



Wyre Drawer

NEWSLETTER OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF GOLD AND SILVER WYRE DRAWERS



Master with Miss Anne Gretton and the Honorary Chaplain, The Very Reverend Dr. Richard Fenwick, Dean of Monmouth.

From the Master

I am nearly three quarters of the way through my year as your Master and my consort, Anne Gretton, and I have thoroughly enjoyed representing the Company. It has been extremely rewarding and touching to see how and where the Livery's charity donations are spent.

When Honorary Liveryman, HRH The Duchess of Gloucester, attended the Charity Soiree at Westminster Abbey (see page 6). I presented her, as Patron, a donation for my Charity – St Peter's Trust for kidney, bladder and prostate research, as well as donations for two charities of which the Duchess is also Patron – Asthma UK and the Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus.

Anne and I have visited the City of London Freeman's School in Ashted, and King Edward's School, Witley where we met our Bursary Student, Tim Copeman, and his grandmother, the daughter of a former Master and Sheriff.

I presented a prize at the Royal Ballet School, after attending a superb end of term performance at the Royal Opera House (see page 7). I also attended the Guildhall School of Music and Drama's performance of the musical 'Oh! What a Lovely War' and the Gold

Medal Competition finals. The Livery contributes to these important encouragements of the arts.

One of the many recipients of our charitable donations was St John Ambulance where the Livery donated the cost of equipment for their first aid training in schools. Anne and I went to see this equipment at the Langdon School in East Ham and attended the students' graduations and demonstrations.

I have now attended over 70 events – church services, luncheons and dinners and took part in the Queen's 80th Birthday Procession (see page 3). Anne Gretton and Robin House were made Freeman of the City of London and I was delighted to attend their respective ceremonies.

I am most grateful for the support of the Wardens, Past Masters and members of the Court of Assistants. Anne and I are indebted to Robin House, our Clerk, for his conscientious guidance and tactful hand on the occasional rugged path.

'The Great Source of pleasure is Variety' and I look forward to that pleasure for the remainder of my year.

Stuart Holmes, Master 2006-7

A Magical Evening

Magic and mystery were the theme on a chilly February evening in London enjoyed by 40 Liverymen and their guests. The evening began with a warming early dinner before the party moved on to the Magic Circle's headquarters to be entertained and amazed.

The entertainment began with 'close-up' magic, where we tried to work out how a series of tricks, mainly with cards, were done. Needless to say, despite being close to the action, it remained a total mystery.



After an informative presentation on the history of magic by the President of the Magic Circle, we looked around the Magic Museum, where we saw memorabilia and exhibits from the 100 year history of the world's most famous magic club.

Then we sat down in the theatre to watch three stage illusionists demonstrate their amazing skills. Again, the quality of the entertainers was of the highest possible order. The climax was the disappearance of five doves from a cage, to be replaced by the legendary white rabbit.

Robert Lampitt

Visit to Royal Naval Air Base Culdrose

The Master and 11 Liverymen met at Gatwick on 10 March to fly to Newquay to visit Culdrose Naval Air Base. Five more Liverymen

travelled by road. We were welcomed by Commander Nick Dunn of 814 Squadron and, after being split into two parties, were given briefings on safety and familiarisation of the Merlin helicopter. We then donned flying clothes and helmets for a half hour flight along the Cornish coast, past Penzance, down to the Lizard and back to Culdrose, in clear weather conditions.



After the flight we joined pilots and navigators for a buffet lunch. We then had a chance to 'fly' a helicopter in the Merlin Simulator before a talk and film on the Search and Rescue 771 Squadron, who fly the Sea King Helicopters. Our four hour visit was over too soon.

Our thanks to our Livery Liaison Officer, Tim Fitzgerald-O'Connor, for the arrangements, and Commander Nick Dunn for allowing us to visit his base. It was an amazing and informative day, with behind the scenes insights into the running of a Royal Naval airbase.

John Walsham

Church Service and Dinner

After the April Court Meeting, the Master, Wardens and Clerk, led by the Beadle, processed from Vintners' Hall to Saint James Garlickhythe, straight into the path of the dwindling rush hour in Upper Thames Street!

The Rector, the Reverend Dr Alan Griffin, and the Master's Chaplain, the Very Reverend Dr

Richard Fenwick, Dean of Monmouth, greeted us at the church.

The Master's Chaplain, who can be relied upon to preach a pithy and witty sermon, did not let us down this time, offering a parallel of the parable read by the Master. After the service, the procession returned to Vintners' Hall – nearly being annihilated by a lorry!

The Master and Wardens then greeted more than 120 Liverymen and their guests for Dinner. After the Loyal Toast, the Fourth Warden welcomed the guests, including Masters of the Drapers, Painters, Innholders, Tylers and Bricklayers, and Musicians. The Queen's Remembrancer, Master Robert Turner, replied amusingly on behalf of the guests, remembrancing the various ancient roles he held. The Master invited the Company and guests to sign the Queen's 80th Birthday card and warned of punishment for any saucy remarks. The evening ended with a stirrup cup.

The Master

Queen's 80th Birthday Procession



The Master, First Warden and Clerk took part in the City of London's tribute to The Queen on 21 April. This was a 500 strong procession from Paternoster Square to Buckingham Palace to deliver a giant birthday card containing signatures of thousands of liverymen, including a special page for the Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers. The procession was escorted by the City of London police and the bells of St Paul's

and Westminster Abbey rang a special birthday peal.

The procession was seen off by Past Master and former Sheriff Rodney FitzGerald. Liveryman Walter Otten and his wife also took part, with Barbara Perkins, wife of Past Master Geoffrey Perkins, and two of their grandsons, Charlie and Oliver.

It was an hour's pleasant walk in fine April weather along Fleet Street, the Strand, Trafalgar Square and the Mall to Buckingham Palace. The procession was led by two Billingsgate porters in traditional dress carrying a Birthday Banner, followed by a 100 strong band from Christ's Hospital School, the standard bearers of the Royal British Legion, Sea Cadets, the Town Cryer, Mayors of London, Masters, Wardens, Clerks and liverymen of Livery Companies, the Doggetts Coat and Badge men in their scarlet uniforms, Pearly Kings and Queens, and members of the public. At Buckingham Palace the band played the National Anthem and the entire procession and watching crowd sang Happy Birthday followed by Three Cheers. The card was delivered to the Keeper of the Privy Purse for onward transport to The Queen at Windsor.

The Clerk

House of Lords Lunch

A party of 30 liverymen, including the First and Third Wardens and the Clerk, joined the Master at a lunch in the House of Lords on 8 May. The event was kindly hosted by a distinguished liveryman of more than 50 years standing, The Rt Hon. Lord Weatherill. Members gathered in the Attlee dining room and soon were seated beneath a large portrait of this former Prime Minister. After an enjoyable lunch Lord Weatherill - inevitably known as 'Jack' to his friends since his twin sister was named Jill - spoke amusingly about his long and varied career. Apprenticed at 17 into the family tailoring business (he is rumoured to carry a thimble with him to remind him of his trade

origins), he remained there until he entered Parliament in 1964 as Conservative member for Croydon NE with a shaky 500 majority. After a record tenure in the Whips' Office he became the 154th Speaker of the Commons from 1983 to 1992. When the Chamber was opened to TV cameras 'Jack' became a national figure, particularly associated with broadcasts of Prime Minister's question time.



In thanking Lord Weatherill for hosting the occasion, the Master reminded him that in 1989 he had also held office as 'Searcher of the Sanctuary' in Westminster Abbey. Amid laughter Lord Weatherill remarked that the post provided a much better living several hundred years ago when the protection the Sanctuary offered was better paid than today.

At the conclusion of proceedings a dozen fortunate members were escorted by our host on a tour of the Upper Chamber.

Bill MacConnol

Graduation Ceremony

The Master, First Warden, Clerk and RLC Liaison Officer were all invited to the Graduation Ceremony of 501 Ammunition Technical Officers' course at Marlborough Barracks on 10 May. This is the end of a year's study and practical work for students in the highest qualification obtainable in ammunition technology. Fifteen young officers graduated, including four from Canada. Their families were well in evidence for the ceremony.



Our Livery has presented a crystal decanter to the best overall academic student of this course for many years. This was presented by the Master to Captain Laura Thombs, together with his own gift of something suitable to go in the decanter.

Before the ceremony all the students gave demonstrations of the skills they had learned. These included disposing of unexploded ammunition (there are still gas shells being unearthed from the First World War), remote controlled explosions of car bombs and making safe incorrectly used weapons. There was also a display of explosives, ranging from gunpowder to modern day plastics. A little of the latter goes a long way!

After the displays and ceremony we were made most welcome by the Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. Ian Mills, and his colleagues in the Officers' Mess for a traditional army curry. This, as always, was an impressive day which underlines our good relationship with the RLC.

Robin Hope, Liaison Officer to RLC

Guildhall School Gold Medal Competition

The Master, accompanied by 16 guests and Liverymen, attended the annual competition at the Barbican Hall on 15 May for the Guildhall School of Music and Drama's outstanding instrumentalist of the year. The evening was a feast of scintillating music with two brilliant pianists, Tom Ostrovskis and Tom Poster, both playing Rachmaninov. The runner up was

Vitan Ivanov (double bass) playing a romantic Concerto no.2 in B minor by Bottesini. The winner was Anna-Liisa Bezrodny, born in Moscow in 1981, who gave a virtuoso violin performance of Shostakovich's Concerto no. 1 op. 77. All the performances were of the highest quality, including the Guildhall Symphony Orchestra conducted by Sian Edwards.

Past Master Michael Roberts

Ladies' Court Dinner

The impressive surroundings of the College Hall at Westminster School were the venue for Ladies' Court Dinner on 30 May. As we arrived at the School we admired the recently cleaned Westminster Abbey exterior restored to its former glory, its stonework gleaming in the chilly early evening sunshine. We were shown through Dean's Yard into the Jerusalem Chamber, a panelled room lined with tapestries, which dates back to the reign of Richard II and where Henry IV died. Here we enjoyed a lively champagne reception. Dinner was served in College Hall, the refectory built in 1375 and formerly used by the Abbot. We dined at long tables on benches salvaged from the Spanish Armada, whilst admiring the vaulted ceiling and royal coat of arms underneath which Elizabeth I once sat. We enjoyed a delicious meal and fine wines, and whilst we all knew port is passed to the left, few were aware that Benedictine is passed to the right!

We enjoyed the Master's welcoming speech and were delighted when his lady, Miss Anne Gretton, followed suit. Gifts to the ladies were attractive pens from the Royal Collection. A high point of the evening was a selection of songs, temporal and spiritual, sung unaccompanied by the Westminster Abbey Lay Vicars.

Our thanks to the Clerk whose hard work ensured all ran smoothly, but especially to the Master for making available this historic setting for a very special evening.

Tim Humm

Annual Reception RAF Uxbridge

Keen to ensure good weather for his Annual Reception on 6 June, the Station Commander at RAF Uxbridge, invited leaders of all faiths. The strategy obviously worked because it was a perfect sunny evening. The Master and Anne Gretton, First Warden Brian Jones, Margaret and I, enjoyed the Sunset Ceremony with the impeccable drill of The Queen's Colour Squadron and the music of the Central Band of the RAF.



During the reception, hosted by Wing Commander Stuart Lindsay, Commanding Officer, RAF Uxbridge, Wing Commander Dave Phillips, Commanding Officer, LATCC (Mil) and Squadron Leader Janet Adams (PMC), the tripartite nature of the armed forces was especially noticeable. The group entertaining the livery party included two sailors and men from other ranks, another innovation by the Station Commander. It all made for an unusual and interesting evening.

John Padley-Smith

RLC Open Day at Deepcut

Our Corps Liaison, Colonel Steve Smith, and Liveryman Major Stephen Kerr-Ruston took considerable trouble to arrange for up to 30 liverymen to attend the Open Day on 24 June as VIP guests. The aim was give Liverymen, particularly new members, a chance to experience first hand the work of the RLC, the army's largest single component.

The arena displays began with the 'Silver Stars' parachute display team landing with great precision in the arena. We were also treated to demonstrations by the Queen's Own Gurkha Logistic Regiment and the semi-finals and final of the Corps tug of war competition. We were then entertained to traditional military music by excellent marching bands and enjoyed the field gun race by 27 Regiment RLC

Our hosts, led by Lt Col Ian Mills and Major Stephen Kerr-Ruston, were a mine of information as they escorted us round the stands displaying the wide-ranging role and skills of the Corps. We then adjourned for a large strawberry cream tea in the officers' mess with our convivial hosts. It was an informative and fun day with our friends in the RLC, who looked after us so well, and we very much appreciated being able to attend.

Robin Hope, Liaison Officer to RLC

Trinity House Court Luncheon

Our Clerk, Commander Robin House, who is a Younger Brother of Trinity House, arranged for the July Court Meeting and Luncheon to be held in this historic venue. This elegant building, built in 1796, is set in a tranquil City location overlooking Trinity Square and the Tower of London.

It was a very hot day! The Court meeting, perhaps because of the heat, ended in good time. The Wardens and I received the guests at the top of the magnificent flight of stairs. The Chaplain gave one of his amazing Graces before an excellent luncheon was served. Past Master Ken Blundell gave an entertaining speech during which he welcomed the many distinguished guests. Sir Roy Strong, the historian and gardener, was my guest speaker. He replied on behalf of the guests with a witty and pithy speech. After I said a few words in appreciation, the guests adjourned for a stirrup cup. It was the most memorable occasion.

The Master

Charity Evening at Westminster Abbey

On a beautiful July evening the Master, Wardens and 170 Liverymen and guests arrived at Westminster Abbey for a very special experience. They first attended sung evensong in the Abbey, enjoying the magnificent music and the choir's voices rising to the ancient vaulted roof. This was followed by time to contemplate the glories of the Abbey without tourists and see the copes of several past Deans, incorporating gold and silver wire.



Miss Anne Gretton is presented to HRH The Duchess of Gloucester.

The party then moved into College Garden, England's oldest garden, for a champagne reception and supper, entertained by a superb jazz band, a musician and models showing the latest jewellery. The evening was graced by our Honorary Liveryman, HRH The Duchess of Gloucester, who presented Miss Lucy Reed, with the prize for the best worker in gold and silver wire at the Royal School of Needlework, of which the Duchess is Patron.



She received a cheque from the Master for St Peter's Trust and for two other charities of which she is Patron. The evening ended with a magnificent supper and the setting sun

illuminating the Abbey and Victoria Tower. This truly memorable evening raised over £6,900 for charity.

Past Master Michael Roberts

Royal Ballet Visit

The Royal Ballet School's end of year performance at Covent Garden on 16 July was attended by the Master accompanied by Anne Gretton, three Senior Wardens, the Clerk and four Court members with their partners. This performance gives students a chance to show their family, friends and supporters how much they have achieved during the year. Ballet is an art form that requires much discipline and dedication and these achievements do not come easily.

The performance opened with the lower school dancing 'Step by Step' to music by Franz Liszt. The ballet was created for the School by former pupil Vanessa Fenton, who is now First Artist with the The Royal Ballet Company. The upper school then danced 'Birthday Offering', a challenging piece originally choreographed by Sir Frederick Ashton and set to a musical score by Alexander Glazunov. Both pieces were beautifully performed.



Daniel Mulligan, who received the Company's award, with the Master

The second half opened with an exciting and energetic modern ballet piece, 'Jabula', an African word meaning joy. Senior students made it a memorable presentation taking several curtain calls amid rapturous applause from the packed house. The final offering was "Serenade", a flowing piece originally choreographed by George Balanchine and

danced with great subtlety by senior students to music by Tchaikovsky. Finally, the Grand Defile brought the whole School on stage together for well deserved acclaim.

After the performance the School invited the Master to present the Company's award during the leavers' ceremony in Floral Street. The award went to Daniel Mulligan, a promising 18-year-old student approaching his final year. We look forward to seeing Daniel again next year when he graduates from the School.

Bill MacConnol

Golfing Society

Any Liveryman who would like to join the Society should contact the Secretary: Geoffrey B. Perkins Tel 01737 553565 or email: gbperkins@nascr

Lodge of Love and Friendship No. 6123

The Lodge is open to male members of the Company. Those already entitled to join or wishing to become Freemasons should contact the Secretary, Brian Jones. Tel: 020 8954 5604

Obituaries

The Company regrets to inform Liverymen of the deaths of **Cyril Daniell** (clothed 1965), **William Gell** (clothed 1945), Geoffrey Curtis (clothed 1947) and **Lawrence Lewis** (clothed 1966).

Geoffrey Bernard Brunning, who died on 30 August aged 70, became a member of the Livery in April 1964. He was introduced by Sir James Greenwood whom he had met through business. After joining the Court of Assistants he became the Liaison Officer for the Royal School of Needlework before becoming Master in 1995. During his time as a Past Master he chaired the finance committee, putting his investment expertise to good use for the Company. He became a Past Master Emeritus when failing health meant that he could no longer be active within the Court. He is survived by his wife, Gillian, and four children.

Clerk's Corner



We now have 180 Liverymen with email addresses. As this number continues to increase it becomes even more important to keep me up to date with changes. The majority of communication about events and other administration is being conducted by email and therefore Liverymen may not receive details of events if their new email address has not been notified. E-mail the Clerk on: clerk@gswd.co.uk

The Company's website is updated regularly and has the latest information about forthcoming events and other Livery matters. We welcome comments and suggestions and when you visit the site please remember to sign the guest book! www.gswd.org.uk

Report to Livery 2005

Past Master James Walker's Report to the Livery is available and has been posted on the website.

Forthcoming Events

For up-to-date details please log onto our website: www.gswd.co.uk

October

25 Tour 11Gp Operations Room, RAF Uxbridge

November

11 Lord Mayor's Show
21 Banquet Mansion House

December

5 Carol Service at St Sepulchre-without-Newgate and Supper

2007

January

8 Installation Lunch

March

8 Visit to Cabinet War Rooms

April

2 Master's Dinner

May

22 Ladies Court Dinner

June

25 Election of Sheriffs

July

2 Livery Luncheon

October

1 Livery Dinner

Quarterage

A number of quarterage dues remain outstanding from February 2005. In many cases the banks have failed to act on your instructions and in some cases have paid both the old and the new quarterage! It is well worth checking up yourself and if you have access to internet banking, this is a much more satisfactory way of managing your standing orders.

New Liverymen

October 2005	Michael Randall MBE
April 2006	Nicholas Moore
	David Boston
	Frederick Trowman
July 2006	John Vesey
	Nicholas Sillitoe

Congratulations

To Past Master Emeritus Philip Cresswell on the 70th anniversary of his clothing, to Past Master and former Sheriff Rodney FitzGerald on the 60th anniversary of his clothing and to Past Master Emeritus Ralph Hedderwick on his 90th birthday.

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MASTER 2006-7

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