in logistics and organisation was put together by the Company of Cutlers of Hallamshire and involved organising 200+ individuals over three days in a series of visits telling the fascinating history of iron and steel smelting in the area with a focus upon the production of cutlery, weaponry, and knives.

⇒ Courtesy of Her Majesty, the Company was permitted a private tour of the Royal Mews and an excellent buffet meal plus wine at the finish. A well attended event with 31 people who enjoyed this unique experience and thanks are due to our Immediate Past Master, David Mortlock, for putting this together.

⇒ Together with the Mistress Wheelwright, I attended the British Driving Society annual Show and presented the Wheelwrights' Cup in the Vintage Class once again to the entry for Her Majesty. This was a beautifully restored charabanc that really stole the Show and won a well deserved first place for driving expertise and as an exhibit. Once again, Liveryman Keith Favell organised our participation including lunch, car parking and ensuring I was in the right place at the right time.

I wish you and your families a good summer, and if you are going on holiday, a really good break.

Elliott

Elliott Porte

Master

Presenting a copy of 'Wheels and Wheelwrights' to the Lord Mayor.

2022 Events Calendar

26th July	**RDA, SE Region Carriage Driving, Hadlow**
25th September	**Sheep Drive and Livery Fair**
13th October	**Michaelmas Church Service and Livery Dinner, Clothworker's Hall**
14th—16th Oct	**Wheelwright's Weekend, Colyton, Devon**
8th December	**Installation Dinner, Draper's Hall**

For a full list of upcoming events, please visit the web site at https://wheelwrights.org/events/#!event-list

NTDA & Wheelwright's Corporate Affiliate Programme

On Wednesday 18th May, NTDA members were honoured, and featured heavily, in the event programme at the Worshipful Company of Wheelwrights' (the Company) annual White Tie Banquet at the magnificent Mansion House, the Lord Mayor's residence in the City of London.

The event, which was attended by representatives from Autotech Group, Kwik Fit, Marsh Commercial, Michelin, Murfitts Industries, Trelleborg Wheel Systems, TX Trading the NTDA and the TRA, *(see picture Tim Stott of Murfitts Industries with TRA Secretary General Peter Taylor OBE both Liveryman of the Company)*, is the 'flagship' event for the Company and is held with the permission of the Lord Mayor who on this occasion was represented by his predecessor Sir William Russell, KStJ who served as the 692nd Lord Mayor of the City of London from 2019 to 2021.

The NTDA and the tyre industry were mentioned on numerous occasions throughout the evening, featuring in both Sir William's speech and that of the Master Wheelwright Elliott Porte, but it was the principal speaker Lord Jeffery Mountevans of Chelsea, also a former Lord Mayor of London and Honorary Court Assistant of the Company, who really took the opportunity to praise the developing relationship between the Wheelwrights, the NTDA and its members and to highlight the work of the tyre industry.

He said: "We Wheelwrights are particularly delighted to be joined this evening by a number of guests from the tyre and associated industries. Over the last three years, a number of Masters, Wardens and Court Members have been fortunate enough to visit the Pirelli factory in Burton on Trent, and the Michelin factory and headquarters in Stoke on Trent. We were hugely impressed by the craftsmanship, the skills, the high standards of work, the training requirements, and the importance of good workmanship and sound materials; all qualities that we Wheelwrights understand and value. We also noted the attention given to the Environment, Sustainability and Governance Agenda, which is so important today, and which we Wheelwrights fully support.

It is not possible to mention all the representatives present from all the tyre and associated sectors, but after the kindness Michelin extended during our visit, I am particularly pleased that we are joined by John Howe, Managing Director, and David Johnson, Head of Public Affairs at Michelin PLC"

Michelin PLC is also the 2021 winner of the Tyre Industry Environmental and Sustainable Solution Award, which is sponsored by Lord Mountevans and presented by the Master Wheelwright, annually, at the NTDA's Tyre Industry Awards Ceremony.

Kwik Fit (GB) Ltd becomes first Wheelwrights' Gold Corporate Affiliate

Lord Mountevans also explained that in addition to continuing to support the Ancient Craft of wheelwrighting, the Company had, in recent times, attracted many Liverymen from the associated descendant trades and now has strong links with both the NTDA and the modern wheel and tyre industry and associated sectors, with a key focus on Corporate Social Responsibility covering specifically; environmental issues, sustainability, tyre technician skills development, community outreach programmes and other mobility-related activities.

To develop further these key activity areas, help businesses become more sustainable, support corporate ESG initiatives and develop cross-industry links, the Company has launched the Corporate Affiliate Programme with a view to engaging key stakeholders and decision makers from the wider related business community and the Master Wheelwright Elliott Porte was therefore delighted to present Roger Griggs Communications Director for NTDA member Kwik Fit / ETEL, who is also a Liveryman of the Company, with the first Gold Corporate Affiliate certificate. Roger Griggs said: "Kwik Fit believes in the work of the Wheelwrights, both its charitable work and the business and social outreach work and recognises how important this affiliate status is. It's a very good thing for both Kwik Fit and for the Wheelwrights and we look forward to a mutually productive and supportive working relationship".

Spotlight On…The Wheelwright's Charity

The Worshipful Company of Wheelwrights set up the Wheelwrights' Charity in 1983. The Trustees meet four times a year to agree the broad strategy and areas of activity for the Charity, including consideration of fund raising, grant making, investment and risk management.

The current Trustees are David Wernick (Chair), Ian Armfield, Elizabeth Drury, Andrew Gillespie and Sandra Holt, with Susie Morris acting as the Secretary.

The main charitable objectives of the Charity are to support the following through making grants to appropriate institutions and individuals:

⇒ Mobility for disabled people, especially children and young people
⇒ Access to sport, educational and recreational activities for disabled people, especially children, young people and disabled ex-servicemen and servicewomen.
⇒ Education and training in the craft of Wheelwrights, part of our founding purpose
⇒ City charities and causes including the Lord Mayor's chosen charities each year
⇒ Other relevant charitable causes including the support of medical research, respite care, awards for our Royal Artillery Cadets and those Livery and Craft organisations related to our main purpose

As a small charity, they tend to focus our attention on:
⇒ Charities with limited funds where our giving can make a real difference and/or
⇒ Specific projects with which the Wheelwrights' Charity can be identified rather than funding day to day running costs.

The benefits of the Charity's work have been to improve the lives of disabled men, women and particularly children, as well as a few individuals directly involved in the Wheelwrights' craft.

During the last year, the Charity made total grants of £57,067. This comprised grants totalling £46,761 to charities connected with mobility and access for disabled people, grants totalling £3,250 to City based charities and grants totalling £7,056 for other charities and causes.

The Charity envisages that its donations will continue to benefit from the generosity of liverymen and the links with the National Tyre Distributors Association. It will continue to make grants that provide support to mobility and access for disabled people, the Wheelwrights' craft and Burnt Mill Academy.

For more information, please contact the Clerk.

The Court

The overall governance of the Company is in the hands of the Master and Court. Their prime responsibilities for the Livery include, its standing within the City, its charitable activities and the promotion of its traditional craft.

The day-to-day administration of the Company is in the hands of the Clerk, Susie Morris, who is assisted, one day a week by the Assistant to the Clerk, Dido Grattan and for the Company's ceremonial duties by the Beadle, Paul Tredgett.

The Court normally meets 5 times a year and, apart from the Installation Court meeting in December, each meeting divides itself into two parts – business and ceremonial.

The ceremonial aspects cover the granting of Freedoms, the clothing of new Liverymen and in December the installation of a new Master and Wardens.

The business side of the Court's activities covers such area as major policy issues which arise from time to time and consideration of the reports and recommendations from the various committees set up to help manage different aspects of the Company's activities.

The Court consists of 21 voting members, namely the Master, Upper Warden, Renter Warden, the 5 most recent Past Masters and up to 13 Court Assistants. In addition, non-voting Past Masters and Honorary Court Assistants are also members of the Court and may attend Court Meetings.

Recent Events

The Mansion House Banquet

British Driving Show

Becket Pageant

Royal Mews Visit

MLO Update

On the 17th March the Master accompanied by the MLO, Upper Warden Nigel Biggs, visited two detachments of the South East London Army Cadet Force. Col Matthew Davis the new Commandant lead the tour where the Master was able to see the cadets undertake their training and explain to the new cadets the relationship with the Wheelwrights. The Master presented a Wheelwrights Shield to both of the detachments.

The cadets also provided the Carpet Guard at Mansion house.

On the 31st March the Master accompanied by the MLO presented the Openshaw cup at the Royal Artillery School at Larkhill Barracks. This years winner was Staff Sergeant Ryland Harris who was promoted to Warrant Officer and the runner up was Staff Sergeant Thomas Smith. A Nery Gun was presented to the winner and an engraved tankard to the runner up.

The Master accompanied by the MLO and court assistant Nick Dutt visited HMS Severn on the 4th April at Portsmouth Naval Base. The master presented the inaugural Captains Prize to LCIS Callum Johnson know as "Tango" on the bridge in front of the ships company. Tango received an engraved Wheelwrights Tankard and a purse being nominated as the ships best junior rating. We were then given a tour of the ship by Commander Phil Harper followed by lunch with the officers in the Wardroom.

New Freemen and Liverymen

At the Easter Court meeting, the Master and Wardens were pleased to admit Mr Michael Heathcote, Mrs Shamsha Scarlett and Mrs Janine Wallace as new Freemen of the Company. In addition they admitted and clothed Ms Vanessa dal Busco, Dr Hilary Spencer and Mr Michael Heathcote in the Livery of the Company.

At the Summer Court meeting ,the Master and Wardens were pleased to admit Dr. Burhan Al-Chalabi, Mr Ben Albrow and Mr Clive Birch MBE as new Freemen of the Company.

Dogs for Good—Update on our sponsored puppy, "Jimmy"!

You may remember that Liveryman Graham Ellis through his 'Tour des Wheelwrights' cycle ride raised funds for the Dogs For Good charity. Here is an update on the puppy this funded.

"What a handful Jimmy is! But an adorable handful. He's into everything. I used to have flowers but no more; he is so bouncy and always lands in the flower beds! That's not a problem at all but I do have to keep an eye on what he puts in his mouth! I'm working on "drop" so I'm hoping he'll soon stop.

We have introduced "wait for food" which he's amazing at and he will not touch any food or treats without permission. He sits all the time when instructed to do so and his down is also very good and he settles immediately. I can send him to his bed which is useful as I have a very small kitchen and if he wants to be near me he has to "go to bed" - he loves the raised bed! Jimmy can be in the wait position for a minute and then comes to me on command. His heel work is fantastic; I can't believe how good he is at that. I'm now introducing him to the lead and walking, he's ok but we'll get better.

Toilet training is coming on, it's not perfect but we are getting there and constant praise and rewards are working. Night time is simply amazing! He puts himself to bed in his crate at about 9.30pm after toileting outside and stays until 6.00am. He has done this from day one! I have never had to get up in the night which I was expecting to do."