



The Wyre Drawer

Edition 40 - Summer 2021



The Master and Mistress on the Henley River Trip

A Message from The Master

After something approaching a roller coaster ride and many dislocated Livery activities, we are now seeing the fruits of a largely successful vaccination programme. At last real progress, but sadly not sufficient for our much awaited live early July Court meeting and Livery lunch to take place. Zoom had to again come to the fore in progressing the business of the company!

One important item at that meeting was that First Warden Brian Turner was unanimously elected to assume the Mastership in January 2022. I know that Brian is busy planning an interesting programme for us all. In extending my congratulations I pray that Covid-19 will have meaningfully receded by then! The Clerk reported that we now have 27 Freemen via the Trade route with another 6 waiting in the wings and there are also 11 Liverymen to be clothed so the October Court meeting will be busy. This is very positive progress in what has been a very difficult period. An article on the success of our Freemen appears elsewhere in this edition.

Earlier we held three social evenings which I know many of you enjoyed. I have also represented the company at a number of similar functions provided by other Livery Companies and organisations. An example was a live tour of a glass artist's showroom in Murano. In other events, my presentation of the company's prize to the top student on the RLC's Ammunition Technical Officers' course sadly had to be done virtually, as did the presentation of the GSWD prize to students of the Royal School of Needlework. However, with judicious spacing of attendees, The Royal Ballet School did manage to hold their graduation ceremony live enabling me to present the GSWD prizes to the two graduates who had progressed the most during the year. This ceremony was preceded by an excellent mid-day performance by many of the students.

One other recent highlight was the live presentation by The Lord Mayor at The Mansion House to our first prize winner of the GSWD Award for Excellence and Achievement in Computing Hardware, Jonas Fiala, having been elected by the world leading Cambridge University

Department of Computer Science and Technology as their top student. The connection is of course the huge amounts of gold wire used in the production of microchips each year.

With the return to live events, I must say that against the odds, the weather was extremely kind for our recent Henley River Trip over lunch and based on the comments received, was enjoyed by all. Hopefully our renewed freedom will be allowed to continue enabling Judy and I to see many of you at various functions before the year end.

Finally, I must close on a very sombre note by saying how profoundly saddened I and the whole company was by the recent death of Past Master Paul Constantinidi. A full obituary will follow in the next edition and a memorial service is to be held by the family on 13 September 2021.

My very best wishes and to those who are unwell, I hope you will enjoy a speedy recovery.

- Mike Gunston

The Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers and the Royal Logistics Corp

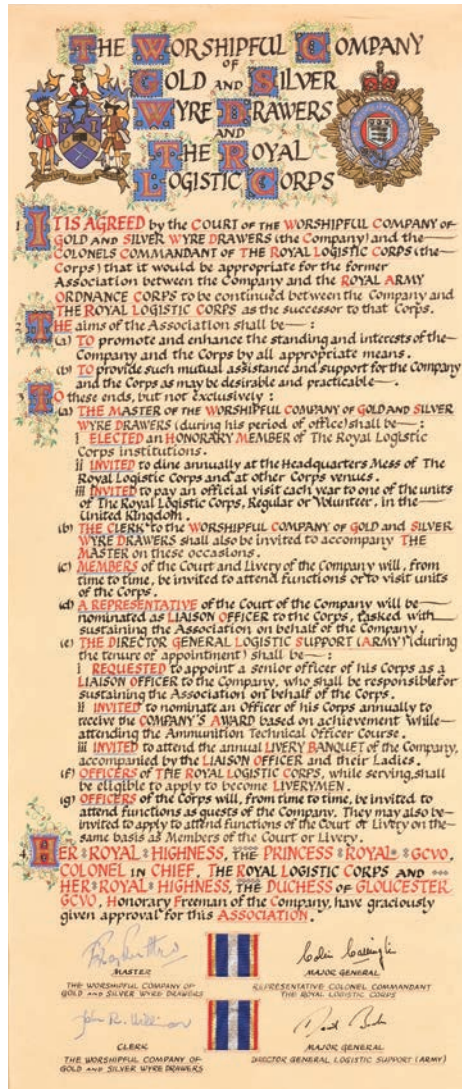
40 Years association with the RLC

The City of London's first association with what is now the Royal Logistic Corps (RLC) dates back to 14th November 1981 when Sir Christopher Leaver became Lord Mayor of London. As a former officer of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps (RAOC), he invited the RLC to provide a Guard of Honour for the Lord Mayor's Show. This event led to a formal link between

the City and the RAOC and ultimately with the GSWD.

The affiliation received the official approval of Her Majesty the Queen as Colonel-in-Chief of the RAOC, and a signing ceremony took place in the Tower of London on 17th April 1989 to formalise a Memorandum of Association.

The Memorandum of Association was subsequently updated in 1994 following the amalgamation of the RLC and RAOC



In the News This Year

On Fri 26 Feb 21, following the discovery of a suspected unexploded bomb by construction workers, near Exeter University, bomb disposal experts from the RLC were called in to make safe an unexploded WW2 German bomb containing 600kg of High Explosives. A specialist Air Dropped Weapons (ADW) team from 11 EOD Search Regiment was brought in to deal with the incident. After being buried in the ground for nearly 80 years, the bomb's fuse had degraded to an extent that the bomb couldn't be moved to a different site for disposal, because of the risk of it functioning en route.

The bomb was located in central Exeter, surrounded by houses, Exeter University, a major A-road and the main SW railway line. Some 2,500 people within the cordon were evacuated, whilst maintaining compliance with COVID-19 regulations. Once complete, the military mitigation team began preparing the site to provide a flat surface to work on, in what was a steep uneven slope that had been churned up by building contractors. Military teams worked through the night to prepare the ground and build the initial elements of the mitigation structure using

400 tonnes of sand to surround the bomb prior to detonation. By Saturday morning work started on a 'render safe' procedure. Additional mitigation structures were built to reduce the risk to the nearby buildings and a controlled detonation of the bomb took place later that evening. In the 24 hours that Army assets were on site, they managed to ensure the safety of the people of Exeter, whilst minimising the collateral damage to property nearby.

@BritishArmy experts carry out controlled explosion - BBC News



Ammunition Technical Officers Graduation

The graduation of the 2021 cohort of Ammunition Technical Officers took place on 1st April, attended virtually by the Master, the Clerk and the Army Liaison Officer. The GSWD Engraved Decanter was presented by the Master to the top student, Capt Tom Gardner, who passed all of his practical and academic tests without a single re-take. Tom has an interesting background having previously obtained a degree in finance followed by a spell working in The City.



New Liaison Officer

Colonel Andrew Maber-Jones' retirement has given way to the appointment of a new Liaison Officer - Colonel Zac Scott. Zac is an Ammunition Technical Officer (ATO) who completed his first tour as a Bomb Disposal Operator in Belfast. He has commanded a Logistics Squadron resupplying Basra Air Station in Iraq; worked with the Ministry of Interior in Kabul; and commanded the US-led Counter-IED Task Force in Baghdad. Zac has attended the

Advanced Command and Staff Course, and completed generalist appointments as Deputy Chief of Staff in the Intelligence Brigade, and in the Permanent Joint Headquarters during Operation BELLAMY. He has been Senior Responsible Owner for specialist equipment programmes worth £800M / 10 years, with additional responsibilities for policy and assurance, and training. Most recently he has returned to Defence Intelligence – a job he loves, even if though he can't talk about it.

Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Units on Social Media

Unit	Twitter	Instagram
HQ 29 EOD&S Gp	@29eod	Nil
11 EOD&S Regt	@11_EOD_Regiment	@11_eod_regiment

Presentation of our new GSWD Award at the Mansion House



The Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers may be rooted in the medieval craft of producing gold wire for embroidering tapestries and robes, but we also have a keen eye on the modern-day usage of gold and silver wire and thread. That is why, at the end of June, we presented a Cambridge University Computer Science student with a new Award celebrating its use in computer hardware.

The inaugural Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers' Award for Excellence and Achievement in Computer Hardware was presented to Jonáš Fiala (seen right in the photo) at a ceremony at the Mansion House in the City of London. He received it from William Russell, Lord Mayor of London (centre) and Michael Gunston, Master of the Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers.

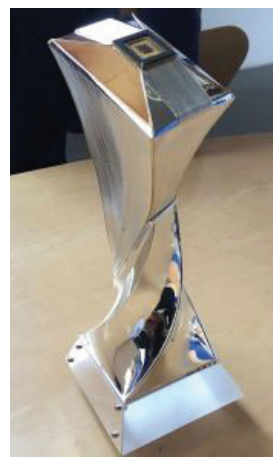
Now a Graduate, Jonáš was chosen as the winner for his third year dissertation on Property-based Testing for Hardware. He impressed the award committee with his project - in which he created a library and a suite of nine examples of hardware modules for testing and evaluation – and the way he integrated into it concepts from every level of computer science, from high-level mathematical formalisms to software engineering to hardware synthesis.

From High Craft to High Tech

The skill of producing very high grade gold and silver wire and thread for use in embroidering flags, banners, uniforms and vestments, was first brought to London by European craftsmen during the 15th century. Six hundred years later, gold and silver wire products are still being used not only in needlework, textiles and jewellery, but also for more high-tech purposes. High-grade gold wire, for example, is a key component of the hundreds of billions of microchips and microprocessors produced worldwide.

To reflect this evolution, the Worshipful Company of Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers has established an annual Award with the University of Cambridge Department of Computer Science and Technology for exceptional work in the design or development of computer hardware. The Award is presented annually to one of its undergraduate or postgraduate

students. Since its earliest days, the Department (<https://www.cst.cam.ac.uk/>) has had a strong culture of building computers and computer systems, and this award celebrates that tradition. The Award will also foster connections between the Livery Company and students of the Department, paving the way for some exceptionally gifted young computer scientists to join the growing band of Freeman of the Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers.



The elegant trophy presented to Jonáš was specially designed and made by Freeman Nan Nan Liu. Jonáš was also given a Certificate (especially embroidered with gold wire) made by Laura Baverstock, also a Freeman of the Company.

Supporting Young Talent

Celebrating and encouraging young talent is a key aim of the Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers. Master, Michael Gunston says, "The Gold and Silver Wyre

Drawers have for some years taken the lead in celebrating and recognising talented young goldsmiths, silversmiths, jewellers and embroiderers, while also supporting many institutions promoting the modern use of gold and silver wire. The agreement with the University of Cambridge Department of Computer Science and Technology adds an important new element to our programme of supporting young people working in this exciting and creative sector."

Recognising Student Achievement

Professor Ann Copestake, Head of the Department of Computer Science and Technology, says: "Through their research, our students make very valuable contributions to computer science. We are always pleased to see their achievements recognised and rewarded, so we are very grateful to the Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers for generously establishing this Award for them."

- Jeremy Ray and Rachel Gardner (University of Cambridge)

Segomotso Masego Shupinyaneng

The Gold & Silver Wyre Drawers supported student for 2021-22 at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama is a remarkable young South African woman called Segomotso Masego Shupinyaneng. I recently had a very interesting half hour talking to her on Zoom, a necessity now of the COVID crisis. She has a very lively mind and an outgoing personality and we are very privileged to be able to help her on life's journey.

Segomotso is Tswana and was born in the small South African town of Thaba Nchu, a town in Free State, South Africa, 63 km east of Bloemfontein and 17 km east of Botshabelo. The population is largely made up of Tswana and Sotho people. The Free State is a rural province of wide horizons and blue skies, with farmland, mountains, goldfields and widely dispersed towns. This tranquil land is famous for its warm South African hospitality and a mix of culture which is clearly evident in street names, public buildings, monuments and museums.

She was raised by her grandmother as her young mother was unable to look after her at first, and she became so fond of her grandmother she remained with her. Her grandmother was a teacher and Segomotso was sent at an early age to boarding school, where she prospered. She says that her time at boarding school enabled her to be able to adjust to moving abroad to England for study. She is an only child and as her parents and her grandmother are no longer alive she has had to live on her own wits.

She says; "I come from a small town in South Africa, where dreams literally fall down the drain because of how difficult the situation is to be a singer or a performer. I grew up under the strong and loving guidance of my grandmother who taught me how to survive, and be the best I can at whatever it is that my heart and talent leads me to... and I must say... I did not do too bad for myself with help from so many people who believe in my voice and my drive."

After leaving school she started to study subjects other than music,



believing that music was not going to provide her with a good career in South Africa. However, she was regularly drawn back to singing, and eventually went to University to study for a Degree in Music, which she obtained with distinction. The university had visiting lecturers from all over the world, and one of those was Dominic Wheeler, the Head of Opera at the Guildhall, who persuaded her to apply as a student at the Guildhall. She set her heart on it but needed the finance to come to London for the audition, so she applied for lots of competitions and saved up the money from winning until she had enough to apply. The Dean of the University in South Africa agreed to fund her flight to a "very cold" London, and she passed her Guildhall audition with flying colours and was accepted onto the Opera Course.

She says she is so happy here and loves the liberation of living in London; she also loves the coffee ! Her dream is to settle and sing in London, preferably in Opera but also perhaps English art songs or possibly in musical theatre. She is looking forward to singing at one of our Dinners, when they are again possible.

She writes; "I find myself in London at a prestigious school, one of the most high-ranking conservatoires in the world. And for that I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Gold & Silver Wyre Drawers and accept your contribution with the utmost sincere gratitude".

- Roger Carter, Music Liaison

Royal Ballet School Graduation and Prize Winners

The Master, Michael Gunston, and the Mistress took part in the Royal Ballet School's Graduation ceremony on 15th July 2021, and presented Awards.

The Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers Awards are for the male and female graduating students who have made the most progress in classical ballet during their time at the School.

The Master presented the Awards to Julie Petanova and Alejandro Valera Outlaw for their impressive improvement over their three years at the School. Julie will be joining The Norwegian National Ballet 2 and



Alejandra will be going to the USA to join the American Ballet Theatre Studio Company.

We wish them great success in their future careers.

- Lesley Blundell

Goldsmiths' Craft and Design Council Awards



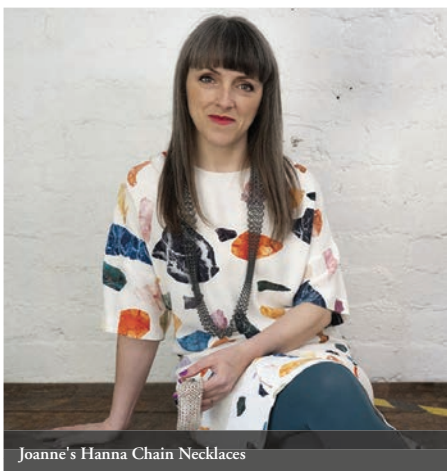
Jean at work

The Annual Goldsmiths' Craft & Design Council Awards ceremony was held virtually at the beautiful and historic Goldsmiths' Hall, London. The

ceremony was opened with a personal message from HRH Princess Michael of Kent, Royal Patron for the Awards, who endorsed the work of the Council and its Awards.



To maintain the ambiance, the virtual event was held at Goldsmiths' Hall and hosted by Rachel Taylor, jewellery journalist and co-founder of The Jewellery Cut.



Joanne's Hanna Chain Necklaces

These Awards have been organised by the GC&DC for more than 100 years. To ensure their communities' well-being during Covid-19, they were transformed into an exciting virtual event, celebrating design and craftsmanship

across the jewellery, silversmithing and allied trades.

Liverymen Jean Scott-Moncrieff and Elizabeth Elvin were the GSWD judges for the innovative use of gold and silver wires. Liveryman Jean Scott-Moncrieff was herself the recipient of the Smallwork Section's challenging and much coveted Silver Award for her spherical hand-held Britannia silver box based on a medieval pomander with the addition of gold, diamonds and other stones. The flowers are a reminder of past pandemics; the golden ribbon represents our global connection and ultimate resilience.

Joanne Thompson was the GSWD Gold Winner for her exceptionally beautiful, malleable silver Hanna Chain and Lusk Chain Necklaces. Rachel Jones was the GSWD Silver Winner with her stunning diamond and gold long Spectrum Earrings.

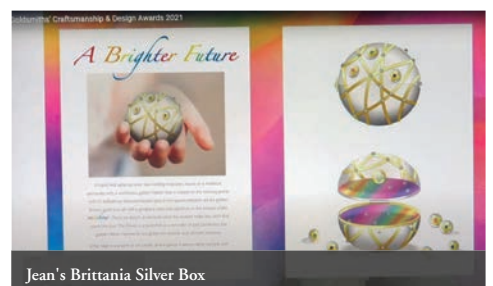
- Lesley Blundell



Joanne's Hanna Chain Necklaces



Rachel's Earrings

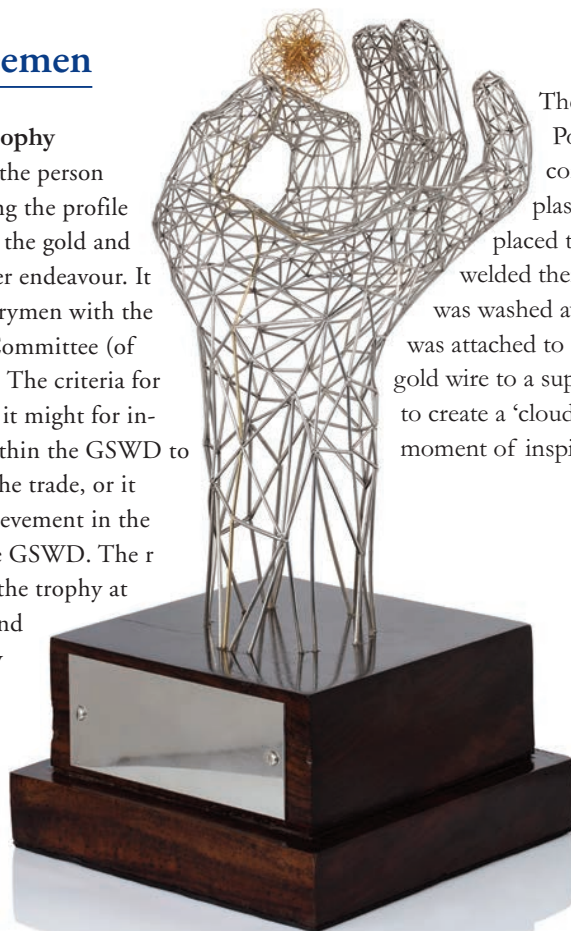


Jean's Britannia Silver Box

News from our Freeman

The Gold and Silver Wyre Trophy

The Trophy will be awarded to the person considered responsible for raising the profile of the GSWD inside or outside the gold and silver wire trade, or just for sheer endeavour. It is open to all Freeman and Liverymen with the recipient chosen by the Trade Committee (of which the Master is a member). The criteria for the award is deliberately broad: it might for instance be awarded for action within the GSWD to support or enhance links with the trade, or it might be for some external achievement in the trade that brought credit on the GSWD. The recipient will be presented with the trophy at the Banquet and invited to attend as a guest of the company. They will also receive a certificate and a cheque for £500. As the trophy is delicate it will be retained by the company for safekeeping.



The trophy was created by Freeman Matt Powell and he shows us the process of construction. First he cast his own hand in plaster of Paris, then using the cast as a guide he placed the fine gold and silver wires and painstakingly welded them together. When completed, the plaster cast was washed away and after finishing and polishing, the piece was attached to the wooden plinth. Finally, he drew down gold wire to a superfine thread to create a 'cloud' representing the moment of inspiration.



During lockdown, Freeman Patrick Davison has found time to experiment with new techniques. These earrings (*left*) are made from silver tubes, soldered in groups of three then drawn down through square

holed drawplates which squashes the shapes. The piece is then subjected to pressure from a powerful press which further distorts the shape before final finishing.

'Celestial Sunburst' (*below*). This bespoke Gibson guitar strap was recently created by Freeman Laura Baverstock for an amazingly talented client, and is now a specialised piece in their treasured private collection. Handcrafted in precious metals and precision stitched onto the distressed leather, the celestial bodies twinkle and glisten under the spotlights in an array of silver, gold and copper.



Freeman Andrew Lamb says, 'I was fascinated with the Gold 'Illusion Ring' (c.1860) based on the illusion described by the German astrophysicist Johann Karl Friedrich Zöllner. It has an engraved continuous pattern around the curvature that creates an illusion which makes the parallel edges of the ring appear 'squin' and the pattern tapers - an effect which in reality is not possible but is endlessly intriguing. I hope my work fascinates and captivates the viewer in a similar manner as I strive to create a moment of surprise within each individual piece. I was delighted when my 'Lenticular Zöllner' ring was also purchased for the Alice and Louis Koch Collection and both rings are now on display in the recently opened permanent collection of the Swiss National Museum.



Lenticular Zöllner Ring, 18ct yellow gold and oxidised silver (above). Alice and Louis Koch Collection Swiss National Museum. Photo: Graham Clark



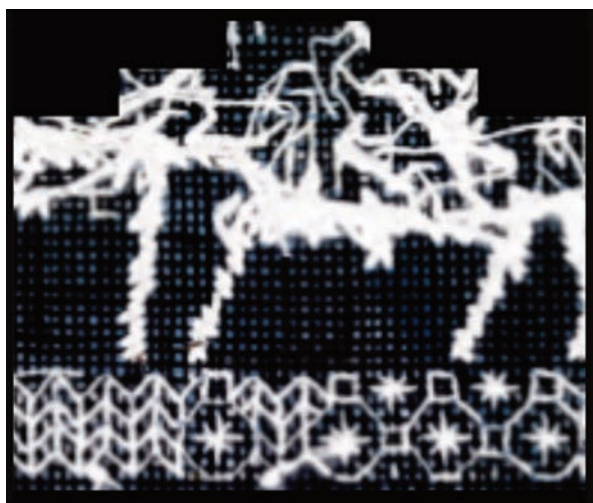
'One of my gold portraits,' (*left*) by Freeman Anja von Kalinowski, 'which is part of a series of painted and embroidered portraits of the same woman. I am intrigued by producing a likeness entirely in gold thread. By doing so, the portrait itself reaches a state of symbolism and reflects notions of iconography. This perception is enhanced by the obsessive quality of the work process applied.'



Freeman Luke Shimell and Emma Madden had a recent commission - The Annette Brooch. Their client says 'I had been thinking for some time that if I could take some of my unworn jewellery and fashion the gems into one elegant piece, I would enjoy wearing it knowing the special story behind each gem. I approached Shimell and Madden at Goldsmiths' Fair and asked for some designs for a brooch incorporating the gems from my old rings and earrings. Luke and Emma produced six wonderful, but quite different, designs for my review. I decided on one design and I now have a much treasured brooch (*above left*) which will be regularly worn by me and admired by others.'



The original jewellery with their gemstones removed (above); the gold recycled into the new brooch, ready for finishing and polishing.



Freeman Sabina Lima's 'Embroidery Beyond Textiles' (*left*) was selected to be displayed on the digital façade of Medialab Prado during Madrid's Urban Digital Art Festival 2021 between 27 – 31 May alongside selected digital works of art by distinguished artists from around the world. Blackwork is a counted thread technique where complex and intricate geometric patterns are stitched with varying density of threads. This 'broken' pattern was translated into pixels carrying with it the imperfect grid of the fabric into a digital manipulation of the image. The project aims to challenge ready ideas of the conventional and to break down some of the preconceptions and prejudices that people often have about what hand embroidery should or could be. It brings this millennial and traditional craft to a modern technology platform as part of a live experience.

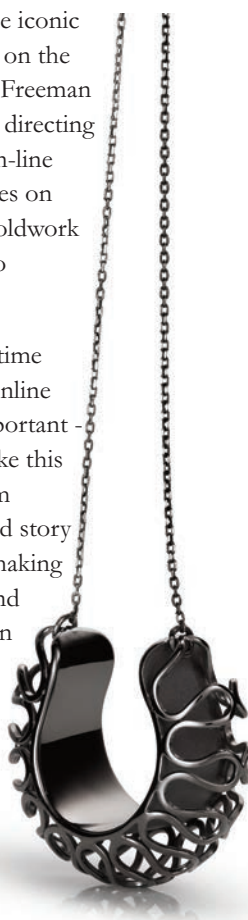


(*left*) From the iconic OXO Tower on the South Bank, Freeman Bella Lane is directing a series of on-line Master Classes on the art of Goldwork

Hand Embroidery and Tapestry Bargello stitching. bellalaneembroidery.com

New Freeman Leonid Dementiev takes time for a fresh approach to customers. 'An online presence has become so much more important - not only to show a new product range like this 'Lucky Charm' pendant in black rhodium plated gold (*right*). A well curated branded story is vital and one also needs to show the making process of melting gold, drawing wire and creating the final piece, so that clients can see the whole variety of insights that previously they would have experienced by coming to the studio or exhibitions. I love showing the wire drawing process and how the wire is shaped to form these voluminous pieces of jewellery on video calls and Instagram to clients.'

www.dementiev.co.uk



Octopus styled hooded cape with detachable tentacles inspired by mythical fantasy dolls such as mermaids and fairies, by Francesca Lim

New Freeman Francesca Lim graduated from the Royal School of Needlework in 2020 with first class honours and two awards. 'I use my collections to represent my conceptual ideas of creative storylines brought to life through bespoke hand embroidery. I've had the pleasure of working for amazing designers such as Sadie Williams, E.Tautz, Susan Aldworth, Manish Arora and Alexander McQueen.'

- Jean Scott-Moncreiff

The Submarine Alongside – The Officer of the Day's Tale



Lt William 'Wild Bill' Schneider on the Bridge

It's 0645 and I'm heading out of my room in my 6-storey accommodation block in Her Majesty's Naval Base Clyde. Being the West coast of Scotland, of course there is a light drizzle and I can see my breath, while England is enjoying an unseasonably warm week!

As I walk along the base towards the submarine, I pass several security points – access is strictly controlled. Swapping my uniform beret for a hard hat, and with my facemask on, I enter a massive shed; the Shiplift is big enough to (as its name suggests) lift the submarine clear out of the water. Also a series of massive stilts. Looking up, I can see the round keel of the submarine, looking far larger out of the water than it ever does when just on the surface.

The shed has several exposed floors to the side of the submarine, and I proceed to the top floor and past the Quartermaster, who controls access onto HMS Victorious herself, across a metal gangway 15m above the floor. On the casing I am greeted by the 'Upper Deck Trot', one of the Able Sailors with a rifle to deter and protect against anyone who does manage to get past all the other security. There are also Royal Marines, not in sight but ready at immediate notice to respond to any incident – we are well protected.

I climb down the hatch, some 8 meters or so, and start by heading aft through 'The Tunnel'. After getting through an airlock of heavy, hydraulically operated doors I'm standing right on top of the Nuclear Reactor. Better not loiter here too long if I want to have kids! It's actually completely safe, especially while alongside and shut down, and even while powered up the radiation levels are very low – unfortunately, unlike you see in many cartoons, nothing glows either.

Having proceeded out of the next airlock I go down a ladder into the Manoeuvring

Room, where the engineers in charge of the reactor and propulsion continue to maintain a watch even out of the water. They tell me about their planned maintenance for the day, and I have a quick look around the machinery spaces for any obstruction or safety issues which could impede the response to emergencies.

Heading back over the reactor I do the same throughout the rest of the submarine, getting a feel for the boat before proceeding to the Wardroom where yesterday's Officer of the Day is waiting for me. He updates me on all of the submarine's systems, especially when it comes to firefighting, watertight integrity (thankfully not too much of a concern out of the water) and safety. Handover completed, I assume the responsibility as Officer of the Day – I am the Commanding Officer's direct representative and am responsible for the submarine and the safety of all the crew, contractors and visitors on board whilst we do our maintenance.

There's lots of work to do to get the submarine 'ship-shape' and ready for sea again. Older parts of the nuclear strategic weapons systems are being modernised and upgraded. Routine maintenance on the nuclear reactor sees old pipework examined and replaced where necessary before any problems arise, and the electrical system has defective parts replaced. Our high pressure hydraulic system, which acts like the blood and muscle of the submarine to move anything from valves to the hydroplanes and periscopes, is also being maintained, along with the pressurised air which we use to make the ballast tanks buoyant and bring us to the surface (something we value very, very much).

As the day gets underway, more and more contractors arrive to do work on board. The Quartermaster keeps me up to date on their numbers, since I need to be sure of how busy the submarine is and that we can evacuate people in case of an emergency. There are people under the casing and inside the ballast tanks, the spaces outside the core pressure hull but underneath the smooth shape that lets us glide silently through the water. These tight spaces are normally filled with seawater, with some only accessible now we have been lifted out of the water.

By 4pm much of the work has stopped,

with tools being put away and worksites being tidied up. I go around the submarine again, this time checking everything has been left safe and hazard-free. The next thing to do is a 'Heave' – an exercise to test the crew's emergency responses.

One of the crew simulates a fire in the accommodation space, and everyone begins responding. The first person to discover it makes a 'Loud Vocal Alarm' – basically shouting as loud as he can to make everyone aware. The submarine comes to Emergency Stations and the crew hurry with fire extinguishers and hoses. I am in the control room, controlling the response with a team of advisors. Within two minutes, two men in breathing apparatus are on the scene, whilst a team of firefighters in full suits are getting dressed too. In case the fire gets out of control, we prepare to seal the compartment and pump it full of nitrogen, starving the fire, but thankfully that isn't necessary as the fast actions of the crew puts out the fire.

The fire extinguished, we check out atmosphere is safe to breath (we are all now using breathing masks with pressurised fresh air supplied by pipes running throughout the submarine) and return the submarine to normal. The team is debriefed, and as always there are a few points for improvement.

We train to make sure the submarine is safe and ready to respond to any emergency, and to make sure our standards are high since we can receive a 'Snap' Nuclear Weapons Inspection at any time. A senior team arrives at the submarine, usually in the middle of the night, and simulates emergencies to test our response, as well as inspecting the state of the boat and our control of the work going on. Though inspection is a constant threat, it is only reasonable that the UK's nuclear weapons are looked after safely, and we are confident of passing.

With the evening upon us, I prepare 'night orders', a written set of instruction for what is to be carried out overnight and when I need to be called. I can usually expect to be awoken at least once overnight, as the work never truly stops on board a nuclear submarine during its maintenance period.

- Lt William 'Wild Bill' Schneider

Christopher Blower Britannia Silver Tankard



Christopher Blower was installed as one of the first Court Assistants in 1693 when the Gold & Silver Wyre Drawers received their 2nd Royal Charter from King William and Queen Mary as shown by the pictures of the original documents. In 1701 Christopher Blower was installed as Master for two years and as a Past Master presented the Britannia Silver Parcel-Gilt Tankard, hallmarked London 1716, made by Benjamin Pyne, and engraved with the Worshipful Company of Gold & Silver Wyre Drawers' Coat of Arms. The following was also engraved on it "The Gift of Mr Christopher Blower Master of the Worshipful Company of Gold & Silver Wyre Drawers".

2nd Charter Inauguration of GSWD In 1693



Transcript of above document – "The Names of the first Master Wardens and Assistants of the Company of Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers London, also the Names of all other persons who were Freeman of the Citie of London and Admitted into the freedom of the said Company With the time of their taking upon them the said Offices and the Admittance of others as aforesaid William and Mary by the Grace of God King and Queen of England Scotland France and Ireland and Defenders of the Faith. By their Letters - Patents Dated at Westminster in the Fifth year of their

Maj.ts Reign did Constitute and appoint Nathaniel Smith Citizen and Gold and Silver Wyre Drawer of London to be the first Master of the Art and Mistery of Drawing and Flattting of Gold and Silver Wyre And Making and Spining of Gold and Silver Thread and Stuff in the Citie of London And the said Nathaniel Smith did personally appear before Sir John Fleet, Knight Lord Mayor of the Citie of London on the Eight day of July Anno Dom 1693 In the fifth year of their Maj.ts Reign of England And took the Oath of Master of the said Company and the other Oaths mentioned in the said Letters Patent.

Henry Scatclif, one of the Wardens did take the Oath for the Execution of the Office of Warden of this Company before Nathaniel Smith Master of the said Company and also the Oaths of Fidelity and Allegiance according to the Act of Parliament made in the fifth year of their Maj.ts Reign - on the Twenty First Day of July 1693"

- Ken and Lesley Blundell

Memories of Senior Past Master Ralph Hedderwick 1916 – 2021



Ralph Hedderwick died on 28 February in hospital after a fall. He was 104 and 8 months. He was very proud of his long association with the Livery, becoming Master in 1976. He had become a Sheriff of the City of London in September 1975 and then in view of his popularity a City Alderman in October 1976. Throughout this he was wonderfully supported by his wife, Gill. Five generations of the Hedderwick family have been closely associated with our Livery. Ralph's grandfather served as Master in 1929 and but for his untimely death his father would also have reached the chair. Ralph's two

sons joined the GSWD; Sholto in 1968 and Mark in 1970 with Mark's son David in 2019.

A stockbroker by profession Ralph was Chairman of Hedderwick Borthwick, a distinguished firm of stockbrokers in its heyday.

A member of Common Council for many years and Governor of Haileybury and Sherborne schools. He also had interest in many other charitable institutions.

Ralph was a second generation Haileyburian, following his father Robert Sholto Hedderwick (B 1900). At school Ralph was a prefect and enjoyed several sports, captaining the XXX in 1934 and the second XI in 1935. In 2019 at the age of 103 Ralph, a past Society President of the Haileybury Society was visited by the then Society President Doug Everard and Secretary Jane Everard at his Oxfordshire home.

Nigel Pullman (Hon Colonel - Inns of Court & City Yeomanry) served as Sheriff of the City of London in 2012-13, remembers Ralph when they were colleagues on the City bench for several years in the 1980s. He related that Ralph was an interesting,

and rare, example of a Sheriff who served at the Old Bailey when not yet an Alderman.

This is an entry in an almanac of past Aldermen: "In 1939 Ralph joined the Territorial Army as a trooper in the mounted squadron of the Inns of Court Yeomanry". The entry goes on to say that on the outbreak of WW2 he was called up and soon commissioned into the Wiltshire Yeomanry, serving in Syria and the Middle East. He was de-mobbed as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1946.

PME Bryan Toye remembers Ralph as a wonderful man he knew well, as indeed did his father. He recalls that Ralph had a great sense of humour, was a brilliant speaker, unbelievably helpful and really a kindly nature. 'He was more a Barrister than a City Commercial Gentleman; but Gentleman he certainly always was'. Ralph remarried after his wife, Gill, sadly passed away. He retired to Leafield in Oxfordshire where he became involved in horses; his second wife, Pat's great interest. However, he still continued until his final months to take the keenest interest in the Livery Company and its Court proceedings.

- Ken Blundell

For Valour - The Story of the Victoria Cross



On 23rd April, Mark Smith, the renowned military historian and TV personality (via the Antiques Roadshow), delivered to the Livery a moving and captivating lecture, via zoom, on the Victoria Cross, its history and the stories of many of the extraordinary men who showed extreme courage and often gave their lives in battle earning Britain's highest honour.

Mark described many of the actions which earned

these men the VC going all the way back in history to the Crimean War, and brought to life the incredible courage involved, in the face of the enemy as he related exactly what

they did, across the battlefields of Europe, Asia and Africa, on land, in the air and at sea.

We learned that it was Queen Victoria herself who established the Award, who wrote the simple motto, 'For Valour', which is engraved on every medal, and that King Edward VII decreed that the medal could be awarded posthumously, since so many men died in the process of some extraordinary action.

Men rescuing their comrades through minefields, through a hail of bullets and mortar fire, or for example Wing Commander Guy Gibson, having already dropped his bomb, choosing to fly alongside another RAF Lancaster in the 1943 Dams Raid as it attacked the Mohne Dam, specifically to attract the fire of the defending gunners.

It was a moving and enthralling experience to hear the stories of these remarkable men, for which the Master thanked Mark Smith wholeheartedly. By the end of it, we all felt inspired and somewhat humble.

- *Jeremy Ray*

Clerk's Corner

Court Decisions

Fundraising sub-Committee

The Court has approved the formation of a sub-Committee of the 400 Committee to raise funds for the exhibition and other events for the 400th anniversary of the company in 2023.

New Website

The first phase of the new website has been initiated. All Liverymen will need to use this for booking events in future as well as browsing news, photo gallery, documents and other database issues.

Elections

Master for 2022

Brian Turner has been elected to serve as Master in 2022.



New Assistant

Mike West has been elected to the Court, becoming an Assistant in April 2021. He is also the Army Liaison Officer.



Admissions

The following have been admitted as Freeman of the Company via the Trade Route:

Liga Thrower is a jeweller; she weaves with silver thread creating circular patterned works of art. She was a GSWD prizewinner in 2019.



Josef Koppmann is a jeweller; he covers silver wire with 24 carat gold to create works of art with precious or semi-precious stones. He is also a Freeman of the Goldsmith's Company. He joined by special admission



The following have also been admitted as Freeman of the Company prior to being clothed in the Livery later in the year: Major Craig Hallett, Rajiv Sabharwal.

Deaths

The Company regrets to inform you of the death of Past Master Ralph Hedderwick (104), Past Master Paul Constantinidi (57) and Liverymen Tony Taylor (76).

An obituary for Ralph Hedderwick is included in this edition of the Wyre Drawer.

The Memorial Service for Paul Constantinidi will be held in September and a full obituary will be included in the next edition of the Wyre Drawer.

Tony Taylor, became a Liveryman in January 1970 and was a great supporter of the livery although we had sadly seen less of him in recent years

Charities supported

The Court has approved the following donations to charities.

Name of Charity	Rationale/Comment:	Amount
Pancreatic Cancer UK	<i>Healthcare research (Master's Charity)</i>	2,000
Alford House	<i>Youth support (Liveryman)</i>	1,000
Build Up Foundation	<i>Youth support</i>	1,000
Cavell Nurses Trust	<i>Medical support</i>	1,000
Clothing Solutions (for disabled)	<i>Disabled support</i>	1,000
Crackerjack Children's Trust	<i>Disabled Youth</i>	1,000
Douglas Bader Foundation	<i>Amputee and disabled support</i>	1,000
Livery Kitchen Initiative	<i>Pan-livery NHS support</i>	1,000
Marfan Trust	<i>Medical research (Liveryman)</i>	1,000
Mark Evison Foundation	<i>Youth support</i>	1,000
Michael Varah Memorial Fund	<i>Youth rehabilitation</i>	1,000
Music of Life Foundation	<i>Music for disabled youth</i>	1,000
Reach Out	<i>Youth support</i>	1,000
Submarine Memorial Appeal	<i>Affiliation, Armed Forces</i>	500

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