



THE WYRE DRAWER

EDITION 26

SPRING 2014



The Master and his Lady

EVENTS DIARY

12 June
River Thames Day
Leander Club

7 July
Court Dinner
Skinners' Hall

28/29 July
Sponsored Charity Row

9 September
Visit to Goldsmith's Hall

6 October
Court Dinner
Armoury House

17 October
Haven Dinner

28 November
Banquet, Mansion House

MASTER'S MESSAGE

I would like to dedicate my year to the memory of my late father-in-law Norman Harding. It was at his suggestion I had the privilege of joining this Worshipful Company in 1975 with absolutely no idea that one day it would lead to being installed as Master. I am very conscious of the honour bestowed on me, and am firmly resolved to serve you, the Livery, to the best of my ability.

The ceremony at Common Hall is a well-upheld tradition and a moving experience for the incoming Master. For me this was especially so on two counts: firstly, in succeeding my father-in-law who was Master in 1983, and secondly in following Tim Fitzgerald-O'Connor who has completed such a highly successful year. How appropriate to be robed by Tim, a fellow insurance broker and Irishman, and of course to share with him and many of you the most enjoyable lunch which followed at Skinners' Hall.

In the coming year we have arranged visits to the 'Cheapside Hoard' at the London Museum, the Bluebell Railway (steam trains), Henley Royal Regatta Course and the Leander Club, a weekend in the fair city of Dublin and a visit to the Goldsmith's Hall. It is my ideal that there will be something to suit all tastes and pockets.

The two charities selected are the Rivertime Boat Trust (www.rivertimeboattrust.org.uk) and the Osteopathic Centre for Children (www.occ.uk.com). These are small organisations personally known to me, and I am confident that they are very efficiently and effectively run. Both are involved with children and young people who are disabled or ill, giving them experiences or treatments which would otherwise be beyond their financial reach. I very much hope to see as many of you as possible over the coming year at our formal and informal functions at which we can enjoy one another's company.

Robin Hope

Master 2014/2015

Court, Common Hall and Installation Lunch

At Common Hall on 13th January, Robin J d'O Hope was installed as Master in succession to Timothy Fitzgerald-O'Connor. The new Master installed his Wardens, including the new Fourth Warden, John Walsham. Earlier at Court two new Liverymen, Marsha Reed and Timothy Eastwood, were clothed. Commodore Toby Elliott, Royal Navy, the Master's guest and former Chief Executive of Combat Stress, spoke at lunch.



Our two new Liverymen



Fourth Warden, John Walsham

"The Gilded Company" The Banquet: Mansion House

On 29th November the doors of Mansion House's Egyptian Room were flung open and to the rousing strains of Handel's 'Scipio' the Official Procession strode in, led by The Master and The Lord Mayor of London, Alderman Fiona Woolf CBE, heralding the start of Livery Company's 2013 Banquet in the hallowed surroundings of The Mansion House.

We were to be entertained with fine food, wine, music and equally fine speeches. During the evening, the Master presented The Lord Mayor with a cheque for the Lord Mayor's Appeal.

In reply, she referred to us as 'The Gilded Company'. Alderman Woolf is only the second lady Lord Mayor of London in history, and declaring the honour of being our guest so early in her tenure, she then emphasised her focus on promoting business and



The Lord Mayor at work

financial services sectors to ensure the long term value and output of the City; in that context she made clear how much Liverymen can, and do contribute to this aim, and declared her gratitude for our support both for her in her role and of course The Lord Mayor's Appeal.

Vice Admiral Sir Adrian Johns, until very recently Governor of Gibraltar, regaled us with many amusing stories and anecdotes demonstrating how the Colony would continue under British influence 'at least in God's lifetime !'

The Master commented upon the unique roll call of our military guests at the Banquet, including every rank in the Royal Navy from Vice Admiral down to Sub Lieutenant, as well as four senior ranks in both the Army and the RAF, reflecting the strong military theme of the Livery Company in 2013.

We were also delighted to have the younger generation represented by the stair guard of Sea Cadets, and St John's Ambulance cadets.

Jeremy Ray

Carol Service

The annual Carol Service took place on Tuesday 3 December at St James Garlickhythe, once again in conjunction with the Worshipful Company of Needle-makers. A full church enjoyed a service of readings and carols, and as usual the choir and organist were in great form, which gave the service a really traditional Christmas feeling. The main address was given by the Reverend Gordon Warren, our own Honorary Chaplain, and the Master and First Warden read lessons.



The Master and Chaplain

The tradition of giving presents to deserving children resulted in a large number of beautifully

wrapped gifts being placed under the Christmas tree

After the service, many of the Liverymen and their guests dined at the nearby Walbrook Club, and our thanks go once again to Past Master Rodney Brody for the use of his Club. The whole evening was a great start to the festive season, and much enjoyed by all those attending.

Nick Sillitoe

The Military Tournament, Earls Court

A party of sixty attended this event in early December and shared with the Master his love of all things military and musical. 500 personnel, 100 horses and even two camels provided a memorable and enjoyable evening.

Intense activity dominated the evening - one moment a daring display of the Royal Signals White Helmets motorcycle display team as they raced around the arena, sometimes with a pyramid of riders on board; then it was the turn of the highly skilled King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery, with the occasional soldier challenging a wayward horse to do what was intended with the large guns in tow; and the Field Gun Run as always provided the usual challenges and excitement.

The stirring music was played by the bands of Her Majesty's Royal Marines and the Central Band of the Royal Air Force and capped an action packed evening.

Michael Gunston



The Master, his Lady and King's Trooper RHA

Training Ship BARROSA

The Master, Clerk and Fourth Warden John Walsham (Cadet Liaison) visited the affiliated Sea Cadet unit TS BARROSA at Mill Hill in February to attend their annual inspection and awards evening. The Master inspected the parade, witnessed some entertaining evolutions, met the volunteer staff and supporting families and presented a cheque to help with the funding of sail training courses for the boys and girls. Our other Cadet affiliation is with a thriving St John Ambulance Cadet unit at Bexley Heath, which the previous Master visited in December 2013.

The Clerk



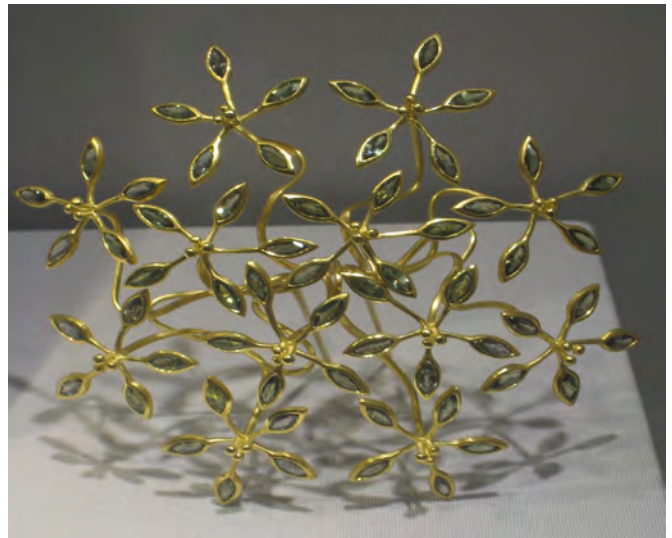
Company Jewellery Award



Andrew Lamb

For the third year running, the Company has provided funding for prizes for jewellery made from gold and silver wire. Under the aegis of the Goldsmiths Craft and Design Council, the Master attended the prize-giving ceremony in Goldsmiths'

Hall on 3rd March and presented prizes to three winners – Andrew Lamb for his 'Multi Metal Colour Ring',



Jo Thorne

Jo Thorne for her 'Large Contemporary Hairpin' and Emma Burfoot for her 'Stainless Steel Cage Ring'. Two of our own Liverymen, Liz Elvin and Jean Scott-Moncrieff were on the panel of judges and they were delighted with the exceptional quality of the entries this year and were very pleased to award prizes to these three craftsmen for their exquisite pieces using wire in innovative ways. The Company continues to explore ways to promote the use of gold and silver wire and to encourage and support young designers.

Jean Scott-Moncrieff



Emma Burfoot

The Cheapside Hoard - a Glittering Visit

We stepped back in time to Elizabethan England, and into a unique collection of the finest jewellery and gems from across the globe, all in one place for the first time. The occasion, in March, was the visit of the Livery, led by The Master, to the 'Cheapside Hoard' displayed in the Museum of London on London Wall.

An excellent private briefing on the collection by Curator, Jackie Kiely, explained the story behind the Hoard and how it was found, after being buried for so long, in an unknown cellar under Cheapside. The detailed research into the period (both Elizabethan and Jacobean) and the people who wore such remarkable jewellery, during such a tumultuous period of history, added further colour to the story.



Salamander: gold, emeralds, diamonds

The Exhibition, showing 500 pieces which incorporated diamonds, rubies, emeralds, sapphires and opals from three continents, set in gold and silver chains, brooches, rings and pendants, and a small watch set in a single hexagonal emerald crystal, was placed against a backdrop of portraits and paintings of the period. This was a story of conspicuous consumption!

The reconstruction of a jewellery workshop including a gold and silver wyre drawing bench, demonstrated the unique craftsmanship of the period, and the direct link to our own Company. Finally an excellent video, providing one possible answer to the riddle of why the hoard was never claimed, completed an extraordinary experience, rounded off by supper at the Museum Restaurant.



Scent bottle: gold and white enamel

Very many thanks to Liveryman Cynthia Fowler for her superb organisation of the event.

Jeremy Ray

Court, Church Service and Master's Dinner

The April Dinner at Skinners' Hall was preceded by the annual Church Service at St James's Garlickhythe, where a full congregation participated in a nautically themed service of hymns, the reading and a thought-provoking sermon from our own Chaplain Gordon Warren.

Once again the Company's magnificent silverware and other regalia were on display at Skinners' Hall, and our thanks go to the small group of Stewards who help display and then put away the silver at the end of the meal.

Over 100 Liverymen and their guests enjoyed the usual excellent food and wine at the Dinner, where the principal guest was Air Marshal Ian Macfadyen, Constable and Governor of Windsor

Castle, a long-standing friend of the Master and an excellent speaker.



Air Marshal Ian Macfadyen

It was good to see our Military Services affiliations present in good numbers, as well as several other Livery Masters and their Clerks. The two newly clothed Liverymen, Tom Farkas and Benjamin Budd, were introduced to the guests by Second Warden Robert Lampitt during his speech, and the evening ended with the Master kindly offering a stirrup cup to the assembled diners.

Nick Sillitoe



Thomas Farkas and Benjamin Budd

Affiliations

814 Naval Air Squadron and HMS VICTORIOUS

Commander Stuart Finn Royal Navy has now taken command of 814 Naval Air Squadron at Culdrose in Cornwall. The squadron has been totally occupied on several fronts over the past two years and has had to stretch its manning capabilities to achieve its mission successfully. They are now focused on two primary efforts – to bring the new advanced Merlin Mk. 2 helicopter into use at the end of 2014 and to continue providing Maritime Security Operations in the Middle East. Notwithstanding these two demanding tasks Cdr. Finn is very conscious that the liaison with GSWD has been theoretical over recent months and his desire is that we maintain closer links in the future. To that end he writes, "we would be delighted to host you for a visit to our squadron in Cornwall to see the aircraft and what we do."

As your liaison officer I shall pursue this generous invitation so would ask you to keep an eye open for notices from the Clerk.



Merlin Mark 2

And, on a different front, Commander James Wyper Royal Navy has now taken command of HMS VICTORIOUS. The last patrol commenced in late 2013 and lasted well into the new year. However, as I write, the boat is alongside in Faslane and the crew are taking very late but well-earned Christmas leave prior to commencing a busy few months of maintenance and training in preparation for future operations. A visit to the submarine is currently being planned and I hope to advise Liverymen shortly of the details.



*"PER COELEM AT AEQUORUM VICTRIX"
(CONQUER THROUGH SKY AND SEA)*

Of course I must mention the general caveat that invitations to visit any unit can be cancelled at very short notice due to the UK's military requirements.

Gordon Warren

"Salama": Thank you from all at Impact Foundation



The organisation IMPACT exists to prevent, reverse or ameliorate disability (sight, hearing, movement) in developing countries. In this capacity their team happened to be in the Philippines when, on Friday 14th November 2013, Typhoon Haiyan struck the islands. In a letter to the Master (outlined below), Pascale Noel describes their response:

"IMPACT is not an emergency relief organisation but, when disaster strikes in an area in which we are already working, it is impossible to stand by and do nothing. Thanks to IMPACT's supporters, such as the Worshipful Company of Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers, we were able to mobilise quickly in the aftermath, taking immediate action to help 20,000 people who had lost everything in the storm. The standard survival packs contain enough food to feed a family for up to 5 days, and as time went on we were able to bulk up basic survival rations with fresh produce, such as cassava, sweet potato and green leafy vegetables.



The storm is the Philippines' deadliest on record. Apart from the unprecedented loss of human life, an estimated six million workers lost their source of income, including 30,000 fishermen whose boats were destroyed. The path to reconstruction stretches far ahead and it is impossible to turn our backs on those still struggling to piece together their lives. IMPACT continues to build traditional dwellings for families still without adequate shelter, to assist fisherman in rebuilding boats, and to maintain a feeding programme for children and other vulnerable groups at risk from malnutrition.

Please accept our heartfelt gratitude, on behalf of all those who cannot thank you in person, for your support and solidarity. Without supporters like you we could not have mobilised so quickly."

Pascale Noel
Senior Development Manager at IMPACT

Clerk's Corner

Communications

95% of the Company's business is conducted by email which relies for its success and accuracy on up-to-date email addresses. The Clerk holds over 200 Liverymen email addresses and would like to improve on this number. Additionally over 10 emails are rejected because addresses have been changed but not notified.

If you want to receive information about Company events, please just email the Clerk on clerk@gswd.co.uk or ring 020 7498 0590 so the records can be corrected.

Court and Committees

Would you like to contribute more to the life of the Company by serving on a Committee or on the Court and one day aspiring to be Master? Please ring the Clerk for further details.

New Admissions

New Liverymen admitted recently are Marsha Reed (Retired), Timothy Eastwood (Banker), Benjamin Budd (by Patrimony) (Surveyor) and Thomas Farkas (Surveyor).

Charities Supported

Queen Alexandra's Hospital Home
Shine (Spina Bifida)
Falkland Islands Memorial Trust
National Children's Orchestra
Primary Biliary Cirrhosis Foundation
Guildhall School of Music and Drama
Royal School of Needlework
Lord Mayor's Appeal
Royal British Legion
St John Ambulance Cadets Bexley Heath
TS BARROSA Sea Cadets Edgware
Sheriffs' and Recorder's Fund
814 Naval Air Squadron
Not Forgotten Association
St Peter's Trust Prostate Cancer
The Children's Trust
Combat Stress
St Mary's Community Trust
Impact Foundation (Philippines)
101 Squadron RAF
Sports Aid
Kids In Action
Blind Veterans UK
Sick Children's Trust
City of London Festival
Lords Taverners
RAF Northolt Open Day (RAF Benevolent Fund)

Deaths

The Company regrets to inform Liverymen of the deaths of Sir Brian Goswell, Ettore Polledri and Robert Bedwell.

Published by
The Worshipful Company of
Gold and Silver Wyre
Drawers

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PRINTED BY
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Design, Artwork, Printing