



THE WYRE DRAWER

EDITION 28

SPRING 2015



The Master and his Lady

EVENTS DIARY

6th July
Livery Dinner

13th September
Haven Fundraising Lunch

5th October
Livery Dinner

Nov/Dec
Banquet, Mansion House

MASTER'S MESSAGE

It is such an honour and privilege to be Master of our great Company. I am aware that as Master you are the ambassador for the company and I am very conscious of the responsibility I have to maintain our reputation amongst the other livery companies, our military, cadet, trade and art affiliations and anywhere else I may be representing the Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers.

Of course I never thought way back in 1999 when I was clothed as a Liveryman that I would one day be Master. Gradually over the years as I became more involved with the activities of the company I still did not harbour any thoughts of progressing further, but with the encouragement of now past Masters, I stood for election to Court and was fortunate to be elected in 2004. I was elected as Fourth Warden in 2011 and believe me these last four years have flown by. Whilst you are preparing for your year twelve months before becoming Master it does not really sink in until you are standing in Common Hall taking the oath and being clothed before the assembled Company.

I announced that my charities this year are two hospices, one in North London and the other in South London. To raise money for the charities the Clerk and I, on the 15th of May are abseiling down the Orbit structure located in the Olympic Park.

The lifeblood of the company is new Liverymen and I would urge all new Liverymen to attend as many official and unofficial events as you possibly can. This is an ideal way to meet other Liverymen and the unofficial events gives you the opportunity to involve your spouses or partners in the activities of the Company. The July dinner and annual banquet are the two official events that spouses and partners are very welcome to attend. By attending the events it will give you an insight into the many facets of the Company's activities and the support given to various charities.

Michael Powell

Court, Common Hall and Installation Lunch

“Hail To The New Master”

The Livery met in Common Hall in the Old Court Room of Skinner's Hall and with appropriate ceremony installed Mr Michael Powell as the 284th Master of the Company on January 12th.

Mr. Malcolm Craig was installed as Fourth Warden.

The Company also welcomed 4 new Liverymen: Michael West, Declan O'Halloran, Barry Hozier and Tim MacAndrews (l-r below)



The Installation Lunch which followed was attended by 128 Liverymen and guests. The new Master spoke of his aims for the year ahead and the charities he has chosen to support – the North London Hospice and the Trinity Hospice in south west London.

Mr Ken Blundell, Past Master Emeritus, also spoke eloquently of the troubled times in which we now live, and quoting Voltaire, referred to the assault on freedom of speech which we are now facing in Europe.



Housemaster Jaco Brand, St Paul's Chorister Oscar Pavey and Liveryman Catherine Carr

He also welcomed our Guests lead by Master Skinner, Mr John Hitchins, and the Master Gunmaker, and young Master Oscar Pavey, St Paul's Chorister who is now sponsored by the Livery.

Finally, Guest Speaker Mr David Saunders regaled us with amusing and informative anecdotes of the new Master whom he has known and worked with for many years, and his many talents and qualities.

An excellent Luncheon to launch what will clearly be an exciting year for the Livery.

Jeremy Ray

The Banquet: Mansion House

The most important event of any Master's year is our Banquet, held in the wonderful surroundings of the Egyptian Hall at the Mansion House.

This was a most happy occasion for Merrill and me as our three children with their wives/partners were there to witness the occasion, along with my sister and her husband.

During the year I had visited both the Sea Cadets of TS BARROSA and Cadets of St. John's Ambulance, Bexleyheath and it was impressive to see how they mounted the Guard of Honour so expertly.



The Sea Cadets of HMS BARROSA and Cadets of St John's Ambulance, Bexleyheath

Sheriffs Andrew Parmley and Fiona Adler gave a refreshingly different and most amusing double-act speech which was much enjoyed by all.

It was a delightful touch that the Lord Mayor, who had another engagement in the early part of the evening, was able to slip in for a glass of wine and hear the speeches with the Lady Mayoress who was attending.

Robin Hope

Carol Service

The annual carol service took place once again in conjunction with The Worshipful Company of Needlemakers at St James Garlickhythe on 9 December. The small choir performed to their usual extremely high standard under the guidance of their Director of Music and Organist Alderman and Sherriff Dr Andrew Parmley. Our Honorary Chaplain, The Reverend Gordon Warren, extended a warm welcome to the full capacity congregation and the Honorary Chaplain to the Needlemakers, The Bishop of Southwark, gave the main address. Lessons were read by the First and Senior Wardens and the Masters of each Company. Seasonally wrapped presents were again placed under the Christmas tree for distribution to deserving children. Members of both Companies adjourned to a local restaurant for supper.

Michael Gunston

Reflections

My year as Master ended on a high note when I took four grandchildren between 6 and 9 yrs. to the hugely successful Lord Mayor's Children's Fancy Dress Party. They loved every minute of the four entertainers' performances and the delicious tea. If any future Master has eligible children I highly recommend this charming event.

During my very special and memorable year of office I attended all the many and varied events to which our Gallant Clerk steered me, plus several more interesting lectures. Only two events were missed to my great regret, as I did not wish to pass on my heavy cold to the Gunmakers or the children en route to Disney with the Hackney Carriage Drivers.

What highlights are foremost in my mind? Our friends in the RAF contribute here with the Queen's Colour Squadron assuming Guard Duties at Buckingham Palace, followed by lunch in the St. James' Palace Mess. Then there was the amazing visit to 101 Squadron watching the multitasking Voyager aircraft re-fuelling other aircraft during a seven-hour flight. Walking through the Tower of London to the Trinity House Lunch in honour of the Lord Mayor on October 31st I experienced the sea of poppies - a deeply moving tribute to those who gave their lives for our country in the Great War, as was the Solemn Drumhead Service attended by the Queen in the pouring rain. The Carmen's Cart Marking Ceremony in Guildhall Yard produced a great display of vehicles, both classic and current. Can there be anywhere grander to have one's classic traction engine marked than that! The opportunity to take a group from our Livery to the fair city of my birth - Dublin - proved to be a popular choice. From our Livery's historic front, it

is memorable for me that the first two ladies in the 321 years of its existence were elected to the Court, and how welcome their contribution will be. Our growing charitable fund enabled us to sponsor a Chorister at St. Paul's Choir School - another example of our Company moving forward.

The year of 2014 as Master was a very special one in my life, and I thank you all for entrusting this key role in the livery to me. Our Livery is an active and progressive Company, and I am sure that my father-in-law Past Master Norman Harding (1983), to whose memory I dedicated my year, will be looking down with pleasure at the 2015 Worshipful Company of Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers.

Robin Hope

Rivertime Boat Trust

The Trustees of the Rivertime Boat Trust are so grateful to have received such a generous cheque from the Gold & Silver Wyre Drawers following the Master's epic row with other members of the Livery.

The charity was formed 6 years ago to build and operate a boat for disabled and disadvantaged children and adults on the River Thames between Windsor and Oxford. 'Rivertime' has a ramp and a lift for those in wheelchairs or with mobility problems as well as a large saloon with a sliding roof and a toilet for the disabled. None of this would have been possible without the financial supporters such as the members of the Gold & Silver Wyre Drawers.

'Rivertime' has travelled some 8,041 miles up and down the Thames and taken out some 12,500 passengers and carers. During these trips some 5000 hours have been expended by hard working volunteers. This has meant that the charity has been awarded the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service of which the volunteers are very proud.

It was wonderful that 6 Members of the Livery and their guests were able to follow the Swan Marker, David Barber, and the Swan Uppers in July together with the Vintners and the Drapers. A good time was obviously had by all. Once again many thanks indeed for your great generosity in supporting the work of the Rivertime Boat Trust.

Simon and Pat Davis Founding Trustees



Company Jewellery Award

On 2nd March the Master and the Clerk attended the Goldsmiths' Craft and Design Awards Ceremony at Goldsmiths Hall. It was a glittering occasion - dubbed 'The Jewellery Oscars' by the industry and many famous names were there - either to present Awards or to receive them. Liverymen Liz Elvin (former Principal of the Royal School of Needlework) and Jean Scott-Moncrieff (a practising jeweller) had earlier judged the GSWD's Special Award section for Innovation in the use of Gold and Silver Wire, and had agreed on three joint winners. The Master, Michael Powell, presented the winners with their Award Certificate and £500 each.



Nan Nan Liu - Coiled Silver Beaker

Afterwards we met our three delighted winners at the reception and admired the wonderful exhibition of all the prize winning pieces. Quotes from our winners - Hazel Thorn - 'I am thrilled and honoured to be given this award.' Nan Nan Lui - 'I am sending my biggest appreciation to you who gave me the GSWD prize. Thank you so much. It was an overwhelming night.'



Hazel Thorn - Coloured Sculptural Vessel



Karen Elizabeth Donovan - Wirework Ring

Karen Elizabeth Donovan - 'It was such an honour! It is always a pleasure to hear one's work is appreciated!' Patrick Davison, a student at Glasgow School of Art studying with Andrew Lamb (one of our prize winners 2014) received a travel grant from GSWD to attend an intensive course with Giovanni Corvaja (awarded the GSWD's second prize in 1991).

Patrick wrote a report about his course where he gained new insights - he said 'Giovanni showed me his own work and the procedures he uses to make high quality wire. Drawplates down to 0.01mm are used to draw near invisible wires. The understanding of the alloy is paramount - simple tools are used allowing Giovanni to use the wire to make beautiful jewellery of an unparalleled quality. I would like to sincerely thank the Worshipful Company of Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers for the generous funding, without which I would not have been able to do this course.' To see Giovanni's remarkable work go to www.giovanni-corvaja.com

Jean Scott-Moncrieff

Chinese New Year

'GUNG HEI FAT CHOI'

In other words 'Happy New Year' in Chinese. The New Year, of the Sheep, was celebrated by 64 Liverymen and their guests at the fashionable Shanghai Blues Restaurant in High Holborn on 27th February. We were treated to 13 courses of superb Chinese food from the very hot and spicy to the very mild and subtly tasty, washed down by carefully chosen (French) wine.

The Master welcomed us to this unique gathering and especially thanked those who had flown in from abroad to attend. He also explained that later we would possibly learn something new about ourselves

in Chinese terms.

A few courses and a number of glasses later, fascinating descriptions, distributed by The Master and his lady, of the characteristics of those born in each of the 12 Chinese Years, revealed exactly what type of person and character we all were! This was illuminating to all and made for an entertaining exercise built around ancient Chinese wisdom and tradition.

Those with energy and good vocal cords ended the evening in modern Chinese/Japanese style with energetic karaoke.

Many thanks to the Master's Lady, Helen, for organising the event and ensuring that we all enjoyed it.

Jeremy Ray

Court Church Service and Master's Dinner



Bruna Colombo-Otten, Andrew Pettitt, Gareth Collett, Amanda MacEachen, Spencer Down.

The Master's Dinner took place at Skinners Hall on 13 April, with a good number of Liverymen and guests attending, and everyone enjoyed an excellent dinner and good company. Second Warden Paul Constantinidi welcomed all the guests, and introduced the newly clothed Liverymen above.

The principal guest, Major General Nicholas Cottam CB OBE responded and gave an interesting talk on St Paul's Cathedral.

Before the Dinner, the Master, Wardens, Clerks and Liverymen and their guests had attended the annual church service at St James Garlickhythe, where as usual the choir were in fine voice, and our Chaplain, the Rev Gordon Warren gave a thought-provoking sermon, and the Master Michael Powell read the lesson.

Nick Sillitoe

Finding Gold in Northern Peru - and probably Silver Wyre

A traveller's diary by Assistant Cynthia Fowler.

Arrived in Lima on 10 Nov after a very long journey via Madrid. Staying in a very roomy posh hotel, the San Isadora Country Club, just opposite the golf course. Don't want to know about golf; we have come here this time to see the pre Inca people's science and engineering starting 2000 years earlier. Machu Picchu was impressive but I expect this visit to be even more surprising. We are going north of Lima, between the Andes and the Pacific coast. This area is largely a desert and it is that which has preserved the antiquities and the archaeology. But first we are to see some of the artefacts.

Tues 11 Nov

Went to the la Herrera museum, a private collection of pre-Columbian artefacts and subsequent works of art. Could have spent all day here because in the next few days we are to visit the ruins where these items were found, bought or purloined. Later we visited the National anthropology archaeological museum. Fascinating timelines going back to BC 10000. Lunch really memorable for the largest corn on the cob seed kernels -marble sized and very filling!

Later we visited the La Catedral, and then a fascinating visit to the home of Peru's Cardinals which is only



recently open to the public. Extraordinary display of art and furniture, not opulent but suitably gracious for the occupant and just the right amount of pomp and circumstance.

Thurs 13 Nov

Flew to Trujillo this morning. Spent the afternoon looking at the houses and other buildings connected with Independence from Spain in the 1820s. Trujillo is the second oldest town in Peru and is proud of its history. The main square has a large Statue of Liberty - a constant reminder in such a busy place. The houses and the churches are spectacular, especially as they have withstood earthquakes, the last in 1970 which killed many 1000s of people.

Sun 16 Nov

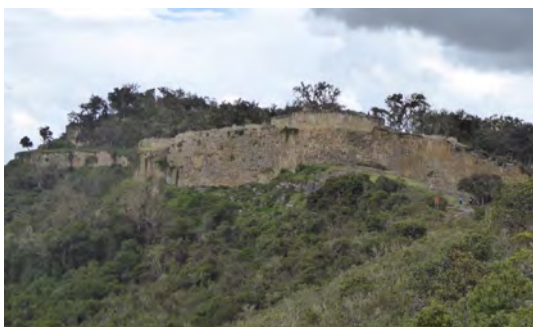
Just spent 3 illuminating days in Trujillo & Chiclayo looking at pre-Inca civilisations, the Moche AD 200-800, the Chimu AD 800 to 1470. We visited the Temple of the Moon near Trujillo and the Temple of the Rainbow and, in Chan Chan, the Chotuma and Chornucamp. Chiclayo showed us two of the best museums I have ever seen anywhere in the world and depicting the lives of the 2 tribes in detail. The precious artefacts made by skilled tribesmen shown in all glory. The local people now able to make an honest living by participating in the finding, cleaning and presentation of the valuable hordes rather than looting and selling them to disreputable collectors. The highlight of the trip so far was seeing the Royal Tombs of the Lords of Sipan, AD 100-700.

Mon 17 Nov

Spent a day travelling to Gocta Falls over the Andes but it was a long journey. Delighted to find that today we were to visit Gocta Falls which we can see from our hotel. So this morning, complete with a Dutchman called Ron, our guide, who is a biologist in real life, plus a lunchbox, we set off to the falls. An exceptionally hard uphill and down recently made path with much fallen debris, we arrived at the Falls - supposedly the 3rd highest in the world. My pedometer had recorded over 14500 steps and 7.5 Kms. Now we had to return the same way we came. About 3/4 of the way back we were lent horses; this was my first ride in the saddle. The Andean Mountains is not the place to learn, however I am back safe sipping a beer. And tomorrow we are back on the ancient history of Kuelap.

Weds 19 Nov

Visited Kuelap, a Chachapoya hill top fortress 800 years old. Took forever to get there as it is 2000m high and 47kms off the road. The fortress is 600m long had 3000 people living there in round houses all within the fort. At one end is a temple which may also have acted as a calendar depicting the seasons. As we were leaving the heavens opened and for the first time we were drenched. Bought a new poncho on the way back in Chachapoya in the most unusual shop selling everything from pit boots to china.



Fri 21 Nov

Spent a couple of days in Taropoto, supposedly the top cuisine of Peru. Beautiful countryside on the edge of the jungle. We visited the local market, speciality 9 inch



snails ,for eating of course , and a witchcraft shop to deal with the after effects. Rio Huallaga, an unnavigable river because of landslides and rapids was our next stop- for a coffee. At the end of the road in Chazuta village we came across two government sponsored ventures. The first, long established-potters who had been working there over 800 years. Some of their funeral pots were on show in the local museum. The local women were also making chocolate from local cacao trees with new equipment from the government. While we were there an anthropologist brought in some tribal women from the Peru/Ecuador border to learn the same trades, under government sponsorship. The anthropologist told it was difficult to communicate because there are 64 different languages in Peru, nevertheless the Indian ladies seemed pleased with their new occupations.

Mon 24 Nov

We boarded Estrella Amazonia 3 days ago from Iquitos and have been slowly travelling towards its source ever since. On the way we have seen a multitude of birds, trees, flowers, and fish. On our 4th day the rains and lightning came upon us. Drenched we were, and in the dark, the lightning was like the 2nd coming that never came. Wildlife available but not easy to see. The rest of the passengers are American whose expectations are slightly different from ours. Let's hope tomorrow brings better weather.

Thurs 27 Nov

In the last 3 days we have seen the village life of the indigenous people who seem to be given government support to maintain their way of life and at the same give extra income. Fish farming is prevalent, tourism is supplementing their meagre livelihoods and of course subsistence farming is feeding large families. Nevertheless they have a better diet than we since everything is fresh and in season. Tonight we met the village Shaman who explained how he conducted his business and he blessed us with smoke and a brush like wand. As I write the Amazon is rising quickly as the rains have been ferocious. In the villages the flood levels on the houses can be seen and often their land is covered and bits of land are constantly eroded. Whatever help the Indians get is modest compared to the hard way of life.

Affiliations

Visit to RAF Brize Norton

On 10th November 2014 the Master and 17 Liveryman assembled in a car park close to the main entrance of RAF Brize Norton to take part in a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Assistant, Air Commodore Paul Hughesdon had arranged for us to travel in one of the Royal Air Force's new "Voyager" aircraft during a training exercise. This aircraft replaces the elderly VC10s and Tristars and is a custom built dual purpose aircraft. It serves as both a refuelling tanker and also as a freight and passenger plane. It is a hybrid with an A320 body and A330 wings with outboard engines on either wing replaced by refuelling equipment.

After being shepherded into the admin building on the base we were given a short talk on the work of the refuelling fleet and saw the day to day planning and operational side of the refuelling function.

We boarded the Voyager shortly after 2 pm and were soon airborne and on our way to one of the RAF's designated exercise areas to the east of the Wash and over the North Sea. Flying at an altitude of 14,000ft. and a speed of 280 knots, the Voyager circuted while 2 Tornados were refuelled simultaneously. The transfer was markedly quicker than your average forecourt pump – 500 kilos per minute. On this exercise 4000 kilos were transferred in 8 minutes. The skill shown by the pilots in connecting and maintaining airspeed and position while attached to the end of 85 feet of hose for that length of time is truly remarkable. It is a skill on which their survival depends. (During sorties to Iraq and Cyprus these aircraft are refuelled twice). The next aircraft to be refuelled was a Hercules, piloted by a "Rookie" we were told, who certainly had problems connecting to the fuel line. The inertia of such a large aircraft and its sluggishness in responding to controls



is obviously an art that has to be mastered. All this is observed by TV cameras and controlled by a specialist in the cockpit.

After this exercise was completed the Voyager turned north to a further designated exercise area off the Northumbrian coast. By this time darkness

had descended and the exercise was completed by refuelling Typhoon and Tornado aircraft in the dark!! Again the consummate flying skills of the pilots was



very evident as lighting was pretty minimal. During the flight we were refuelled with snacks and an endless supply of coffee, when we could be torn away from the windows of the aircraft, cameras at the ready, to record what was happening.

When the exercise was completed we returned safely to base by a rather circuitous route which took us over the Welsh borders, landing at 8.30 p.m. after over 6 hours of a unique experience. Our thanks must be extended to Assistant Air Commodore Paul Hughesdon for arranging this splendid and special day.

Bob Nuttall

HMS VICTORIOUS

HMS VICTORIOUS Starboard, a crew of 142 men, is a relatively strong community having completed 13 patrols as HMS VANGUARD Port since 2004; this had produced many challenges, not least since it involved an extremely long on-crew period of 263 days. During this time the Marine and Weapon Engineering departments solved many functional problems. The crew also experienced a short notice change of Commanding officer. They completed a final and successful patrol which finished in mid- 2014. Following the patrol and further administration the crew had a well deserved leave period with their families before returning after Christmas to role transition to HMS VICTORIOUS Starboard.

The road ahead will be busy but rewarding with the task of regenerating HMS VICTORIOUS and taking her to sea on patrol later this year. The challenge ahead is to complete land and sea training with many new crew members, including a new command team and a new Commanding Officer - Cdr Alistair Marshall. HMS VICTORIOUS is equipped to take female officers to sea, a recent initiative by the RN Submarine Service.

Gordon Warren

Communications

The dinners in July and October have been renamed the July Livery Dinner and the October Livery Dinner. Liverymen may attend these dinners, the January Installation lunch and the April Master's dinner and are welcome to bring their friends/colleagues as guests. They may also bring their sons/daughters or other family but not their spouse. However, as an exception, the Court has ruled that spouses are welcome to attend the July Livery dinner and this has proved most successful over the last three years. All family and friends are welcome at the Banquet. The dinner for the Court only and their spouses has been renamed the Court Dinner.

Please have a look at the Company's new website at www.gswd.co.uk and check whether your details are correct. Please let the Clerk know of any amendments or comments about the site to clerk@gswd.co.uk.

New Admissions

New Liverymen admitted recently are Michael West (Management Consultant), Declan O'Halloran (Company Director), Barrie Hozier (Retired Chartered Accountant), Timothy MacAndrews (Retailer/Chartered Accountant), Amanda MacEachen (theatre wardrobe), Brig Gareth Colett (RLC), Bruna Colombo-Otten (Fundraiser), Andrew Pettitt (IED Weapons disposal) and Spencer Down (orchestral conductor).

Charities Supported

- Treloar Trust (Disabled children)
- London Air Ambulance
- National Children's Orchestra
- Queen Alexandra's Hospital Home (Ex Servicemen)
- Combat Stress (Service mental health)
- St John Ambulance Bexleyheath (International First Aid)
- Disneyland Taxi Tour (Terminally ill children)
- City of London Police Widows and Orphans
- City of London Festival (Musical education)
- Friendship Works (Disadvantaged children)
- Whizz-Kidz (Mobility equipment)

Charity, Fund Raising and Events

The Charity Committee is always looking to bolster the charitable funds, and one way Liverymen can assist this cause is by leaving a legacy or a bequest in their will. Brian Turner, the Committee Chairman, will be pleased to provide details.

Deaths

The Company regrets to inform Liverymen of the deaths of Marshall Walker and Past Master Frank Saunders.

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