The Worshipful Company of Wheelwrights

Autumn 2022

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

WELCOME

Welcome to the Autumn edition of 'Hub and Spoke'. I hope the cooler conditions of Autumn and the changing seasons find you in good health and looking forward to the festive season ahead.

The question 'have you had a full year?' is one that I'm getting used to – the question itself marks the contrast between two years of relative social inactivity and the current, sometimes exhausting, schedule of events. Masters in my year have certainly been fully engaged with various Livery and non-Livery activities and I am no exception; I consider myself very fortunate to have been able to represent the Company at so many events and the same goes for my wife, Jane, who continues to be involved with the City Consorts. As a Company we continue to not only support our core tenants of fellowship and charitable giving but also the City of London and The Lord Mayor.

At a recent meeting with the Lord Mayor, issues around social mobility, sustainability and environmental matters were discussed. The Lord Mayor was particularly focused on how the Livery Companies present at the meeting were contributing to these issues. Our work with the National Tyre Distributors Association, particularly, The Tyre Industry Environmental & Sustainable Solution Award was a tangible example of this work in action.

With very best regards

Elliott

Elliott Porte

Master

2022 Events Calendar

8th December **Installation Dinner, Draper's Hall**

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

NTDA Annual Dinner

On Thursday 6th October 2022, the NTDA held its 93rd Annual Dinner, sponsored by Maritime Cargo Services and 9th Tyre Industry Awards ceremony sponsored by Sailun Tyres at the VOX Conference Centre, Resorts World, Birmingham.

As always, this was the most prestigious gathering of the UK Tyre Industry and one that industry professionals know not to miss! The Master and his Consort, IPM David Mortlock, Marianne Mortlock, Renter Warden Neil Sampson, Barbara Sampson and Senior Court Assistant Chris Ball were joined by WheelPower CEO Martin McElhatton and Nancy McElhatton as guests of the NTDA.

In front of circa 600 guests, the Master, alongside NTDA National Chairman Simon Wright and TV Presenter Louise Minchin, presented 4 finalists for the **National Tyre Technician of the Year Award** with their certificates of merit, before presenting the magnificent winner's trophy to Apprentice Cory Willis of Protyre Trowbridge.

NTDA Apprentice Tyre Technician of the Year Award finalists

Corry Willis receives the NTDA Apprentice Tyre Technician of the Year Award

The Master then presented Michelin Tyre PLC's Managing Director David Howe and B2B Sales Director Andrew French with the equally impressive **Tyre Industry Environmental & Sustainable Solution Award** trophy for the second year in a row.

John Howe MD of Michelin receives the NTDA Environmental & Sustainable Solution of the Year Award

Commenting on the successive win John Howe said: "In a world where raw materials are finite, and during a climate emergency, our key focus is on using less energy and fewer raw materials, whilst continuing to do what we do best – maximising performance and efficacy over the lifespan of our products, and the safety of goods and people. As a company we strive every day to generate strong sustainable growth and create value that balances people, the planet and economic performance. Winning this award serves to reinforce all of our existing achievements and drives our team forward to deliver even more in the years to come."

Wheelwright's Corporate Affiliate Programme

Autotech Group is the latest company to join the Wheelwrights' Corporate Affiliate Scheme as a Gold affiliate. Since 2010, Autotech Recruit has been working with a UK-wide network of dealerships, national retail groups, independent garages, bodyshops and government organisations to provide staff recruitment solutions. It is 100% automotive trade focused and has built excellent long-term relationships with some of the biggest and best names in the automotive sector. In addition to recruitment, Autotech Group also offers training solutions through Autotech Training and Autotech Academy.

Gavin White, Autotech Group's CEO is the NTDA's South East and Central South Regional Chairman, is recognised as an NTDA Skills Ambassador and is at the forefront of the changes the tyre and associated automotive aftermarket industry is making, to gain, train and retain talent if it is to survive and thrive in the future. He was recently rewarded for his efforts at the NTDA's Tyre Industry Awards ceremony where he received the NTDA Chief Executive's Round and Black Award, sponsored by Goodyear UK, which recognises individual altruism in relation to safety, raising standards and improving the trade for others.

Organisations in the wheel & tyre industry or with an interest in mobility, can become affiliated to the Worshipful Company of Wheelwrights.

Gavin White MD of Autotech Group receives 2022 NTDA Chief Executive's Round and Black Award

Spotlight On… A Working Wheelwright—Mike Rowland & Sons

Over this and the forthcoming editions we are going to focus on Working Wheelwrights across the country. In this edition of the Newsletter, we are going to learn more about Mike Rowland & Sons Wheelwrights and Coachbuilders.

The current workshop, founded in 1964, is run by Liveryman Master Wheelwright Greg Rowland MBE and his apprentice Sam Philips and both overseen by Yeoman Mike Rowland. Their workshop is based in Colyton in Devon. Greg was awarded an MBE in the Queen's birthday honours list this year. They have held a Royal Warrant since 2005.

His workshop is known to many of the members of the Company because each year some of us head down for a day to try our hand at wheelmaking. A great weekend away and a good chance to get to know each other a lot better!

Whilst the direct family only started wheelwrighting in the 60s, Greg can trace his family roots in the art of wheel making back to 1331, when they built the wheels for the carts that carried the stone from the quarries to the masons working on building Exeter Cathedral.

Today, they are always extremely busy, among other things, making and repairing carts and carriages, half-size field gun carriages for schools and cadet units, barrows for Covent Garden, etc. Greg has even appeared on the BBC's popular Repair Shop, fixing a small cart for a banana salesman as well as regularly being featured in TV programmes.

More recently they have even repaired the wheels on the Royal Navy gun carriage that carried the Queen's coffin from Westminster Hall to Westminster Abbey and then onto the Wellington Arch, pulled by 150 Royal Navy Sailors (see photo). He was fortunate enough to be invited to the funeral itself, so saw them in use —quite a moment for him!

Greg is actively involved in the Company, being on the Craft Committee and regularly attending events as well as hosting the annual Working Wheelwright's weekend.

Military Affiliate Update

We had the honour of hosting Col M Dornan, Commandant of the **Royal School of Artillery & Commander Larkhill Garrison** at the Michaelmas Dinner in October. Unfortunately, the winner of the Openshaw Cup, SSgt Ryland Harris, who would normally have received his award at this event was deployed on exercise to Otterburn, so the presentation will be rearranged. We will also be arranging a visit to Larkhill at some point in the New Year.

The **King's Troop RHA** held their 75th Anniversary Open Day on 24th Oct at which the Best Limber Gunner award was presented to Gunner Emmanuel Hayford by the Master, Elliott Porte along with the Mistress, Jane Porte and Upper Warden Nigel Biggs.

Gnr. Hayford with the Master and Titan!

1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery will be holding their annual Reunion Dinner on 11th Nov to which the Master, Mistress and Upper Warden will be attending. We look forward to presenting the prize for the Best Lance Bombardier and Best Bombardier in the New Year.

The **King's Troop RHA** will be conducting a Royal Salute on 14th Nov in honour of the King's birthday in Green Park, to which the Master, Upper Warden and MLO will attend on the Company's behalf. The Commander of the King's Troop, Maj Fran L Sykes, will be joining us for the Installation Dinner.

We hope to be able to arrange a visit for the Company to the **King's Troop RHA** Royal Mews in Woolwich, sometime in the spring.

At the Installation Court we will be presenting an award to the Best RA Badged Cadet for the **Greater London South East Sector Army Cadet Force**. The winner of the award, Commandant, Col Matthew Davis, the training officer will hopefully be joining us at the dinner.

We are working with the **106 Regiment Royal Artillery,** to arrange the presentation of the Davidson Cup to the best NCO in December. The previous commander of this unit, Lt Col Keith Gregory, who has been very supportive of the affiliation with the Company, is moving on and we wish him well in this new role and look forward to meeting up with his replacement.

As a result of the Queens passing, a planned visit **RAF Squadron 22** at RAF Coningsby had to be postponed to sometime in the New Year. The Squadron are off to Qatar to help with anti-terrorist activity around the World Cup. We hope to be able to be able to present the 'Rolling Wheel' trophy to the best Junior NCO when we are able to visit them.

The commander of **HMS Severn,** Cdr Phil Harper has been reassigned to HMS Trent and his XO Lt Cdr Grahame Flint has been handed temporary command to continue with their role of fleet navigation officer training ship. We wish Cdr Harper and Lt Cdr Flint every success in their new roles. They recently represented the Royal Navy in Jersey for VAdm Jerry Kyd's installation, replacing our very own Past Master ACM Sir Stephen Dalton, as Lieutenant Governor. We hope that Cdr Harper can join us for the Installation Dinner. We will be arranging to visit the ship in March/April to present the Captain's award to the best Junior NCO.

Books For Burnt Mill

Our support for Harlow's Burnt Mill Academy is gathering pace.

Recently, the school asked if we would consider helping its Library with the purchase of more books to fill its somewhat empty shelves and very pleasingly our Wheelwright Charity has agreed to step in with a significant funding programme for what will in future be identified by the school as the 'Wheelwright's Library'.

In addition to a programme of new volume purchases we will be asking all Wheelwrights to take a look at their own bookshelves with a view to donating any book surplus to their own needs. We are particularly interested in both established and modern classics as well as work of reference.

The school's existing library shelves are noticeably under-stocked so by helping remedy this situation we will not only make it easier for students to access titles of interest but promote their literacy and reading skills generally.

New Freemen and Liverymen

At the Michaelmas Court meeting on October 13th, the Master and Wardens had the pleasure of admitting Monika Biddulph to the Freedom of the Company.

At the same meeting, the Master and Wardens bound Cameron Carmichael, son of Court Assistant Donald Carmichael as a Company Apprentice to Past Master, Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Dalton for a term of four years.

Charity Update

So far this year, the Wheelwright's charity has supported many different organisations, making a real difference.

Organisations supported from funds include: 3H Foundation, ABF Soldiers Charity, British Disabled Angling Association, Burnt Mill Academy, Clergy Support Trust, Disabled Sailors Association, Go Kids Go, Ironbridge Museum, London Wheelchair Rugby, Orchestra of the Swan (Alison Fox Legacy), Ospreys Wheelchair Rugby, Para Dance UK, Riding for the Disabled, The Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund, The Sheriffs & Recorders' Fund, Treloar Trust , United Guilds Service as well as supporting the Wheelwright apprenticeship programme.

In addition, the first instalment of funding from last year's "Tour des Wheelwrights" was provided to Dogs for Good, for the ongoing training of our sponsored puppy, Jimmy, who you'll be glad to know if progressing well. We hope to identify a new and exciting worthy cause to support in 2023.

A great example of what we have been able to do is at The Grange at Bookham. They were delighted when the Master and Immediate Past Master along with staff member & marathon runner Mark Wood, contributed to the purchase of a much needed utilities vehicle . The 'Mule', as the buggy has been nicknamed (pictured), will help bring more accessibility to those of their people who need assistance around the site, especially when carrying equipment such as their garden tools, or produce.

If you know of a relevant worth cause, please contact the new Chairman of the Charity, Court Assistant Stefan Hay.

2022 Sheep Drive & Livery Craft Fair

On 25th September 2022, the annual City of London Livery Craft Fair was held at the Monument as well as the Woolmen's Sheep Drive on London Bridge, opened by TV Presenter Kate Humble. The Wheelwrights' stall was manned by several of our Liverymen throughout the day and no less than five Working Wheelwrights, namely; Douglas Andrews, Tom Carroll, Tim Brisley, Edward Crouch and a visiting wheelwright from Australia Paul Tivendale.

The Lord Mayor Vincent Keaveny, his wife the Lady Mayoress and Sherriff Alison Gowman all tried their hand at shaving and banging in wooden spokes. The Wheelwrights fielded two teams of sheep drivers, which included the Master, Upper Warden, a number of Court Assistants, Liverymen from as far afield as Guernsey and Scotland and their guests. The day was extremely popular with thousands of visitors attended both the fair and the sheep drive including many Masters, Wardens and Liverymen from other companies and their families. A great day was enjoyed by all who attended.

Working Wheelwright's Weekend

A group of intrepid members of the Company travelled down to Devon for the annual Working Wheelwright's Weekend at Mike Rowland & Sons to try their had at making a wheel. From shaving spokes, creating tangs to fit into the felloes, measuring the tyre with the traveller (a few times!) to bonding the heated metal tyre to the wheel to keep it all tight—we took all day to do what Greg and his apprentice Sam do much more quickly and efficiently! This is a great experience for members of the Company and their guests to see first hand what is involved with the craft and understand the great skill is really takes to do this (and so much more) properly.

As usual the visitors were split into two teams, the men and the women's team. After much friendly competitive banter the wheels were completed, with some fairly unique spoke designs. At the dinner that evening, the men's wheel was adjudged the best and a draw conducted so two lucky winners could take each of the wheels home with them. Thanks as usual to Mike, Greg and Sam.

WheelPower — Inter Spinal Unit Games 2023

The Wheelwrights' Charity supports many good causes, but it is safe to say, that one of the most successful partnerships we have established in recent years is the relationship with WheelPower the national charity for wheelchair sport.

In early September 2022 the Wheelwrights Charity made a generous donation of £15,000 towards the costs of the Inter Spinal Unit Games. The Games were successfully held from 13th-16th September 2023 at Stoke Mandeville Stadium, the home of wheelchair sport.

Since 1972 WheelPower have been providing opportunities for physically disabled people to play wheelchair sports. This has been achieved through the help of generous donors, such as the Wheelwrights Charity. Thanks to the Charity, and the generous donors such as the National Tyre Distributors Association, they have recently able to offer a grant scheme of small grants to individuals. This has run for six years and is particularly special as there are few charities able to offer grants to disabled adults. Most are focused on helping children.

They were delighted to welcome David Wernick, David Viner and Stefan Hay, to attend the reception on the first morning of the Games. Later in the week, they also welcomed the Master, Elliott Porte, and his Consort, Jane, to attend our awards dinner and present the award for Individual Achievement and Effort to Janine Kazmi from the London Spinal Cord Injury Unit, Stanmore.

Wheelwrights and Merchants House of Glasgow

Court Assistant Donald Carmichael presented the Lord Dean of Guild, May Storrie, with the book Wheels and Wheelwrights at a meeting of the Directors of the Merchants house recently.

The Wheelwrights established links with the Merchants House of Glasgow during the Immediate Paster Master's Weekend Visit to Glasgow last year. The Merchants House received its Letter of Guildry in 1605 from James I & VI although they can trace roots back to an organisation in 1569 and now are responsible for distributing around £300k of grants each year. The Lord Dean of Guild, May Storrie CBE is elected for a 2 year term of office from within the Directors of the Merchants House and plays a role in civic duties deputising for the Lord Provost of Glasgow when asked. Although wearing his Wheelwrights tie and Court Assistants badge Donald is also a Director of the House!

100+ Club

At the Michaelmas Court meeting in October the latest drawing of the 100+ Club took place. The lucky winners were:

1st Prize: Stephen Clark	£360
2nd Prize: Graham Westwell	£240
3rd Prize: Sydney Hill	£120

For those who are not aware, for the low cost of £10 per month (paid by standing order or annual cheque payment) you can enter our quarterly draw.

50% of all revenue gets paid into the Company's Charity Craft Fund and the remainder is paid out in prizes. For quarters 1,2 and 3, 40% gets paid out as prizes, with the balance held over for the Super Draw in the 4th quarter draw, held at the Installation Court meeting.

For more information, please take a look in the members section of the website or contact Court Assistant Nick Dutt on nickdutt60@gmail.com.

Worshipful Company of Wheelwrights Web Site

Please remember to keep an eye on our new web site (https://wheelwrights.org/) for the latest news about the Company and check on and book places at upcoming events.

As members, you can log into the members only section to update some of your profile details, download information for new potential members as well as other interesting and useful information about the Company.

Recent Events

RDA South East Region Carriage Driving Show

Michaelmas Dinner

Sheep Drive & Livery Craft Fair

Working Wheelwrights Weekend in Colyton