



THE WYRE DRAWER

EDITION 23

AUTUMN 2012



The Queen's Barge sails down the Thames.

Jubilee Pageant

Thanks to the foresight and planning of the Events Committee, a full capacity number of Liverymen enjoyed a triumphantly successful day to celebrate the Jubilee River Pageant on Sunday 3 June 2012. Ably organised by John Walsham, Nick Sillitoe and Stuart Holmes, the Master and his Lady welcomed Liverymen and their guests who braved the rain and cold weather at the Wharf restaurant on the South Bank, with an excellent view of the Thames.

After a heartening lunch, and a toast to the Royal Family, the company watched the flotilla of 1000 boats of all shapes and sizes sail past, including the Queen's barge and the intrepid Second Warden Robin Hope rowing in a four, and then enjoyed afternoon tea with a specially commissioned trio of cakes bearing the GSWD Crest and Union Flags.

Despite the dismal weather, everyone enjoyed a wonderful spectacle and good company, finishing the day with many fond memories.

Nick Sillitoe

EVENTS

NOT TO MISS

27 November

Banquet, Mansion House

4 December

Carol Service: St James Garlickhythe, and supper

14 January

Installation Lunch - Skinners' Hall

22 February

Dining/Opera Evening

8 April

Church Service and Dinner Skinners' Hall

Master's Message on His Year So Far

How very fortunate I have been to have been elected to this prestigious position in 2012, of all years! I have been able to experience so many unique events; prime examples being the Queen's Diamond Jubilee lunch at Westminster hall, and the River Pageant, with superb views over the river.

There have been fascinating visits to view our nuclear Trident submarine, HMS VICTORIOUS, and to see the preparations necessary for Afghanistan operations at the Royal Logistics Corps' base at Didcot. How proud we should be to have such long standing relationships with the Services. We enjoyed seeing, at first hand, the skills of our students from the Royal School of Needlework and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. It was a pleasure for me to present a prize to the best student from the Royal Ballet School, and to visit 2 City of London schools as well as the St. John's Ambulance cadets. These were all inspirational visits, which more than justify our continued support for them all.

I have been particularly heartened by how much esteem there is for our company from all the many Livery Masters I have met; the result of the excellent efforts over recent years from all our Past Masters.

Thank you all for your great support throughout my year so far.

Rodney Brody JP
Master

Court Church Service and Dinner

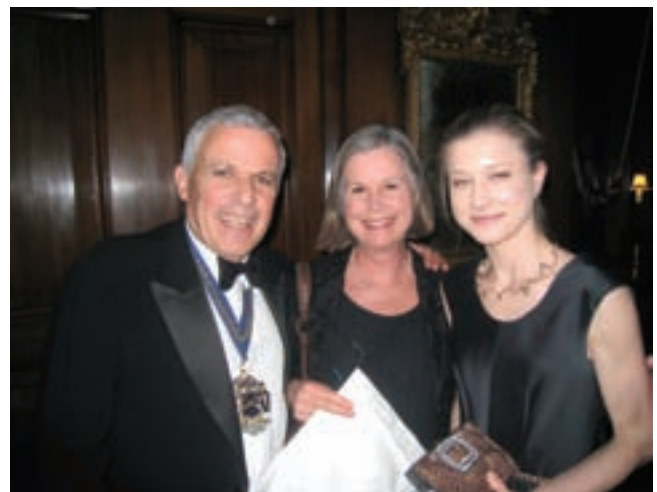
After a Court meeting on 16 April, the company attended a Church Service conducted at St James Garlickhythe by The Honorary Chaplain, the Reverend Gordon Warren before crossing to Skinners' Hall for an excellent dinner. The Guest speaker was Colin Maynard, Acting CEO of the MCC who gave an entertaining speech laced with amusing cricket anecdotes. Our other guests were the Prime Warden of the Goldsmiths and the Master Needle-maker, Broderer, Tinplate Worker and Pewterer, their

respective Clerks, Lt. Cdr Ross Spooner, Senior Pilot of 814 Squadron and Elizaveta Gnatchenko, the recent winner of our prize for a jewellery piece using gold and silver wire.

In a break with tradition the dinner was preceded by the formal clothing of new Liveryman Jean Scott-Moncrieff, herself a practising jeweller, which provided an unusual introductory touch.



Master & Reverend Gordon Warren.



Master with Jean Scott-Moncrieff after clothing, and guest Elizaveta Gnatchenko.

Court Ladies Dinner 23rd May 2012

It was a great pleasure to be present at the this Dinner and a privilege for me to meet many of the Court members and their wives or partners for the first time.

The dinner was held at the very beautiful venue of the Royal Thames Yacht Club, incidentally the oldest Yacht Club in the UK, established in 1775. It was very well attended, and the balmy evening commenced on the patio overlooking Hyde Park, with drinks and nibbles, followed upstairs by a delicious 3 course meal, a selection of rustic cheeses, coffee and chocolates.



Master and his Consort, Jane Dobson.

During the meal we were superbly entertained by the very talented and professional Sam Braysher Quartet, from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, who played a wide range of instrumental numbers, and consequently were well applauded.

The guests were also suitably impressed by the sleight of hand of Marvin the Master Magician, and with the involvement of a willing and captivated audience, we were treated to an array of conjuring tricks and illusionary feats.

Also many thanks to in-house 'Paparazzo' Ken Blundell, who has supplied an array of memorable and amusing photographs for the GSWD website.

This very enjoyable evening will be a lasting memory for me.

Jane Dobson
Master's Consort

Visit to New York

The Master's fellowship weekend was held in sunny New York in mid-June, where a party of 25 Liverymen and their partners enjoyed a wide range of activities and social events. The group assembled at our Times Square hotel for an introductory meeting on Thursday evening, but the first formal outing was on Friday morning to Ground Zero, when we were treated to a guided tour of '7 World Trade Center', which offered amazing views of the reconstruction of the area and the new towers. There was time to reflect on the events of 9/11 in the memorial gardens, before we departed for lunch at the famous Palm restaurant. That evening, some of the party saw James Corden in the Tony Award-winning play 'One Man Two Guvnors'.

Saturday daytime was free for sightseeing and shopping before we went to a local 'deli' for supper before enjoying the Cirque de Soleil show Zarkana at the world famous Radio City Music Hall. Sunday was free to browse or shop before the whole party joined up one last time to enjoy a dinner cruise around the Statue of Liberty, offering magnificent views of the Manhattan skyline.



View of the Memorial Gardens and bases of the Twin Towers.

The weekend was blessed with excellent weather, and the group thanked the Master and his consort Jane for organising a most convivial and enjoyable weekend.

Nick Sillitoe

Court Meeting and Dinner 2 July: Skinners' Hall

Unusually, but as an experiment approved by the Court, Ladies were invited to attend this Court Dinner. The idea worked well; 154 in total attended, the largest attendance at any lunches or dinners in recent memory. This may well be



Barnaby Rea & Associates.



Master and Miss Sheldrick.

taken forward on the basis of one Court dinner per year following this pattern. The evening featured, amongst other highlights, a performance by the Silk Street Singers with Mr. Barnaby Rea, our GSWD Bursary Student at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, together with 3 other students and the presentation of the Royal School of Needlework GSWD Prize to the winner, Miss Grace Sheldrick. My Principal Guest, Nigel Pullman JP, recently elected as the new Lay Sherriff, gave a most entertaining speech. Although, sadly, the weather precluded the use of the wonderful courtyards available at Skinners' Hall, this was a thoroughly enjoyable and noteworthy evening.

Rodney Brody JP
Master

Fundraising Dinner/Dance - 14 July 2012

Over 100 Liverymen and their guests attended the main charity event of the Master's year at the Royal Automobile Club, Pall Mall in July.

The evening began with a champagne reception in the Committee Room, and then everyone was ushered to the skirl of the bagpipes into the Mountbatten Room, where they enjoyed an excellent dinner.



A happy Auction winner.

After dinner, Jonty Hearnden of 'Cash in the Attic' fame conducted a lively charity auction. Thanks both to the generosity of the prize donors and the successful bidders, the auction raised over £13,000 to be divided between the

Master's chosen charity, The Mesothelioma Foundation, and the GSWD.

The stirring music provided by the talented band The Roadhouse Five ensured that the dance floor was full all night with happy revellers!

Thanks are due to all those who helped to make it such a successful evening.

Robert Lampitt

Royal Ballet Presentation

In July The Master and his guests were once again delighted to attend the end of year Royal Ballet School performance at Covent Garden. In this historic year, the RBS paid tribute to the Diamond Jubilee, and the London Olympic Games, opening with two gracefully performed pieces called 'Jubilation and Games for Gods' danced by the students of the lower school. Beautiful.

The range and versatility of the dancers was again in evidence with a steamy and contemporary interpretation created for the Queensland ballet of a piece called 'Uneven Ground'. The young male dancers displayed power and imagination, inspired by the rich vocal backing of the sultry Argentine singer Mercedes Sosa. Fabulous!

After the interval with the senior school in full swing, the students gave us 'Un Ballo' described as an exercise in musicality between male and female dancers, and 'Yondering', a toe tapping early American expression of crossing frontiers and wandering into the unknown. Tingling!



Master and Nina Tonoli.

Excerpts from 'Paquita', a jewel in the crown of the Imperial ballet, concluded the performance to rapturous applause. Before we knew it the Grand Defile was upon us; with the precision of a military tattoo all 200 students assembled on stage to a well-deserved standing ovation. Joyous!

Afterwards the Master presented our Livery prize at the Leavers Graduation ceremony. This year the winner was Miss Nina Tonoli, about to take up her first professional appointment at the Vienna State Ballet. We wish her all good fortune in her new career.

Bill MacConno

The Haven Charity Dinner

This annual and very relaxed event took place on 14 September. A full house of 50, assembled at Liveryman Julius Oberegger's delightful restaurant in north London in time to start the evening with champagne and canapés before settling down to a superb dinner. Ben Rosen provided the dinner with his relaxing music which of course led everyone onto the dance floor during and after dinner.

Although it was decided not to hold a raffle or auction this year, the evening nonetheless raised £3000, which reflects Julius' great generosity. As always, our sincere thanks go to him and his staff for this very successful evening, and also to Third Warden Michael Powell for organising it.



General jollity.

Autumn Court Dinner – Trinity House

‘Above Us The Waves’

In early October Trinity House provided the perfect venue for the Autumn Court Dinner where the impressive figure of Guest Speaker Cdr John Livesey, Commanding Officer of HMS Victorious, one of the UK’s nuclear armed and powered submarines, provided us with a unique insight into the challenges of commanding a 150 metre long leviathan operating undetected beneath the waves for gruelling 4 months long patrols.



The Master and Commander John Livesey.

Concluding the Dinner, The Master thanked Cdr Livesey for treating us to a remarkable insight into the unseen world of those responsible for Britain’s powerful undersea nuclear deterrent.

Jeremy Ray



Liveryman Brian Turner invested at the Court Meeting.

The military presence at the dinner also included Group Captain Gerry Bunn (Master Coachmaker), Group Captain Tim O’Brien, Station Cdr RAF Northolt and Squadron Leader Howard Parr, OC Queen’s Colour Squadron. We were equally delighted to welcome Chelsea Pensioner Brian Cumming.

Also attending were the Masters and Clerks of the Skinners, Hackney Carriage Drivers and Fan Makers Companies, and Captain Ian McNaught, Deputy Master of Trinity House with his Secretary Cdr Graham Hockley

Lodge of Love & Friendship

The Lodge of Love & Friendship was recently honoured by the presence of twenty Masters and Past Masters of our Sister City Livery Lodges. The Lodge’s own members and other guests brought the numbers up to seventy for this splendid evening. Those present were entertained to an amusing historical lecture on some aspects of Freemasonry after which they dined at Bakers’ Hall.

The occasion was a specially convened meeting at which the Lodge would present to the Metropolitan Grand Master of London a cheque completing a three-year long fund-raising project culminating in the donation of £10,000 towards the Metropolitan Masonic Charity’s Cyberknife Appeal. This donation entitles the Lodge, along with only thirty-seven other London Lodges, to become the recipient of The Metropolitan Grand Master’s Award for Outstanding Achievement – something of which all the members of the Lodge (who must be Liverymen in order to join) can be justifiably proud.

Liverymen wishing to become Freemasons or existing Freemason Liverymen wishing to join the Lodge are invited to contact the Secretary.

David Bondy

RLC visit: Leconfield 27 September

Colonel Paul Ash, Commandant of the Defence School of Transport, hosted the Livery visit to Leconfield on 27 September. A party of 7 of led by the Master had a fascinating time at the base. The visit started with a short briefing from Colonel Paul Ash followed by a tour of the facilities. We had a most excellent lunch in the other ranks mess, where we were joined by the Colonel. After lunch we were taken out in vehicles on to the various circuits that duplicated different conditions ranging from normal road to off-road and conditions that vehicles would encounter in Afghanistan. We had



Assembled Group: visit to DST.

to don flak jackets and helmets for this; not a pretty sight. One of the vehicles we travelled in was the Mastiff, which provides super protection for our troops, and not one of these vehicles has so far been breached by an IED. This vehicle came into service as a result of the bad publicity reported by the media on the lack of protection provided by the Snatch vehicles. After this the party was divided up into pairs and we then tried our hand on the skid pan. For my sins I was paired up with the Master, who was first to drive; it was not a comfortable experience and I was petrified! The visit ended with a black tie dinner in the officer's mess. During dinner we were entertained by a band from a local army cadet unit.

Michael Powell

Golfing Society News

This has been a very active year. We played with the Masons and Farmers at Tandridge. The winner was Luke Edgcumbe with 37 and the guest winner David Horder (a Loriner) with 39. The Fletchers joined us at Denham, the winner being Cynthia Fowler with a gross 87 and Nigel Vaughan took the prize for best net of 76. We will not talk about the result between us, the Carmen and the RLC at the Army Club in Aldershot!

The Captain's Day at Ashridge was a great success with the winning team being Luke and Peter Long (another Loriner) who without a 3rd member in the team still won with a net 58. We finished the year at Swinley Forest where we enjoyed a soggy morning which led to the afternoon competition being cancelled. A long lunch was therefore enjoyed especially by Ron Smith who won the Herbert Toye Cup and the author who won the Henry Cotton Cup for combined Spring and Autumn meetings. We played in the Prince Arthur Cup and were about mid-point in the results. We also entered a team for the first time in the Ray Jeffs Cup at Hartley Wintney and came eighth. The team, Walter Isler, John Kenyon-Muir, Ron Smith and me, is shown in the accompanying photograph.

The AGM is once again being held at Jamies Wine Bar in Ludgate Hill at lunchtime on Friday 7 December. Do join us.



Ray Jeffs Cup Team.

John Edgcumbe
Golfing Society Secretary

Clerk's Corner

200 Club

The winners of the quarterly 200 Club draw have won prizes of £400, £250, £150 and £100. Tickets are £50 and are available. Please ask the Clerk for further information.

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.

Data Protection

We publish your address in the GSWD Livery List, the up to date version of which is on the website protected by the members' area (www.gswd.org.uk). The addresses of Liverymen are on the Electoral Roll for the election of the Sheriffs and Lord Mayor, partly so that notice of a second ballot can be sent out, should that be necessary. Finally there is the City of London Directory and Livery Companies Guide, containing the names and addresses of the Liverymen of all Companies, which is a commercial list and can be found in libraries. While we know of no problem with this long established routine, I can offer the Company address if anyone is concerned with this procedure.

New Admissions

One new member was admitted as a Court Assistant on 1 October. He is Mr Brian Turner, an expert in risk management in financial markets and has recently taken over as the Company's Charity Steward. New Liverymen admitted recently are Mrs Jean Scott-Moncrieff, Mr Richard Latimir, Mr Marcin Kulak, Mr Brian Marshall, Mr Neil Shannon and Mr Paul Cohen.

Charities Supported:

Paralympics • Mudchute Park and Farm • London Playing Fields Foundation • Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust • Mansion House Scholarship Scheme • City of London Festival • London's Air Ambulance • Forces Support • Kids 'N' Action • Age UK • City of London Police Widows and Orphans • City of London Choir • Impact Foundation • St Clement Danes Church • St Giles Trust • Whizz Kidz • Taxi Drivers Disneyland Tour.

Deaths

The Company regrets to inform Liverymen of the deaths of Walter Otten, George Cawood, Geoffrey Slater, Peter Blauth-Muskowski and Tony Budd.

Walter Otten – A Tribute

A most loyal and supportive Liveryman, Walter's motto in life was 'Life is for living. To be cautiously prepared is a good principle. To take advantage of opportunities is a must, to let them pass almost a sin'. He played the piano to a very high standard, and the cello, which was the love of his life; he held musical soirees at his homes in London and Liechtenstein. On Sunday 20 May 2012 Bruna Otten arranged a musical tribute at Cadogan Hall in his memory; 12 of his friends played some of his favourite music as well as playing their own personal tributes.



Walter Otten.

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