



THE WYRE DRAWER

EDITION 30

SPRING 2016



The Master and his Lady

EVENTS DIARY

4th June
Colonel's Review, Horse-
guards Parade

4th July
Livery Dinner, Skinners' Hall

9th -12th September
Master's Weekend,
Edinburgh

18th September
Haven Lunch, Whetstone

3rd October
Livery Dinner, Trinity House

26th October
RSN visit to Hampton Court
and supper

30th November
Livery Banquet,
Mansion House

MASTER'S MESSAGE

Many of you will have read my email earlier this year, but for those who didn't I now offer my thoughts. Firstly, I would like to say how great an honour it was for me to be installed as Master of our Worshipful Company on January 11th in Common Hall at Skinners' Hall. Back in 2002, when I joined the Livery, little did I think that one day I would become Master.

It is a great privilege for me to be next in a long line of over 300 Masters who, since we received our Royal Charter in 1693, have contributed to the vision and purpose of our Company, each in their own way. Every Master has a theme which runs through his year. My theme is 'ROYAL'.

Firstly, in 2016 Her Majesty the Queen celebrated her 90th Birthday on April 21st. When I was in business my Company had the great honour of being awarded the accolade of being 'By Appointment to Her Majesty the Queen' for goods we supplied to the Royal Household.

Many years later when I sold the Company, I went to work as the Bursar at the ROYAL School of Needlework at Hampton Court Palace, and continued to have the Royal Crest on my business cards!

So, with this ROYAL idea in mind I have compiled a programme of informal social events, which we can all enjoy, that mirror this theme. As you will read inside, the year started on March 22nd with a visit to the Royal Opera House which included a back-stage tour, and was followed by lunch nearby. Then on 4th June we have tickets to attend the Colonel's Review on Horseguards Parade, the final full rehearsal for Trooping the Colour, followed by lunch in The Guards' Museum.

From 9th–12th September my “Masters Weekend Away” will be in Edinburgh, the city of my wife’s birth. There we will have a private tour of the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the Queen’s official residence in Scotland, as well as a day out in the beautiful Scottish countryside.

On the last evening of our weekend, we have arranged a private visit to the ROYAL Yacht Britannia; not only will we have a guided tour of this famous ship, but we will finish our weekend with a reception and Gala Dinner on board, with a rather special guest speaker! Finally, in October, there will be a visit to the ROYAL School of Needlework at Hampton Court, followed by supper.

One of the main purposes of Livery Companies these days is to help others less fortunate than ourselves, and our Livery puts much effort into supporting charitable causes. My chosen charity for this coming year is The Not Forgotten Association.

This is a tri-service charity founded after the end of the First World War in 1920 by a Miss Marta Cunningham, an American Opera singer. She was very active in charity work and set about mobilising her group of friends to invite wounded and ex-servicemen out for afternoon tea and entertainment. In that first year alone, some ten thousand sick and wounded men were entertained.

Although much has changed over the ensuing 95 years, the Association still seeks to provide entertainment, recreation and leisure activities, which includes holidays, concerts and amazingly tough challenges; for instance a group have recently returned from climbing Mount Kilimanjaro.

To give our support to this worthy cause, my wife, the actress Hannah Gordon, will give a charity performance of “For All Occasions”, an Evening of Words and Music on Sunday November 6th, followed by supper.

In addition we have started our round of Livery Dinners, one recently on 4th April, to be followed by the second on 4th July, at Skinners’ Hall; our away Dinner this year will be at Trinity House on 3rd October. Finally, of course, we can look forward to our Annual Banquet at Mansion House on 30th November.

So, all in all, a very busy year ahead with plenty of opportunities to meet up with your fellow Liverymen and enjoy some or all of the planned events.

Please do give your wholehearted support to these informal events and bring your partners too. I look forward to meeting as many Liverymen as I possibly can during my year as your Master.

Robert Lampitt

Past Year and the Banquet

The banquet is the culmination of the Master’s year but it is a bitter sweet occasion as it also marks the end of the Master’s year, which actually started for me a few days before my installation.

In early January 2015 I stood in for the Master and visited our submarine HMS Victorious I understood we would be visiting the base and witnessing the Divisions parade; how wrong I was. The visit turned out to be one of my outstanding events, as I was not witnessing it, I was actually inspecting the parade, an honour for any military person but doubly so for me a mere civilian. I was fortunate to be Master in 2015, which marked anniversaries of the signing of the Magna Carta, the Battle of Waterloo, and the Battle of Agincourt, and I attended a number of ceremonies to mark these important events in our history.

In May the Clerk nobly agreed to join me in abseiling down the Orbit sculpture in the Olympic Park to raise money for my charities. I am pleased to say his support was not in vain and a total of £15,000 was raised. I hope the abseil experience was not a contributing factor to Robin’s decision to retire in 2016!

The year just whizzes by and before you know it the banquet is in front of you and your year is coming to the end. For both Helen and me, it was an evening of joy and a little sadness as this was our swan song to a wonderful year. I have always enjoyed our banquet, I like the formality of the occasion and the opportunity it gives our ladies to dress up in all their finery and add



glamour to the evening. As guests proceed up the stairs to the reception an honour guard ably provided by our two cadet affiliations, the Sea cadets, and St. John Ambulance cadets welcomes them. As always the Mansion House was wonderful, the food delicious and the wines excellent.

The programme of music added an additional element to the evening; it would not have been a banquet without the battle of the Post Horns. We are very fortunate to be able to hold our banquet in the Mansion House, which is not available to all Livery companies. Whilst there are a number of other halls that have the capacity to seat 250 people or more, none can match the Mansion House for that special sense of occasion. It is a privilege that I hope we continue to enjoy for many years to come.

In my year I attended many events, lectures, lunches and dinners and as mentioned managed to fit in an abseil, but my greatest achievement was finishing my year weighing fractionally less than when I started. There are not many Masters who can make that claim!

Michael Powell



In Court, prior to the Installation Lunch on 11th January the Master congratulates new Assistant Anneliese Edgcumbe

Charity Row for the Felix Fund

Our plan this year was to start at Cookham, head upstream to Oxford and then return to a friend's house at Marsh Lock



just above Henley – a distance of 110 miles and 33 locks. This was accomplished and I am now in the midst of maybe the more challenging task of collecting the sponsorship. On the assumption of reasonable success it is expected that about £8500 will be passed over to the Felix Fund (www.felixfund.org.uk).

The Felix Fund exists to support any military personnel who have conducted or assisted with Explosive Ordnance Disposal duties and their families. This includes ammunition technical officers, ammunition technicians, ECM operators, drivers, infantry escorts, weapons intelligence specialists, dog handlers, searchers or other military personnel involved in EOD duties. The all volunteer eleven Explosive Ordnance Disposal Regiment provide many of the personnel involved in this trade but there are many outside this ultra specialised unit who are also involved.

This year's effort garnered great sculling support from the Thames Traditional Boat Society and our Livery Company with some overlap. The crew of the first two days comprised four Liverymen, three of whom were also TTBS members. Total crew involvement over the seven sculling days was fourteen of whom nine were TTBS members, so a big 'thank you' from the Felix Fund and me for all that effort. Cookham to Oxford includes many lovely parts of our river with the Whitchurch to Goring Reach being particularly attractive in my view.

Coming into Oxford by river is also quite special with the gracious towers to the right as one approaches Folly Bridge. The weather was reasonably kind with some drizzle and short sharp showers, but no stair rods in midstream. On three upstream days we experienced stiff headwinds and, such are the perversities of British weather, those same reaches downstream had an average headwind. All in all an enjoyable few days with good boating friends, and the chance to experience different parts of the river from our base in Cookham. Some of our members have generously sponsored us. If anyone wishes to increase the total, this can be achieved through the JustGiving page www.justgiving.com/CharityRow2015 or sending a cheque in favour of the Felix Fund to me at home.

Robin Hope

Carol Service

The Annual Carol Service took place on 8 December at St James Garlickhythe, in conjunction with the Worshipful Company of Needlemakers. As always presents for disadvantaged children were donated by members of both Companies and placed under the splendidly decorated Christmas tree.

The Service followed the traditional format of readings by the Masters and First Wardens of both Companies, and traditional carols, and once again the choir of St James were in terrific voice. The address was given by our own Honorary Chaplain, the Reverend Gordon Warren, and the congregation was treated to an excellent organ postlude before both Companies enjoyed a delicious supper at the nearby Innholders' Hall.

Nick Sillitoe

Installation Lunch

With appropriate ceremony at Skinner's Hall on 11th January Robert Lampitt was installed and robed as the Company's 287th Master. Michael Gunston was installed as 4th Warden.

Our Honorary Chaplain, The Reverend Gordon Warren, reminded us that although all was well with the Company, his 'heavenly' Master says that 'there is still much work to be done!' There followed an excellent lunch during which Past Master Rodney Brody proposed a toast, welcoming in particular our principal guests, the respective Masters of the Spectacle Makers, Pattenmakers, Gunmakers and Carmen, and our Guest Speaker, Professor Tony Stockwell. He also welcomed Miss Anneliese Edgcumbe to the Court and the new Liverymen, Dorothy Rochester, Paul Day and Adam Nicholson, as well as our St. Paul's Cathedral Chorister, Master Oscar Pavey. (see below)



Professor Tony Stockwell, an expert on Imperial and Commonwealth history, then replied on behalf of the guests, relating his long friendship with the Master, dating back to school days at Whitgift School where, from his outstanding cover drive on the cricket field to his excellent stage management in school *New*



Liverymen: Dorothy Rochester, Paul Day, Adam Nicholson

productions, the Master clearly excelled. The school motto 'Vincit Qui Patitur' ('He conquers who suffers') reflected the Master's fortitude in school and his subsequent business life.

The Master responded and explained the 'Royal' theme for his year with visits to many Royal institutions, including the Royal Opera House, Horse Guards Parade to witness the final full rehearsal for the Trooping of the Colour, and Holyrood House in Edinburgh, where he gave credit to his wife, Hannah Gordon, in playing a key role!



The Master, Wardens and Clerk

You will by now have read the greater detail in the Master's opening piece, including the excitement which will unfold in HM Yacht Britannia! The Master also announced his Charity for the year to be the Not Forgotten Association.

Jeremy Ray

Visit to the Jewellery Exhibition

As his first informal event of the year, the Master arranged a special visit on March 1st, to Goldsmiths' Hall in the City of London, to view the magnificent Jewellery Exhibition in which our Company is involved as an Awards sponsor.



Pictured; Emma Burfoot, Jo Thorne, the Master, Laura Williams, Nan Nan Liu, Karen Donovan.

The GSWD provides financial prizes for innovative use of gold and silver wire in the design and making of jewellery and the Master presented these prizes at a ceremony organised by the Goldsmiths Craft and Design Council. The exhibition of all the prize-winning pieces was open to the public but a special evening private viewing was arranged by the Master.

A large group of nearly 60 Liverymen and their guests enjoyed the exhibition in the magnificent surroundings of Goldsmiths' Hall.

The viewing was followed by a fine reception with wine and canapés. We had the benefit of the presence of a number of the young prize-winners both from the current year as well as prize-winners from previous years, who showed us a fascinating selection of fine modern craftsmanship - from traditional to cutting-edge.

We are grateful to TRI-MAC Consulting Limited (3rd Warden Malcolm Craig) for a donation towards the cost of this event.

Roger Carter

Visit to the Royal Opera House

Following his "Royal" theme for the year, on March 22nd the Master arranged for a group of 40 Liverymen and their guests to be taken on a conducted tour of the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden followed by a fine lunch at La Ballerina Restaurant nearby.

The Opera House is embarking on a two year front-of-house refurbishment programme so the group entered the building from Covent Garden. We were then split into two groups, each with its own knowledgeable guide.

We were taken on a grand Tour including the vast Backstage spaces as well as the sumptuous Front of House areas of one of the world's leading theatres as it prepared to open its doors for the evening performance. We were given an introduction to the colourful history of the theatre, an insight into the re-development of the Royal Opera House and a look at aspects of current productions.

We were taken into the Auditorium and then backstage to see members of The Royal Ballet practising, as well as being given the opportunity to see the technologically almost unique backstage equipment in operation. It was a wonderful and entertaining occasion.



One of the happy groups in the Royal Opera House with the Master, his Lady and the guide.

Following the Tour we all walked the short distance to La Ballerina Restaurant and enjoyed a fine lunch.

Roger Carter

Sea Cadets



CPO Dean Hagger (Commanding Officer); Councillor; the Deputy Mayor of Barnet, Councillor Alison Cornelius; Inspecting Officer Commander J. Nisbet; the Master; the Clerk; the President TS Barrosa Vice Admiral McAnally CB LVO; the Deputy Lieutenant of Greater London Martin H.C. Russell; and Area Sea Cadet officers.

On February 12th the Master and Clerk were guests at the Annual Inspection of the Edgware and Mill Hill Sea Cadets.

The Master's Dinner 4th April

At Court, Carol Rutter, (pictured in next column) whose late husband Roy was Master in 1994, was clothed in the Livery. Past Master Brian Jones' Apprentice, Timothy Copeman, was granted the Freedom of the Company by servitude.

Many Liverymen then gathered in St James's Garlickhythe for the Company's Annual Church Service, conducted by the Honorary Chaplain to the Master, The Reverend Gordon Warren, with his usual humour and panache. From there the team migrated to Skinners' Hall where they were joined by a further contingent of Liverymen and their guests.

After a very lively initial reception, everyone moved into The Great Hall for dinner. Here the proceedings started with Gordon Warren's traditional humorous, rhyming opening Grace, and we then settled down to the inevitable lively conversation and predictably excellent food and service provided by the very cheerful staff at Skinners' Hall.

After dinner came 'speech therapy'! The Master effortlessly introduced the Guest Speaker and great



friend, The Reverend Canon Roger Royle (pictured below) who, with a declared ever-lifting but apparently blind eye on the clock, regaled the company with a highly amusing, sometimes edgy, but always gripping speech covering many aspects of his wide experience – accompanied by continuous laughter.

We then broke for the customary 'Stirrup Cup' or the last train home - perhaps both, thus quite a gallop!



As always, it was an excellent evening spent in tremendous company. Our continued thanks go to Skinners' Hall for their unstinting support, and to our Clerk for his immaculate organisation!

Mike Mullane

Christian Russell Silver Salver

In 1724, a Mrs Christian Russell left a legacy of £100 and a silver salver. The legacy was to be used to pay £5 every year on New Year's Day to five poor Widows, but the silver salver was for the Company's own use. Mrs Russell was herself a widow and had exercised her privilege to take up the freedom on her husband's death. In earlier times, as now, wives of Liverymen were often able to take their husbands' place and even, in some cases, retain this privilege on remarriage. This doubtless explains both her care and gratitude.

The history of the salver itself gives an interesting insight to part of the Company's history; it is described as hall-marked Silver, London 1822, with gadroon edge, standing on three leafed capped feet, with the arms of the Company engraved in the center. The valuation report confirms it is in very good condition.



During the latter part of the 18th Century much of the trade had moved to the industrial north. Some of these independent, self-made businessmen later joined the Company, but rather from benevolence than any other reason. Sadly the Company not only lost control of the trade, but failed to care for its privilege and stopped exercising its watching brief on the activities of Parliament. Meeting after meeting was adjourned for lack of a quorum or insufficiency of business.

William Robins, Clerk for 42 years (1778-1820) died in 1820. The accounts were found to be deficient to the tune of £111 2s. 11d. Perhaps this was symptomatic of the affairs of the Company at that time. An attempt to make Mr. Reynolds the Renter Warden for that year of account, to make good the deficit, came to nothing. However, he made a token contribution of £20 in acknowledgement of his technical responsibility.

In 1939 the Assistant Clerk, Norman Harding CC, discovered that the Mrs Christian Russell Salver was date marked 1822 rather than 1724. The Accounts in earlier times included the value of the Company's Silver and were the personal responsibility of the Renter

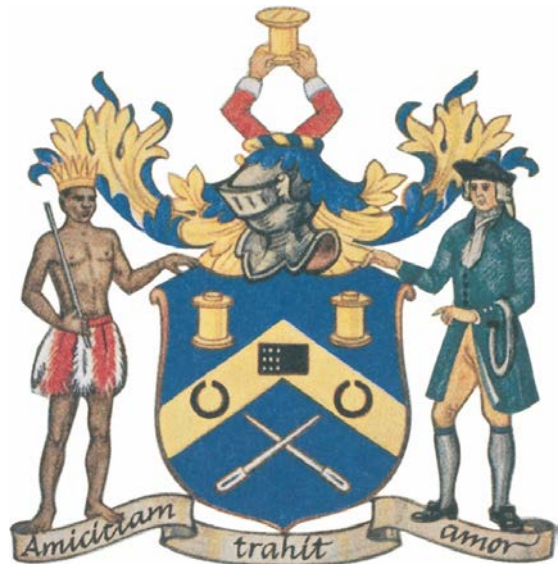
Warden, probably accounting for the contribution of £20 from Mr. Reynolds. Clearly the silver salver had gone missing on Clerk William Robbins' watch and came to light on his death. It says much for the Company in those straightened times that the bequest was replaced within two years.

Not only money and morale were lost at this time but things of even greater importance were mislaid. The Charter and By-Laws disappeared, although they were fortunately rediscovered in 1822 at the 'George and Vulture', no doubt left there by William Robbins after dinner; well, after 42 years of service, he was getting on a bit!

There are further references to the Mrs Christian Russell Fund in 1907, and entries in the Company's Minute Book in 1932 and 1937 refer to further continuing monetary donations to specific beneficiaries, confirming her bequest was more than just the Silver Salver.

Vernon Knapper

The Arms of The Gold & Silver Wyre Drawers



For those who are interested in Heraldry, you may enjoy this historic description:

"The Arms are correctly emblazoned as follows: Azure on a Chevron Or between in chief two Engrossing Blocks Or and in base two points in saltire Argent a Drawing Iron between two Rings Sable and for the Crest, on a Wreath Or and Azure, Two arms embowed vested Gules cuffed Argent holding in the hands proper a Copper Gold, and for Supporters, on the dexter side a Carib Indian proper crowned with an Ancient Crown Or vested about the waist with feathers pendent alternately Argent and Gules holding over the shoulder a Bar of Silver proper and on the sinister side a Liveryman of the Company of the mid-18th Century having over the outer arm a coil of drawn Wire all proper."

The Clerk

Clerk's Corner

New Clerk.

The Court has appointed Commander Mark Dickens Royal Navy, who will take over as Clerk to the Company from Robin House, who is retiring later this year. An introductory article about the new Clerk will appear in the autumn edition.

Communications.

Have a look at the new website at www.gswd.co.uk. You will find the social and civic programme, photographic coverage of events and an archive which covers personalities going back to 1836. You will also find contact details for all Liverymen in the Livery List. Please let the Clerk know of any changes.

200 Club.

Win a prize in the 200 Club draw! Contact the Clerk or Assistant Brian Turner to buy a ticket or increase your holding.

Court.

William Fitzgerald-O'Connor and Roger Carter have been elected to the Court of Assistants.

New Liverymen admitted recently are:

Adam Robinson (Project management), Paul Day (Service manager), Dorothy Rochester (Retired) and Carol Rutter (Retired).

Charities Supported

Create Arts Ltd	[Children in hospital]
London Playing Fields Association	[Sport for young people]
Forces Support	[Forces, bereaved families]
SSAFA (Adoption Service)	[Forces, families]
Tall Ships Youth Trust	[Disabled young people]
Sea Cadets	[Affiliation – new storage facility]
RAF Benevolent Fund	[sponsored marathon]
Hackney Carriage Disneyland Tour	[Terminally ill children]
City of London Police Widows & Orphans Fund	[City]
The Rowing Foundation	[sponsored row]
Queen Alexandra's Hospital Home	[Forces disability]
London Air Ambulance	[London]

Deaths

The Company regrets to inform Liverymen of the deaths of Joseph Davison, Jane Conrad-Ware, Robert Myson, Alex Greggains, Alan Bowden and Gordon Davison.

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