



# THE WYRE DRAWER

EDITION 27

AUTUMN 2014



*The Master and his crew on Henley reach (see p4)*

## EVENTS DIARY

28 November  
Banquet, Mansion House

9 December  
Carol Service  
St James Garlickhythe

12 January  
Installation Lunch  
Skinners' Hall

27 February  
Chinese New Year Banquet

13 April  
Master's Dinner  
Skinners' Hall

6 July  
Dinner

23-26 July  
Master's Weekend  
Austria

## MASTER'S MESSAGE

This year is going very fast. We remember the outbreak of the Great War, and the awful consequences that followed. As Master one is invited to many lectures by other Livery Companies so, with an interest in history, I have attended as many as possible. The most recent, by the City Corporation, was entitled 'London from Peace to War' by the well known military historian, Professor Jeremy Black. A Commemoration Service for Volunteers held at the Royal Hospital Chelsea poignantly marked the outbreak of war and was attended by the Queen, Prince Philip, other members of the Royal family and a member of the Hohenzollern family. I have also twice had the honour of attending the granting of Royal Charters: the first to the Honourable Company of Air Pilots by Prince Philip at a Dinner in Guildhall, and the second by Prince Charles to the Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers at that lovely old church St. Bartholomew the Great; and at a small reception after the latter our Master's badge caught Prince Charles' eye and a short chat followed.

Our involvement with the Royal School of Needlework, The Guildhall School of Music and Drama and the Royal Ballet School reveals how our support for students attending such fine institutions of learning is working. We are strongly on the right lines in our charitable support to all of them. Two notable firsts for our livery are the Choristership grant for Oscar Pavey at St. Paul's Choir School, and two lady Liverymen joining the Court at our October Court Meeting: the first ladies to join the Court in our 321 year history and how welcome they are. The Annual National Service for Seafarers at St. Paul's had a joint special commemoration this year as the 500th Anniversary of the Corporation of Trinity House and the Company of Waterman and Lightermen of the River Thames were celebrated. The Princess Royal read a lesson and spoke most eloquently about our maritime history at the Guildhall Reception. For any liveryman of this Company I would recommend giving yourself the chance to be Master - it is one of the great experiences of a lifetime.

Robin Hope



*The Master, Oscar Pavey and the Canon Precentor (p1)*

## **Bluebell Railway**

The bluebells were flowering and the steam flowing over the green meadows as members of the Gold & Silver Wyre Drawers embarked on a trip on the 8th May on the Bluebell Railway in Sussex. The Bluebell Railway is a Heritage steam railway of some repute, built originally in Victorian times, shut by Dr Beeching and brought back to vigorous life by teams of volunteers operating under the aegis of the Bluebell Railway Company. It now runs between Sheffield Park and East Grinstead, where there is full connection with British Rail. This was handy because about three quarters of our group travelled by car to be greeted by the Master at Sheffield Park station. The group then boarded and took their seats in a reserved heritage carriage to set off to meet the rest of the party at East Grinstead, who had “let the train take the strain” in travelling from Victoria. The whole party then enjoyed the steam-drawn train through the lovely English countryside, with stops at several interesting stations, back to the Victorian splendour of Sheffield Park. There is also a fine 1920’s station at Horsted Keynes regularly used for filming such gems as Downton Abbey and Poirot and a 1950’s station at Kingscote.



We all had a fine lunch in a beautifully light reserved room on the first floor of the Bessemer Arms Restaurant at Sheffield Park, and then explored the excellent new Exhibition of train memorabilia on the other platform.

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The weather forecast for the day was for sunny periods and showers, but unfortunately we missed out on the sunny periods. Nonetheless it was a bright day heartily enjoyed by everybody and a wonderful event by the Master.

Roger Carter

## **The Court Ladies Dinner**

This year a new venue was chosen for the Court Ladies Dinner, and a most convivial evening was enjoyed by all in the historic surroundings of the Naval and Military ‘In and Out’ Club. The club is housed in a delightful 17th century mansion in St. James’s Square. This seemed most appropriate for this occasion as it was the family home between 1912 and 1942 of the famous suffragette and first woman MP, Nancy Astor.



*Meri Hope with Bishop Richard Fenwick (former Honorary Chaplain) and his wife Jane*

The walls of the room were lined with many fascinating portraits featuring members of the Norwegian Royal family amongst others who looked down approvingly on the proceedings, where the gentlemen of the Court and their ladies were thoroughly appreciating the excellent company, delicious food and wine. The evening was much enhanced by the enchanting harp and violin duet performed by two talented students from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Zusanne Olbrys and Anna Caban.

It was such a happy experience for me particularly to meet so many of those who are being so kind and supportive of Robin during his year as Master. As I rose rather hesitantly to respond to the Toast I looked around the room and saw so many smiling faces that my fears vanished. I was left feeling how privileged I am to be Mistress this exciting year to such a wonderful, friendly Livery Company as the Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers.

Merrill Hope

## **Leander Club Lunch**

It was such a pity that so many Liverymen and their Ladies missed the opportunity to spend a day at the world famous rowing club Leander in Henley. A group of 35 of us met at the Club, which was founded in 1839 and achieved Royal status in 1851. Our day started with coffee and good omens on the weather .

At 11.00hrs we were called to board the Hobbs pleasure launch ‘Waterman’ which took us through the town to

Marsh Lock, down the Regatta course to Hambledon Lock and round the landmark Temple Island and back to Leander. On board fizz was served with canapés thus preventing any threat of seasickness. The boat could have carried double the number but with so few on



*The Master and Meri in their element "on the water"..*

board everyone could circulate freely in the traditional GSWD convivial manner, enjoy a beautiful summer day and get in the mood for a Leander Henley Regatta lunch.

As I expected, the excellent Leander chef did us proud and no doubt appreciated the practice for the Regatta two weeks later when thousands of such lunches would be served. Our Guest of Honour was Debbie Flood, double Olympic Silver Medallist and first lady to be Captain of Leander. Debbie gave us a really inspiring off the cuff speech demonstrating exactly why she is Captain of Leander.



*.. and with Debbie Flood*

After that some members took the charity boat 'Rivertime' across the Thames to the excellent River and Rowing Museum whilst others retreated to their cars after a most pleasant day.

Robin Hope

## **July Court Dinner: The Livery & The Arts**

On 7th July a record 160 Liverymen and their guests dined at the Skinners' Hall to reaffirm the Livery's strong support for the arts in the UK. Our Guest Speaker was Professor Barry Ife CBE, Principal of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, who entertained and

educated us on the great contribution which the UK's artistic and creative industries make to the country, as well as providing 8-10% of the UK's total GNP.

Also, he stressed, 'the arts define who we are as a society, in an increasingly uncivilised world'.

After Dinner we were entertained by soprano Lauren Zolezzi, GSWD bursary student at the Guildhall School, who sang superbly. Our support for the Royal School of Needlework was also celebrated when the Master presented Gemma Lucas (right) with the Livery's Prize for her work in gold, in the presence of the Head of the School, Dr Susan Kay-Williams.



The Master also welcomed Charlotte Small, our bursary student at the School and Jo Thorne and Emma Burfoot, our jewellery prize winners earlier this year.

Our other senior guest was William Parente, Prime Warden of the Goldsmiths' Company, in whose hall the prize giving is held each year. And, to conclude an excellent dinner, the Master wholeheartedly thanked Prof Barry Ife for his uplifting and entertaining speech, and Lauren Zolezzi for her fine singing, and the evening was rounded off by a much enjoyed glass of Madeira.



Before dinner, Simon Joslin, Michael West, Robert Humphrey and Declan O'Halloran (above) were granted Freedom of the Livery.

Jeremy Ray

## **Royal Ballet School**

The audience waited expectantly for curtain up at the Royal Opera House to see the skill and virtuosity on display by students of the Royal Ballet School's in their end of year performance. They were not disappointed. The entire first half, "Raymonda Act 111", was

colourfully staged in Imperial Russia, beautifully dressed, and gracefully interpreted by senior school students. Nureyev presented this adapted version himself at Covent Garden in 1969. Six various offerings followed in the second half danced on a plain stage.

The Lower school opened the half and delighted us with their suite called "Journeys"; surely a taste of exciting things to come from these talented youngsters. The wonderful Royal Opera House orchestra then retired from the Pit, and we witnessed an experimental work by former School alumni called "Concordance". The eery musical accompaniment was spellbinding, setting the atmosphere for some very modern dance interpretation. An all too brief male solo interpretation of the "Dying Swan", danced to just cello and piano accompaniment followed, which was quite superb, and returned us to traditional ballet.

A "Sweet Spell of Oblivion", the aptly named Pas de Deux from David Dawson which he likened to a dream, was feelingly performed for us by two senior students to high acclaim.



*The Master, Samuel Zaldivar and Bill MacConnol; by kind permission of Brian Slater*

To close the performance, former School student Liam Scarlet provided the choreography for the work called "Classical Symphony". This was energetically interpreted by senior school dancers and featured our GSWD prize winner in the leading male role. The Grand Defile never ceases to be a work of precision and delight, bringing the entire entourage on stage for a final and well deserved standing ovation.

Following the performance, our Master and his Lady attended the Leavers ceremony at the School. Here the Master was pleased to present our Livery prize to Samuel Zaldivar who graduates to take up his first appointment with the Boston Ballet Company this autumn. We wish him every success in his future career.

Bill MacConnol

## Charity Row

*All along the backwater, through the rushes tall, Liverymen are a dabbling, Master an' all!*

With apologies to Kenneth Grahame (brought up at Cookham Dean), four Liverymen in a boat set off from Cookham to row (or more accurately scull) to Wargrave and back, a distance of some 28 miles through ten locks. This was the Master's sponsored row for the

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Rivertime Boat Trust and the Osteopathic Centre for Children which took place over 2 days in late July.

"Tara", owned by the Hope family, was built in 1895 and is a mahogany traditional skiff propelled by four oars. Sculling in relays, the 4 Liverymen, Robin Hope, Richard Butler, Jim Newcomb and Robin House (total ages 288 years) accomplished the journey through Marlow, Hurley and Henley to Richard Butler's boathouse at Wargrave.

The return journey started by making a transit of an



enchanting narrow backwater where the flora and fauna abounded in peaceful tranquillity. Overall the going was demanding on strength and stamina and we were thankful for sun cream and wide brim hats. However on the Henley reach, though hindered by a lashing from a torrential downpour, we gained a small advantage when the wind blew hard from astern by setting a makeshift spinnaker in the form of an umbrella held aloft!

This was a tiring but hugely rewarding experience and the four Oarsman of the Apocalypse are most grateful for the £7270 raised by Liverymen and other friends for these two charities.

The Clerk

## Goldsmiths' Hall visit

On Tuesday 9th September, 17 Liveryman and 11 guests were met by our host, Rear Admiral Richard Melley, the Clerk to the Goldsmiths' Company.

We were treated to drinks and nibbles in the Court Dining Room after which the Clerk gave a brief and humorous talk on the history of Goldsmiths' Hall and how it is run today. This was followed by a tour of the Court Room through to the Exhibition Room, the Livery Hall, the Library and then back to the Drawing Room. The Clerk pointed out the recently laid carpet displaying the Company's coat of arms in the centre; quite magnificent! Our tour finished with a visit to the Assay Office with its historic and trusted technology for valuing and processing gold and silver items received daily for hallmarking.

Everyone returned to the Drawing Room. After a group photograph the Master thanked the Rear Admiral for his hospitality and most informative tour.

The group adjourned for supper to a nearby Italian

restaurant called Manicomio where we were welcomed by the manager and staff. An enticing selection of food



and wine was enjoyed by everyone.

Pat Hobday

### ***The Master's Dublin Weekend***

The Master's Livery weekend took place in Dublin between the 26th and 28th September, where the Master and Meri were joined by 47 Liverymen and their guests. The unseasonably warm and sunny weather enabled everyone to explore the many attractions of



*Johnnie Fox's*

the City before the first organised event on the Friday night, when our coach took us to Johnny Fox's Pub outside the City, to enjoy a rousing traditional night of Irish music, dance and good food.

Saturday morning was free to continue sightseeing around the City, before we met at the Mansion House for a delicious sandwich lunch, a short but very warm greeting and talk from the Lord Mayor, Christy Burke, and a chance to look around this historic building, with its beautiful architecture and paintings.

After some retail therapy in Grafton St and the



*The Master thanks the Lord Mayor*

surrounding shopping areas, everyone assembled for drinks and dinner at the Royal St George Yacht Club in Dun Laoghaire, on the beautiful Dublin Bay waterfront. As the sun was still shining, many Liverymen took the opportunity to walk along the East Pier, and enjoy the views of the Wicklow Mountains.

Our thanks go to the Master's personal friend Paul Montgomery, who arranged for us to dine at the yacht club where he is a member, and a most convivial evening was enjoyed by all, before we were picked up by a double-decker Wedding Party bus which, at that stage, seemed to make eminent sense, and those on the upper deck embarked on some lusty singing as we returned to our hotel!

After breakfast on Sunday, it was time to say our goodbyes as flights to different airports meant that everyone left at varying times, but we all agreed that it had been a thoroughly enjoyable weekend, with a good mix of organised events and lots of free time to enjoy Dublin's fair City. Thank you to the Master and Meri for making the weekend so relaxed and entertaining, and for the lovely weather which fully enhanced the occasion.

Nick Sillitoe

### ***Armoury House Court Dinner***

The setting was perfect – the Long Room of Armoury House, the headquarters of the oldest regiment in the British Army, the Honourable Artillery Company (HAC), in the heart of the City of London - and the occasion matched the setting.

Our Guest Speaker was Col Gareth Bex OBE (late Royal Logistics Corp) and currently Assistant Director Explosives Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and Search at the Ministry of Defence, who reminded us that explosive ordnance dated back 600 years to Agincourt – 'we few, we happy few'.

In modern times, of course, the defusing of various types of IEDs in Afganistan became a crucial task of the RLC, one of the affiliated military units of the Livery. He

paid tribute to the many highly decorated men involved, including of course the posthumous George Cross awarded to the late Staff Sergeant Olaf Schmid in 2011. Earlier, the Fourth Warden welcomed all our guests including Masters of the Skinners, Plaisterers, Fan Makers, Tin Plate Workers, Coachmakers and Hackney Carriage Drivers companies.

Finally, The Master thanked Col Bex (on the right) for his thoughtful speech and his insights into the world of EODs and the men involved in this crucial area of the military. He also welcomed to the Court the new Assistants appointed that day, Air Commodore Cynthia Fowler, Mrs Pat Hobday and Robert Booth, and our new Liveryman Simon Joslin. A stirrup cup in the Sutling Room ended an excellent evening.



Jeremy Ray

### **Charity, Fund Raising & Events**

I have recently succeeded Warden Robert Lampitt as Chairman of the Charity, Fund Raising and Events Committee in addition to my role as Charity Steward, so I thought this would be an ideal opportunity to update you on the progress of our charitable fund raising activities.

Earlier this year I was delighted to report that, due to your generosity, a sum of approximately £22,000 had been donated by liverymen to our 2nd Charitable Trust last year. This figure included Gift Aid which we were able to reclaim, and I believe that this was the first time that donations had exceeded £20,000. Your committee used these funds to support many worthy causes in addition to the annual bursaries given to a student at both the Royal School of Needlework and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and we should all be very proud of this success.

Another aspect of our charitable fund raising activities is our 200 Club, which has quarterly draws and distributes 50% of the subscriptions in prizes. Tickets for the 200 Club cost £50 annually, and at present the number of tickets sold is hovering just below the 200 mark. Surely we cannot allow this to remain so! My records indicate that only 50% of our liverymen donate each year to our Charitable Trust, and so I would ask you to consider whether you would be willing to contribute a modest amount each year to support our charitable efforts. Please contact me by phone or e-mail if you would like to receive the respective forms for our Charitable Trust or 200 Club. (see below)

Finally I must thank Robert Lampitt for his considerable efforts over the years to develop our charitable activities and the support he has provided me in attempting to follow in his footsteps.

Brian Turner

Tel: 01206 738733 E-mail: bcturner007@btinternet.com

### **Paul Hughesdon runs the Marathon**

On a cold but beautiful day in April, Assistant Air Commodore Paul Hughesdon lined up at Greenwich Park in Blackheath, with over 40,000 other people, to run the London Marathon. This was his second marathon, and he completed over 420 miles in training. Having previously helped to raise money for the Livery's Second Charitable Trust, this time he focussed on supporting RAF charities and thereby current and former serving RAF men and women, and their families. With some tremendous support from many friends within the Livery and beyond, he was driven to achieve a new personal best (by 24 minutes) of 3hours and 34 minutes (and 39 seconds for the experts!), but more importantly raised over £6,700 for his two charities! And yes, he hopes to do it all again at some point; clearly mad!



### **Focus Group**

On the initiative of Past Masters Tim Waller and Rodney Brody the GSWD Focus Group started in February 2010, with the terms of reference to refocus the Company towards its original trade, to enhance the Company's identity and relevance, to increase the interest of current Liverymen, and to encourage new recruitment.

Past Master Brody agreed to Chair the Committee. We have very active and enthusiastic members, and meet on a regular basis. In particular Jean Scott-Moncrieff and Liz Elvin have both been tireless in their efforts to support this work with their professional backgrounds in jewellery and needlework. Our annual sponsorship is for a student who best incorporates gold and silver wire in to a piece of jewellery, and the incumbent Master personally awards the prize of £1,000 to the successful prize winner each March, at the Goldsmith's Centre. Jean or Liz are involved in choosing the winning piece on our behalf; this year the prize was won by Jo Thorne (Edition 26), who subsequently exhibited her item at the Royal Academy.

Our Group features in the Design Council's Exhibition Brochure, and we are broadening our scope with funding support for students from other organisations. The Focus group will continue to strengthen our trade involvement by identifying those organisations that we might assist and which bring long term benefits to our Livery Company. Also, importantly, the Group has linked up with the Goldsmith's Craft and Design Council's web site, which is currently viewed by a far greater number of

people than ours. They are now able to view our linked site, which considerably increases our exposure to those who, previously, were not aware of our existence. Progress is continuous in our efforts to reignite our once flourishing trade.

Rodney Brody

## Golfing Society

Very sadly this year our long-time secretary and Treasurer, Past Master Geoffrey Perkins, died. His contribution over the years has been invaluable and we shall miss him very much.

The year started at Tandridge where we were joined by 3 Masons and 2 Carmen. I managed to win The Clifford Jeapes Cup this year, with Luke second and our Captain, Cynthia, third. The guest prize was won by Gary Burchell and the 20+ handicappers by Steve Pawson (Carman). We managed a team for the Prince Arthur and had a creditable performance coming 31st out of 64. Then, this year, we switched from Denham to Huntercombe courtesy of George Constantinidi who won the best net score, while John Kenyon-Muir won the best gross score; the guest prize was won by Paul Day and the best 20+ was Nigel Nichols with 29. In the match against the Army and the Carmen the home team won and we came second. We entered a team again in the Ray Jeffs Cup at Hartley Wintney made up of Cynthia, our captain, John Kenyon-Muir, John Edney and myself and did much better this year, coming fifth. Captain's Day at Ashridge, Cynthia's home club, was a jolly affair; the winners of the Trower Trophy were John and Peter Kenyon-Muir and Paul Day. At our last meeting at Swinley Forest we were joined by Alastair Troughton. Trophies went largely to your Secretary but the Rutter Putter went to Alastair and his guest Mark Tresenster. Sad that it was so close to Roy's death.

We are delighted to have a volunteer new Treasurer in Ron Smith and long may he continue. The AGM is again at Jamie's Wine Bar on Ludgate Hill on 5th December from 12 noon

John Edgcumbe, Secretary

## Deepcut Visit

In September the Master and ten liverymen visited the Defence College of Logistics, Policing and Administration at Deepcut. The college's mission is to train and motivate personnel in the areas included in the college name. The party received a very warm welcome from the college Commandant, Brigadier Alan McLeod and other senior officers.

This type of visit, apart from strengthening our relationship with the military, invariably reveals an array of interesting facts and figures. For example the college runs on an annual basis about 500 courses for some 25,000 students in 10 locations throughout the country.

It has an establishment of 900 military plus 900 civilians and provides courses to all three services, although some 70 % of students come from the Army. Presentations were made on different activities by a variety of officers and we also had the opportunity to meet and chat with a number of young, keen students! The college will relocate to Worthy Down, near Winchester, in the near future.

Michael Gunston

## RNAS Culdrose Visit

Travelling by night sleeper from London, the Immediate Past Master, the Honorary Chaplain and a group of Liverymen began a fascinating October day at the Royal Naval Air Station (RNAS) Culdrose with our affiliated 814 Squadron, "the Flying Tigers", of the Fleet Air Arm, the oldest flying arm of the British armed forces.

We inspected and learned about the Merlin helicopters operated by the Squadron, their anti submarine, anti surface ship and counter piracy role in various theatres of operation, including the Middle East.

We talked to the Squadron pilots, observers and engineers, and were inspired by the commitment, abilities and professionalism of this unique team, so ably led by our host and the CO of the Squadron, Commander Stuart Finn. In the Training Centre we saw pilots and observers working under pressure through complex computer simulations of anti submarine warfare.



CO 814 NAS with the Livery group

Also, earlier this year in Germany, 814 Squadron took part in one of the largest NATO air exercises in Europe involving 17 squadrons of 14 different aircraft types, all with Flying Tigers on their badges, including anti ship warfare and combat search and rescue. This allowed 814 Squadron to demonstrate their maritime environment skills over the North Sea and to show their versatility in reconfiguring the aircraft to deploy Royal Marines and the Army.

Our Culdrose visit was an inspiring renewal of the Livery's important relationship with one of the Fleet Air Arm's key operational squadrons.

Gordon Warren/Jeremy Ray

## **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. Many email messages 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](mailto:clerk@gswd.co.uk) or ring 020 7498 0590 so that records can be corrected. Also have a look at the new website at [www.gswd.co.uk](http://www.gswd.co.uk)

New Liverymen admitted recently are:

Robert Humphrey (Retired Managing Director), Simon Joslin (Chief Commercial Officer)

### **Charities Supported**

**Magical Taxi Tour for terminally ill children**

**City of London Police Widows & Orphans Fund**

**Royal London Society**

**The Chesil Trust**

**Forces Support**

**Wheelyboat Trust**

**Outward Bound Trust**

**Training Course in the use of Gold/Silver wire**

**Annual donation to the Lord Mayors Charity**

**London Playing Fields Foundation**

**Shine / Spina Bifida**

**Crohn's Disease**

**Cure Parkinson's Trust**

**Julia's House Hospice Dorset**

**Precious Kids Trust**

### **Deaths**

The Company regrets to inform Liverymen of the deaths of Laurence Cottrell, Geoffrey Perkins (Master 1993 and Secretary GSWD Golf Society for many years) and Roy Rutter (Master 1994 and Chairman Past Masters Committee).

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