



# THE WYRE DRAWER

EDITION 34

SPRING 2018



*The Master and his Lady*

## EVENTS DIARY

- 8 May - Sons of Clergy service
- 10 May - Gold medal event GSMD
- 16 Jun - 325 Ann Dinner Dance
- 2 Jul - Livery Dinner
- 15 Jul - Railway trip and lunch
- 2 Sep - Haven Restaurant  
fundraising lunch
- 17 Sep - Consort lunch  
Bulgari Hotel
- 1 Oct - Livery Dinner
- 1 Oct - Election of Lord Mayor
- 19 Oct - Royal Opera House visit  
Purfleet
- Nov/ - Banquet at Mansion  
Dec House
- 19 Dec - Carol Service and  
Supper
- 14 Jan 2019 - Installation Lunch

## MASTER'S MESSAGE

At my first lunch at Innholders' Livery Hall in April 2000, I never believed I would have the honour and privilege of being your Anniversary Master in 2018. This is all thanks to our late Past Master Frank Saunders and Past Master James Simmons who proposed and seconded me to join this marvellous Livery Company.

With my Mistress Amanda (my first Mistress and I do like saying that) we have and hope to attend as many events as possible, and support my chosen Charity "Headway Essex". The Headway Centre in Colchester provides the rehabilitation care for survivors of brain injuries. Some of the most common experiences which follow brain injury are lack of sight, personality changes, inappropriate behaviour, lack of initiative, and other major traumas.

Our most ambitious event of the year is the 325th Anniversary of our Charter on Saturday 16th June 2018. This will take place at London Regents Park Zoo, beginning with a Reception held by the Penguin Pool, (weather permitting), and if not, the Tiger House; and, for those who survive the latter, Dinner, the Celebration and speeches will be followed by a gentle disco. Please note this date in your diaries. My sincerest thanks to the members of the 325 Committee who assisted me in the choice of this venue. I trust as many of you as possible will be able to support Amanda and me. Below is a brief summary of past and planned future events.

We started the year with a visit to the Dickens Museum which, together with the Goldsmiths Jewellery Exhibition, you will find described later in the magazine. My Livery Weekend took place on the Dutch Rivers from 12th-16th April. This included a visit to the famous and extremely colourful Dutch Bulb fields and there will be much more on this in the next Wyre Drawer.

On the 15th July, we will visit the Kent & Sussex Steam Railway for a journey on the Wealden Pullman for a Sunday Lunch.

On Sunday 2nd September the now legendary annual lunch at the Haven Restaurant will take place! Our sincere thanks to Julius Oberegger for his continued generosity and support in hosting this event.

On Friday 19th October, I trust as many of you as possible will join us in a visit to the Royal Opera House Workshops in Purfleet. This is where the scenery builders and painters are based and also where the costumes for the London performances are made and stored. This visit will be followed by a supper at Thurrock Garden Centre, a 10 minute drive away.

Will all Liverymen during the course of 2018 who don't know me very well, please come and shake my hand to introduce yourselves. That would be such a welcome gesture. Thank you.

John Walsham

## Hand and Lock



*The Mistress & Master (2017), Elena Thornton, Liz Elvin, the Clerk*

On November 2nd, for the second year running GSWD has awarded a prize for the submission featuring the best use of Goldwork, at the Hand & Lock event held annually at the Bishopsgate Institute for Hand Embroidery-Fashion and Textile Art. Hand & Lock, in celebration of their 250th anniversary, presented an additional Chairman's Award. This competition takes place to encourage the use of embroidery in fashion and textile and now welcomes in excess of 500 entries annually from all around the world. The GSWD prize was awarded to Elena Thornton, seen above who also won two other prizes. Liverymen Liz Elvin and Jean Scott-Moncrieff were on the panel of judges.

Ken Blundell

## The Banquet

To the skirl of the pipes the Master's procession strode into the Egyptian Room of the Mansion House to herald the start of the 2017 Livery Banquet.

Our guests, led by the Lord Mayor, included our guest speaker Major General Tim Hyams, Royal Dragoon Guards, Lt General Mark Poffley, Master General of Logistics, Group Captain Mike Carver, Station Commander RAF Northolt, Col Andrew Maber-Jones, RLC, Sherriff and Alderman Tim Hales, Sherriff Neil Redcliffe, Wing Commander Al Tano, Officer Commanding 101 Squadron RAF, Flt Lt Thomas Beddow, Queens Colour Squadron RAF and Commander Al Marshall, ex CO HMS Victorious.

Following the Fourth Warden and Hon Chaplain's witty and meaningful Grace, Dinner was served. We were then



entertained royally by the Pipes and Drums of the Royal Dragoon Guards, led by Pipe Major WO2 Paul Burns, who played a number of pieces beginning with their unofficial signature tune "Highland Cathedral".

After the Toasts the Master presented to the Lord Mayor a significant cheque for recent contributions from the Livery to the Lord Mayor's Appeal and spoke of the healthy, skilled and fair City of which we are all a part.

The Lord Mayor, Charles Bowman, then spoke both seriously and informatively of his role and responsibilities as the 690th Lord Mayor of London. He explained that the 2.2 million people of the City and the UK financial community generate 12.5% of the UK's GNP and contribute £72 billion annually to the Exchequer. Also, he acknowledged that the precious commodity, 'trust', has been lost by the City and other financial institutions, and must now be rebuilt in the UK and internationally. He explained that the Lord Mayor's Appeal is being reshaped to include the Samaritans, Place2Be, and Onside Youth Zones. The Lord Mayor also acknowledged the 'charitable endeavour' which is the central core of the City's Livery Companies.

First Warden, John Walsham, then welcomed our guests and acknowledged especially our highly valued service affiliations with the Army, RAF and the Royal Navy.

Our guest Speaker Major General Tim Hyams OBE, then spoke most interestingly and with great feeling of the current challenges of the Army and the unique qualities of the troops whom he commands. The almost religious sense of purpose and devotion, to the Regiment and to the Army, which is the key to the psyche of his officers. Also he quoted a young Tank Commander who after a period away from the Army, said 'I came home --- to the Regiment'. A moving tribute to the British soldier.

Finally, the Master spoke and thanked General Hyams for his inspiring words and then explained the achievements of the Livery through the year, including £80,000 given to a number of charities. He then thanked all those who had made the evening such a great success, the stair guard of Sea Cadets from TS Barrosa, and the cadets from St John Ambulance, Bexley Heath, and of course the pipes and drums of the Royal Dragoon Guards. Finally, he thanked all those who had helped to make the year such a great success, and especially his wife, Hannah, the Mistress, for her unwavering support throughout the year.

Jeremy Ray

## Carol Service

The Worshipful Companies of Needlemakers - Master Colin Tiffin and Gold & Silver Wyre Drawers - Master



Paul Constantinidi held a combined Carol Service at St James Garlickhythe by kind permission of the Reverend Tim Handley. Honorary Chaplains were The Rt Rev Christopher Chessun The Bishop of Southwark - Needlemakers and The Rev Gordon Warren and Fourth Warden - GSWD. The Organist & Director of Music was Alderman Dr Andrew Parmley. The congregation bought presents to be distributed to deserving children by the Salvation Army on Christmas Eve. This was followed by a pleasant dinner with the Needlemakers at The Grange, St Paul's Hotel.

The Clerk

## Installation Lunch

### PASSING THE BATON

The installation Lunch in early January saw Paul Constantinidi pass the baton to the new Master, John Walsham, with a gracious speech acknowledging the enormous amount of support he had received from so many people through his year. The new Master swore allegiance to the Queen and The City, and to 'the art and mystery of gold and silver wire drawing' in this 325th Anniversary Year of the Livery.

Brian Turner was sworn in as Fourth Warden (seen here) and the Rev Gordon Warren agreed to continue as Honorary Chaplain in addition to his role of Third Warden through 2018.

At the Luncheon which followed, Honorary Assistant Clerk, Nick Sillitoe, son in law of



Sean Eley, Ronald Ing, Laura Warren, Alistair Whitehead

the new Master, welcomed all our guests including The Master Spectacle Maker, the Master Carman and the Masters of the Patten Makers, Painters and Stainers and Coopers, as well as the Chief Commoner, Ms Wendy Mead. Also he welcomed new Freeman, Andrew Brown, Lewis Speke and William Colgate, and new Liverymen, Karen Brewer, Sean Eley, Ronald Ing, Laura Warren and Alistair Whitehead, and of course our Principal Guest, Nigel French, the Master's Best Man and leading entrepreneur.

Nigel French then responded with many amusing anecdotes including the story of an infamous narrow boat trip with the Master, which involved Nigel's brother ending up in the water – twice ! Also, the Master's career as a rugby player with the Saracens. The Master then spoke, thanking Nigel French for his kind words and thoughtful comments, and



describing his plans for the year, including the Livery Weekend in Holland and the 325th Anniversary Dinner at the London Zoo. Also, his chosen charity for the year, Headway Essex, which focusses upon those recovering from major head injuries in the area. He also emphasised the Livery's ongoing support for the Lord Mayor's charities for the year explained to us by the Lord Mayor at the recent Mansion House Banquet. An exciting year ahead launched by an excellent Installation Lunch.

Jeremy Ray

## Mail Rail



Last October the then Master, Paul Constantinidi led a group to The Post Office Railway, known as Mail Rail since 1987, which is a 2ft (610mm) narrow gauge, driverless underground railway in London to move mail between sorting offices. It operated from 1927 until 2003. The museum within the former railway was

opened in September 2017. The line ran from Paddington in the west to Whitechapel in the east, a distance of 6.5 miles and had eight stations. Special tourist trains were installed in late 2016 and the circular route was opened on 5th September 2017.



Our group found the visit thoroughly interesting and enjoyable.

Ken Blundell

## King Edward's School Witley visit

On March 13th the Master and Mistress attended the King Edward's School Witley Foundation Day Service at St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, London, which was followed by a reception in the Old Library at Guildhall. Each year the GSWD gives one of the end of year school prizes. The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress



were in attendance. Pictured here from left to right are the Master of the Makers of Playing Cards, The Head Boy, The Master, The Head Girl, and finally a former pupil who is a great supporter of the school. The School Governing Body is known as The Court of Bridewell, reflecting the historic foundation of the school as Bridewell Royal Hospital in 1553 during the reign of Edward VI.

Mike Gunston

## Charles Dickens museum visit

On Wednesday, 31 January the GSWD were treated to a private visit at the Charles Dickens Museum, Doughty Street. We had three excellent guides who uncovered for us the private world behind the author's



public image. We explored his study, reception rooms and family bedchambers. We saw Dickens's desk, handwritten drafts from the novels he wrote there and his young wife's engagement ring along with furniture, portraits, etc. The event was organised by our Clerk, Mark Charles Dickens, who is the author's great great grandson and Chairman of Trustees at the museum. Prior to our tour he told us personal stories about the great man. The Clerk's wife Debbie was wearing a diamond ring owned by Charles Dickens and handed down through the generations.

Having enjoyed a glass of wine at the museum, the evening concluded at a local restaurant.

The Clerk



## Bacton Altar Cloth



The Master, with Liveryman Liz Elvin and Conservation Supervisor Libby Thompson are seen here. They enjoyed a special visit to see the Bacton Altar Cloth which is

in the process of conservation at Hampton Court Palace. This was a rare chance to see the back of the cloth which shows the vibrant vegetable dyed embroidery - the front of the cloth has faded since it was made c.1590. Libby Thompson explained that historians believe that the cloth was originally a front panel of one of Elizabeth I's magnificent skirts and was probably given to her lady-in-waiting Blanche Parry who was born in Bacton, Hereford. The cloth - which has fine silver threads running through it - is exquisitely embroidered with motifs of English flowers with later additions of butterflies, caterpillars, snails and even a bear, with details picked out in gold thread.



As a footnote and very much in the same genre, Laura Baverstock was our Royal School of Needlework 2015 Prize Winner and became a GSWD Freeman by the Trade Route in October 2016. Laura did the Goldwork Embroidery, Hand Monogramming as well as Hand Beading and Embellishment on costumes pictured below for the recent film Murder on the Orient Express (Judy Dench) and the film Mary, Queen of Scots (Margot Robbie) due for release later this year.

Ken Blundell



Photo Credit 20th Century Fox

## Kilimanjaro climb

Liveryman Mike West recently completed a sponsored climb of Mount Kilimanjaro in memory of his daughter Alexandra, raising funds for the 4Louis bereavement charity: the sponsorship totalled £3,500 including £1,000 from Livery.

According to Mike "The climb was amazing, exhilarating and most of all challenging. The weather for the final assault was perfect. We left camp at midnight and shuffled our way up the mountain. The sky was clear and the stars were intense. We had to traverse narrow and precipitous ledges en route to Gillman Point. Stella Point was next, from where we had more extraordinary views of ice fields.



Our stay on the summit was time limited due to the very thin air. After the obligatory photos we started the essential stage of losing altitude to reduce the chances of mountain sickness. After 15 hours on our feet following a pair of hours sleep we reached our camp for the night. Going down proved to be much tougher than the ascent but it has already become a distant memory, eclipsed by attaining the summit. What a week."

Mike Gunston



### 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.**

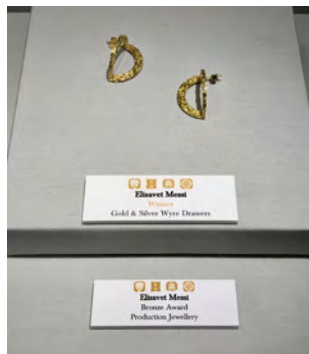
**Please let our Archivist, Karen Watts know of any family history connected with GSWD and any artefacts or photographs in their possession that can be included in the Archive section of the Website.**

**email: [karen.watts33@gmail.com](mailto:karen.watts33@gmail.com)**

## Jewellery Awards

The Master presented the GSWD Jewellery Awards for the innovative use of gold and silver wire. The ceremony was organised by the Goldsmiths' Craft and Design Council and held on Monday, 26th February. Judith Cobham-Lowe OBE, Prime Warden Goldsmiths, presided and was the Master's guest at the special private viewing the following day of all the prize winning entries.

Our two winners (see lower photo) were Elisavet Messi, a Greek jeweller, who handcrafts limited collections and bespoke pieces from her London based studio and Kyosun Jung from Korea who completed BA Hons, Silversmithing,



Goldsmithing & Jewellery at University for Creative Arts in Rochester UK.

She is currently working in the UK in the workshop of the internationally renowned Clive Burr at the Goldsmiths' Centre in London. Our party consisted of almost 50 people, which was excellent considering the heavy snow.



The viewing was followed by a supper at the nearby Haz St Paul's Restaurant superbly organised by Assistant Pat Hobday.

The Clerk



## April Dinner

It was the Master's great honour to host distinguished film and TV director, Andrew Morgan, and his wife Jackie as our principal guests at the April Livery Dinner. The night was filled with new faces, thought-provoking art and delicious food.

Andrew Morgan's retelling of the travails he and his film crew experienced when a lion pursued its 15 minutes of fame at London Zoo had us wide-eyed, open-mouthed and lost for words – a very difficult achievement.

A special mention must also go to a certain somebody's

skills in the courtship department. We all learnt a great deal from Andrew's insightful account of how the Master met his lovely wife.



Tales of fearsome felines and romancing aside, we would like to express our pleasure in welcoming Andrew Brown, Mark Hyde, Lewis Speke and Mark Whitson as new Liverymen (seen above) to the Wyre Drawer family. Here's to many more evenings spent in their illustrious company.

The Second Warden also mentioned how honoured



*Andrew Morgan Principal Guest, The Master, Alderman Sir Andrew Parmley, Honour Liveryman and Mrs Ann Buxton, Master Pewterer*

we were to have our senior guests, Mrs Ann Buxton (Master Pewterer), Roger Sanders OBE (Master Broderer), Colin Tiffin (Master Needle-maker) and Dr. Michael Smith (Master Fan Maker). He also welcomed Alderman Sir Andrew Parmley, Honour Liveryman, and from our military affiliations, Lt.Col. Rich Hallett OBE, RLC.

April's Livery Dinner will also be remembered for the quite outstanding artwork on display. Conjured by our new Freeman, Miss Chen Cheng and Miss Hazel Thorn, (seen below) the dazzling pieces injected a dose of culture and decorum into proceedings!

It would be remiss of us not to doff our caps to the marvellous food. In particular, we would like to salute the lemon soufflé, the existence of which was greeted with a level of enthusiasm otherwise reserved exclusively for the next glass of port.

Finally, wishing our very own Toastmaster, John Hollingsworth, a wonderful 80th birthday!

Jay Bhatt



## Silver & Enamel Inkstand Casket

PRESENTED TO OUR COMPANY BY PAST MASTER ARTHUR ROCHESTER BROWN IN 1929.

The Archive Committee commenced its articles featuring the treasures that the Company owns in the Autumn 2015 Edition of the Wyre Drawer. This followed the Company's move from Vintners Hall to Skinners' Hall with the first one being the Installation Court Meeting and Lunch in January 2012.

The move to Skinners included a room for the secure storage of our treasures. For many years it had been kept in the Silver Vault of the RLC at Deepcut and before that in Past Master Ken Blundell's Strong Room. In the last 100 years the silver had in fact only been shown on very rare occasions at a Company function. The entire collection of the Company's Silver and Regalia was displayed in 1993 at our Tercentenary Exhibition in Saddlers' Hall and in 2002 when the Master, Ken Blundell, had a special evening at Watermens' Hall. The Skinners' Company offered our Livery a permanent presence within their Hall in allowing our treasures to have a small constant display, and a significant display in the large glass cabinet behind the Master's Chair in the Dining Hall during our functions.

In January 2017 Warden Michael Gunston, one of the Newsletter Editors, received an e-mail from Andrew Brown, stating that he had come across recent newsletters, featuring Embroideries in the Autumn 2015 & 2016 issues.

He then went on to say that his father, Arthur Rochester Brown, was one of the five craftsmen mentioned on the plaque at the base of the very elaborate framed embroidery of our Coat of Arms

celebrating the Tercentenary of the James 1st Charter in 1923. Arthur was First Warden in 1927, the year of the Trade and Craft Exhibition. Further framed embroidery of our Coat of Arms was also presented in that year by Colonel Stephen Simpson. Andrew's father went on to be Master in 1928 and presented a beautiful sterling silver and enamel rectangular double inkstand casket to the Company in 1929. (seen here)

Arthur Rochester Brown was born in 1884 in St Pancras London and attended Haberdashers Aske's School. In 1918 he and his brother William paid £73,000 for the army contractors Hobson and Sons (London) Ltd. - Arthur becoming its Chairman and Managing Director. In 1923 he was one of the five craftsmen Members of the Court who presented the Gold and Silver Wyre Embroidery, an exemplar of the Company's trade and craft. In 1927 he was a member of the Committee which arranged the successful Public Exhibition that the Company held at Stationers' Hall, which was visited by HRH Queen Mary.

It included the various stages of gold and silver wire drawing and methods of spinning. The practical demonstrations included embroiderers making trumpet banners, belts, badges, epaulettes, aiguillettes, tassels and sword knots. The family business of Hobson and Sons is still manufacturing all these items in gold and silver lace, all manner of military uniforms and accoutrements, and the colours of the Armed Forces.

Andrew Brown was clothed in the Livery on 9th April 2018.



Vernon Knapper

## Clerk's Corner

The Company is in very good heart and seems busier than ever with a growing membership and a full diary of interesting events. This year we are celebrating the 325th anniversary of the King William and Mary Royal Charter and I hope many of you can come and bring your friends to a spectacular dinner dance at London Zoo on 16th June. We are also starting to plan for the 400th anniversary of our first Royal Charter of King James 1st in 2023, which has the makings of being a very full year of exciting activities.

### Court Decisions

The Court of Assistants has approved some important issues as follows:

1. Charity Donations' Paper. All charity donations, bursaries and grants have been reviewed and upgraded and an increase in the total amount distributed agreed. This includes an increase in emphasis on Trade related activities and charities.
2. Data Protection. New legislation comes into force on 25th May this year which affects how personal data is stored and used, particularly in digital form. Consent forms have been issued to all Liverymen and Freemen which must be signed and returned. Without this, the Company will not be able to contact you. I am also adding photographs of everyone onto the database and would be grateful if you could send a passport type one to me.
3. Link with High-Tech Industry. In an exciting development, the Company is exploring ways to create links with high-tech industry that use nanotechnology gold wire within microchips.

### Website

Have you bookmarked the GSWD website [www.gswd.co.uk](http://www.gswd.co.uk) on your computer yet? The website is becoming even more important with the Data Protection legislation, and it contains the definitive events diary and your contact details (password protected) as well as a fabulous collection of photographs and archive material. PLEASE CHECK IT CAREFULLY AND ADVISE OF ANY CHANGES.

### New Admissions

Alderman Sir Andrew Parmley has been clothed in the Livery of the GSWD as an Honorary Liveryman for his long and dedicated service as our organist at St James Garlickhythe as well as his outstanding year as Lord Mayor.

In addition, the following have been clothed in the Livery: Karen Brewer (Banker), Andrew Brown (Retired), Sean Eley (Director), Mark Hyde (Builder), Ronald Ng (Consultant), Lewis Speke (Banker), Laura Warren (Restaurateur), Alistair Whitehead (Retailer), and Mike Whitson (Chartered Surveyor). The following GSWD jewellery prizewinners have been Made Free via the Trade Route: Chen Cheng and Hazel Thorn.

### Merchandise

I hold a stock of GSWD merchandise which can be purchased on request: Livery ties £25, Gold umbrellas £23, city umbrellas £22. Cufflinks and lapel pins at £10 each should be available for purchase shortly.

## Charities Supported

Bishopsland Educational Trust	Trade
Care for Veterans	Forces/Health
Docklands Sinfonia	Music/Deprivation
Felix Fund	Military/Affiliation/
PTSD	
KEEN London	Sport/Deprivation
London Playing Field's Association	Youth sport/bequest
Lord Mayor's Charities	City
Lucy Air Ambulance	Health
4Louis	Bereavement
Rivertime Boat Trust	Disabled sport
Royal Shakespeare Company	
costume workshop	Trade
Tilehouse Counselling	Youth deprivation
Youth Cancer Trust	Youth/Medical

## Deaths

The Company regrets to inform you of the death of Liveryman Richard Symonds.

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The Worshipful Company of Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers

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