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Front cover picture courtesy of Mynas UK.

Platform



Robin Wilson, chairman of the Worshipful Company of Paviers' Charity Committee.

It might be a truism that excellence in the execution of work is something to be encouraged, but it is one that has not had particular relevance to the craft of paving in recent times. Tremendous improvements have been made in surfacing during this last decade of the twentieth century but there has been little formal recognition – and thereby encouragement – of those individuals who have taken paving forward.

This, I am pleased to tell you, is to change. The Worshipful Company of Paviers, one of the ancient Livery Companies of the City of London, is to award next year the first Paviers Medal for excellence in the “craft of paving”. The award will be for innovation or a life time contribution; and will become an annual event.

Our intention is to recognise excellence in the research, planning, design, construction, management and maintenance of all paved surfaces; be these floors, pedestrian areas, playing surfaces, hardstandings, landscaping, footways, urban streets, roads, motorways and runways.

Strong contenders are expected to be nominated from the asphalt industry. We are well aware of the advances that have been made in bitumen technology and in asphalt design generally, with the industry increasingly being able to provide bespoke mixes to suit local needs and local resources, in terms of available aggregates, for instance.

Considerable progress is being made in reducing environmental impact, by making most efficient use of materials and recycling. Safer road surfaces, quieter roads, roads that can be maintained with the least disruption to traffic flows and materials that are durable and long lasting are becoming increasingly available, to the extent that the general public is becoming aware and actually asking for such benefits.

We are not just thinking about asphalt, of course, and will welcome nominations from all sectors of the paving industry, including concrete, stone and brick. Nominations close on 31 March 2000 and the winner will be announced in July and presented with the award at a Livery dinner to be held at the Mansion House in London on 21 September 2000.

The award winner will also receive a certificate and will be invited to become a Freeman of the Company.

The Worshipful Company of Paviers is one of the chartered City Livery Companies originating from the craft guilds. It ranks as number 56 in a list of 100 companies ranging from the Goldsmiths to the Information Technologists. The Company was established in 1479. Its members were responsible for the maintenance of all pavements and carriageways in the City of London and for the setting of standards of workmanship and training of apprentices.

The Paviers Company had become virtually moribund by the mid-nineteenth century, but it was revived and it now has educational and charitable objectives. We support a number of charities based in the City or connected to the construction industry; and also provide scholarships, research bursaries at Nottingham and Birmingham Universities and awards for achievement in the Institute of Asphalt Technology examinations.

Robin Wilson, chairman of the Worshipful Company of Paviers' Charity Committee.

Nomination forms for the Paviers Medal can be obtained from John White, Clerk to the Worshipful Company of Paviers, 3 Ridgmount Gardens, Enfield EN2 8QL.