



# THE WYRE DRAWER

EDITION 32

SPRING 2017



*The Master and his Lady*

## EVENTS DIARY

23rd June  
Lincoln Cathedral  
Livery weekend

3rd July  
Livery Dinner,  
Skinners' Hall

14th - 16th July  
Master's Weekend  
Champagne  
France

3rd September  
Wrotham Park Tour and  
Haven Lunch, Whetstone

13th September  
Blue Badge Walk

2nd October  
Livery Dinner,  
Mercer's Hall

25th October  
Tour of Royal Mail,  
Mount Pleasant

24th November  
Livery Banquet,  
Mansion House

## MASTER'S MESSAGE

Thank you all for your kind support and allowing me the honour of becoming your Master for 2017. When Past Master George Constantinidi and Past Master Rodney Fitzgerald proposed me to the Livery in 1989 and then the Court in 1998, I was a young, single man in the City; now 28 years later on, still thinking of that young single man in the City, who is now a happily married, overweight, white haired father of two amazing children, I am very excited and somewhat bemused at the thought of finally having a mistress in the twilight of my years and also finding myself Master of our illustrious Livery Company.

Hannah and I are looking forward to our year and supporting our chosen Charity, Tilehouse Counselling, based in Hitchin, who provide professional counselling for young people in Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire. This service is offered to any young person between the age of 13 and 19 who feels in need of support. Hannah is a Patron as are a number of our close friends. They are a small Charity who need all the help we can give.

During the course of the year we will be having some enjoyable events that we hope will enable some of our newer and younger liverymen and families to accompany us regulars.

The two core events we are hoping for everyone to share with us are a Blue Badge walk starting from the Cheese Grater in the City and then ending back at the Cheese Grater with a cocktail reception hosted by Aon, for whom I have worked for 30 years. The second event is a tour of the Postal Museum which will include a train journey under parts of London, probably not as long as we would all wish.

Our regular visit to the Haven restaurant, kindly donated by Julius Oberegger, will be preceded by a private tour of Wrotham Park, one of the last privately owned stately homes in England, by kind permission of the current owner Robert Byng.

Our weekend away will be in Reims, to sample some of the delights of the Champagne region.

We hope that we will see as many of you as possible throughout the year.

Paul Constantinidi

## Hand and Lock

In November 2016 the Past Master, Mistress, Clerk and Trade Committee members attended the Hand & Lock Prize Giving and Exhibition at the Bishopsgate Institute. H&L are London's oldest embroidery house, providing embellishment services to the Royal Family, the Military, Savile Row as well as European fashion houses and often employing graduates from the Royal School of Needlework.

The GSWD were sponsoring, for the first time, a £1,000 prize for the best use of gold and silver wire in embroidery. Our winner, chosen by Liverymen Liz Elvin and Jean Scott-Moncrieff, was Annalisa Middleton, (pictured here) a London based artist with a background in costume design.



Her winning entry was her interpretation of the iconic bomber jacket/shell suit, aiming to meet functionality with the exquisite sumptuousness of high relief embroidery. She also won the Hand & Lock Gold Award.

Ken Blundell

## The Banquet

On the evening of Wednesday 30th November some 130 Liverymen, partners and guests arrived at the always warm and welcoming Mansion House for the 2016 Banquet.

Climbing past a very smart Honour Guard on the stairs, formed by 14 Sea Cadets and St John Ambulance Cadets, all attending passed the Receiving Line and gathered initially in the Salon and side Drawing Rooms; pre-dinner drinks were taken, whilst those 'on duty' eased gently amongst the groups, ensuring that all was well and perhaps also seeking out their own particular guests.

Summoned by a resounding strike of the gong, the procession into the glorious setting of the Egyptian Hall duly began - a well rehearsed and choreographed procedure to the accompaniment of striking music, on this occasion provided throughout by the excellent London Banqueting Ensemble, directed by Mr. Steve Fletcher; thence to an impeccable dinner. This was followed by the traditional ceremony of the Loving Cup, and then the formal toasts - and, on this occasion, the final musical treat, the Post Horn Gallop which, rather than 'duelling' from the upper galleries of the Egyptian Hall, was played at ground level, moving amongst the guests - very innovative and extremely successful.

And thus to the speeches. The Lord Mayor who was out of the country, was represented by Alderman Sir David Wootton (Lord Mayor in 2012) who, as Lord Mayor Locum Tenens - work that out classicists! - is accorded all the rights of Lord Mayor, and was accompanied by both Sheriffs and their wives. In a well researched talk, he spoke about our Company, its achievements and, in particular the initiative of the new Freeman via the Trade Route.

1st Warden, Paul Constantinidi, welcomed all the guests and was followed by the Principal Guest, Christopher Powney, Artistic Director of the Royal Ballet School, accompanied by his wife, who talked about our historic and close association with the School, future funding and aspirations. Finally the Master spoke about his year, and his Royal theme which, by any measure, had certainly been achieved! A wonderful evening which, as always, reflected the absolute quality of the Mansion House staff and their unwavering ethos.

Mark Dickens

## Carol Service

The annual Carol Service was held on Tuesday 13 December at St James Garlickhythe, in conjunction with the Worshipful Company of Needle-makers. As with tradition, many presents were donated by members of both Livery Companies and laid under the beautifully decorated Christmas tree.

The Carol Service followed the reassuring format of readings by the Masters of the respective Companies, along with many traditional carols and some uplifting



organ pieces played by Paul Gobey, and wonderful singing by the choir of St James, which together with an inspired sermon from the Chaplain to the Needleworkers, sent the congregation away in truly



festive mood.

Members of both Companies then enjoyed a delicious supper at a nearby hotel, an evening which cemented the excellent relationship that we have built up over the years with the Needleworkers.

Nick Sillitoe

## Installation Lunch

Hail to the new Chief!

With a solemn declaration of allegiance to the Queen and the Worshipful Company of Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers, the new Master, Paul Constantinidi, was sworn in at Common Hall on 9th January – an ancient ceremony during which Gordon Warren was also sworn in as Fourth Warden.



At the subsequent Luncheon in Skinners' Hall Past Master George Constantinidi regaled us with intriguing background on his son, the new Master, and proposed the health of our guests. He particularly welcomed the Masters of the Spectacle Makers, Pattenmakers, Gunmakers and Carmen, as well as Commander Stuart Finn, former CO of 814 Squadron Fleet Air Arm, and now at the MOD, and Mr Derrick Holmes of St

John Ambulance. He also welcomed new Liverymen Chris Day and Lesley Balding, and new Freemen via the Trade Route, Nan Nan Liu and Jo Thorne.

Our Guest speaker, old friend of the Master Mr Rob Davies, then responded on behalf of the guests and told some entertaining stories about the new Master and his business career. Kidnap and ransom became a key topic at this point, not actually doing it but insuring against it, we were all relieved to hear!



Finally, the Master spoke of his honour and pleasure to be elected Master and he hoped that all would enjoy the many events planned.

His theme for the year, following that of the Lord Mayor, is 'Educate, Inspire and Support,' which he felt reflected the objectives and highest principles of our Livery Company. He also explained that his chosen charity for the year was Tilehouse Counselling, a specialist small charity providing professional counselling for young people in need.

He also paid tribute to Liveryman Keith Chapman (pictured above), who recently received France's highest honour, the Legion d'Honneur, from the French Ambassador at a special ceremony in London, following his exploits on and after D-Day on the Normandy Beaches during the Second World War.

A very well received speech to round off an excellent Luncheon.

Jeremy Ray





## Jewellery 'Oscars'

On 27th February the Master presented two Awards for the Innovative use of wire at the Goldsmiths' Craft and Design Awards ceremony - known in the trade as the Jewellery Oscars. It is a magnificent event held at Goldsmiths' Hall, with many celebrities from the jewellery and silversmithing world mingling with the sponsors and excited prize winners. This year, the judging panel, with Liz Elvin and Jean Scott-Moncrieff representing the Livery, were delighted with the number and quality of entries.



We chose two winners: Matt Powell, with his platinum and black opal dragonfly pendant, and Chen Cheng's kinetic

gold ring and brooch collection - both outstanding pieces.

On 2nd March the Master's first informal social event was a private view of the exhibition where members of the



Livery were joined by Matt and Chen (pictured top right with the Master) so we were able to admire their work and find out a little more about their careers so far. Some of our recent prizewinners from the Royal School of Needlework and the Craftsmanship and Design Awards, including our four new Freemen were also able to attend and it was interesting to hear of their progress. Jo Thorne is working on a large order from a client in Saudi Arabia; Nan Nan Liu has work in the V&A collection; Laura Williams is launching her new retail range and website. Laura Baverstock has just finished a project working on costumes using gold wire for a new Orient Express film. Bella Lane has recently returned from leading a teaching programme in Peru. Bella, Nan Nan and Hazel Thorn will be representing the Livery at Lincoln Cathedral in June where they will be demonstrating their techniques.

A very happy evening continued at Haz, a nearby restaurant, with convivial conversation with our prizewinners and new Freemen over mezze, kebabs and a glass of wine!

Jean Scott-Moncrieff



## Chelsea Hospital visit

On 21st March a team of 36 Liverymen and their partners joined up at the Royal Hospital Chelsea gates for a private tour. Split into two groups, we were then led around by two Pensioners, resplendent in their magnificent scarlet uniforms, and who didn't seem to feel the biting cold wind that morning - unlike us mere mortals!

It was a fascinating and informative tour, covering both the history and the present day routines and commitments of this unique organisation. It is worth noting that entry into the Chelsea Pensioners is limited to Army retirees only, which of course led to a bit of gentle inter-service ribbing! The tour took us around the Heritage Berths, the Great Hall, the Wren Chapel and the Museum. Our great thanks to the two splendid Pensioners

who took care of us. (One was Brian Cumming pictured here.)

After a short walk, we then enjoyed an excellent lunch at the Saatchi Gallery.

Mark Dickens



## Past Master 1928 -1929

*A letter received from the son of a Past Master*

Gentlemen

I came across recent newsletters, Autumn 2015 & 2016, which mentioned the Embroidery presented by the Master in 1923.

My father Arthur Rochester Brown was mentioned as one of the Craftsmen, he was also Past Master in 1928-9.

He owned Hobsons & Sons Ltd which is still in the family ownership and still making uniforms and



*This is my father who died in 1954 and his Master's badge which I have had mounted.*

embroidery including the colours for the armed forces. In the Autumn 2016 edition you mention the visit of Queen Mary to a public exhibition and I have dug out some photos of the event (see Queen Mary below) which I have from my father and I guess Hobsons was heavily involved as I recognise machines that produce braid that I think are still in use today. (see top right)

Andrew Brown



*The Company's float at Lord Mayor's Show*

## Lodge of Love and Friendship

As a Past Master of our Worshipful Company and Secretary of our Livery Lodge, Love and Friendship No 6123, one of about twenty Lodges from the 110 Livery companies, may I invite all Freemasons who are members of the Livery to consider joining our illustrious group which consists currently of 40 members.

This year marks the tercentenary of Freemasonry, which organisation, like the Livery movement, gives to both Masonic and non-masonic charities, and which ranks second in amounts donated only by the National lottery.

We meet four times a year in October, December, February and April at Innholder's Hall in a most convivial atmosphere and you would be most welcome. For both non-masons and existing masons who would like to consider membership, I should be delighted to hear from you, either by telephone on 01372 374952 or by email at:

tim.waller@ballands.co.uk."

Tim Waller

Secretary Lodge of Love and Friendship No.6123



## April Dinner

Following the Company's annual Church Service at St James Garlickhythe, Liverymen repaired to Skinners' Hall for the Master's April 3rd Dinner.

Second Warden Malcolm Craig welcomed our many guests including the Master Skinner and the Masters of the Broderers, Needlemakers, Insurers, Chartered Architects and the Company of Watermen and Lightermen.

From the Navy he welcomed Cdr Al Marshall, Commander of the nuclear submarine HMS Victorious, and Cdr Stu Finn, formerly CO of 814 Squadron and now in the MOD, and Wayne Davidson, Station Commander, Kineton.

He also announced that Julius Oberegger had been elected to the Court, and welcomed new Liverymen



Mr Justice Rubin from Singapore and Jay Bhatt, (above) as well as new Freeman Heather Woof (bottom) and Apprentice Thomas Cartwright. (left)

He then introduced our Principal Guest and speaker, Peter McKinley, formerly of the Royal Navy and now an expert on wine, starting his own business 'New Generation McKinley', and also a member of the Vintners.

Peter McKinley then regaled us with stories of submarines, during the Cold War, especially east of Suez; the wine business which followed lead to further tales of colourful characters and during which time he became friends with the Master.

The Master closed the proceedings, thanking Peter McKinley for entertaining us so well, and looked ahead to future events organised by the Company through the Summer, especially in the City of London.

An enjoyable, informative and entertaining evening.

Jeremy Ray



## Honorary Freeman 14th June 1923

Philip Cunliffe-Lister. The Right Honorable The Earl of Swinton GBE CH MC PC

Philip Cunliffe-Lister was born Philip Lloyd-Graeme younger son of Lt. Col. Yarburgh George Lloyd-Graeme of Sowerby House, Bridlington, Yorkshire. His paternal Grandfather Yarburgh Gamaliel Lloyd, later Lloyd-Graeme (1813 - 1890) had inherited Sowerby from his maternal uncle Yarburgh Graeme.

The progressive change of Philip's family name was to continue through his life. He was born on the 1st May 1884 in East Ayton, Yorkshire and died on the 27th. July 1972 in Swinton, Yorkshire the name he took for his title when he became the 1st Earl of Swinton following his eventual elevation to the Peerage.

Philip was indeed to have a very distinguished career. He attended Winchester College and University College Oxford where he studied Law, graduating in 1906. He enlisted in 1914 following the start of World War 1 and was awarded the Military Cross in 1916.

He was first elected as a Member of Parliament for Hendon in 1918 and would hold his seat until his elevation to the House of Lords in 1935. As an MP his political career progressed apace. He was knighted in 1920 for his services as a civil servant in the War Office. He achieved his first ministerial post as Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade in 1920 and took charge of the Overseas Trade Department in 1921. In 1922 he became a Privy Counsellor and was appointed as President of the Board of Trade, an office he would hold with two breaks until 1931. Philip, married Mary Constance 'Molly' Boynton, in



1912. She was the granddaughter of the industrialist Samuel Cunliffe-Lister, 1st Baron Masham. In 1924 Philip and Molly Lloyd-Graeme took the name Cunliffe-Lister, enabling them to inherit and moved to Swinton Park Castle (still owned by the family and now a luxury hotel).

At this point we break his biography to introduce his relationship with our Company. We are uncertain as to the reason for our granting him an Honorary Freedom of the Company, clearly he was a person of some significance and may well of had personal connections with members of the Livery. The

importance of this grant of the Freedom is evidenced by the photograph on previous page, of a splendid silver box, enamelled with the GSWD Coat Of Arms on the lid and an inscription on the side "HONORARY FREEDOM presented to The Right Hon: Sir Philip Lloyd-Graeme KBE, MC, MP. President of the Board of Trade 14th June 1923

We are uncertain at this time as to how it came to



be returned to the Company. However, on 2nd December 1924 after he had changed his name to Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister he presented the GSWD with a Silver Monteith punch bowl (see above). Engraved on one side with the Coat of Arms of the GSWD and the other the inscription " Presented to the Worshipful Company of Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers by the Right Hon. Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister KBE., M.C., M.P. President of the Board of Trade (Honorary Freeman of the Company) 2nd. December 1924 "

In 1929 Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister was raised to Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire. Following the massive election win of the National Government in 1931 Sir Philip became Secretary of State to the Colonies until 1935 when he became Secretary of State for Air. In the General Election later the same year he did not contest his seat but was instead ennobled as Viscount Swinton, retaining his ministerial office for the next three years, into the premiership of Neville Chamberlain who determined that the Secretary of State must sit in the Commons. Swinton was dismissed with his political career seemingly over.

He was made a Companion of Honour in 1943 and during the Second World War his career revived when he was appointed the first Minister for Civil Aviation, a post he held to the end of the War. When Winston Churchill formed his peacetime government in 1951 he appointed Swinton as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster for a year, then as Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations for three years. When Churchill retired, Swinton insisted on retiring too, and

was further ennobled as the Earl of Swinton.

A truly remarkable career as a scholar, lawyer, decorated soldier and accomplished politician. He died in 1972 and his wife Molly in 1974. Their elder son John was killed in the Second World War, leaving two sons of his own. The elder grandson succeeded his grandfather as the 2nd Earl of Swinton and was in turn succeeded by his younger brother in 2006 as the 3rd Earl of Swinton. The third Earl has two sons, both of whom are now married.

Vernon Knapper

## Charity, Fundraising & Events

Our Livery Company has a Charity, Fundraising and Events Committee, often referred to as CFEC. The members of this committee are listed on our website, which I heartily recommend you visit and peruse as it contains many photographs in addition to an informative database.

As the title suggests, this committee has three main functions. It meets on a quarterly basis to analyse and discuss the many requests the Clerk receives for charitable donations and, on average, seven or eight charities are selected each quarter to receive a modest sum from the company's charitable trust. The chosen charities are then subject to an approval process by the Master's Committee and the Court before donations are made. Charitable donations are paid by liverymen by bankers order on an annual basis.

The 'events' work undertaken by the committee is to assist the Master and First Warden with the organisation of their proposed events during their year as Master. These events usually need to be planned a year or two in advance, and although the Master/First Warden will have done most of the spadework, committee members will assist with the fine-tuning as necessary.

It is usual for two of the Master's events to be fundraisers for his chosen charity and the company's charitable trust. Committee members will assist with these as necessary in addition to organising the 200 Club. The purpose of the 200 Club is to raise funds for our charitable trust, and tickets are sold for £50 p.a. 50% of the funds received are set aside for charitable purposes and 50% is returned to ticket holders in a quarterly draw. The odds of winning a prize are much better than the lottery and premium bonds, and tickets for this year are still available as we have sold 187 tickets to date. Please contact me for an application form.

Please consider supporting our charitable activities by donating an annual sum to our charitable trust and 'having a flutter' in the 200 Club.

Brian Turner  
Chairman CFEC

## Clerk's Corner

Where have the last 6 months gone since I took over from Robin House? Life is extremely busy, interesting and exciting with so much going on that time has passed in a flash and my feet have hardly touched the ground. What a privilege it is to be your Clerk. I am delighted that my wife Debbie has been given a small role as the Livery Administrator and one of her tasks is to help with the administration of events, so please expect to receive emails and phone calls from her rather than me sometimes. An additional email [admin@gswd.co.uk](mailto:admin@gswd.co.uk) has also been set up which will be used for events.

Website [www.gswd.co.uk](http://www.gswd.co.uk)

A gentle reminder to all of you to please bookmark our website on your search engine so you can access it quickly and frequently. It continues to evolve and every time you log on you will be amazed at the new information available. It remains the definitive place for your contact details and the GSWD diary of key events as well as the site for photographs and

historical information. Please let me know of any errors or omissions and also if you need to be reminded of the password to access the members' section. My particular thanks as always to Ken and Lesley Blundell for their amazing work and support with it.

### Court

Liveryman Julius Oberegger has been elected an Assistant to the Court.

### New Admissions

The following have been admitted to the Livery: Chris Day (retired banker), Lesley Balding (property developer), Jay Bhatt (Media) and Mr Justice Rubin (retired Judge and Diplomat).

The following GSWD jewellery prizewinners have been made Freeman via the Trade Route: Nan Nan Liu, Jo Thorne and Heather Woof.

## Charities Supported

Barbican Art Box	[City, education]
Belvoir Cricket Trust	[Liveryman, children, small charity]
Combat Stress	[Services veterans, mental health]
The Great Silence	[City, Lord Mayor]
Hackney Cab visit to Disneyland	[City, disabled children]
Hanover Band	[Liveryman, young musicians]
Impact Foundation	[Liveryman, medical, sponsored row]
Julian Campbell Foundation	[London, children, mental health]
London Air Ambulance	[City, medical]
Lord Mayor Charity	[City, Lord Mayor]
Royal Trinity Hospice	[Liveryman, medical]
Shine	[HRH, children, medical]
Soldiers' Charity	[Lord Mayor, services]
WW1 Soldier's Tale	[City project, Cadets]

## Deaths

The Company regrets to inform you of the death of Liverymen William Smith, Edward Mason, Matthew McPhail and John Williams.

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