



# THE WYRE DRAWER

EDITION 21

AUTUMN 2011



*The Master invests Liveryman The Rev Gordon Warren as his Honorary Chaplain at the July Court meeting.*

## Master's Message

My year so far has been hectic, challenging and rewarding. There have been so many memorable events.

We have had good contacts with all our service connections including visiting our new affiliation, 101 Squadron RAF at Brize Norton. We have also attended many City sponsored events and I have enjoyed visiting so many other Livery Companies, often as a privileged guest – an opportunity not normally open to me.

Highlights have included the visit to Zurich for the Guilds' Annual Festival 'Sechseläuten' as guests of the Guild of Three Kings, our first visit to the Dyers' Company's delightful Hall for the Ladies' Court Dinner, and the Livery Weekend in Stockholm. However, most inspirational was visiting the Treloar School for physically disabled children in Alton.

We look forward to our Carol Service – for the first time at our Church, St. James Garlickhithe – on 6 December, followed shortly afterwards by the Banquet at Mansion House on 9 December.

**Vernon Knapper**  
Master 2011-12

## EVENTS

### NOT TO MISS

**6 December**

*Carol Service  
St James  
Garlickhythe*

**9 December**

*Banquet at the  
Mansion House*

**2012**

**9 January**

*Installation Lunch*

**14 March**

*Dinner at Lords*

**3 June**

*Lunch, Queen's  
Jubilee River  
Pageant*

**14-18 June**

*Weekend in New  
York*

**July**

*Fundraising dinner  
dance*

**September**

*Visit to Tower of  
London*

## ***Olympic Venue Tour***

On a very cold March morning the Master, accompanied by Christina Lockyer and 50 liverymen and guests, set off from Guildhall to visit the Olympic venues and to see the regeneration taking place in the East End of London.

We were extremely fortunate to have the services of Caroline Dale, our Blue Badge Guide, whose knowledge of the Olympic venues and the history of the East End of London held our interest throughout the day. At lunchtime the party split into three groups taking it in turns to visit the viewing platform on top of Holden Point, a high rise sheltered accommodation complex. After lunch, our return journey took us back via Canary Wharf and the Isle of Dogs, giving us the view of Greenwich Palace that Canaletto made his own.

Despite the cold and the difficulties some people encountered with transport, this first event of the Master's year was a great success.

**Michael Powell**

## ***April Church Service and Court Dinner***

The annual service this year had a special character and poignancy because it was the last official occasion for Richard Fenwick as the Master's Chaplain. St James Garlickhythe has been the Company's church for 72 years and for the last 30 Richard Fenwick has officiated as Chaplain at the annual church service. He has now departed the UK on being appointed Bishop of St. Helena and Ascension Islands. The service and thoughtful sermon were apposite and very well received by the congregation.

At the Court meeting that preceded the Service, I was delighted to install Michael Powell as Fourth Warden. After the Service, a well attended Court Dinner followed in Vintners' Hall. Guests included the Prime Warden and Masters of Companies from associated trades including the Goldsmiths, Broderers and Needlemakers. The Immediate Past Master John Edgcumbe proposed the toast to the guests. The principal guest, Peter Nelson the City's Assistant Town Clerk,

gave an informative and amusing speech with some focus on the city.

The Master concluded by thanking Peter Nelson and expressing the livery's appreciation and fondness for our departing Chaplain, wishing Bon Voyage to both him and his wife Jane as they begin this new chapter in their lives.

**Vernon Knapper**  
**Master 2011-12**



*After the Service. The Master and Wardens, Clerk and Beadle with The Very Reverend Dr Richard Fenwick.*



*Michael Powell is installed as Fourth Warden at the April Court meeting.*



## Farewell Luncheon for Chaplain



*The Company held a lunch to mark the retirement of The Very Reverend Dr Richard Fenwick at Vintners' Hall on 18 April when he was presented with a cheque from contributions from Liverymen to help with the expenses of vestments for his new office, in recognition of his 30 years of service to the Company.*



*The Very Reverend Dr Richard Fenwick during his Enthronement as Bishop of St. Helena and Ascension Islands at St Paul's Cathedral, St Helena.*

## A Sechseläuten Experience

A party of eleven, including the Master and four Wardens, were invited to the 2011 Sechseläuten by the Zunftmeister of the Zunft zu den Drei Königen, the Zurich Guild with which our Company is affiliated. I arrived just before the very festive Sunday Children's Parade and was quickly befriended by a family whose traditionally dressed children were taking part. Our livery group then joined a boat trip for English liverymen from nine companies, and a supper party by the lake at Wollishofen, followed by visits to Paradeplatz and Napfgrasse.

Monday began with an invitation to meet the Zunftmeister of the Drei Königen, Pius Schmid, for which we were robed, and was followed by lunch in the Kongresshaus, the Guild's home. A feature of the day were speeches of welcome and thanks from guests, including our Master. Refreshed we proceeded to the parade, positioned behind the Guild's excellent band. The parade ended at Sechseläutenplatz for the ceremonial burning of the Böögg, a giant snowman symbolising winter and heralding the start of spring. We then marched to the Kongresshaus for dinner followed by visits to three other Guild Houses with the Drei Königen and their indefatigable band. The evening ended at the Kongresshaus with sausage and beer.

It was an excellently organised and happy occasion. A big thank you to Liveryman Walter Isler, a member of the Drei Königen, who made the arrangements, Master Pius Schmid, and the welcoming Guild members.

### Third Warden Robin Hope



*Burning the Böögg giant snowman to herald the start of spring.*

## Ladies' Court Dinner

The Ladies' Court Dinner was held at Dyers' Hall on 12 May. It was a privilege to visit this very special intimate Hall, not usually available to other Livery companies. It has a comfortable, almost family, atmosphere with a splendid Millennium Window, each panel symbolizing the Company's affiliations and commitments at the start of the third Millennium.

After a champagne reception the Beadle, Samantha Snares, announced dinner in the Hall upstairs. When the meal was over the age old tradition of the Rose Bowl was observed, everybody dipping their serviette and dabbing behind their ears, reputedly good for the digestion.

The evening was supplemented with splendid performances from our Guildhall School of Music and Drama student Barnaby Rea and his colleagues Anna, Catherine, Stuart and Patrick. Music from shows, Gilbert and Sullivan and light opera was performed beautifully, receiving a well-earned encore request.

The Master thanked the performers and proposed a toast to the Ladies, to which the Mistress responded and presented a gift to the Beadle in appreciation of her work during the evening.

**Christina Lockyer**  
Master's Lady 2011-12



*The Master and his lady at the Ladies' Dinner*

## Guildhall School Gold Medal



*Winner of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama's Gold Medal, 24 year old Welsh soprano Natalya Romaniw, acknowledges applause at the Barbican Hall. The event in May was attended by the Master and a small party of liverymen.  
Picture: Clive Totman*

## Visit to Faslane

Mid May saw the Master, Clerk and members of the Livery travel to the submarine base at Faslane. We, and the Lord Mayor of Leeds, were superbly hosted by the Officers of HMS VICTORIOUS at a formal dinner in the Faslane Wardroom.

The submarine now has two crews, Port and Starboard, which means the boat can spend less time in port and more on operational missions. Commander Richard Small is the new Commanding Officer of the Starboard Crew and Commander John Livesey of the Port Crew. They both hope to attend the Banquet in December with their wives.

The boat is now on patrol somewhere under one of the oceans in the careful hands of Cdr Small whilst the other crew catch up on a myriad of training requirements and some leave. Both Commanders see the affiliation with our Company as an important, enduring entity and are keen for them to develop further.

**Gordon Warren**



## ***Ammunition Technical Officers Course Graduation***

The Master, Clerk and the Livery's liaison officer to the RLC, Major Ken Cross, attended the graduation ceremony of the 2010 Ammunition Technical Officers Course at the Defence EOD Munitions and Search School, Kineton on 26 May. The Master spoke of the link between the Livery and the RLC, and particularly the Ammunition fraternity, before presenting the Livery's prize for the best overall student to Captain Jon Frankling. The Master remarked that the decanter was a particularly fine piece of engraved crystal but its purpose was practical rather than aesthetic, and promptly produced a bottle of fine port to fill the decanter.

The Presenting Officer, Major General Tim Cross (late RLC), presented the newly-fledged ATOs with their distinguishing badge and Captain Jon Frankling, also winner of the 'best practical student' with his prize.

It was a very good day and it is hoped that Major General Cross and Captain Frankling will be guests at a future Court Dinner.

### **Major Ken Cross**



*Captain Jon Frankling, winner of the Company's prize for overall best student, with the Master.  
Picture: Sgt Ballantyne RLC*

## ***Stockholm Weekend***



*The party on the Stockholm visit*

This year's Fellowship Weekend took place in sun-soaked Stockholm at the beginning of June, where the Master and his lady organised a full and varied programme of events for over 40 Liverymen and their partners.

The first excursion was a 'prawn cruise' on Friday evening, passing the many islands in the archipelago, and providing an opportunity to sample the local seafood. The trip included a short stop for photographs on the pretty island of Vaxholm, before returning to our delightful waterfront hotel.

Saturday morning included a guided tour of the Vasa museum, to admire the amazing Royal warship raised from the depths of the harbour after 333 years and now fully restored. After a free afternoon exploring the city, Liverymen reassembled at the quayside to take a ferry to the Master's drinks reception and dinner on a beautiful island with stunning views and a spectacular sunset. Guests enjoyed a superb typical Swedish meal before returning home on the ferry.

A visit to the Royal Armoury on Sunday morning to admire the collection of Royal coaches and historical costumes, many made of gold and silver wire, was followed by lunch in an Old Town restaurant. The whole stay was blessed with perfect weather, and everyone thanked the Master and Mistress for a most enjoyable and well-planned weekend.

**Nick Sillitoe**

## July Court Dinner

Much as last year at Haberdashers' Hall, our July Court dinner at Apothecaries' Hall benefited from a charming courtyard for the reception.

The delightful 17th century livery hall is the oldest in the City. With a particularly busy Court Meeting going to the last minute, the Master and Wardens dispensed with the receiving line and were able to spend much more time on such a lovely evening with fellow liverymen and guests before dinner.

The Grace was said by the newly installed Chaplain, fellow liveryman The Reverend Gordon Warren, who had been elected to the Court that afternoon with the Honorary Assistant Clerk, Nick Sillitoe.

Warden Tim Fitzgerald O'Connor proposed the toast to the guests. The response by the Guest of Honour, the Reverend Bill Christiansen, former Secretary General to the Mission to Seafarers, was entertaining and well received.

**Vernon Knapper**  
Master 2011-12



*Past Master Bryan Toye with Miss Eppie Evans, winner of the Company's Royal School of Needlework prize.*

## Royal Ballet School

The July end of year performance, given by students and those graduating, once again enchanted a packed Royal Opera House audience. The Master his lady, and guests experienced a challenging and sophisticated evening of high calibre dancing, dedicated to the School's founding Director, Dame Ninette de Valois. The first half re-created her demanding ballet 'Checkmate', which the students accomplished with precision and finesse. Shorter works followed, some choreographed by former students. Highlights included an

interpretation of Erik Satie's 'Gymnopédies', performed with gymnastic grace by a trio of dancers, contrasting superbly with the flamboyant exuberance of 'En Bateau' danced to Debussy's Petite Suite music.

The Grand Defile was, as always, a spectacular assembly by the entire School gathering on stage to rapturous and well deserved applause.

The Master and his lady attended the graduation ceremony the following day and presented the Company's prize to Miss Gina Scott, leaving the School to take up her first professional role with the Dresden Ballet Company.

**Bill MacConnol**



*The Master with Gina Scott, the Company's prizewinner, at the Royal Ballet School's Upper School Graduation. Picture: Brian Slater*

## Charity Concert in Hawksmoor Church

The Company's Charity Committee chose historic St Anne's Church in Limehouse for a special fundraising concert in July. Before the concert the Rector, Liveryman Gordon Warren, gave a superb talk on the history of St Anne's (designed by Wren's most gifted pupil, Nicholas Hawksmoor), the churchyard and the local area, all brought to life by local characters throughout the ages.

The orchestra for the evening, the Docklands Sinfonia, conducted by its founder, Spencer Down, is the foremost non-professional Orchestra in England and two months before had performed for The Queen in Buckingham Palace. The concert entitled 'The Passions of Youth' included Jack Beaver's *Cavalcade of*



Youth, Tchaikovsky's *Violin Concerto in D Major* with a brilliant performance by soloist Janine Thorpe, then Rimsky Korsakov's *Scherazade* with an encore of the Radio 4 UK theme including *Variations on Traditional British Songs*.

The concert was a great success and much enjoyed by the audience.

**Air Commodore Cynthia Fowler**

## ***The Haven Charity Dinner***

On 16 September Liveryman Julius Oberegger again generously hosted an annual highlight in the calendar, the charity dinner at The Haven, his impeccable North London restaurant. The evening, attended by 50 liverymen and guests, launched with a buzzing champagne and canapés reception leading smoothly into a superb dinner. After a raffle and the results of the Silent Auction the happy noise level rose as 45 years were shed, with dancing to music of the Sixties. The opening bars of a Beatles tune always dispel any hint of maturity – even a conga line formed!

Winners of the generously sponsored Holiday Lots in the Silent Auction were: Loch Tay – Liveryman Jim Wagstaff; North Norfolk – Liveryman Walter Isler; Antigua – Past Master Emeritus Michael Roberts.

The raffle, auction and Julius's generosity raised over £5700 for the Charitable Trust and Master's Charity. For such an enjoyable success we thank unreservedly Julius Oberegger and his team, and Fourth Warden Michael Powell for organising the evening.



**Mike Mullane**

*The party sets off on a conga.*

## ***Golfing Society News***

We had a pleasant but ill-attended start to the year. At the joint day with the Masons' Company at Tandridge in April I was saddened to lose out to Luke Edgcumbe on a count-back!

We progressed to Denham with only 11 attending. The Company Rosebowl was won by John Kenyon-Muir with a gross 80 and the Sir Herbert Wilkinson Cup by Cynthia Fowler with 33 points.

We next played the RLC and the Carmen at Aldershot and missed out to the home team by a few points with the Carmen coming just behind us. At all our events so far we have been blessed with fine weather.

We have a lot of golfers in the Livery but few attending. If you are interested please contact me so that we can have an enjoyable larger group.

**John Edgcumbe**  
**Golfing Society Secretary**



*The Winners on Captain's Day at Ashridge.  
L to r: Greg Wright, Alan Wright, Giles Paine,  
with John Edgcumbe, Golfing Society Secretary.*

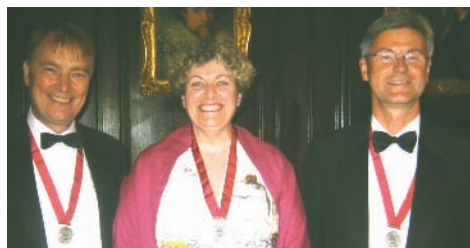
## ***Sponsored Charity Row***

The Court approved the Charity Committee's recommendation to sponsor the Charity Row for the Rivertime Boat Trust for £500 and I am happy to advise the row was completed in June. We set out in 'Tara', an 1895 double skiff, at Devizes, proceeded along the Kennet and Avon Canal, joined the Thames at Reading and finished at Henley. The distance covered was 67.5 miles plus 59 locks, of which 57 were manual. Amongst the crew were liveryman James Newcomb, Lt. Col Ian Mills and Major Simon Bratcher of 11 EOD Regiment. Everyone must be congratulated on their stoicism in consistently wet and windy conditions. The total raised is expected to be about £7500.

An incentive through the rain and wind was the Wyre Drawers' sponsorship paid in advance. With that in mind there was no possibility of failure to complete, and having to confess this to you all!

**Third Warden Robin Hope**  
[www.rivertimeboattrust.org.uk/robinhope](http://www.rivertimeboattrust.org.uk/robinhope)

## New Stewards



*Appointed at the July Court,  
left to right: Roger Carter, Anneliese  
Edgcumbe and Nigel Vaughan*

## New Liverymen



*Admitted at the July Court:  
David Williams and Jim Porter*

## Livery Website

Our website is updated regularly and always has the latest information about forthcoming events, photographs of past events and general information. There is a private area open only to our members. The password is changed periodically and notified to all Liverymen by the Clerk. You will find back issues of The Wyre Drawer and the more recent Masters' reports.

The Charity, Fund-raising and Events Committee publish details of the 200 Club winners on the site. We are now building a photographic archive not just of events but also of Past Masters and significant events from the past. This is a work in progress and is growing all the time.

When you visit the site, and we hope you will, don't forget to sign the guest book!

**Assistant David Bondy**  
[webmaster@gswd.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@gswd.co.uk)

## CLERK'S NOTES

**Bernays Fund** Please make use of this fund when you apply to bring guests to dinners, lunch or the Banquet. Guests whose origins are in former colonies (including USA) may attend free of charge. Please ask the Clerk.

**Mobile Telephones** Please note and advise your guests that it is bad form to use mobile phones for calls or text messages during a dinner or lunch.

**200 Club** The winners of the quarterly 200 Club, drawn at the last Court meeting, have received prizes of £400, £250, £150 and £100. Tickets £50 are available. Please ask the Clerk.

## NEW EDITOR

Christine Lea is retiring as Editor after 25 years of working on the Company's publications. At the last editorial meeting, the Company's warm thanks were extended to Christine for her dedicated service over such a long period. Liveryman Mike Mullane has kindly agreed to take over the role, working closely with the joint editor, Mike Gunston. We hope that you enjoy the Wyre Drawer, but do please send any ideas for articles or additional information we could include or thoughts on layout to Mike Gunston or Mike Mullane.

## Charities Supported

Army Benevolent Fund (*soldiers and families*)  
Ahoy Centre (*Deptford disadvantaged children sailing*)  
Treloar Trust Arts Week (*Severely disabled children*)  
Rivertime Boat Trust (*Recreation for disabled and disadvantaged*)  
Mudchute Park and Farm (*children's nature study centre education*)  
Otesha Project (*social and environmental change developing leadership*)  
Spitalfields City Farm (*unemployed, disadvantaged youth education*)  
The Place 2Be (*children's emotional well-being*)  
Anchor House (*hostel and life skills centre for the homeless*)  
Hackney Carriage Drivers (*Disneyland tour for terminally ill children*)  
British Red Cross (*London*)  
Cure Parkinsons Trust (*Research into Parkinsons Disease*)  
St Dunstons (*Blind and partially sighted ex Servicemen*)  
Stitches in Time (*Visual and textile arts education*)  
Docklands Sinfonia (*Youth orchestra*)

**Published by**  
**The Worshipful Company of**  
**Gold and Silver Wyre**  
**Drawers**

**9A Prince of Wales Mansions**  
**Prince of Wales Drive**  
**London SW11 4BG**

[www.gswd.co.uk](http://www.gswd.co.uk)

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**DESIGNED & PRINTED BY**  
**GB Print & Design**