



THE WYRE DRAWER

EDITION 24

SPRING 2013



The Master and his Lady

EVENTS DIARY

17 May

*Visit and Dinner
HMS VICTORY*

1 July

*Court and Dinner,
Skinners' Hall*

3 September

Visit Bletchley Park

7 October

*Court and Dinner
HQS WELLINGTON*

29 November

*Banquet, Mansion
House*

MASTER'S MESSAGE

When Past Master Roy Rutter proposed me to become a Liveryman of the Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers in 1990, little did I know that I would become the Master 23 years later. It is a huge honour to be Master of any Livery Company and it is a great privilege to be your Master in 2013. Educated by the Jesuits at Beaumont College, I spent my early career in journalism and then embarked on a career at Lloyds of London as a reinsurance broker, where I am still a director of a Lloyds broker specialising in international reinsurance. I am married to Anda and our three sons all work in the City and are liverymen of the Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers.

One of the most rewarding and pleasurable jobs I have had while an Assistant on the Court was to be the Liaison Officer for the Royal Naval affiliations. I value very highly our Service connections and have a theme for my year which is "The Military and Music". All our events this year are centred around this theme and, more importantly, my two chosen charities will benefit serving or ex-service men and women who have been injured physically or mentally by war. It is particularly relevant that, with our original trade in the making of gold lace for uniforms and badges of rank, we should be supporting these people. I hope to encourage more Liverymen to give increasing donations to our Charitable Trust as well as persuade you to introduce a growing number of younger new Liverymen.

I very much look forward to meeting as many of you as possible during the year.

Timothy L Fitzgerald-O'Connor
Master 2013/2014

Immediate Past Master's Review

How fortunate I have been to have had the privilege of being the 283rd Master of this wonderful company in such an auspicious year as 2012. The memories are so vivid, and far too many to list, so just a few of them.

The Queen's River Jubilee, despite the atrocious weather, was simply a magical day, as we huddled together under a soaked awning, but with a magnificent view by the side of the river. The Westminster lunch, where all the Livery Companies entertained the Royal family, and we were able to include our sponsored students at the lunch table, was another incredible experience. Dining with the Commanding Officer of one of the United Kingdom's nuclear submarines up in Faslane and then touring the boat, and similar breathtaking experiences with both the Royal Air Force and the Army, can never be forgotten.

It was almost over before I could draw breath, with the Banquet at the Mansion House, attended by more than 250 people, as the most fitting of finales. What an honour it has been, and how proud I am to have represented our fine Company over the past 12 months.

Rodney Brody JP, Immediate Past Master

The Banquet



The Master presents a cheque to Sheriff Geoffrey Evans.

On 27 November Mansion House once again provided a glittering backdrop and atmosphere for our Company, Ladies and many guests. Amongst those attending were Mr Alderman and Sheriff Geoffrey Evans and Hon. Mrs Juliet Evans, Mr Michael Marks (the Master's brother-in-law and Guest of Honour) and Mrs Rosemary Marks, Sheriff Nigel Pullman and Mrs Elizabeth Truesdale, Colonel Billy King-Harman – City Marshal (Duty Esquire) – and from the Royal School of Needlework, Dr Susan Kay-Williams.

Our Military affiliations were strongly represented by Senior Officers from HMS VICTORIOUS, The Royal Logistic Corps, 101 Squadron RAF and the Queen's Colour Squadron RAF.

During the evening, the Master presented a cheque to Sheriff Geoffrey Evans (representing the Lord Mayor) for the Lord Mayor's Charity (theme – The City in Society).

Visit to the Tower of London

It is the 15th Century, the Hundred Years War still rages in France, Henry VI is on the throne of England and instability reigns, but in the City of London men are drawing gold and silver wire.

A sense of history was therefore felt by the Master and a party of Liverymen and guests who gathered on 12th November 2012 outside the Tower of London, the great royal fortress beside the Thames.

Liveryman David Williams greeted us, and we were treated to a tour of the White Tower containing the Crown Jewels, in particular the Imperial State Crown, and the Armoury, which included Henry VIII's armour both as a boy and as an overweight adult. A strong historic atmosphere pervaded the Chapel Crypt where some of those beheaded outside are buried, and Tower Green – also the site of many executions, including 3 English Queens!

Supper followed at the nearby Brasserie Blanc, returning to the Tower for drinks at the Yeoman Warders Club, as guests of Yeoman Warder Colin Smith MBE, BEM.

The 700 year old Ceremony of the Keys ended the evening.

Very many thanks to Brian Turner for his excellent organisation for the day.

Jeremy Ray

Carol Service

The year ended appropriately with our Carol Service on 4 December at St James Garlickhythe, in conjunction with the Worshipful Company of Needle-makers. A packed congregation enjoyed a traditional service of readings and carols, with the excellent choir and organist making it a truly Christmas occasion. The address was given by the Honorary Chaplain to the Needle-makers, the Bishop of Southwark, and our own Honorary Chaplain, Gordon Warren, led the Prayers. The generosity of members of both Livery Companies ensured that a large number of presents were donated under the Christmas tree, to be distributed to needy children.

After the Service, Liverymen and their guests made their way to the Walbrook Club, where the Master hosted an excellent dinner in the festively decorated dining room – and our thanks go to Rodney Brody for the use of his Club. The Master's consort, Jane Dobson, spoke about the warm welcome she had received from the Livery during the Master's year in office, and the whole evening provided a perfect start to the Christmas season.

Nick Sillitoe

Court, Common Hall and Installation Lunch

This, the annual Common Hall, took place on 14 January in Skinners' Hall, when Timothy Fitzgerald O'Connor was installed as Master in succession to Rodney Brody.

The Master installed his Wardens including the new Fourth Warden, Paul Constantinidi. Earlier at



The New Master is Installed.



The Master congratulates Paul Constantinidi.

the Court Meeting five new Liverymen (Christopher Sandford, Andrew White, James Cook, Vivienne Havel and the Reverend Peter Andrews) were clothed.

Richard Sheehan, an Insurance underwriter with Lloyds for some 28 years, was our Guest Speaker at the Installation lunch.



Our 5 new Liverymen.



The Master and the Speaker, Richard Sheehan.

Bel Canto



The Master and Clerk in very good Company!

On 22 February and in keeping with one of the Master's themes for the year, Music, he and a cohort of liverymen and their wives and friends descended on the Bel Canto Opera Restaurant, which is embedded in the Corus Hotel close to Lancaster Gate; as the name implies, this is no ordinary restaurant. All the staff are nearly or fully trained opera singers between or expecting employment, who combine the business of waiting on table with regular arias sung to an extraordinarily high standard.

It was a most inspiring and cheerful evening for all, with an excellent dinner delivered without a 'quaver'. Rearranging an old expression, you could say that "they sang for our supper"!

Our Beadle, John Hollingsworth

Born in Yorkshire, educated in Germany and having lived in various parts of the UK, John is much travelled. On settling back near London he became a member of the Special Branch at Scotland Yard and when he retired from that was persuaded to take up the role of Toastmaster. This proved successful so he then added being a Beadle to his repertoire, starting with the Coachmakers and now finishing up with us, the Tin Plate Workers and the Guild of Freeman.

The role is much more than the average liveryman sees. The Beadle has to take the gowns to every event attended by the Master and Wardens and has to make sure that everything is ready for each Court Meeting and Court Lunch or Dinner. You will all recall that it is he who clothes you in the Livery when you

join. He performs a very important function which most people do not notice.

John is one of the best Toastmasters on the circuit and we are very lucky to have him.

John Edgcumbe



John Hollingsworth, flanked by the Master, Wardens and Clerks, takes charge with customary flair prior to events on 9th April below!

Court, Church Service and Master's Dinner

April 9th saw the Court Meeting and Master's Dinner at Skinner's Hall, with the Church service conducted by our Honorary Chaplain, the Reverend Gordon Warren, at St James Garlickhythe prior to dinner.

In very many ways this was a busy and successful day. At Court, three new Liverymen were clothed: Gordon Davison, Hugo Merison and Jonathan Cavill. Then, much to the surprise and delight of the Clerk, Commander Robin House, the Master announced that he is to become an Honorary Liveryman of the Company; and at the dinner, to



Our 3 new Liverymen.



The Master surprises the Clerk!



The Master and Group Captain Tim O'Brien.



Helen London receives the prize from the Master.

underpin this, the assembled Liverymen and guests stood as one to toast him.

The Principal Guest at dinner was Group Captain Tim O'Brien, Station Commander RAF Northolt, once again maintaining one of our strong military affiliations.

Finally many will recall the new award created last year (reported in Edition 22) by the Company for the innovative use of wire in jewellery. At dinner the prize, in its second year, was awarded by the Master to Helen London for her design and manufacture of an exquisite necklace, which she wore for the occasion.



The winning design.

The Golfing Society

The glories of golf on a beautiful Summer's day – well of course, it is not always like that! However every year the Livery Company's Golfing Society enjoys many such days in relaxed company on some of the best courses in the Home Counties. The Society embraces members of all handicaps, amongst them a number of 24 handicappers, of which I am one! There is no great hierarchy and in 2013 there will be prizes for all groups including 20+ handicappers and indeed those with no official handicap – simply all who want to enjoy a day's golf on a glorious course they do not often have a chance to play, for instance the beautiful Swinley Forest in Berkshire.

If you would like to join the growing band of members of the Society please do call or e-mail Secretary John Edgcumbe (john.edgcumbe@gmail.com). He would be delighted to hear from you irrespective of your handicap.

Jeremy Ray

Affiliations

Edgehill Dinner

The annual RLC Edgehill dinner took place on the 18th October in the magnificent setting of Warwick Castle in mid October, attended by the Master, Clerk, 3 Wardens, and 8 Liverymen.

Despite a light drizzle, we watched a display in the grounds of the castle from the Sealed Knot group of soldiers dressed from the period of the Edgehill battle of 1642, complete with firing muskets, before retiring indoors into the main hall, resplendent with wall-mounted weaponry and period armour. We were warmly welcomed by the Colonel, in the presence of the Lord Lieutenant, Bishop, High Sheriff, MP and local Mayor, together with around 60 RLC officers from Kineton.

After an excellent dinner, we heard an illuminating talk on the Edgehill battle from a local historian. This event once again confirmed the excellent relationship that exists between the GSWD and the Royal Logistic Corps.

Nick Sillitoe

814 Naval Air Squadron – Royal Navy

2012 was a busy and most successful year for the “Flying Tigers”. Led by Commander Chris

Stock Royal Navy, the Squadron has continued to exploit its anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare capabilities.

Operating six Merlin helicopters throughout the year, the Squadron has been involved with some major operations and exercises, most notably as a key element of the security plan for the summer’s very successful Olympic Games. The Squadron conducted maritime force protection over Weymouth Bay, providing security for the sailing events in the area; operating from HMS BULWARK and RNAS Yeovilton with all six helicopters, the team worked tirelessly to ensure that the Games were a safe and secure spectacle for all to enjoy.

The Squadron also deployed in HMS ILLUSTRIOUS to the Mediterranean and Norway for various training exercises whilst maintaining their readiness to operate anywhere in the world at short notice; this required considerable dedication and commitment.

Currently preparing for a new phase of operations in the Middle-East, Squadron personnel maintain their enthusiasm and determination to conduct Maritime Operations as directed, whilst enjoying the opportunities the Fleet Air Arm and Naval Service have to offer.

Gordon Warren



Merlin over Weymouth Bay.

Visit to 101 Squadron at RAF Brize Norton

On a cold and blustery autumn day last year, the Master, Mistress, RAF Liaison Officer Air Commodore Paul Hughesdon and 15 Liverymen and guests enjoyed a splendid visit to No 101 Squadron, based at RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire. One of our three affiliated RAF units, the Squadron operates the VC10 aircraft and, at the time of visiting, was supporting operations in Afghanistan, the Falkland Islands and around the UK.



Liverymen and their hosts with the venerable VC10.

For an aircraft which has passed its 50th birthday that is, frankly, amazing! As usual, Wing Commander Kevin Brookes, the Squadron Commander, and his excellent team looked after us extremely well. We had the grand tour of a VC10, including a look at the internal tanks from which it pumps over fuel during air-to-air refuelling; it will be replaced by the AirTanker, an Airbus 330 variant which carries sufficient fuel for transfer without having to sacrifice passenger and freight capacity. We saw one of the heavy lift C-17 Globemasters, originally leased but now bought as part of the RAF transport capability, and a Hercules C130K – again a venerable and hardworking aircraft which has become a familiar and often very welcome sight across the world; it is due to be replaced, starting next year, by the larger and more capable A400M, again an Airbus Consortium design. Finally we visited the Air Traffic Control Tower. Over lunch we took the opportunity to chat with Squadron members and before departing met the Station Commander, Group Captain Steve Lushington. Overall an excellent and wide-ranging day. For 2013, we head to RAF Northolt and will be able to compare and contrast their operations.

Air Commodore Paul Hughesdon

Clerk's Corner

Recruiting new Liverymen

Do you have a friend or family member who might like to join the Company? We have a good number of younger members joining at present and more will be welcome. Joining fee for those under 40 is £400 and quarterage is only £200. Further details from the Clerk.

1st July Dinner

This is the one occasion this year (other than the Banquet) when spouses are welcome to attend the Livery dinner. Liverymen may of course bring as guests to any dinner or lunch their male or female colleagues and friends.

New Admissions

New Liverymen admitted recently are Rev Peter Andrews (RC Priest), Andrew White (Managing Director), Jim Cook (Police Officer), Chris Sandford (Investment Manager), Vivienne Havell (Retired), Jonathan Cavill (Lawyer), Hugo Merison (Insurance Broker) and Gordon Davison (Senior Nurse).

Charities Supported:

Hearing Help Essex; Shine (Spina Bifida Hydrocephalus)

The Sick Childrens Trust; Centrepont

Blind Veterans UK; Listening Books

Douglas Bader Foundation; National Childrens Orchestra

Regenerate; Jumbulance Trust; SSAFA Forces Help

Combat Stress; Toe in the Water; Cure Parkinsons Trust

200 Club

Liverymen have generously contributed over £8,000 during the past year as members of our 200 Club. One half of all the money raised goes to supporting the underlying aim of our Livery – that of charitable giving to help those less fortunate than ourselves. The other half is returned to the 200 Club members in the form of prizes in a quarterly draw. There are six prizes at each draw, and the results are published on our website.

We are always seeking new members of the 200 Club, so if you would like to join and help support our charitable aims, and at the same time have the opportunity to win a cash prize, please contact either myself or the Clerk. An annual payment for a ticket in the 200 Club costs £50, and this can be made either by cheque or Bankers Order.

Robert Lampitt

Deaths

The Company regrets to inform Liverymen of the deaths of Vassilis Mouratoglou and Peter Hunt.

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13th August 2014

Ref: TLC1608706

Dear Sir/Madam

Tenant Letting Check is currently processing your Tenant Assessment Application for 62 Cherville Street ROMSEY Hampshire SO51 8FB .

Your employer has requested that they see evidence of your consent/signature before they are able to release your details. Please could you fax a copy of the attached form, which consists of your signature to the following recipient:

Contact:
Company name: Boots
Fax number: N/A
Email: hr.admin@boots.co.uk

This information will enable the referee to respond to our request.

Thank you for your assistance with this reference; it is much appreciated.

Kind Regards,

Tenant Letting Check