HUB & SPOKE

NEWSLETTER OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF WHEELWRIGHTS

Issue 17 – September/October 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **20th Oct**
  Museum of London Visit
- **27th Oct**
  Royal Navy Trophy Store Visit
- **14th Nov**
  Lord Mayor's Show
- **3rd Dec**
  Installation Dinner, Drapers' Hall

Welcome to this latest edition of the Hub & Spoke Newsletter.

We hope you enjoy reading what the members of the Company have been up to over the last couple of months.

As usual we are very grateful to all those who provided information, articles and photos to the editor for use in this newsletter.

Whilst this is aimed at updating all the members of the Company on its many and varied activities, it would also be good to include other news and updates from you, our members. So, if you have anything you'd like to share, please let the learned Clerk know.

Over the last couple of months, as we came out of the summer break, the Company organised a visit to the Old Bailey, attendance at the Sheep Drive and Livery Fair as well as a trip to Colonial Williamsburg.

At the recent Michaelmas Court Meeting, Upper Warden Nick Dutt was declared as Master-Elect for the forthcoming year. In addition, Sally Bridgeland was elected as Upper Warden and Emma Kane as Renter Warden.

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OLD BAILEY VISIT

More than 20 members and guests visited the Old Bailey on 10th September. This fascinating visit was organised by the Learned Clerk & Livery Committee and hosted by Sheriff and Liveryman Keith Bottomley. During a brief reception Keith gave us an update on the great work that has been undertaken to discourage younger people from offending. Following this, we had a tour of the building, covering some of the key courts and cases that had been conducted there.

Sheriff Keith Bottomley with the Master

SHEEP DRIVE & LIVERY FAIR

On September 27th the Master and Upper Warden were joined by members of the Company on the Annual Sheep Drive across Southwark Bridge. The Wheelwrights' display at the Livery Fair attracted a constant stream of visitors throughout the day to try their hand at 'making' a wheel, including the Lady Mayor, Dame Susan Langley DBE. Special thanks to Janine Wallace who organised our entry and to Journeyman Tom Carroll who 'manned' the wheel.

Journeyman Tom Carroll

The Civic Party

The Lady Mayor, Tom Carroll & The Master

The Master, Freeman Wayne Sleep & The Upper Warden

COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG

Between the 3rd and 8th October, a total of 15 members of the Company together with their guests enjoyed an action-packed visit to Colonial Williamsburg, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Foundation. The group had 5 people that joined the previous visit in 2024 organised by Past Master Graham Westwell and that visit included Wheelwright & Coachbuilder, Greg Rowland, who had previously established connections with Williamsburg.

The trip was organised by Past Master David Mortlock, with on the ground help from Hon Freeman Paul Zelesnikar, his lovely wife Lynn (who is a Master Engraver), Annie Welch and Christine MacDonald. Special thanks also to Ted Boscana, the previous Head of Trades & Skills who was instrumental in the whole visit going ahead. This support enabled the visit to run smoothly and be truly memorable. We were joined by a Warden of the Tin Plate Workers (Alias Wire Workers), as well as a member of both the Coopers and the Furniture Makers. Whilst there, we not only visited Paul's workshop we also met engravers, coopers, tin-plate workers, wagon and carriage restorers, carpenters, blacksmiths, among many others, as well as the new 'state of the art' archaeological facility.

To mark our visit, a special Candlelit dinner was held at Christiana Campbell's Tavern, which was hosted by the management of Williamsburg. PM David Mortlock presented Associate Vice President, Romana Vogel-Hill with a casting of a wheelwright in recognition of their 100th Anniversary. It was mounted on a 100+ years-old oak plinth, designed and made by Journeyman Tom Carroll, from a tree provided by Wheelwright Doug Andrews, that came down in the great gale of 1987. Letters of congratulations were also presented on behalf of The Lady Mayor, Dame Susan Langley DBE, the Master Wheelwright, the Master Tin-Plate Worker and the Master Coachmaker and Coach Harness Maker.

To mark the visit, every member of our visiting group was presented with a beautifully hand-crafted miniature tin-plate pot with lid, elevated on a cast-iron trivet stand. A stunning memento of the stay.

On the last full day of our visit Paul Zelesnikar escorted us on visits to Jamestowne and Yorktown and arranged specialist guides for each venue. A fascinating day that for editorial reasons will have to be left for another day.

They have a fantastic set-up in Williamsburg, the largest open-air living museum in the world and are very keen to expand the links with London Livery Companies, of which they are very proud. With the links made previously and the enthusiasm generated by this trip, it is hoped that the relationship will continue to thrive.

An amazing time was had by all.

Williamsburg Archaeological Centre

Governor's Palace

Williamsburg Carriage

Bookbinders

Carriage Restorers

Tinplate Workers

Blacksmiths

Carpenters

Wheelwrights

Coopers

WC of Wheelwright's Gift to Colonial Williamsburg

12 SQUADRON RAF - ROLLING WHEEL PRESENTATION

On Friday 17th October, Upper Warden and Master-Elect Nick Dutt and MLO Phil Clarke, visited 12 Squadron RAF at RAF Coningsby to present the Rolling Wheel Trophy to Cpl Josh Bell. Squadron CO, Wing Commander Luke (Wilko) Wilkinson hosted us and gave a brief as to why Cpl Bell was the worthy winner of the trophy for going above and beyond during their recent deployment in the Gulf.

HOW THE COMPANY WORKS

BURNT MILL ACADEMY

As many of you know, we are currently running a fund-raising campaign to raise money to support the acquisition of a minibus for the Academy to allow them to take more students to sporting fixtures, educational visits, work experience placements, etc. These are things that many of us took for granted when we were are school but are not available to many of the Academy students. More details are included below, including a link to the fund raising page. Alternatively, you can pay by direct bank transfer into the Wheelwrights' Charity Account: Sort Code: 30-00-04, Account No: 00533670, quoting reference "Minibus".

NEW MEMBERS

The Master was very pleased to confer Freeman status upon Mr Stephen Emmins, Mr Ben Winterburn, Mr Graeme McIntosh, Mr Anilkumar Raval and Mr Cameron Carmichael at the Michaelmas Court Meeting. He also clothed Mr Michael Flynn, Mr Bernard Searle and Mr Stephen Emmins in the livery of the Company.

Steve Emmins

Tosh McIntosh

Ben Winterburn

Cameron Carmichael

Anil Raval

Liveryman Steve Emmins

Liveryman Bernie Searle

Liveryman Mike Flynn

It was great to see so many new members coming in and others progressing to Livery status. Looking ahead we have a clear membership target to have 230 members on the Company by 2030, so if you know any friends, family or colleagues who might be interested please let the Learned Clerk know and we can arrange for the Membership Committee to follow-up.

NEW COURT ASSISTANT

At the same Court Meeting, Stephen Callow was welcomed as a full Court Assistant. Stephen had previously served as a three-year Term Assistant.

100+ CLUB RESULTS

At our recent Michaelmas Dinner, the Master declared the latest winners of the 100+ Club draw.

- 1st Prize: Michael Evans: £403
- 2nd Prize: Stephen Callow: £268
- 3rd Prize: Ted Jackson: £134

If you are interested, check out the web site (https://wheelwrights.org/100-club/) for more details or contact the Clerk.

OPEN POSTIONS AND OPPORUNITIES TO GET MORE INVOLVED

If you want to get more involved with the Company, there are a couple of immediate roles we are looking for support with:

Administration Assistant to the Clerk: This role is a paid part-time role – expected to be no more than one day, split over a week, on average. This person will provide flexible and efficient administrative support to the Clerk and the Worshipful Company of Wheelwrights. The role will help ensure the smooth day-to-day administration of the Company, particularly in relation to membership and Company events. A full role description is available on request.

Trustee: We will have a vacancy for a Trustee for the Wheelwrights' Charity in the New Year. The Trustees meet three or four times each year to decide how to disburse the available funds to causes that align to the objectives of access and mobility.

If you have any interest or expertise in either of the above or indeed are interested in helping in any other areas (see the How the Company Works section on Page 5), please contact the Clerk.

Burnt Mill Academy Cadets at Bakers' Hall

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