

February Lunch

The demise of our regular lunch venue, Just St James, has caused a few problems because whilst there are plenty of restaurants, there are very few that have the space and light that made Just St James such a splendid venue. I am grateful to all of you that e-mailed with suggestions and Jasper and I are gradually looking at all of them.

As a short-term solution Jasper kindly hosted February's lunch at the Cavalry and Guards Club on Piccadilly.

We were very pleased to welcome back Richard Peck, Secretary of the Royal Warrant Holders Association and he was able to update the three warrant holders in attendance of current goings on. The Association is in vibrant form with the usual plethora of events along with early preparations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and of course the Royal wedding.



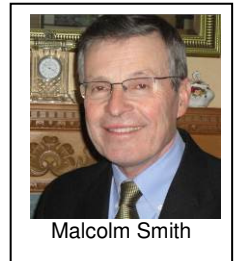
Patrick Baty

Patrick Baty is a renowned expert on paint analysis and conservation as well as the third warrant holder. I have been looking forward to meeting him for a long time as his name often crops up when I am discussing heritage projects. He was also a member of the Cavalry and Guards club so he felt very at home.

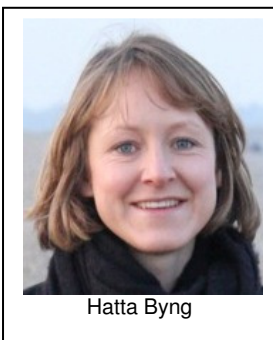
Tim Boyd of Michaelis Boyd is another returning guest who gamely sorted out a tie to meet the club's rules. It was illuminating to hear about his infamous relatives but unfortunately I don't think it appropriate to go into any detail here.

Prior to lunch I had met up with Monique Tollgard to discuss a new project in Trevor Square and then we had a leisurely stroll to lunch. Monique is married to Staffan Tollgard with whom she runs an ever-growing design practice. If you are looking for a truly cosmopolitan interior design service, you need look no further than this Swedish/South African partnership with offices in London and Portugal.

Malcolm Smith was introduced to us by that great sage of the construction world Derek Edine, who was so effusive about the quality of Malcolm's building work that we just had to invite him to lunch. In fact Monique was sufficiently impressed to visit a project after lunch and reported back similar views to Derek.



Malcolm Smith



Hatta Byng

Hatta Byng is the Senior Features Editor for House and Garden who seems to have found herself in magazines by accident having started out as an interior designer and whilst working in South Africa started working on a freelance basis for the magazine. On return to London she was convinced to take up a role full time and she hasn't looked back since.

Look out for June's edition when you will find my happy face smiling at you from an article about the country's leading furniture designers.

As is the norm I forgot yet again to take any photographs such was my interest in the conversations, however some of our guests have kindly sent me some pictures.

That only requires me to round-off by saying that perhaps next month we will have found a new home for our regular industry get-together.