



THE WYRE DRAWER

EDITION 31

AUTUMN 2016



HM Yacht Britannia during her final commission

EVENTS DIARY

30th November
Livery Banquet,
Mansion House

13th December
Carol Service
St James Garlickhythe
and supper

9th January 2017
Common Hall
and Installation lunch
Skinners' Hall

Edinburgh - The Master's Weekend

The Scots and English have a long history of 'engagement'. There are some notable events; from the battle of Stirling Bridge in 1297, to Culloden in 1746, with many further major skirmishes in between, until finally the Scots, Welsh, Irish and English chose to combine arms and build a national armed force which, drawing on such a rare mixture of character and commitment, not to mention our overseas warriors, had more or less overwhelmed the world by the mid-Victorian era.

Meanwhile the Scottish story rolls forward. The Great Siege of Edinburgh by the Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers in September 2016 will, I am sure, gather historic momentum, and a footnote in history! On Friday afternoon we gathered for a visit to Holyroodhouse, the Queen's official residence in Scotland. A very informative and interesting tour followed, covering every activity from State Ceremony down to the smallest detail. Much of the exhibition of course centred around the Queen's 90th Birthday and the many milestones passed on the way; perhaps amongst the most touching exhibits were the clothes worn through the years as our Queen grew from child to Monarch. After this heart-warming start we made our way to the Contini Restaurant, within the National Gallery of Scotland, where we ended the day with an excellent dinner in our own remarkable company!

We had the next morning to ourselves, taking full advantage to start exploring Edinburgh knowing that we still had much of Sunday to continue that adventure. After lunch we all boarded our coach and headed for the Royal Burgh of Culross (evidently Cu'ross, with a silent 'l'), on the River Forth. This is the most delightfully restored small medieval town, almost entirely cobbled, wonderfully quirky and atmospheric, and under the protection of National Trust Scotland. The particular gem here is the refurbished Palace – essentially a large sprawling townhouse, easily spotted by its startling mustard yellow exterior! The Palace was largely the work of a 16th century patron, Sir George Bruce, whose inventive mind ensured his and Culross' success by his ingenious approach to mining coal underneath the River Forth – and in parallel establishing a considerable salt pan industry on the shoreline. It is worth noting that he also took an early interest in working conditions, paying his workers fairly and establishing a minimum employment age. The Palace revealed some interesting facts and indeed artefacts, many of them centred around eating and drinking!



We returned to Edinburgh via the huge and impressive sculptures of the Kelpies, presenting the necks and heads of two mythical Water Horses, with a view of the new Forth bridge now nearing completion.

After a swift turnaround, we gathered in The New Club in Princes Street for an excellent dinner followed by an invigorating Ceilidh. Led with verve and authority by Tom, our kilted 'Caller', many of us learned some very new tricks in the ensuing melée!



Another excellent day.



Sunday passed quietly, taking advantage of the time to explore Edinburgh further. Then, that evening, our coach took us to Leith, on the north-east perimeter of Edinburgh, where we boarded HM Yacht Britannia for what was certainly going to be a superb finale to the weekend. We were welcomed with a drink in the magnificent State Drawing Room, and thence led on a fascinating and detailed tour of the ship – perhaps the enduring impression was the remarkably simple and functional arrangements on board required by the Royal Family; although the sight, and huge presence, of a State Rolls-Royce in the upper deck garage was an arresting moment!

Thence to Dinner in the casually elegant State Dining Room where we enjoyed a perfect meal in unique surroundings. The Master introduced the Guest of Honour, Commodore Anthony Morrow CVO, RN who, with great humour, led us through some of his experiences as the last Commodore Royal Yacht; but we were left in no doubt that the Yacht, for over forty years, served the Nation magnificently across the world in all areas where goodwill and friendship were

required, and indeed in promoting lasting trade and political ties. Above all, and at the centre, there shone our Queen's sense of duty and total commitment to her role, and of course her clear gentle kindness and humour – strongly supported throughout by the Duke of Edinburgh.

This was a superb weekend and our thanks must go unreservedly to the Master and Hannah for their meticulous research, planning and, of course, hosting.

Mike Mullane



Ballet School - July

The Master and his wife were delighted to accept an invitation from the School to attend the end of year performance at The Royal Opera House.

Once again a full house was treated to an entertaining programme performed with skill and elegance by these talented students. Offering a range of classical works by Kenneth MacMillan, Frederick Ashton, School alumni, Liam Scarlett and David Bintley we were kept enthralled. By way of light entertainment six Ballerinas gave us "Mistake Waltz" which had the audience giggling loudly, as they tried in vain to dance in unison. Finally showcasing the senior male dancers, the performance concluded with the breathtaking "Concerto Grosso". Sadly and all too soon it was over but the "Grand Defile" brought the entire Company on stage for a final and well deserved curtain call.

Afterwards the Master presented our Livery prize between two winners at the Leavers' Ceremony in Floral Street. They were (pictured above) Miss Kaho Yanagisawa who will be taking up her first role with Royal Swedish Ballet, and Aitor Galende Brizuela, who joins the Birmingham Royal Ballet.



We wish them every success in their future careers.

Bill MacConnol

'For All Occasions'

Hannah with Clive Conway (flute) and Christine Crowshaw (piano)



Hannah Gordon, the Master's wife, is a well-known Scottish actress. On behalf of the Master's Charity, Hannah performed "An Evening of Words and Music" at the Riverhouse Barn, Walton on Thames. She led us through wonderful corridors of equal mirth and tears - as only she can. One of the many highlights was a very amusing double act, with the Master, reciting "The Twelve Days of Christmas".

The Master thanked all involved who came to support the evening for his chosen charity, the Not Forgotten Association, a tri-service Charity founded in 1920, providing entertainment and recreation for the serving wounded, injured or sick and for ex-servicemen and women with disabilities.

Roger Carter

Colonel's Review - Horseguards

Forty Liverymen and their guests were on parade to watch the Colonel's Review, the final dress rehearsal for the Trooping of the Colour.

We sat expectantly as the Foot Guards assembled on the Parade Ground in front of us, followed by the Mounted Band of the Household Division, the Household Cavalry and finally the thunder and clatter of the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery; what a glorious assembly of the scarlet clad Guardsmen and the gleaming helmets of the Household Cavalry.

Although the Queen was not present, at precisely 11am the Sovereign's coach arrived on the parade ground, and the assembled Guards, Household Cavalry, King's Troop and Massed Bands wheeled and marched across the Square past the Saluting Base where the Sovereign would sit.

Finally, the Colour, this year of the Coldstream Guards, was trooped through the ranks of the Footguards, performing slow and quick marches to familiar and inspiring tunes. This is the hallmark of the parade



together with the complex movements and formations.

We then retired to the nearby Guards Museum where we enjoyed an excellent lunch surrounded by the extraordinary cornucopia of weapons, paintings, uniforms and memorabilia from the 400 year old history of the Guards, which ended a wonderful morning of British pageantry, albeit in final dress rehearsal form. Many thanks to the Master and Hannah for organising this highly enjoyable event.

Jeremy Ray

Golfing Society

Re-electing Cynthia Fowler as our Captain for a third year we started at Tandridge, which was in beautiful condition. Paul Constantinidi won the Clifford Jeapes Cup with 39 points, the winning guest being Charles Clifford-Turner with 41.

The Prince Arthur Cup followed at Walton Heath and, whilst our overall score was average, in the afternoon our pair of Paul Constantinidi and Paul Day only lost the best round on a countback. Well done to them!

The Summer Meeting was at Beaconsfield, a lovely course, although the weather was not good. We had a poor turnout with only 8 players which was a shame. The trophies followed last year's pattern; Ron Smith winning the Company Rose Bowl and John Kenyon-Muir the Sir Herbert Wilkinson Cup. We were delighted that our injured Captain joined us for lunch.

We again had a team against the RLC and the Carmen at Aldershot, another lovely day but not too successful. Captain's Day at Ashridge was as always excellent with lovely weather and a course to match. The Trower Trophy was again won by Greg Wright, Chris Knellor and Giles Payne with an excellent score of 58. Paul Day and I entered the Carmen's Day at Cuddington and had an enjoyable time.

We finished at Swinley in October. The course was immaculate and yours truly won the morning trophy, with the best guest score achieved by Matthew Berry. The Walker Cup for greensomes in the afternoon was won by Paul Day and Matthew Berry with a splendid 36 points over 15 holes, although attendance was again poor.

The good news is that I am standing down as Secretary at the AGM and Tim Macandrews is taking over, supported by Henry Hobson. I am sure they will review costs and venues for the coming year.

John Edgcumbe

RAF Northholt

Liverymen visited RAF Northholt on July 11th, to see our affiliated units, the Queen's Colour Squadron and the Central Band of the Royal Air Force.

The Master presented the annual achievement award to Corporal Matthew Ellson.



July Dinner

Liverymen, many with their guests, gathered for the July 4th dinner at Skinners' Hall. Following the Honorary Chaplain's witty but meaningful grace we embarked on an excellent dinner. Our distinguished guests included the Master Maker of Playing Cards, the Master Coachmaker and Wing Cdr Trasler of 101 Squadron RAF.

There followed a Musical Interlude of songs from the Shows sung by soprano Elizabeth Karani, accompanied on the piano by Edmund Whitehead, both from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, ending with 'Summer Time' from Gershwin's Porgy and Bess, sung with great verve. Third Warden, Malcolm Craig, announced three new Assistants, confirmed at the earlier Court meeting, Roger Carter, Catherine Carr and William Fitzgerald-O'Connor.



Till Becker, John Fetterroll, Keith Chapman Tim Copeman

He also welcomed new Liveryman Keith Chapman, at the young age of 93, our Jewellery Prize Winners, Laura Williams and Heather Woof, Royal School of Needlework Prize Winner Constance Wynn, and of course our Guest Speaker and Chief Executive of the Royal School of Needlework, Dr Susan Kay-Williams.

Dr Kay-Williams responded on behalf of the guests and gave us a fascinating insight into the varied work of the Royal School, which has expanded its activities to reflect the growing interest in dyes and textiles, alongside the impressive work done in gold work and Embroidery and Fashion. Contemporary Embroidery, she claimed, is now more vibrant.

The Master thanked Dr Kay-Williams for a fascinating briefing on the School's wonderful work and then reported on recent visits he had made with members of the Livery especially to RAF Brize Norton and Faslane (HMS Victorious), and looked ahead to the many events in the second half of the year. A welcome stirrup cup rounded off a memorable evening.

Jeremy Ray

Royal Logistic Corps - Brize Norton

A party of fifteen Liverymen and their guests visited this little known unit of the RLC located at Brize Norton. After a warm welcome, briefings were given on their activities and recruitment procedures. They explained that since the RAF fly the aeroplanes, there has to be a very close working relationship with them. Then one of their very experienced team demonstrated how to pack anything from baked beans to bridges in order to ensure the items do not disintegrate on impact when despatched from the rear of an aircraft. Later it was the turn of the Livery visitors to prove they had been paying attention! (see picture above) All succeeded, including our host Lt Col Chris Stuart, albeit with varying degrees of success. It proved to be another interesting and enjoyable visit which extended our close relationship with the RLC.



A week later, in response to an invitation from the Commanding Officer, the First Warden, accompanied by three Court Assistants, represented the Master at the Edgehill Dinner at Marlborough Barracks, Kineton. This annual dinner is held to mark the Battle of Edgehill, the first pitched battle (1642) of the English Civil War, close to Kineton and fought between the Parliamentary Army and the Royalist Army of King Charles I. The after dinner speaker gave a detailed talk on this protracted war.

Mike Gunston

Dedication - the National Arboretum

In October, The Master and Hannah were guests at the opening of the new Remembrance and Visitors Centre at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire, followed by a short service of dedication.

The Gold & Silver Wyre Drawers, with many other liveries, has donated a beautiful engraved pavilion in the new Heroes' Square garden, in memory of those members of our livery company who lost their lives serving their country. The whole occasion was very moving and emotional for the many people who attended.

The Master



GSWD Embroidery Coat of Arms

The Autumn Edition of the Wyre Drawer in 2015 included an article about the embroidery produced in 1923, to celebrate the Tri-Centenary of the grant of a Royal Charter to the Company by King James 1 in 1623. The embroidery had been produced by six craftsmen, all members of the Court of The Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers.

In 1927 The Company gave its first Public Exhibition devoted entirely to the craft at Stationers' Hall over three days. Her Majesty Queen Mary visited the exhibition on the second day. Held in the main hall it included the various stages of gold and silver wire drawing, methods of spinning gold and silver thread, flattening gold and silver wires and drawing gold and silver fine wire. Also included were a hand-purling spindle making pearl-purl, a hand-bullion spindle a hand twisting wheel, a Jacquard loom for lace-making and a loom for weaving gold, silver and silk fringes by hand.

Practical demonstrations were given by embroideresses making trumpet banners, belts, badges, epaulettes, aiguillettes, tassels and sword knots. Displays in an adjoining hall included examples of the Embroiderer's art with gold and silver wire, particularly a dress aiguillette presented by Edward VII to his nephew Kaiser Wilhelm II, and a gold girdle made for Queen Victoria's native Hindustani tutor.

Five of the members of the Court who produced the embroidery in 1923, were members of the committee responsible for what was considered to be at the time a highly successful venture. When the exhibition was over, one of them, Colonel Stephen Simpson, presented to the Company a banner of the Coat of Arms, which had been made for the occasion.

Elizabeth Elvin writes:

The coat of arms has been hand embroidered using a mixture of silk floss thread and metal mainly cut purls. The top crest is worked in silk floss with some gold purl directly onto the background fabric, The mantling is long and short stitch in blue silk floss with turnovers in gold metal purls worked directly onto the background fabric.

The cloth of silver helm has been applied to the background outlined using silver metal cut purls.

The centre badge is of blue banner silk applied onto the background fabric all motives in cloth of gold with outlines in gold metal cut purls, some outlined in black silk thread to give highlights.

The two supporters are both worked in long and short stitch in a silk floss thread directly onto the background fabric.

The label/ribbon at the bottom has been worked separately and the lettering is in silk floss satin stitch, then applied to the background fabric using a satin stitch in silk floss thread; the pink has been worked in long and short stitch in silk floss to give depth and definition to the ribbon.

In 1741 a Common Seal in Silver, representing the

Company's Arms, was presented by Warden Nicholas Cunliffe, who became Master in 1743. The Company was granted the Livery in 1780, a long cherished wish, already provided for in the original charter of incorporation, and long delayed. The grant was important, as it consequently enabled the Company to take a full part in the Governance of the City. Throughout the 19th Century The Company's banner was proudly displayed on Lord Mayor's Days with the College of Heralds until 1975.

Vernon Knapper



The 200 Club

The 200 Club is an opportunity to support the Company's charitable activities with the potential to win a generous prize. Each ticket costs £50 for the year and the funds raised are divided equally between prize money and the Charitable Trust.

There are five prizes drawn at the Court meeting preceding each Livery Dinner. The amounts are determined by the number of members entered into the draw. There is also a further prize of £100 donated to the charity nominated by the winner.

Last year £9,700 was raised with £4,850 given in prize money.

Tickets can also be purchased for family and friends. Winning a personal prize and two charity prizes a few years ago was how I became aware of the Company and its charitable activities.

If you would like further information, please contact Brian Turner or me (details on the GSWD website).

Assistant Liese Edgcumbe
Charity and Events Committee

Royal Trinity Hospice

At Trinity Hospice where Past Master Roy Rutter died, Immediate Past Master Michael Powell presented Carol Rutter with a cheque for £12,500 for the Hospice; money raised during his year mainly from his abseil down the Arcelor Mittal Orbit, supported by our last Clerk, Robin House.

In recognition of the donation, the Hospice commissioned a gold Leaf reflecting Roy Rutter's name.



Developments in 'Trade' Matters

In common with many other Livery Companies wishing to re-establish links with their original trade or craft, and initiated by the 2009 Master (Tim Waller), the Court agreed to set up a "focus group" to examine the possibilities. The aim was to engage with the Company's original trade, enhance its identity, relevance and Liverymen interest and to increase recruiting of new members especially among younger people.

The group, chaired by Rodney Brody and consisting of Ken Blundell, Jean Scott-Moncrieff, Liz Elvin, Tim Waller, Richard Stillwell and the Clerk, examined several ideas. The original trade of drawing gold and silver wire is hardly practised any more in UK and therefore it was decided to pursue avenues which made use of the product. Relevant to this is the fact that the Company already supports students at the Royal School of Needlework and continues to present an annual prize for the best *piece* of "goldwork". The **Master** presents this each year to the winning student at the July Livery dinner, very much in keeping with the ancient origin of the word "**masterpiece**".

After much discussion, research and hard work by the group, a link was formed with the Goldsmiths' Craft and Design Council who organise an exhibition of work using gold and silver in Goldsmiths' Hall, the location for the annual prize giving ceremony. Through this link an annual Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers Award has been established for the use of gold and silver wire in jewellery. A second avenue has been set up to make an Award for the use of gold and silver wire or thread in textiles through the well-known Company "Hand and Lock".

The Court has also agreed that individuals selected from GSWD prize-winners of these three types of Awards (Royal School of Needlework, Goldsmiths' Craft and Design Council and Hand and Lock) should be invited to become Freeman of the Company with the opportunity to become clothed as Liverymen in due course. The first such Freeman are Bella Lane and Laura Baverstock (see *left*) who were made free of the Company on



3rd October at Trinity House.

The focus group has now been designated as the Trade Committee with the task of continuing to oversee all aspects of this work as well as the implementation of Freeman and Liverymen joining through this route.

This has been a significant and historic achievement in the life and evolution of our fine Company and we owe a great deal of thanks to the volunteers who have made such a valuable contribution.

Robin House
Liveryman

Lunch at The Haven

On Sunday 18th September the Master, accompanied by his Mistress and 51 Liverymen and their guests (see *below*) attended the annual fundraising lunch at the Haven Bistro and Bar in Whetstone, North London. The occasion started with a champagne reception followed by a most delicious 4-course lunch with accompanying wines and the meal ended with port and cheese. As in previous years, Liveryman Julius Oberegger sponsored the whole event.



It is thanks to the generosity of Julius that £3,250 was raised on the day. This annual event contributes significantly to our Charitable Trust and this was the eleventh year that Julius has hosted such an occasion; a sincere thanks to him for yet another highly successful Haven event, and to his team whose flawless service added to the enjoyment of everyone present.

Michael Powell

Royal School of Needlework visit

On the evening of the 26th October The Master and 20 Liverymen and their guests arrived at Hampton Court Palace for a private visit to the Royal School of Needlework (RSN). We were taken to the two studios based on the East Front of the Palace overlooking the Long Water and the wonderful old Yew trees.



We were greeted by the Head of Studio Anne Butcher and part of her work team together with Future Tutors and Degree students. These wonderful young ladies proudly showed us their work and talked about the courses they were undertaking at the RSN. Their enthusiasm was overwhelming as each explained the piece they had brought to show that evening; they also discussed the exhibition mainly displayed on the walls of the studio; the theme of Stories in Stitch which represented embroidery techniques

practised at the school throughout the training and teaching. This includes Applique Stumpwork Raised Embroidery, and pieces telling stories from the RSN's own historical collection.

The work displayed by Studio staff was a series of Altar Frontals in different stages of working, mainly in the technique of long and short stitch; they were for a private client who had commissioned them for his own chapel and, needless to say, the working in pure silk thread was magnificent.

The Master, Chairman and CEO of the RSN escorted HRH The Duchess of Gloucester into the studios and presented members of the Livery, the staff and students to Her Royal Highness who, as always was so gracious and enthusiastic about the embroidery. Being a stitcher herself she really appreciated the work these girls do. (see photo on page 6) After viewing the exhibition and talking to the students at great length Her Royal Highness departed.

Members of the Livery bade farewell to the staff and students and made their way to a much enjoyed supper in a nearby restaurant.

Elizabeth Elvin

October dinner - Trinity House

The October Livery Dinner took place in the splendid setting of Trinity House, near Tower Hill, on 3 October 2016, where the Master welcomed over 120 Liverymen and their guests and his personal guest and principal speaker, Colonel Nigel Gilbert, lately Captain of Invalids, Royal Hospital Chelsea. During the excellent meal, Fourth Warden Michael Gunston welcomed all the guests, fellow Livery Masters and their Clerks, and the visiting Service affiliation officers. He also introduced the new Court Assistant Catherine Carr, who had been installed at the earlier Court meeting, along with five new Freemen, and a new steward Robert Andrews.

In keeping with the Master's Royal theme throughout his year in office, the principal speaker gave an entertaining and witty speech about life at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, aiming some of his remarks at the two Chelsea Pensioners present in their magnificent uniforms.

The Master also welcomed our new Clerk, Mark Dickens, and thanked outgoing Clerk Robin House for his huge contribution to the Company over the past eleven years, and presented him with several leaving gifts. In return Robin spoke with great humour and emotion about his time as Clerk, and he displayed

his parting gift to the Company, a large flag with the



Livery heraldic device, to be hoisted outside Skinners' Hall at future events.

Nick Sillitoe

Clerks' Handover

From the outgoing Clerk:

I sharpened my metaphoric quill pen and handed it into the capable hand of Mark Dickens at the 3rd October Court, when he was installed as the Company's 24th Clerk. I am hugely grateful to Liverymen for their gifts, a framed photo, an oil painting of St James's Park and Westminster Abbey (where I continue as an Honorary Steward) and a most generous cheque, which has already been invested in part ownership of a small sailing boat. As an Honorary Liveryman, I look forward to maintaining contact with many Livery friends.



Robin House

Commander Mark Dickens, 60, spent 27 years in the Royal Navy as a submariner specialising in navigation. He qualified for Command (the Perisher) aged 30, serving as Executive Officer of both fast attack and ballistic missile nuclear submarines. Latterly he spent time in Naval Intelligence including a period in the United States embedded with the US intelligence community and ended his career in Command of the Tomahawk Cruise Missile planning centre in Northwood. Following that he spent 15 years as Bursar and Clerk to the Governors of his old prep school in Sussex not far from his home near Crowborough, East Sussex. He is a direct descendant of Charles Dickens, a Freeman of the City, a Director of the Charles Dickens museum and Vice President of the City Pickwick Club. He is married to Debbie and they have three sons and two grandsons.

Clerk's Corner

New Clerk

I am absolutely delighted to be appointed as your new Clerk and I look forward to getting to know you all as soon as possible. I have been most fortunate to have had a meticulous coach in Robin House who has given me an excellent turnover, but please don't expect me to know everything straight away. I hope you will come and introduce yourselves to me (many times please, just in case my feeble memory is not up to scratch!) Thank you all for your very warm greetings which confirm what everyone says about us, that we are a particularly friendly Livery Company. I will enjoy doing my best to support you in the magnificent way that Robin has done for so many years.

Website www.gswd.co.uk

I do hope that you will all use the website regularly from now on as it has all the key dates of future events and holds the database of Liverymen contact details; please bookmark this page so you can access it quickly and easily. It is a mine of information with photographs,

past Wyre Drawer magazines, trade links, historical information etc. A tremendous amount of work happens behind the scenes keeping it up to date – please use it, and most especially please let me know of any errors or omissions, or of problems accessing it from your various devices and search engines. If you need to be reminded of the password to access the members' area of the website send me an email at clerk@gswd.co.uk.

Court

Liveryman Catherine Carr has been elected and installed as an Assistant on the Court.

New Admissions

The following new Liverymen have been admitted: Till Becker (private equity), Keith Chapman (retired), Tim Copeman (Royal Marine), John Fetterroll (retired stockbroker), Richard John (Oil Project Manager), and Paul Pleszko (rejoined). In addition, Liveryman Rob Andrews has been made a Company Steward.

Charities Supported

Treloar's	[Disabled children / Lord Mayors Charity.]
V&A Museum Embroidery Exhibition	[Gold & silver wire restoration]
Docklands Sinfonia	[Young person's musical education]
Docklands Watersport Association	[Young persons' education]
Dame Kelly Holmes Trust	[Disadvantaged young people]
Army Widows Association	[Forces widows]
Outward Bound Trust	[Young persons' education]
Highground	[Injured servicemen [job training]
Children's Trust	[Disabled children]
PBC Foundation	[Small charity / liver complications]
Marine Society and Sea Cade	[Lord Mayor Charity / Young persons]
Douglas Bader Fund	[Child amputees]

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Deaths

The Company regrets to inform you of the death of Past Master Emeritus Richard Vanderpump, Liverymen Michael Amey, Thomas Todd and previous Liveryman Tom Beales.