The Brunswick Club

A TYLER AND BRICKLAYER'S LEGACY

Born from an extraordinary act of hope during the Second World War, the Brunswick Club for Young People has become one of the Worshipful Company of Tylers and Bricklayers' longstanding charitable partnerships.

The Club's story began at Oflag 79, a prisoner-of-war camp near Brunswick, Germany. In 1945, Major Percy Flood proposed establishing a boys' club in London to give young people opportunities for friendship, recreation and personal development. His fellow prisoners enthusiastically embraced the idea, raising pledges of £13,000 before their liberation.

Among those involved was Captain Philip 'Pip' Gardner VC MC, whose courage during the North African campaign had earned him both the Victoria Cross and Military Cross. Despite his experiences as a prisoner of war, Gardner devoted much of his subsequent life to helping young people.

The original Brunswick Boys Club building was completed in Fulham in 1948 and officially opened by the Duke of Edinburgh in July 1949. Gardner remained closely involved for more than 40 years, serving as a trustee and president.



PAST MASTERS TOM RIDER, LESLEY DAY, ROGER WESTBROOK CMG AND NICK CARTER VISITING THE BRUNSWICK CLUB.



PHILIP 'PIP' GARDNER VC MC, WHOSE WARTIME COURAGE AND DEDICATION TO YOUNG PEOPLE HELPED ESTABLISH THE BRUNSWICK CLUB.



WARTIME MEMORIES: GARDNER AND FELLOW PRISONERS OF WAR, WHOSE SHARED VISION HELPED INSPIRE THE CLUB.

A REMARKABLE LIVERYMAN

In 1958, Gardner became a member of the Worshipful Company of Tylers and Bricklayers, establishing a personal connection between the Company and the Club. The Company's Charitable Trust has continued that association through longstanding financial support.

During a recent visit, Past Masters Tom Rider, Lesley Day and Roger Westbrook CMG, Trustees of the Charitable Trust, accompanied by Past Master Nick Carter, saw how the Club continues to benefit successive generations of young people.

The Club's museum preserves fascinating reminders of its origins, including wartime photographs, a painting created in captivity in 1944, Gardner's Victoria Cross citation and replica medals donated in 2004 through the involvement of the late Past Master William Fuller.

SUPPORTING THE NEXT GENERATION

Today, around 1,300 young people engage with the Club annually, with approximately 300 attending weekly sessions. Football remains particularly popular, alongside other activities designed to build confidence, skills and friendships. Many volunteers are former members who have returned to help the next generation.

As the Brunswick Club approaches its 80th anniversary, the Company's continuing support honours the legacy of an exceptional Liveryman whose courage in war was matched by his commitment to opportunity and service in civilian life.

What began as a promise among prisoners of war continues to make a difference to young lives today.

Martin Reading

Liveryman



THE ORIGINAL BRUNSWICK BOYS CLUB IN FULHAM.

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