

THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF TAX ADVISERS



# THE OWL

AUTUMN 2024

## LETTER FROM THE MASTER

Richard Geldard

The day after the June Court meeting at which I was elected as the 26th Master of the Worshipful Company of Tax Advisers, I attended the funeral of our Founder Master, Roy Jennings. Roy was a towering figure in the tax profession and you can read more about his remarkable life on page 16. Meeting many other Past Masters that day reminded me of the range of skills they have brought to the role of Master. These are big shoes to fill but I am looking forward to helping us move our Company further forward.

I would like to thank Mike Gibbons, who has now stepped down as Master, for representing us so well during his year of office. Thanks also to Wendy for her considerable support. I look forward to receiving Mike's advice and guidance as he becomes our Deputy Master.

During 2023, Court spent a considerable amount of time discussing our strategy. This can be summarised as follows:

- ◇ Ensure the Company is viable now and will remain viable into the future. This will involve growing our membership significantly and restoring our financial position.
- ◇ Deliver what our members want in terms of events and activities organised by both the Company and others (e.g. City, Livery, Financial Services Group).
- ◇ Improve the impact of our charitable and educational support and, on that basis, attract increased charitable contributions from our members.
- ◇ Promote consideration of tax across the City and beyond, using our professional relationships (including the Lord Mayor's Briefing Group) and through collaboration with tax professional bodies, the Financial Services Group of livery companies, and similar bodies.

Each of these Company objectives is championed by a designated Warden or Committee Chair, who reports regularly to Court. There is more detail, later in this newsletter, on the actions being taken to achieve our long-term goals, while at the same time delivering our annual programme of events and activities, so I won't repeat that detail here. However I shall say a few words about areas which I think are crucial to our success.

Communication is key. We have various methods of communicating with our members, and the Livery in general. They include emails, hard copy post, our website, X (formerly Twitter) and LinkedIn. However we don't know which of these are most effective.

We hold a range of events and these are generally well received by those who attend, but they constitute a small percentage of our overall membership. What would make our events more attractive to more of our members?



## THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF TAX ADVISERS



It is to try to answer questions such as these that we are surveying our members to find out their views. It will take a short time to analyse the results of the surveys and decide on actions required. However I hope that this process generates lots of good ideas. Remember that communication is a two-way process and we rely on your participation in surveys, etc to understand what you want.

I shall update you regularly via the Master's mailing which will be sent out shortly after each Court meeting.

Our calendar of events is listed at pages 35 & 36.

My aim is to be different to what we have done in the past. For example our Budget Banquet will be held at Mercers' Hall, a Hall which we have never visited. The Civic and Charities lunch will be held at Tallow Chandlers' Hall which we have not visited for 20 years. Being able to visit many of the Livery Halls is one of the attractions that we can offer to our members.

On occasions we shall hold events in conjunction with other Livery companies. Earlier this year, I found out that the Engineers were planning to hold a dinner next May in the first-class dining room of SS Great Britain, moored in Bristol. They did not think that they would have enough members to make the even viable so asked other Livery companies if they wanted to join them. I circulated our members to gauge interest, expecting half a dozen at most. I was astounded to receive expressions of interest for 27 places! Many of those have already booked.

I am intending to hold a Master's weekend in Luxembourg in early September 2025. It is several years since we ventured abroad. I discussed my plans for the weekend with my friends in Luxembourg at the end of August and hope that we'll be able to organise a memorable event.

2025 will represent the 30th anniversary of our formation as a Guild and the 20th anniversary of our obtaining Livery status. It also represents several tax anniversaries such as the introduction of PAYE (1945), capital gains tax (1965) and capital transfer tax (now inheritance tax) (1975).

We are planning to draw on our experience of celebrating our 25th anniversary and the 30th anniversary of the introduction of VAT. The exact nature of the events is still being planned but I expect that they will be relatively informal and low to medium cost.

Our charities committee does tremendous work but could do more if it had more funds. Currently approximately 40% of our members donate to one, or both, of our two charities with an average donation of £170. I shall try to encourage more members to make donations, either in cash or in time.

Finally thanks to all who have supported me in recent years and I look forward to another year of progress for our Company.

If you wish to contact me, my contact details are below.

Richard Geldard  
Email: richard.geldard@btinternet.com  
Phone: 07901 516716

# THE DEPUTY MASTER'S REPORT

Mike Gibbons

## On his year ending September 2024

During the year we were saddened by the death of our Founder Master Roy Jennings. Roy was our first Master, in 1995, and served in that appointment until 1998, he subsequently spent another 5 years on Court as Past Master, and a further 20 years as an esteemed Honorary Court Assistant. We are indebted to his dynamism for getting us started, and to his commitment and determination for keeping us on such a clear and positive path over the years. Roy was a giant in the tax community as demonstrated by his stellar career and great achievements and will be sorely missed.

The 2023/24 year was intended to, and did, build on the work started in 2022/23 in confirming our strategy for the future to ensure the future of the Company. Meeting the objectives set to meet the strategy has increased the work required by the Wardens and the Chairs of our Committees and it would be remiss not to note and thank those involved for this considerable extra effort.

One of the key objectives is to collaborate with and promote the Company across the tax profession and across the Livery generally. The promotion within the tax profession led to our inviting the President of the CIOT Gary Ashford to be our guest of honour at the Installation Banquet. As I said in my speech I wanted the company to have a theme for the year of Affiliation, Collaboration and Fellowship.

Shortly after the Installation came the opportunity to attend the send off the Hackney Carriage Drivers Children's Magical Taxi Tour and the Sheep Drive over Southwark Bridge.

Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli was elected the 695th Lord Mayor in September so in November representatives of the Company attended the historic Silent Ceremony before presenting a set of engraved glasses to the Lord Mayor at the Presentation of Addresses.

In October I was honoured to attend when King Charles III made his first official visit to the City of London when he took part in a ceremony for a new Sovereign which dates back to one of his predecessors, King William III, in 1689. He was presented with The Pearl Sword – a gift to the City of London from Elizabeth I – and immediately returned it to symbolise the authority of the Lord Mayor in London's Square Mile when the Monarch is not present.

The Company's standing in the City is excellent and growing and we are proud to support the Mayoralty and Corporation particularly via our Lord Mayor's briefing group and I am grateful for those subject experts who support those briefings, particularly this year when the Lord Mayor has asked for additional briefings on proposed non-domicile changes. It has also been fun to attend events in aid of the Lord Mayors appeal, such as the Bavarian and Sheriffs Balls.

In November we marked the retirement from the Court of Ian Luder who had recently retired as an Alderman. To mark and to celebrate Ian's contribution to the Company over nearly 30 years he made a presentation of a magnificent lectern to be used at future events. It is a wonderful piece; the ash is glorious, the craftsmanship outstanding, and the Company emblems and Ian's own plaque make it truly one-of-a-kind. I hope that Members will be able to admire it when it adorns the top table at future formal events.

As usual our Christmas Carol Concert was something to remember, where we were joined by various other Livery Companies before supper at Butchers Hall.

As a Company we are proud of our affiliations and attending the Dining In events for the Army management accountants a part of the Adjutant General's Corp and with 101 Squadron at Bristol Aeronautics museum were superb evenings. At the later it was a pleasure to demonstrate the Company's commitment to the Armed Forces by signing the Armed Forces Covenant. These were also events when the nominated prize-winners were recognised. Our Budget Banquet in March was held at the truly magnificent Glaziers Hall and it was a pleasure to see a full Hall. We were honoured that Paul Johnson Director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies was our guest speaker who spoke of the difficulties the Government would have in meeting their aspirations given the costs of the proposals and its cashflow! As usual our Christmas Carol Concert was something to remember, where we were joined by various other Livery Companies before supper at Butchers Hall.

## THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF TAX ADVISERS



During the year many companies invite the Master to attend their lectures and whilst I won't list them all a few that I remember were a fascinating lecture illustrating how two very different industries – farriery and plastics – have developed, for the combined betterment of horses' wellbeing, Communications by Lord (Gus) O'Donnell, the Fuellers' 18th Ezra Lecture, given by the Lord Mayor, entitled "The Future of Hydrogen" and the Arbitrators' lecture entitled "Prosecutor, Persecutor, Protector?". Our own company's History of Tax talks continued during the year. It has also been a pleasure to accept invitations from many companies to Awards Events and to attend a number of opportunities to meet other Masters and Clerks. June saw the Livery Weekend in London which was an opportunity to Network with the Masters of all the Livery Companies and their consorts.

An annual report would not be complete if it didn't refer to the Charitable contributions made via the Tax Advisers Charitable Trust, during the year it was a pleasure to attend the dedication of the Livery Food Initiative's new truck and a visit to London Air Ambulance's helipad at the Royal London Hospital shortly before their new aircraft came on line. I had the honour to visit Treloar's School and College which showcased how severely disabled young people are supported to reach their potential and prepared for later life. We learned about the impact of external funding, including from our own Company and also about the school's outstanding needs. I am pleased that the Charities Committee has since increased the Company's annual contribution to this extremely worthwhile cause, as well as making a one-off contribution to their urgent appeal for Maxi Sky Hoists.

The Tax Advisers Benevolent Fund continued to support students and is available for any tax advisers in distress.

Our charitable support was again celebrated at the Civic and Charities lunch in the presence of the Lord Mayor in July.

September saw the annual Red Cross Escape from the Tower (formerly Jailed and Bailed) fund raising event and I am thankful to those members of the Company who contributed to the £2,070 bail that was raised that allowed me to leave the Tower after the event!

A growing area for the company is developing our educational support and a significant new area is the work carried out with Mulberry UTC where Alan McLintock has given a number of talks and also our support to the Lord Mayors Summer School organised by City University but at which Mulberry were present.

In addition to the events that the Master attends I am pleased that the Mistress Tax Adviser was able to attend events not only with me but in her own right with others consorts. These included fundraising events for Treloar's and an event to mark International Women's Day. I have to note how much easier the year has been with Wendy's support in the background.

The Master's year is busy but it is kept smooth by the enormous efforts of our Clerk. I am extremely grateful to our wonderful Clerk, Robert Lowth, not only does Robert support all of the activities of the Company but also keeps track of the arrangements for external events.

I am enormously grateful to the Deputy Master and Wardens for their support and enthusiasm throughout the year also the Chairs of our Committees, and, more broadly, all of those who serve on committees, on working groups and in liaising with our affiliates as well as the members of the Court. We recognised their efforts during volunteers' week and at the Committee supper but I want to emphasise those thanks now.

At the Court meeting in September we said goodbye to Past Master John Dewhurst who leads our support of members in need and also guides us on ceremonial matters and also to Deputy Master Bob Harland who led the work in ensuring that the Company is fit for the next part of its journey.

All that remains is for me to wish Richard Geldard all the best for the forthcoming year as our new Master.

## Installation Day - Monday 23rd September 2024



On Monday 23rd September, Mike Gibbons MBE completed his highly successful year as Master Tax Adviser, and Wendy her equally accomplished year as Mistress Tax Adviser, during 2023/24.

Richard Geldard was duly installed as the new Master, for the year 2024/25, at a meeting of Court held at Merchant Taylors' Hall. Company Wardens for the year were also installed: Matthew Peppitt as Upper Warden, Caroline Turnbull-Hall as Middle Warden, and Howard Ashmore as Renter Warden. Mike Gibbons MBE accepted Richard's invitation to serve as his Deputy Master.

The new year also sees two Past Masters stepping down from Court (John Dewhurst and Bob Harland), and the admission of two new Court Assistants (Winnie Cao, and (from December) Kevin Offer). Management of the Company will be bolstered by a particularly strong cohort of new Committee Members and Company Officers.

All the details are on our website: [The Worshipful Company of Tax Advisers | City of London](https://www.taxadvisers.com)

The Court meeting also saw eight Freemen advancing to Livery, after gaining their Freedom of the City that morning, and the admission of three new Freemen, to a packed house of over 60 Company members and guests.

Photographs from Court, and indeed from throughout the day, are available here: [Gerald Sharp Photography | Installation Dinner 23-9-24](#)

From Merchant Taylor's Hall, Court processed to St Michael's Church Cornhill to join the Company's St Matthew's Tide Thanksgiving Service, officiated by the Honorary Chaplain, Rev'd Marcus Walker. His thought-provoking sermon and the excellence of the choir were memorable attractions of a highly enjoyable Service, attended by 100 Company members and their guests.

Returning to the Hall, and joined by the Rt Hon Baroness Hale of Richmond and other Company guests, the new Master hosted his Installation Dinner in the Great Hall. In this wonderful setting, a splendid dinner was served, the Master took wine with new Liverymen and Freemen, Loving Cups were passed, and we were entertained to organ music from the gallery and swing from the Satin Dollz on the dining room stage. The Renter Warden welcomed and toasted the guests, after which Lady Hale made a compelling case for equity – especially in public service, and heraldry in particular (as Patron of the Equality of Arms Campaign). The Master closed the dinner by thanking all those involved in its delivery, and briefly outlined his aims for the year ahead. Emphasizing his wish to engage with – and be engaged by – the membership of the Company, the Master indicated that results of the recent survey would be published in due course and presented Liveryman Derren Joseph with a bottle of champagne as winner of the survey's prize draw!

The evening concluded with a Stirrup Cup, and promises to meet again at the Christmas Carol Service at Great Saint Bartholomew's' Church and Supper afterwards at Butchers' Hall, on Tuesday 17th December, if not before.

# EVENTS



## THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF TAX ADVISERS

INSTALLATION DAY  
SEPTEMBER 2023



CELEBRATION DINNER FOR PAST MASTER IAN LUDER  
NOVEMBER 2023



LORD MAYOR'S SHOW  
NOVEMBER 2023



CAROL SERVICE AND SUPPER  
DECEMBER 2023



On 21st September 2023, Bob Harland relinquished his appointment as Master of the Company – and Jane relinquished her appointment as Mistress – and Mike Gibbons MBE and Wendy became the new Master and Mistress Tax Adviser, for 2023/24.

Mike was installed formerly at a meeting of Court, at Information Technologists' Hall, when Wardens were also appointed as follows: Kevin Thomas (Upper Warden), Matthew Peppitt (Middle Warden) and Caroline Turnbull-Hall (Renter Warden). A Service of Thanksgiving was then held at the Church of St Bartholomew the Great followed by the Installation Dinner at Painters' Hall.

Gary Ashford, President of the Chartered Institute of Taxation, was the guest of honour. In his speech, Gary amplified the Master's chosen theme for 2023/24: 'fellowship, affiliation and collaboration, within the Livery and with its affiliates'.

The Master hosted a Celebration Dinner for Past Master, and Former Lord Mayor, Ian Luder on Thursday 9th November, in the glorious setting of Watermen's Hall. Ian retired from Court in 2023, after almost 30 years of service with the Company, including 18 months as the third Master of the (then) Guild in 1998/99.

The event was attended by no less than 10 other Past Masters and numerous Liverymen, and guests. The lavish menu replicated that served at the Mansion House Banquet in 2008, during Ian's year as the 681st Lord Mayor.

The Master thanked Ian for his invaluable contribution to the development of the Company, from its inception. Ian responded, highlighting the potential for the Company to become even more influential, over coming years, in the ever-changing City. He presented to the Master a fine table lectern, crafted in ash by a carpenter in his home village and adorned with the Company emblem, before bringing the evening to a close with a toast to the Master and the Company.

The Company took part in the annual Lord Mayor's Show, on Saturday 11th November, as part of a tripartite entry with the Worshipful Company of Marketors and the Company of Watermen & Lightermen of the River Thames – preceded in style by the Corps of Drums of St Dunstan's College CCF.

We were joined by a large contingent of Army Cadets including members of our own affiliated City of London Army Cadet Force, members of which proudly displayed tax placards (as shown here). The Master and his Consort travelled in a rare 1929 Bentley, followed in a more recent 2008 Bentley by Alan McLintock. All cheered loudly for the 695th Lord Mayor of London, Professor Michael Mainelli, who is a member of all three companies.

The Company held its annual Carol Service at the Church of St Bartholomew the Great and Christmas Supper at Butchers' Hall, on Tuesday 12th December.

The Church was full to capacity as we were joined, as ever, by fellow liverymen from the companies of Farmers, Founders, Fletchers, Hackney Carriage Drivers, Communicators, Butchers, and Actuaries, and their respective Masters in procession.

The festive spirit flowed over to Butchers' Hall where some 170 sat down for traditional Christmas supper, in an informal and convivial setting.

# EVENTS

BUDGET BANQUET  
MARCH 2024



The Company held its annual Budget Banquet on Tuesday 12th March in the wonderful Glaziers' Hall.

After a drinks reception overlooking the Thames, some 150 members and their guests enjoyed a lavish dinner in the striking banquet hall. The Company was delighted to welcome, as its guests, the Masters of other Financial Services Group (FSG) companies as well as senior representatives of the CIOT and ATT.

After dinner, Paul Johnson CBE (Director of the Institute of Fiscal Studies and our principal guest) provided an insightful commentary on the Spring budget, and what may (or may not) come of it. Diners were also entertained by musicians from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, whose varied programme and wonderful musicality further added to the occasion.

Some fourteen new Freemen and Liverymen took wine with the Master, half of whom had been admitted at Court that afternoon, marking further progress along the Company's continuing path of growth and development.

CIVIC AND CHARITIES LUNCHEON  
JUNE 2024



The Company held its annual Civic and Charities Luncheon on Wednesday 12th June, at Founders' Hall. The Rt Hon the Lord Mayor Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli was the guest of honour, accompanied by the Lady Mayoress. Alderman Simon Pryke, the Company's newly assigned Alderman, also attended.

The Company hosted representatives from a number of our well-established charitable beneficiaries: Mulberry University Technical College, London's Air Ambulance, TaxAid and Tax Help for Older People, City Harvest, and the Hackney Carriage Drivers' Children's Magical Taxi Tour.

The Luncheon concluded with an address by the Lord Mayor – informative and entertaining in equal measure – and the presentation of donations from TACT to the Lord Mayor (for the Lord Mayor's Appeal, the Mansion House Scholarship Scheme, and the Sheriffs' and Recorder's Fund) and to representatives of our other beneficiary organisations.

# THE COURT



Seated from L to R: Middle Warden Caroline Turnbull-Hall, Master Richard Geldard, Renter Warden Howard Ashmore, Deputy Master Mike Gibbons

From L to R: Robert Lowth (Clerk), Alan McLintock, Winnie Cao, Stephen Hodgson, Morag Loader,

Lorraine Parkin, Michael Ashdown, Michael Godbee, Vaughan Robinson, Kevin Thomas, John Dewhurst, Sue Christensen, Paul Morton, Anthony Thomas, Nicolas Kokkinos, Alan O'Connor (Beadle)

The following Court members are not shown: Richard Citron, James Dixon, Andrew Gillett, Marcus Fincham & Upper Warden Matthew Peppitt

# THE COURT

MASTER  
Richard Geldard

UPPER WARDEN  
Matthew Peppitt

MIDDLE WARDEN  
Caroline Turnbull-Hall

RENTER WARDEN  
Howard Ashmore (Honorary Treasurer)

DEPUTY MASTER  
\* Mike Gibbons MBE

## COURT ASSISTANTS

\* Michael Godbee  
\* Anthony Thomas  
\* Kevin P Thomas  
\* Morag Loader  
\* Marcus Fincham  
\* Paul Morton  
\* Sue Christensen  
Vaughan Robinson  
Michael Ashdown  
Nicolas Kokkinos  
Lorraine Parkin  
Richard Citron  
Stephen Hodgson  
Alan McLintock  
Winnie Cao

HONORARY ASSISTANTS  
Andrew Gillett  
James Dixon

HONORARY SECRETARY  
\* Clive Tulloch

HONORARY CHAPLAIN  
The Reverend Marcus Walker

HONORARY ALMONER  
\* John Dewhurst

CLERK  
Robert Lowth CBE

BEADLE  
[Position vacant]

\*indicates a Past Master

# REPORT FROM THE TREASURER Howard Ashmore



The consequences of Covid and inflation, have made for a challenging environment. Whilst our income from Quarterage and fines remained fairly constant from 2019 to 2022, our costs steadily rose.

A thorough strategic review was carried out which resulted in a five year plan to improve the financial position of the Company.

An outcome of this review was that our Quarterage rate had fallen well below similar companies. It was agreed to split this into two larger than normal increases to bring the company back into line.

The company's latest financial accounts are for the year ending 30th June 2024.

They show an 18% growth in income from Quarterage and fines. This is a combination of new members, the Quarterage increase and fees from advancement. Attendance at events has also been strong which has helped to defray some of the costs of hospitality. Hospitality is extended to other Livery Companies as a gesture of fellowship and thanks for welcoming our own Master to their events.

The loss for the year of £19,137 whilst disappointing, is ahead of our forecast. 2024/2025 has started well and we remain on target to return to a surplus in 2025/2026..

## THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Michael Ashdown, Chair

Our committee members play a crucial role in overseeing and managing the membership recruitment, enrolment and retention process. Here is a summary of our key responsibilities:

### Recruitment

- ◇ The committee is responsible for identifying potential members such as tax advisers, accountants, lawyers and academics.
- ◇ We have been set a target of having 330 members by the end of 2028 and are therefore looking for more new members. Our most effective membership recruitment tool is you, our current members. Please help us by spreading the word about the company and if you have any contacts who may be interested in joining the Company please refer them to us.

### Outreach Initiatives

- ◇ We actively promote the benefits of membership by taking various measures, such as organising informal events and connecting with professional networks. We are keen to develop our connections with large professional firms as well as with the professional organisations whose members work in the tax field.

### Membership Applications:

- ◇ The Committee manages the formal application process to become Freeman of the Company including reviewing and assessing candidates to ensure they are aligned with our Company's values and standards.

### Engagement, Retention and Progression

- ◇ We work to integrate new members and develop strategies to maintain high levels of engagement and satisfaction through social and professional development opportunities.
- ◇ For those wishing to progress from Freeman to Liveryman status, we oversee this process to ensure candidates fulfil the necessary criteria to gain their Freedom of the City of London and understand their new responsibilities and privileges.
- ◇ We now have a dedicated member of the Membership Committee to look after retention. We hope that this will reduce the number of members wishing to leave the Company and also enable us to recognise trends that lead to members resigning.

**“Our members, are our greatest asset. Just as Rome was not built in a day, our success depends on your support. Please pass on information about the Company to your friends and colleagues”**

## THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF TAX ADVISERS



Our current membership details as of 30 June 2024:

Freemen - 94  
Liverymen- 159  
Total- 253

These number include Honorary Freeman and Honorary Liverymen.

### Achievements of the Membership Committee

In the year to July 2024 we have admitted 25 people to the Freedom of the Company and we advanced 13 Freeman to the Livery. We hope to admit a further four people to the Freedom of the Company and advance another six Freeman to the Livery at the Installation Court in September. However, this is offset by the fact that we have had a number of resignations from the Company for a variety of reasons.

The Membership Committee is working on the following-

- ◇ Year Book: In addition to listing the names and addresses of our Freeman and Liverymen, it is planned that our Year Book will now also include details of self-employed and sole traders members to provide all members with better opportunities for business networking.
- ◇ Know Your Member: Everyone has a unique story and we'd love to hear yours. We already have some short videos of members on our website explaining why they joined the Company, and we hope to feature more of our members on the website in the future. Are you a pioneering figure in the tax profession? Are you celebrating a religious festival? Would you like to tell your story to the members of the Company?
- ◇ Incentive for Introducing a New Member: The best way for the Company to recruit new members is through encouragement from our existing members. The Committee is therefore looking for suitable incentives for anyone introducing a new member to the Company. We would be interested in your views on what a suitable incentive might be.
- ◇ New Members Group: We have set up a group for members who have recently joined the Company and there is also a WhatsApp group for these new members. The aim of this group is to ensure that new members know someone when they attend events and to ensure that the views of new members are reported back to the Court.

As 2024 progresses with many exciting developments on the horizon, we also have to share the sad news of the passing of two cherished members.



## IN MEMORIAM

With deep sadness, the Company acknowledges the passing of two esteemed members



We honour their memory and raise a glass to our friends who have departed but will remain forever in our hearts.

## ROY LEONARD JENNINGS

The Founder Master of the Worshipful Company of Tax Advisers, 1932-2024

Roy served on the Council of the Institute of Taxation, as it was then, from 1975 to 1995, was President from 1987 to 1988 and represented the Institute on the General Assembly of the Confederation Fiscal Europe (CFE). He was involved a great deal with the CFE, serving on various committees as well as chairing the European Tax Committee.

Whilst President of the Institute, Roy became aware that many candidates for membership, although successfully passing the Intermediate Examination, did not achieve membership. He was the driving force which set up the ATT which was established on 30th August 1989. The Association gives tax technicians, who do not aspire to become a member of CIOT a professional qualification. It is a measure of the wisdom of this decision that the ATT now has nearly 10,000 members. Roy was President of ATT from 1989 to 1992 and served on the Council through to 2000.

During his time on the ATT Council, Roy worked tirelessly for the Association and to ensure that its professionalism was open for all to see. One particular area with which he was very much involved was the setting up of the Taxation Disciplinary Board. He was the prime mover behind this which, when set up jointly with CIOT, left the position open for other professional bodies to join if they wished.

Having successfully set ATT on its way, Roy turned his attention to other things which he could do. Along with others, he was instrumental in forming, first, the Guild of Tax Advisers which has now become the Worshipful Company of Tax Advisers, a City Livery Company with a considerable reputation within the City for the good work it does in briefing the Lord Mayor in relation to the tax systems operating in the countries he is visiting. The Company has provided one Lord Mayor during its existence. The Guild was formed in December 1995, finally becoming a City Livery Company in January 2005 and obtained its Royal Charter granted by the Privy Council in July 2009.

The many people who served with Roy on the Council were immensely privileged to have been both Roy's colleagues and friends.

## SIR STEPHEN OLIVER

A distinguished tax barrister and dedicated trustee of TaxAid

With great sadness we learned of the death of Sir Stephen Oliver on 8 April 2024 at the age of 85.

Stephen had a distinguished tax career as a barrister and then as a leading Special Commissioner and Tax Tribunal judge. He was also a long-term supporter of the tax charities.

Stephen trained as a barrister. Called to the bar at Middle Temple in 1963, he joined Pump Court Tax Chambers in 1964 where he built a thriving revenue law practice. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1980 and became Head of Chambers in 1987. In 1989, he was appointed a Recorder; in 1991, a Circuit Judge; and in 1992, Presiding Special Commissioner for Income Tax and President of the VAT and Duties Tribunals. The Commissioners were replaced in 2009 by the Tax Tribunals, where he became President of the First-tier Tribunal. Stephen retired from that post in 2011, rejoining his chambers as a mediator.

Stephen was concerned as a Special Commissioner about how vulnerable people were treated under the law, which led to his becoming a trustee of TaxAid in 2006 and his long association with the tax charities. He remained an active supporter throughout his retirement.

Stephen was a lifelong enthusiast of classical music. He was a fine cellist, and a supporter of the London Sinfonietta and the Aldeburgh Festival. He was also an able golfer.

In his various roles, not least as Leading Special Commissioner, Stephen encountered people across the tax profession. As well as being a talented lawyer, he is remembered fondly for his open-minded approach and charming manner. He was a delight to work with.

Stephen is greatly missed by Dawn, his wife, Adam, Rosie and Becky, his children and by other family and friends.

# ADMISSIONS AND ADVANCEMENTS DURING THE YEAR

## Admissions to the Freedom of the Company

During the year the following were admitted as Freemen:

Roll No.	Name	Date of Admission
385	Jaspal Pachu	21/09/2023
386	Adam Taylor	21/09/2023
387	Thomas Warner	21/09/2023
388	Colin Lafferty-Smith	12/12/2023
389	James Kean	12/12/2023
390	Arvind Babajee	12/12/2023
391	Karen McNicholls	12/12/2023
392	Jennifer Hutchings	12/12/2023
393	Agata Kozolup	12/12/2023
394	Eleanor Theochari	12/12/2023
395	Katherine Eldred	12/12/2023
396	Gwendoline Ryder	12/12/2023
397	Peter Jackson	12/03/2024
398	Reshma Johar	12/03/2024
399	Dean Ryan	12/03/2024
401	Maceo Williams-Frederick	12/03/2024
402	James Carr	12/03/2024
403	Peter Godber	12/06/2024
404	Laurence Lancaster	12/06/2024
405	William Hess	12/06/2024
406	Maria Kendrick	12/06/2024
407	Benjamin Branson	12/06/2024
408	Craig Kay	23/09/2024
409	Robin Prince	23/09/2024
410	Praveen Gupta	23/09/2024

THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF TAX ADVISERS



## Advancements to Livery

During the year the following advanced to Livery:

Roll No.	Name	Date of Admission
323	Luigi Belluzzo	21/09/2023
348	Gordon Slater	21/09/2023
355	David Massey	21/09/2023
369	Winnie Cao	21/09/2023
373	Scott Wallace	21/09/2023
376	Dee Shah	21/09/2023
378	Ann Elmer	21/09/2023
370	Adrian Stevens	12/12/2023
379	Kyriakos Kostarelos	12/12/2023
386	Adam Taylor	12/03/2024
389	James Kean	12/03/2024
365	Patrick Ronan	23/09/2024
381	Thomas Wallace	23/09/2024
388	Colin Lafferty-Smith	23/09/2024
393	Agata Kozolup	23/09/2024
397	Peter Jackson	23/09/2024
401	Maceo Williams-Frederick	23/09/2024
406	Maria Kendrick	23/09/2024
407	Benjamin Branson	23/09/2024

# CHARITIES COMMITTEE

## Lorraine Parkin, Chair

When Kevin asked me to write an article on our charities, for the relaunch of the Owl, he said it could be as long as I liked and should include lots of photos. I think I've taken him at his word!

I find it extremely rewarding to have the honour to chair our Charities' Committee. I think one of the most important things the members of our Company do is to give both time and money to improve lives. It can be transformative, both for the recipient and the donor. Let me tell you about both of our charities and share some of the things they have been doing in 2023/2024.

### Background

On 19 December 1995, some leading members of the Chartered Institute of Taxation adopted Ordinances for The Guild of Tax Advisers. There were three primary aims, all of which were carried forward as we became the Worshipful Company of Tax Advisers with Livery. One of these aims is to support and fund benevolent and charitable causes. Two Charities were set up to fulfil this aim:

## Tax Advisers' Benevolent Fund (TABF)

Registered Charity No. 1064392

The primary objective of the Benevolent Fund is to provide financial relief to anyone who is or has been a member of the Chartered Institute of Taxation (CIOT) and its predecessor, successors and assigns or a member of the Association of Taxation Technicians (ATT) and its successors and assigns. The Fund extends to the wives, husbands, widows, widowers, issue or dependents of the aforementioned members. In other words, this is a hardship fund. In the unfortunate event that qualifying persons find themselves needing financial support, either personally or professionally, the fund is here acting as a safety net.

In addition, the Benevolent Fund has a general clause in its Trust Deed. Under this clause, and with reference to its Policies, the Fund also gives means-tested grants and bursaries to students of the ATT and the CIOT who are studying for their professional exams. This includes the ATT, the CTA, the DITT and the ADIT qualifications. Under its current Policies, TABF restricts the grants and donations made under this general clause to tax-related education.

Part of the activity of the TABF, which has been particularly called upon, both during the Covid years and post Covid, has been devoted to assisting tax advisers and their families who for one reason or another have suffered hardship. The cases we handle are, as you would expect, confidential. However, I am pleased to be able to share some case studies with you, on a no names basis, to explain the support that the TABF provides.

A sole practitioner suffered a life changing illness that left him immobile. In order to continue to work, and to facilitate his day-to-day living, many adaptations were required to his home. Working in Partnership with CABA, which is the Benevolent Fund of the Chartered Accountants, the TABF provided part of the funding for these adaptations.

A young tax practitioner, suffering from severe dyslexia, required special technology equipment to enable him to undertake his work. Funds for this equipment were provided by the TABF.

## THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF TAX ADVISERS



An employed, tax practitioner, with a wife and a young child to support suffered for some time from chronic mental health conditions. In September 2022 he had a breakdown, which led to his being sectioned following multiple suicide attempts. He had an understanding employer and remained employed during this period. However, he was in a near-fatal car accident in February 2023 as he was driving to work. He survived but his mental health deteriorated further so he applied to his employer under the Equality Act 2010 for a short-term reasonable adjustment to his working hours. The employer's response was to offer him a different role involving more travel and a salary reduction of £15,000. The refusal to compromise on the employer's part led to the applicant handing in his notice and he has remained unemployed since. His monthly outgoings are exceeding his monthly income. Therefore, while he recovers and finds new employment, a grant was made of a specific lump sum to bridge the gap.

The other part of the charity's work, as mentioned earlier in this article, is the assistance given by the TABF to those who wish to qualify as tax advisers by taking the ATT, CTA, DITT or ADIT courses and exams. The TABF is deeply committed to the furtherance of tax education. If a prospective candidate is unable to obtain financial support from an employer and cannot personally afford the cost, an application can be made to the TABF for financial support. In the case of the ATT and CTA qualifications, the TABF will fund registration fees, course fees and exam fees, following an assessment of the candidate's personal financial status, which is undertaken by our Almoner. Generally the funding is provided on a module-by-module basis. Mentoring is also offered as we have a vested interest in seeing our candidates succeed. Looking at the financial year to June 2024 I am pleased to report that we have had a number of candidates qualify with the ATT or part qualify towards both the ATT and CTA qualifications. We continue to support the on-going studies of a number of candidates and have a steady stream of applicants. I share with you, below, an extract of a letter received from a candidate supported by the TABF.

*I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for your generous support in sponsoring my ATT courses. I have passed my last Paper 4 to become an ATT Member. Your kindness and generosity have provided me with a remarkable opportunity to enhance my skills and broaden my horizons.*

*Thanks to your sponsorship, your belief in my potential and investment in my education have inspired me to strive for excellence in my studies and beyond.*

*Learning Taxation with Tolley is a transformative experience, and I am incredibly grateful for your invaluable contribution in making this journey possible. Your support has not only had a positive impact on my academic pursuits but has also enriched my life in ways I could not have imagined. Once again, thank you for your unwavering support and for being a guiding light on this path of learning and growth. I promise to make the most of this opportunity and work diligently to achieve my goals. Your generosity will forever be cherished and remembered.*

*With deep appreciation*



Every year the TABF provides at least 3 bursaries of £1,500 towards the Advance Diploma in International Taxation (ADIT) qualification to applicants who are resident abroad. We work closely with the Chartered Institute of Taxation (CIOT) who recommends candidates to the TABF for consideration and approval. Recently we have been supporting six bursary winners.

## OUR CHARITIES

In November 2022 the CIOT launched the Diploma in Tax Technology (DITT). The changing landscape of tax is underpinned by technology advancements. While digitalisation has many benefits, tax professionals need to keep on top of tax technology developments to avoid being left behind. The TABF was delighted to be able to step forward to offer 3 Bursaries for those eligible and wanting to study the DITT. The Bursaries will support members of the CIOT, Chartered Tax Advisers, who have been on a career break for a minimum of one year and who would like to pursue the DITT qualification to help them re-enter the profession but who would suffer financial hardship to do so.

The TABF promotes the study of the administration and practice of taxation. This includes helping young people in education become aware that there are many possible careers in the field of taxation.

In both 2023 and 2024, partnered by the CIOT, the Charity and the Company ran a stand at the London Careers Festival: Livery Schools' Link, to showcase tax as a career. Several of our members staffed the stand along with members and staff of the CIOT. We connected with hundreds of London's secondary school children, inspiring them with interactive exercises and tax related mementos. We intend to continue to represent the profession at a number of careers events over the next year.

This fund is reliant on bequests, legacies, grants from the CIOT and the Association of Tax Technicians, the generosity of members of the WCTA and occasional one off donations from the public. In the financial year to 30 June 2024 TABF received donations of £ 38,000. It committed to grants of £ 11,000 in the year and it funded tax education related events to the tune of £2,500 in the year. The surplus is carried forward and, combined with the Fund's investments, provides resources for future years when the Fund may have heavier calls for grants from eligible persons.

You may already be donating to TABF but if you are not and you wish to make a regular or one off donation details of its bank account are as follows:

Tax Advisers' Benevolent Fund, Barclays, Account Number: 33045218 Sort Code: 20-41-50.

Gift Aid forms can be downloaded from our website: <https://www.taxadvisers.org.uk>

## Tax Advisers' Charitable Trust (TACT) Registered Charity No.1064392



The Tax Advisers' Charitable Trust is a general charitable fund that supports a number of City and Greater London causes, including education and the preservation of tax history.

Under its Policies 50% of TACT's income supports charities that provide tax advice to

people who need it but cannot afford to instruct professional firms of advisers. Specifically, this includes supporting TaxAid and Tax Help for Older People. These charities provide free, independent, expert help and advice for older people, 60+, and younger people on low incomes who cannot afford to pay professional advisory fees or who are self-employed. We were delighted that Valerie Boggs, CEO of both charities, joined us to deliver a speech and receive cheques at our Civic & Charities Luncheon in June. The other 50% of TACT's income is used to support The Lord Mayor's Appeal, the Mansion House Scholarship Fund, the Sheriff's & Recorder's Fund, the Hackney Carriage Drivers' Children's Magical Taxi Tour, the Livery Food Initiative, London Air Ambulance and its Up Against Time Appeal, St. John Ambulance, Mulberry UTC, Treloars, The Guildhall School of Music, various cadet forces and many more. In the financial year to 30 June 2024 the donations received by TACT were just over £25,000 including Gift Aid. Combined with income derived from TACT's investments grants were made of £29,000. The more donations TACT receives, the more it can do for the many applicants who approach the Fund.



## THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF TAX ADVISERS

Many members of the Company honour their pledge and are already donating to TACT but if you are not and you wish to make a regular or one off donation details of its bank account are as follows:

Tax Advisers' Charitable Trust, HSBC, Account Number: 01134493 Sort Code: 40-03-17

Gift Aid forms can be downloaded from our website: <https://www.taxadvisers.org.uk>

### London Air Ambulance

We are proud to be able to support both the day-to-day operations of the London Air Ambulance and its Up Against Time appeal, which is raising funds to replace two of its helicopters. Several members of our Court and Committees have been to the helipad over the last couple of years to meet the crews and learn, first hand, of the amazing work these people do to save lives on a daily basis.



### The Livery Food Initiative

This Livery wide initiative supports City Harvest, a food redistribution charity. They take high quality food, which is about to go to waste, from farms, manufacturers and retailers and redistribute it to charities throughout London. We are honoured to be supporting both the Livery Van and the Livery Lorry. Although we are not in it for the glory, we were pleased to receive an award for our contribution to the former, which you can find in our glass cabinet on the first floor of the Information Technologist's Hall. If anyone reading this article has connections with farmers or food manufacturers who have excess production from time to time, please introduce them to me as we can put them in touch with City Harvest.



### Mulberry UTC

Mulberry UTC is a university technical college that specialises in preparing young people for careers in Health, Science, Business, Creative Media and Theatre. We are delighted to be working with Mulberry UTC, supporting their team that enters the Sheriff's Challenge, speaking about career opportunities and sponsoring places for pupils at The City of London Summer School. Alan McLintock has been particularly active in giving talks on career and life experience at both Mulberry UTC and other schools with whom we network through the Livery Schools Link.



## The Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers

The Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage drivers runs one of the City of London's most recognised and highly regarded charity events each year, The Magical Taxi Tour. We are humbled to donate sufficient funds to meet the necessary expenses incurred by one of the 90 taxis that take children with severe illnesses and debilitating conditions to Disney® Paris. It was a pleasure to host their current Master, Wendy Sorrell, at our recent Civic & Charities Luncheon and to be able to present her with a cheque.



I could carry on writing about the charities, our beneficiaries and the wonderful things many of you are doing to support them. However, for now, I think it just leaves me to say that if anyone would like more information or would like to become more actively involved, please do not hesitate to contact either me or any member of the Charities' Committee, or the Education Sub-Group, who you can find listed in the Year Book.

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Caroline Turnbull-Hall, Chair

The Social Committee plays an important part in the life of the Company – by delivering events for members it ensures fellowship, part of the Company's motto and one of its aims. The Committee is responsible for all social events, other than the two annual banquets, the Civic and Charities Lunch and the History of Tax talks, and it also coordinates support and teams for inter-livery events.

This year, mindful of the cost of living crisis, the Committee has focused on events that are good value and pose minimal financial risk to the company. Members may also have noticed a change in the way some events have been organised – to avoid financial risk, members are being asked to book their own tickets for certain events which are facilitated by the Committee, which also avoids any issues with VAT. Having introduced virtual events during Covid, we continue to arrange a mixture of virtual and in person events, so that there is something for those members who are not able to travel to London easily, or who would like to enjoy the fellowship from the comfort of their own home.

Over the past year there has been an interesting programme of events, as well as the opportunity to participate in a number of City and inter-livery events.

Events organised by the Social Committee this year have included visits to Temple Church (in November) and Leighton House (in May), both of which were much enjoyed by those who attended, in part due to the excellent guides that we were lucky enough to have on each occasion. Earlier in 2024 the Committee facilitated visits to Wilton's Music Hall and the Magic Circle, and as usual each was preceded by a meal. As diaries tend to fill up in the weeks running up to Christmas, a virtual magic show was organised in December which was very well attended. The Great Foolini amazed us and kept us guessing as he demonstrated sleight of hand with several amazing tricks, most of which required audience participation. In early Spring we held the annual Quiz which was enjoyed by everyone attending, and of course there are also the bi annual lunches, usually held at Ironmongers' Hall.



## THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF TAX ADVISERS



As ever there has been a wide range of inter-livery events over the past year, and the Committee has encouraged members to participate wherever possible, although there are some events where we have not been able to form a team, but we hope that in the future the Company will be able to field a padel team! The annual Pancake Race at Guildhall is always a popular event, although this year the races were called off due to the wet weather (Guildhall Yard can be very slippery!) but our intrepid team was still able to enjoy the traditional lunch in Guildhall. The weather was kinder for both the inter-livery croquet competition held at the Sussex County Croquet Club in Brighton, and the inter-livery pétanque held at the Battersea Pleasure Gardens. The Company's teams did not win on either occasion, but did come a very respectable twelfth out of thirty-two teams in the pétanque. Both events were very much enjoyed, including meeting members of other companies.

At the start of the Company's year, the Company had two teams participating in the Quiz arranged by the City of London, as part of the annual City Giving Day. A group from the Company attended the Lord Mayor's Bavarian Ball in June, with traditional German entertainment in the splendid surroundings of Mansion House, as well as the United Guilds' Service and, although only the Master was in the procession with representatives from some of our military affiliations, a number of members enjoyed being in the crowd for the Lord Mayor's Show in November followed by a convivial lunch.

The Committee is working on the social programme for the forthcoming year and has several activities planned in addition to the usual City and inter-livery events, which are shown below. Hopefully you have completed the members' survey which was circulated in the summer which will help the Social Committee to organise events that members want. Please do let the Committee know if there are any events that you would like to attend, and if you would be willing to help organise them.

Many thanks to all of those on the Social Committee for their commitment to the Company over the past year.

## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Nicolas Kokkinos, Chair

In May 2022, the Communications Committee became a formal committee of the Company. For those who don't know (and the name of the Committee does not entirely make this obvious), the current remit of the Communications Committee is to:

- ◇ Promote communication within the Company and to its members by a variety of physical and electronic means (including hard copy mailings, e-mail, Company publications (such as the Owl) and the Company Website).
- ◇ Assist the other Company Committees with messaging and event promotion to Company members.
- ◇ Promote the Company to third parties through the use of the Company's website and social media (including the Company's LinkedIn page and Twitter profile).
- ◇ Assist with the Company objectives (sustain, deliver, support and collaborate initiatives).

The Communications Committee also takes primary responsibility for the Company website, and over the last two years you will hopefully have seen that it has been overhauled, updated and improved. Recent notable improvements include an updated form of the news page, a more user-friendly events page/calendar of events and we produced (with extensive volunteering time from Winnie Cao) a short video posted on the Company website showcasing a few of our members and the reasons for joining the Company. We would be grateful for any thoughts or improvements you may have.



## THE EDUCATION SUB-GROUP

Lorraine Parkin, Chair



The Education Sub- Group operates under the auspices of the Charities' Committee.

The Group is focused on maintaining and growing relationships with both schools and higher education establishments. It seeks to deploy both time and monetary grants.

Examples of activities include coaching Mulberry UTC for the: Sheriff's Challenge, running a stand in partnership with the CIOT London Careers Fair organised by the Livery Schools Link, covered earlier in this article, delivering School Talks, supporting Moneywise (City of London University), and supporting students in a number of establishments including the and Guildhall School of Music, Treloars. Working with pupils and students can be very rewarding and uplifting. I was astounded at the standard of composition, musical and vocal and performance when I attended a recent concert, Voiceworks: Contemporary Collaboration, held by The Guildhall School of Music, to thank donors. After the concert I was delighted to meet some of the students who performed.



## HISTORY OF TAX GROUP

### Morag Loader, Chair

We held our two regular sessions during the Company year, one in October and one in February.

#### 17 October 2023: Death Taxes: A Historical Comparison with Professor Martin Daunton

This was our first hybrid event since Covid, with an in-person element at Information Technologists' Hall, as well as an on-line attendance option. The talk included a review of the death taxes of the UK, Germany, France and the USA focusing mainly on the period since 1900 and looking at how different countries dealt with the topical issue of intergenerational transfer of wealth and rebalancing.

Professor Daunton (below left) has addressed the group previously and following his excellent talk we repaired to The Butcher's Hook and Cleaver for supper.



#### 27 February 2024: Out of the Ruins – Creating the Irish Tax System: A Centenary Perspective with Pat O'Brien

We welcomed Pat O'Brien (above right) as our guest speaker with a topical centenary theme. Pat is an academic tutor in the School of History and Geography at Dublin City University. He gave a fascinating insight into the challenges of setting up a new tax system. Pat seamlessly blended tax history with the wider history of the Irish War of Independence (1919 – 1921) and the Irish Civil War (1922 – 1923).

After his excellent presentation we repaired to The Fox and Anchor for supper.

## OUR AFFILIATIONS



### RAF 101 SQUADRON

After a period of hiatus, following COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine, we engaged once more with the 101 Squadron. By way of update:

14 September 2023- James Dixon presented the 2023 WCTA prize for 'The best newcomer to 101 Squadron' to Sergeant Leanne Blair on behalf of the Company.

21 September 2023- A representative from RAF 101 Squadron (Flt Lt Carlos L Jenkins) attended the Installation Dinner of Mike Gibbons as the new Master.

30 May 2024- The Master, Mike Gibbons and Honorary Assistant James Dixon attended what was billed as an 'Exhibition of the RAF's Air and Space Power roles and capabilities', which comprised a fascinating series of presentations on topics as diverse as electronic jamming, search and rescue aircraft, Reaper and Protector unmanned aerial drones, combat air control, Space command, and many more. The highlight was a display of the Lightning F-35B, including its ability to hover in a stationary position.

31 May 2024- Eleven members of the Company went flying on an air-to-air refuelling exercise. Eight members went in a Voyager (effectively, a flying petrol station) and three members went into an A400M transport aircraft (otherwise called the Atlas with the ability to carry up to 37 tonnes). The Voyager was airborne for about five hours, and headed to the North Sea where in a racetrack circuit it refuelled some dozen Typhoon aircraft, a few based in Estonia; it also rehearsed close formation flying in advance of the following weekend's Trooping of the Colour ceremony.



Meanwhile the slower A400M turboprop plane, the successor to the long-serving Lockheed Hercules, met up with a Typhoon for various photographic opportunities; flew low over Lake Windermere with its rear doors open as if to indulge in paratroop dropping; and finally met up with the Voyager for some formation flying and air-to-air refueling practice. A demonstration was also made of the Atlas' remarkable ability to land virtually anywhere and has been designed to land on unpaved short runways (like a sandy beach). A memorable time was greatly enjoyed by all, and many thanks indeed to the friendly members of the RAF who entertained us so well.

## OUR AFFILIATIONS

### HMS BANGOR

Our affiliation with HMS Bangor began whilst we were still a Guild and was originally the province of Past Master Iain Stitt, himself a former serving Royal Navy Commander

The ship is deployed in the Arabian Gulf contributing to Royal Navy's Mine Countermeasures Force, working with allies and protecting the strategic sea lanes in the region. Providing assurance for Maritime Trade to support UK interests.

In September 2023 the crew took part in a close manoeuvres and force protection exercise with the Qatari Navy testing their bridge skills, and later in the year Crew 1 was awarded the top Navy award for Excellence in Mine Counter Measures making them one of an elite group allowed to fly the Surface Efficiency Pennant.

We were delighted to welcome former Commander Dan Briscoe to our Installation dinner in September who regaled us with tales of the competitive spirit between the US and UK Navy vessels. The UK ships generally coming out on top!

In January 2024 sadly the ship was involved in a collision whilst berthed in Bahrain resulting in substantial damage but happily there were no casualties and the ship will be back at sea later this year.

Meanwhile HMS Bangor has been transferred to a new squadron supporting the Royal Navy's development of autonomous capabilities, she is now the sole Sandown Class ship in the Royal Navy.

Currently her crews are working with partner nations ships in the Gulf and her dive teams are assisting other vessels with ordnance disposal. Rear Admiral Edward Ahlgren OBE visiting the ship recently spoke of the importance of the work done by the ships in the Gulf keeping waters safe and open for business.

The Commander of Crew 9, currently deployed, tells me that another charity fundraising challenge is to take place in the gym in Bahrain very soon, the previous one organised by crew 10 raised £1500 for Alzheimer's Research UK. The charity nominated for the latest one is Cancer Research UK and will involve a 24 hour period of rowing and cycling 360,000 metres by the ship's company. We wish them well with this energetic activity!

Crews 9 & 10 will now continue with a 4 monthly change over and will share our 6 monthly prizes which we are always delighted to make. If you are a fan of social media you can keep up with the work done by the ship on X (formerly Twitter), and observe the dedication of the crews as they play their part in safeguarding the seas.

## THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF TAX ADVISERS



### ADJUTANT GENERALS CORP

Since 2018 the WCOTA has been affiliated with the Management Accountancy Services (Army) part of the Adjutant General's Corp.

The military Management Accountants bring expert financial analysis to bear with military experience and an underlying people-centric focus, playing a pivotal role in shaping current and future operations and policies.

As Management Accountants qualified through the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA), their expertise lies in delivering technical accountancy solutions, notably in areas such as investment appraisals. Their work is distinguished from civilians or external consultants by the integration of robust military judgement; it is this fusion of financial skills and military experience that enables MAS(A) to operate independently and exert influence at a senior level.

They are embedded across the Army, from Divisional HQs through HQ Field Army to Army HQ's own Top-Level Budget's Resource Plans Team, supporting In-Year financial management and developing the 10-year Annual Budget Cycle. They also directly support the Efficiency Programme Office, the Capability & Equipment Finance Team, and the Army's Chief Accountant, notably in recent months by MAS(A) building dashboards using PowerBI that enable simple but interrogatable visuals, enabling the Army's senior leaders to make informed and balanced decisions about prioritising and profiling the Army's budget for best effect.

UN Contingency Owned Equipment Working Group - The Senior Leadership Team from MAS(A), including Lieutenant Colonel Barry Cooke MBE, Major (now Lieutenant Colonel) Paul Carcone, and Warrant Officer Class 1 John Leddy, represented the United Kingdom at the United Nations in New York in 2023, for the Contingent Owned Equipment Working Group. On behalf of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, they provided the military and financial expertise to lead negotiations on the reimbursement rates for countries contributing equipment to UN missions. Rapid analysis, robust and delicate negotiation skills, and active engagement with issue papers from other nations, led to successful agreements on capability enhancements and environmental protection, balanced against efficiencies, within the budgetary target. MAS(A) has been representing the nation at this triennial event since 1995, and we have already been requested back for 2026.



Sports - Sports continue to be a key element in engendering unity and a shared purpose within MAS(A) which as noted above is dispersed across Defence for various projects. The wealth of talent within MAS(A) is evident, with Warrant Officer Class 1 Mark Robson representing the Army in Orienteering at the European Masters Games 2023 in Finland. Major Felix Osei-Kuffour also led the Volleyball team to an impressive silver medal in the games. Our active participation in broader AGC events, including Exercise White Lion and the Triple Crown Competition, showcases our team's commendable performance, both as competitors and as crucial contributors to event organisation. A MAS(A) mountaineering team successfully traversed the Larke Pass.





## OUR AFFILIATIONS

### ARMY CADET FORCE

The WCOTA is affiliated with the City of London and North-East Sector Army Cadet Force (ACF / COLNES).

As well as providing financial support to those cadets in need of assistance to find even the modest sum required for the annual camp, the WCOTA present an award for the “Most Improved Cadet” during the ACF’s annual camp. Last year’s winner was LCpl Ahmed. The Annual Camp this year will be at Pirbright, Surrey where the Master will present this award.

Given the difficult financial backdrop for the Ministry of Defence the camp has been reduced to one week. Fortunately, this has been supplemented with a local week of training, for the junior cadets, at the Reserve Centre at Whipps Cross. This year COLNES has been selected to host a U.S. and other nations international exchange program; further opening the eyes of many cadets who often have little experience outside of London.

COLNES had two cadets finish in the ‘Cadet 100’ - a small bore shooting competition where the top 100 shots across the country are selected.

This year, COLNES ACF will host the Elworthy tri-service competition in October – where the best cadets in the country will compete in various different competitions from shooting, to orienteering to first aid.

The Reserve Centre at Whipps Cross, the HQ of COLNES ACF, is about to undergo some surgery to make it safer and a more usable space. In addition, from next year they are beginning plans to undertake a major building work on site to improve kitchen facilities, conference and offices and increase cadet bed spaces on site. All of these improvements will allow the Army Cadet Force to reach out to even more young men & women and expand their horizons.



## THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF TAX ADVISERS



### LIVERY CLIMATE ACTION GROUP

The Livery Climate Action Group was formed in 2021 to assist the City of London Livery Companies and Guilds to manage their impact on climate change and the environment by making responsible use of resources. Led energetically by Alderman Alison Gowman CBE there are now more than 100 Livery Companies involved.

In June the City hosted its 3rd Net Zero Summit at Mansion house and the annual conference will be held on 22nd October at Merchant Taylors’ Hall on ‘Planning for a Resilient Future’. You can book your place via [info@liverycag.org.uk](mailto:info@liverycag.org.uk)

Member Companies are encouraged to write their own Strategic Plan to examine how they might be able to set themselves targets to transition to net zero, in particular with reference to their investments, food waste, transport and many other areas.

The group also provides educational materials for Companies liaising with schools and other outreach activities and there is also now a YouTube channel for anyone wishing to look further and see where they might get involved.

As a member company of this Pan Livery movement WCOTA needs to prepare its own Strategic Plan and for this we need willing helpers, so if you are interested in becoming part of our team please email our clerk and volunteer – you will be most welcome to assist the Company with this challenging endeavour.

### POLLINATING LONDON TOGETHER

PLT is a Pan livery initiative set up to halt the decline of pollinators in the City of London and its environs.

Set up in 2019 the group organises a comprehensive annual programme of events bringing together PLT members, schools, community groups and the public.

Our Past Tax Mistress, Dame Fiona Woolf, is a patron, as is the present Lord Mayor, and the committee boasts a number of specialists, the chair being Wax Chandler John Burton, and vice-chair past Master Gardener Heather Barrett- Mold OBE

In August PLT held its first pollinator count, surveying a selection of public gardens in the Square Mile and there have been interesting audits of Livery Company gardens. The results can be seen on their website which contains a host of fascinating information.

Their next event is a visit to the Natural history Museum garden on 1st October and further events will be broadcast on the website very soon. [www.pollinatinglondontogther.com](http://www.pollinatinglondontogther.com)

**By Past Master Sue Christensen**

## THE COMPANY TEAM

The Company employs a Clerk and an Administration and Events Officer, both of whom work remotely on a part-time basis (ordinarily Tuesday to Thursday, each week).

### The Clerk

Robert Lowth has been Clerk to the Company since 2023.

After a career in the British Army, and a second career in management consultancy, Robert has retired to Wiltshire from where he clerks for the Company and consults periodically.

The Clerk answers the mail and arranges the Company's major events. He supports the elected leadership of the Company (Master, Wardens, and Court) and those who manage it (Committee Chairs etc). The Clerk is neither a member of the Company, nor a member of any Committee, but he enables those institutions to function. While he may not always have answers, he generally knows who does.

Robert has various degrees in law, international relations, business administration, and defence and security – but none in tax. He is married to Catherine (formerly Coopers & Lybrand, now Dstl); they have three children.



### Administration and Events Officer

Carolyn Finch was appointed Administration and Events Officer in 2023, having assisted the Company with events since 2022.

Carolyn began her career in the Police force as a Police Cadet, undertaking a Business/Secretarial Diploma whilst awaiting recruitment. Her second career led her into the world of Accountancy in a managerial capacity and now, in semi-retirement, she is enjoying her current role with WCTA.

The Administration and Events Officer works alongside the Clerk in administering the Company, as well as supporting those on the Social Committee organizing social events, and working with the Membership Committee on admissions and advancements. Carolyn manages the Company's membership database, knows who all the members are, and many of you will have spoken to her!

Carolyn has always had a passion for gaining and sharing knowledge with the aim of supporting others. She has two daughters and four grandchildren and works from home in Essex.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



2024	Event & Location	Type
Monday 23 September	Installation Court meeting at Merchant Taylors' Hall, Church Service St Michael's Cornhill, Dinner at Merchant Taylors' Hall	WCTA
Sunday 29 September	The Woolmen's Livery Sheep Drive and Livery Fair	Inter-Livery
Monday 30 September	Common Hall Election of Lord Mayor, Lunch at Founders' Hall	City
Wednesday 2 October	Musician's Company Evensong, St Paul's Cathedral	Inter-Livery
Friday 4 October	Middle Temple Tour and Lunch	WCTA
Thursday 10 October	Inter Livery Golf, Tandridge	Inter-Livery
Thursday 17 October	Lord Mayor's 'Knowledge Miles' Lecture: Land Value Tax	City
Monday 21 October	Lunch at Ironmongers' Hall	WCTA
Tuesday 29 October	History of Tax Lecture, Information Technologists' Hall & Online	WCTA
Monday 4 November	Garden of Remembrance Service, St Paul's Cathedral	Inter-Livery
Wednesday 6 November	Autumn Committees Day, Information Technologists' Hall and Committees' Supper	WCTA
Wednesday 6 November	City Briefing, Guildhall	Inter-Livery
Friday 8 November	Admission of Lord Mayor (Silent Ceremony), Guildhall	City
Saturday 9 November	Lord Mayor's Show	City
Wednesday 20 November	St Cecilia Festival, St Paul's Cathedral, Lunch at Stationers' Hall	City
Wednesday 27 November	The Clink, Three course lunch at Brixton Prison	WCTA
Tuesday 17 December	Court Meeting at Information Technologists' Hall, Carol Service at St Bartholomew the Great, and Supper at Butchers' Hall	WCTA

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2025	Event & Location	Type
Wednesday 12 February	Winter Committees Day, Information Technologists' Hall	WCTA
TBC February	Bank of England Tour	WCTA
TBC February	Young Livery, Inter Livery Quiz	Inter-Livery
Monday 10 February	City Briefing, Guildhall	Inter-Livery
Tuesday 18 February	History of Tax Lecture, Information Technologists' Hall	WCTA
Thursday 27 February	Tacitus Lecture, Guildhall	City
Monday 3 March	Inter-Livery Bridge	Inter-Livery
Tuesday 4 March	Pancake Races, Guildhall Yard, Lunch Guildhall Undercroft	Inter-Livery
Thursday 13 March	Court Meeting and Budget Banquet, Mercers' Hall	WCTA
Friday 28 March	United Guilds Service, St Paul's Cathedral, Lunch at Plaisters' Hall	Inter-Livery
TBC March	Post Office Museum	WCTA
Wednesday 2 April	Treloar's Gala Dinner, Mansion House	City
Thursday 10 April	Big Curry Lunch, Guildhall	Inter-Livery
TBC March/April	Spring Social Lunch, Watermans' Hall	
TBC April	Virtual Walk	WCTA
Wednesday 23 April	Spring Committees Day, Information Technologists' Hall	WCTA
Wednesday 14 & Thursday 15 May	Inter Livery Clay Shooting, West London Shooting School	Inter-Livery
Thursday 15 May	City Briefing, Guildhall	Inter-Livery
Friday 16 May	Inert-Livery Regatta, Cowes	Inter-Livery
Saturday 14 June	Inter Livery Croquet, Sussex County Croquet Club	Inter-Livery
Wednesday 11 June	Election Court Meeting, Civic and Charities Lunch at Tallow Chandlers' Hall	WCTA
Tuesday 24 June	Common Hall: Election of Sheriffs, Lunch TBC	City
Tuesday 9 July	Summer Committees Day, Information Technologists' Hall	WCTA
Tuesday 9 July	Court Dinner, Coopers' Hall	WCTA
Thursday 11 September	City Briefing, Guildhall	Inter-Livery
Tuesday 23 September	Installation Court Meeting at Ironmongers' Hall, Church Service at St Bartholomew the Great, Dinner at Ironmongers' Hall	WCTA