



# THE WYRE DRAWER

EDITION 33

AUTUMN 2017

## EVENTS DIARY

December 12th  
Carol Service and dinner  
St James Garlickhythe

January 8th 2018  
Installation Lunch

January 31st  
Visit to Dickens Museum

February 27th  
Goldsmiths' evening

April 9th  
Livery dinner

April 12 -16th  
Master's Weekend  
in Holland

May 10th  
Gold Medal evening

June 16th  
325th Anniversary dinner  
London Zoo



*Jailed and Bailed!*

## FROM THE MASTER

This year we have participated in a number of events raising money for various Charities and Good Causes. We have visited Wrotham Park followed by lunch at the Haven and had a Blue Badge walk around the Insurance section of the City. (See separate articles). We also participated in Jailed & Bailed, (*see photo above*), The Annual Sheep Drive and The Lord Mayor's Abseil.

The most fun was Jailed & Bailed, where 30 Livery Company Masters were Jailed at the Old Bailey having been abused verbally by a Sheriff on account of offences we had allegedly committed and then taken to the Tower where we were, after raising bail, given an excellent lunch.

The most bizarre was the Annual Sheep Drive over London Bridge with our newest Liveryman Alexandra Constantinidi, and I am pleased that I have now finally done it after 30 years.

The most terrifying was the Abseil, (*see page 6*) where I had to rope down 737 feet (41 floors) of the Cheese Grater. This I do not recommend to anyone with a fear of heights; I was still shaking from it two days later, and after many resuscitatory drinks! These 3 events alone have raised over £250,000 for many good causes:

- Tilehouse Counselling (Masters Charity)
- Lord Mayor's Charities benefitting from the Abseil Challenge:
- London Symphony Orchestra's Discovery programme
- St Paul's Music Outreach
- Music in Hospitals,
- Woolmen's Company Charitable Trust (Sheep Drive)

The Master

## May the Fourth be with you!

The Master and Clerk were honoured to be invited to a banquet for 700 at the Guildhall to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists. The date being 'May the Fourth' the theme of the event was of course 'Star Wars'.



Ken Blundell

## Edgware & Mill Hill Sea Cadets



On 19th May 2017 the Master and Mistress attended the annual inspection of the Edgware & Mill Hill Sea Cadets.

## Court Dinner

This year the Dinner was held at the City of London Club for members of the Court with their consorts. Entertainment before and after dinner, organised by Assistant Roger Carter, was superbly performed by



two graduates from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, classical guitarist and conductor Michael Poll and classical flautist Rebecca Carson. (pictured above)



(left) Two generations of the Constantinidi family

Ken Blundell

## Lincoln Cathedral Heritage Skills

Lincoln Cathedral hosted a Heritage Skills' Festival in conjunction with the City of London Livery Companies. Its aim was to showcase the historic crafts that went



Hazel Thorn, The Master, Liz Elvin, Bella Lane, Nan Nan Liu

into the construction of the Cathedral and those that support and enhance its daily life, together with demonstrating how all of these skills are kept alive today.

The City of London Livery Companies comprise London's ancient and modern trade associations and have evolved from the very powerful medieval guilds. Training apprentices was an important part of their duties as it still is today.

The Cathedral event was a unique opportunity to see these Companies sharing their skills, at the first event of its kind outside London. Our Company was represented by the Master and Mistress, the Clerk, Liveryman Liz Elvin, Trade Freeman Bella Lane and Nan Nan Liu, as well as one of our 2016 prize winners Hazel Thorn.

Liz Elvin



The Clerk, Bella Lane, Hazel Thorn, Nan Nan Liu



## July Court meeting & Livery Dinner

After the Court Meeting, over 170 Liverymen and their guests entered Skinners' Hall for the July Livery Dinner through an Honour Guard of the Company of Pikemen and Musketeers of the Honourable Artillery Company, dressed in their magnificent 16th Century uniforms; the Detachment commanded by Ensign Richard Ward.



At the Dinner, Fourth Warden Reverend Gordon Warren welcomed our guests including the Prime Warden of the Basketmakers, and the Masters of the Farriers, World Traders, Solicitors, Coachmakers and the Management Consultants. He also welcomed Sqn. Ldr. Ben Alcock, OC RAF Queen's Colour Squadron, Dr. Susan Kay-Williams, Royal School of Needlework and Ms Elena Thornton, the GSWD's RSN



Prize Winner, and of course our Principal Guest, Reverend Canon David Parrott, Chaplain to The City of London Corporation. Finally, he announced newly appointed Assistant, Julius O b e r e g g e r , new Liveryman A l e x a n d r a Constantini (see top photo) and new Freeman, Laura Williams (Prize winner 2016), Laura Warren, Mark Russell and Sean Eley. The Reverend Canon David Parrott then spoke wisely and amusingly of his role in the City and of the importance of Craft, the Church, the City, Comradeship and Charity and how, when all the '5Cs' are present as tonight, 'the story is complete'.

With the kind permission of the Headmaster, a Musical Interlude was provided by our Chorister from St Paul's Cathedral School, Oscar Pavey (above) who, accompanied on the piano by Andrew Carwood (Director of Music), sang delightfully.

Finally, the Master thanked the Reverend Canon, spoke of the achievements of the Livery through the year thus far and thanked the many people who had contributed to this success, and wished Oscar Pavey good luck when he joins St Paul's School, Barnes. A wonderful evening for all ended with a welcome stirrup cup.

Ken Blundell / Jeremy Ray

## Master's weekend - Reims



The Master's weekend this year was based in Reims, the champagne capital of France and took place from Friday 14th July to Sunday 16th July. On Saturday the party of 38 went on a Taittinger cellar tour and tasting, followed by lunch at Brasserie Flo. That evening they visited the Chateau de Rochefort, where Mme de Rochefort treated our group to a guided tour of the chateau, followed by a formal and delightful dinner. On Sunday the group went to Champagne Janisson for a tour, tasting and buffet lunch.

Ken Blundell



"Sabrage" - the art of lopping off the neck of a champagne bottle, in style.

The photo shows Liveryman Tim MacAndrews wearing the order of the Confrérie du Sabre d'Or. Tim is a Maitre Sabreur and he is teaching the Master to sabrage with the hope of introducing him into the Order.

## Visit to 814 Squadron



On 27 July the Master, Mistress, 5 Liverymen and the Clerk were taken in hand by the Commanding Officer of 814 Squadron - the "Flying Tigers" - at RNAS Culdrose. The group flew from Gatwick to Newquay where they were picked up by one of the Squadron's Merlin helicopters and given a stunning tour of Cornwall by air, culminating in their arrival at RNAS Culdrose.



Commanding Officer, Brendan Spoor.

Mike Mullane

### GSWD History/Archives/Artifacts

**The 400th anniversary of our first charter given by James 1st in 1623 will be celebrated in 2023 with an exhibition.**

**Please let our Archivist, Karen Watts know of any family history connected with GSWD and pictures of Past Masters that can be included in the Archive section of the Website.  
email: [karen.watts33@gmail.com](mailto:karen.watts33@gmail.com)**

## Wrotham Park & The Haven visit



In her capacity as an archivist of this magnificent neo-Palladian English country house, a responsibility she shares with Charles Dace, the Mistress arranged a private visit and tour on Sunday 3rd September. 74 Liverymen attended, and were given a tour conducted by the Mistress herself and Charles Dace. Some 17 miles from central London, this glorious house was designed by Isaac Ware in 1754 for Admiral John Byng, and has been in the Byng family ever since. The current owner, Robert Byng, very kindly agreed to



the private tour. Continuing the Master's theme of champagne and the Mistress's love of it, a welcome glass of champagne was served. We were given an education on the history of the house, followed by a free walking tour to study the wonderful pictures and furniture over the next hour.

We then moved down the road to the Haven Bistro (*see above*) where Assistant Julius Oberegger, welcomed us with more fizz, and put on a wonderful Sunday lunch for all of us. This is the 11th year that Julius



has generously donated all the proceeds to the GSWD 2nd Charitable Trust: We raised over £4,000 on the day. The food and wines were excellent and Julius' team made us all very welcome - a wonderful afternoon with a few glasses too many!

The Master



## Ancient Seal presented in 1742

This Seal is one of the oldest Treasures the company owns. The Court decided in 1741 that the Company needed a Seal and in 1742 Warden Nicholas Cunliffe generously presented the one we have today. He became Master in 1743. It is described as an 18th Century sterling Silver and Ivory Seal and cut with the company's coat of arms, supporters and motto measuring approx. 4.75" x 1.6in diameter.



Horace Stewart, Master in 1888, in a history of the GSWD published in 1891, recites some doubt exists to the exact date of the granting of the arms, although they are found engraved on the Common Seal of the Company presented in 1742 and are described by Edmonson, who wrote in 1780 and again in the Encyclopaedia Heraldica pub. 1830. Notwithstanding this, Elizabeth Glover in her more recent history of the GSWD published in 1979, reaffirms the uncertainty, stating that an interesting side light on the matter was that, the Company used these Arms illegally and the matter was not formally resolved until the Grant of Arms by the College of Heralds, in 1975.

A recent review of Company records held at Guildhall library, for more information about Past Master Nicholas Cunliffe, found he was admitted to the Freedom of the Company by servitude on the 27th. November 1701. An Entry, appears in the register on 13th. October 1720, stating that 'Thomas Newton Apprentice to Assistant Nicholas Cunliffe', indicating that sometime before that Nicholas had become a member of the Court.

We later find 'Nicholas Cunliffe son of Nicholas Cunliffe' bound apprentice to his said father on the 9th May 1722 was on the testament of his father of his faithful service admitted and sworn into the freedom of the company 14th May 1730.

Interestingly, although there are full records of Freemen, there are no records even to this day of

those clothed in the Livery. The granting and signing of the Freedom Register and taking the Oath, allowing one to practise their craft, and the major prize, in those times, of being able to apply for the Freedom of the City, was of the most significant importance.

The number of apprentices a Master of the Craft could have was strictly regulated and most often limited to one. This is apparent in the case of Nicholas's two sons. With the granting of the Freedom to his Apprentice Thomas Newton in October 1720, he was able to take his eldest son Nicholas as Apprentice in May 1722. In October 1724 he was enabled to take his younger son William and immediately transfer him to another Master of his craft.

With the granting of the freedom of his elder son Nicholas on the 14th May 1730, he was able the same day to take over the apprenticeship of his younger son William, until his eventual Freedom on the 14th October 1731. Hence the reference in the Freedom Register 'His several Masters'.

In those days it would seem that an apprenticeship was for seven years. That being the case Nicholas Sr. would have been apprenticed shortly after the grant of the William and Mary Charter in 1693.



The Freedom Register recites the path by which someone was made Free of the Company. In the case of Servitude It is stated as such. In the case of Patrimony it simply records the Freedom with no mention of servitude, giving the opportunity for a son to apply to be granted the Freedom, whilst not being a member of the craft. Where an applicant was granted the Freedom of the Company, as a Liveryman of another Company the Company is identified. If granted by a fine, it was stated to be by Redemption.

Vernon Knapper

## Cheesegrater Abseil!

The Master, Paul Constantinidi, abseiled down the Cheesegrater, the City of London's tallest building, on Friday, 8th September and raised over £10,000 for various charities. He is very grateful and would like to thank everyone who supported him in collecting this sum.



## Blue Badge Walk

On September 13th the Master kindly arranged an afternoon Blue Badge Walk around the streets and hidden alleyways of the City of London, followed by a generous reception in the AON Clients Suite in the Cheesegrater (100 Leadenhall Street), all proceeds going to the Master's charity.

We gathered in the lee of the Cheesegrater and were led by qualified guides through a fascinating meander in to unknown corners and narrow alleyways of our ancient City. This included the site of the original Roman Forum (60AD) in the centre of Leadenhall Market; via London's first coffee house where the earliest activities of the Lloyds insurance market began; followed by a Wren church which had survived not only the Great Fire of 1666 but also The Blitz, and the famous George and Vulture ale house immortalised in Charles Dickens' novels. Also, St Helen's, an even older church, whose stonework showed its origins going back a thousand years.

Then back to the Cheesegrater, Richard Rogers' 21st century creation, for a reception in the AON Client Suite hosted by the Master, during which we were privileged to hear a speech from Alderman Charles Bowman, future Lord Mayor, on his key role in The City of London. A fascinating and very enjoyable event for which many thanks are due to the Master.

Jeremy Ray

## Disneyland Sponsorship



The GSWD sponsored Hackney carriage taxi with the driver & family on their way to Disneyland Paris.

## October Court Meeting & Dinner

This was held in the beautiful and prestigious Mercers' Hall. The guests included Masters of the Mercers, Plaisters, Tin Plate Workers, Playing Card Makers and Hackney Carriage Drivers. The Master's private guests also included four more Masters.



Mark Hyde, Ronald Ng, Alistair Whitehead, Robert Whittingham were admitted to the Freedom of the Company by redemption and Sebastian Budd was admitted to the Freedom by patronage. Andrew Lamb was admitted to the Freedom of the Company by redemption (Trade route). Mark Russell and Robert Whittingham were clothed in the Livery.

Third Warden Michael Gunston proposed the Guests and Alderman The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mountevans of Chelsea (Lord Mayor 2015-16) responded. The musical interlude was superbly given by Nardus Williams (*Soprano-GSWD Bursary Student, see below*) and Chad Vindin (Piano) by kind permission of the Principal, Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

*Photographs*



*The Master and Mistress with the guest speaker The Lord Mountevans of Chelsea. (top)*

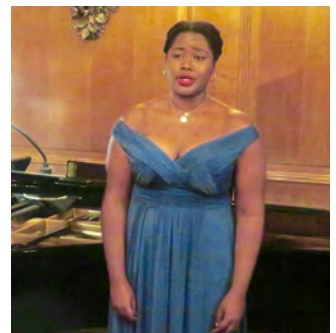
*The Master with Andrew Lamb - Freeman through the Trade Route. (left)*



*New Liverymen Mark Russell and Robert Whittingham. (left)*

*Nardus Williams (below)*

Nardus Williams has recently been awarded positions at both Glyndebourne Community Opera and Birmingham Opera after studying at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama on the Guildhall Artist Masters' (Opera Studies) course. Previously she studied on the Postgraduate course at the (see next page)





Royal Academy of Music with Lillian Watson. Nardus studied for her BMus at Trinity Laban, during which she was awarded the Royal Over-Seas League's Audrey Strange Memorial Prize for Most Promising Young Singer and won the Trinity Laban Gold Medal Competition at Kings Place, becoming the first singer ever to receive this award.

Jeremy Ray

## Sports Corner

Many of you may not be aware that there are Inter Livery Sport Competitions such as Golf, Skiing, Real Tennis, Tennis, Sailing, Shooting, Bridge, Go-Karting to name a few. If you have any interest at any level, please contact paul.constantinidi@aonbenfield.com. These are entertaining competitions, great fun and include beginners to the most experienced; we can simply enter teams and see how we do.



Livery was Past Master Rodney Fitzgerald who also donated money to many other causes. We saw his plaque at Royal Mid Surrey. The photo (above) is of the Master and his guest Francis Paszyk, who won the afternoon Greensomes, beside the "Fitz" plaque.

We also entered a team in the Inter-Livery Golf Competition 'The Prince Arthur', which is the largest one day, two course, amateur tournament in the UK. Sadly we didn't win but we qualified for next year's competition.

### Shooting

In May we entered our inaugural team in the Inter Livery Charity Clay Shoot. We were welcomed by the usual M25 traffic and then constant rain and drizzle all morning. This didn't dampen the spirit of our team which consisted of Liveryman Alistair Troughton, Assistant Will and Liveryman Henry Fitzgerald-O'Connor and the Master.

We battled our way around the ten stands and the flush and finished in good time to dry out and to enjoy lunch. 107 teams of 4, from 58 Livery Companies, take part. We came a respectable 28th, but more importantly we won the Side by Side competition,

beating off stiff competition from the Gunmakers B Team (past winners), whilst their Team A won the overall competition. So first time out a trophy, let's see what we can do next year!

The Master



Alistair Troughton, the Master, William Fitzgerald-O'Connor and Henry Fitzgerald-O'Connor,

## A Poem from the Mistress

Housewife, mother, archivist and consort  
And so the author of this little report  
Now a surprised and new committee member  
Too many roles, so much to remember

As Mistress of the Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers  
To be involved in such a wonderful cause  
A huge privilege, honour and great fun  
Thankfully, unlike the Master I didn't have to fire a gun!

Talks, tours and lunches I have taken daily  
To the Guildhall, Mansion House and the Old Bailey  
Abbeys, Palaces, Towers and Cathedrals have all  
been seen  
Museums, a prison, gardens and Halls, you see what  
I mean?

Lectures have been given, sheep have been driven,  
Air displays, Japanese drummers too,  
Flown in a 'copter and watched a Spitfire fly past  
It's all been amazing, too good to last

There have been many an early morn,  
Paul to the station at 6am, a beautiful English dawn  
Smithfield's at 5am, Hackney Carriage Drivers at 6am  
Off to another great day at 8am

Learning to know, love and appreciate more about the  
City  
I've nearly run out of time, more's the pity.  
To future Mistresses I wish you all the best,  
Get your sleep in now - there's no time to rest.

Hannah Constantinidi

## Clerk's Corner

Another six months have rocketed by and having been in post for a year I can no longer use inexperience as an excuse for inefficiency! Please keep me up to date with your circumstances, and don't forget to bookmark the website [www.gswd.co.uk](http://www.gswd.co.uk) and see the diary of events, browse the wonderful photographs and check the accuracy of your contact details.

### Court Decisions

The Court has approved some important issues:

1. A new committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of Past Master Vernon Knapper to start preparations for the 400th anniversary of the GSWD First Charter by James 1st in 1623.
2. Following a review of Court members it has been agreed that from now on Liverymen can invite their partners/consorts to the April Livery dinner (and it is hoped that they will want to participate in the annual Church service). The Master is also permitted to invite his family members to the January Installation lunch, and the Mistress/Consort to the October dinner. Should there be a constraint on numbers, Liverymen will always have priority for places.

### New Admissions

The following have been admitted to the Livery: Alexandra Constantinidi (Master's daughter), Mark Russell (retired Bank Manager), Robert Whittingham (Company Director). The following GSWD jewellery prizewinners/specialists have been made Freemen via the Trade Route: Laura Williams and Andrew Lamb.

### Merchandise

I hold a stock of Livery ties and these can be purchased for £20 on request.

Also GSWD umbrellas in two designs (City and Golf) have been ordered and will be available for purchase shortly. The cost will be £22 City and £23 Golf.



## Charities Supported

101 Centenary Event	[Affiliation]
ABF Soldiers Charity	[Lord Mayor, Big Curry Lunch]
Action for M.E.	[London, children, medical]
Bacton Altar Cloth	[GSWD trade]
Bishop Chartres Fund	[London, community]
Build Up Foundation	[London, deprived communities]
Scott Heron Bursary	[Liveryman, GSWD trade]
City of London Police Widows & Orphans Fund	[London, police]
Frontier Youth Trust	[Liveryman, youth support]
PBC Foundation	[Medical - liver disease]
Queen Alexandra Hospital	[Forces, disability]
Soundabout	[Liveryman, music, disabilities]
St Mary Le Bow, Young Homeless Charity	[London, Children, Homeless ]
World Heart Beat Music Academy	[London, music, disabilities]

## Deaths

The Company regrets to inform you of the death of Liveryman Justin Bygott-Webb.

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