



The Wyre Drawer

Edition 45 - Spring 2024



The Master and the 400th Exhibition Committee in amongst the Royal Regalia from the 400th Exhibition

A Message from the Master

This time last year I introduced myself to you all as the new Master of the Company. This year I find myself in the unusual position of doing so again. Regretfully, in October, Roger Carter had to make the difficult decision not to proceed to Master due to his poor health. Very sadly, he died in March. Roger had been a dedicated member of our Livery since 2010, and we were delighted to have been able to present him the title of Honorary Assistant Master at our Common Hall installation in January, in recognition of his contribution and dedication to the Company.

I am honoured and humbled that the Company has asked me to serve for a further year. The support I received from the Livery last year was heart-warming, and I know that together we can make 2024 another successful year for the Company.

The centrepiece of 2023 was the Treasures of Gold and Silver Wyre Exhibition in the Guildhall Art Gallery, which enormously enhanced the reputation and visibility of the Company and the wider Livery movement. Visitors came from across the whole of the United Kingdom and even from abroad. The Exhibition covered embroidery, the Royal family, who loaned us many items, the Church, theatre, ballet and military history. It was also wonderful to see the work of so many of our Freemen.

The article in this edition will give those of you who did not see the Exhibition some idea of what it was like, and there is a commemorative book which is available from the Guildhall Art Gallery. I would like to pay tribute to all those who made the exhibition such a success, but especially Exhibition Curator, Karen Watts. Without the team's hard work over the last five years, none of this would have happened. The Exhibition and the special Banquet in the Great Hall has seen our 400th celebrated in great style!

In my second year, I clearly intend to build on what we achieved last year, and the main focus will be 'legacy, governance and finance'. Serious things, perhaps not the most exciting, but essential work for the Company looking into the future. And of course, I will continue to work hard at Charity. I will be raising money for three charities this year and my personal challenge to inspire you to part with your money is - Wing Walking! Join me in a team effort.

We have loads of fun events on the ground too, with visits to the Chelsea Physic Garden, St Pauls, and the Pikemen to name a few. Something for everyone so do join us whenever you can

- Catherine Carr

Dinner at the Mansion House for Their Majesties the King and Queen



On Wednesday October 18th, King Charles III and Queen Camilla processed through the Egyptian Hall at the Mansion House and took their regal places. It was an honour to attend to represent the GSWD, one of over 90 Livery Company Masters to join a guest list of over 300 comprising elected Members of the City Corporation's Court of Common Council and representatives of the UK financial services industry. First, an enactment of an ancient ritual; the King was presented with the Pearl sword by the Lord Mayor the Rt Hon Nicholas Lyons. King Charles then returned the Pearl Sword to the Lord Mayor, confirming the Lord Mayor's authority in the Square Mile when the monarch is not present. Queen Elizabeth II performed this ceremony in 1953 following her own coronation. There are about 2,500 pearls on the sword's scabbard, from which it gets its name.



Throughout the evening the atmosphere was electric. It was very special to see The King deliver his speech in person and to be so close to him and The Queen. He described the United Kingdom as a 'community of communities', 'an island nation in which our shared values are the force which holds us together, reminding us that there is far, far more that unites us than divides us'.

It was a fantastic event with the Honourable Artillery Company Band, the State Trumpeters of The Household Cavalry and, of course, the Mayor's bodyguard provided by the Pikemen and Musketeers of the Honourable Artillery Company. One of the highlights of the year.

- Catherine Carr



Roger Carter - Obituary



I got to know Roger when he was Director of Operations at Freemasons' Hall. He was a Chartered Civil Engineer and Fellow of the British Institute of Management and had joined from working in London, including at Camden and Westminster Councils. He took over a very old fashioned Masonic operation with a large team of in-house staff and a lot of historical problems besetting the building. Although not then a Freemason himself he managed to form very good relationships with his team and got the growing workload under way.

The first mammoth task was identifying and dealing with the removal of asbestos of all colours from the building. The next was meeting a new set of Fire regulations which involved building four new internal bridges (total cost over £3 million). Then the renewal of all the lifts which operated at 110v DC, for which parts were no longer available, including putting in a completely new lift with disabled access from the street.

A significant achievement, in which he and I worked together in a very special collaboration, was the major task of rehousing all four Masonic Charities. We cleared and altered the whole semi-basement to create a single bright and open location for the staff, thus providing them with much better accommodation. This also significantly reduced overheads and prepared the way for the merger of the Charities into the Masonic Charitable Foundation, now run by Liveryman Les Hutchinson.

Roger joined Freemasonry in a Lodge intended for engineers and his warmth and friendliness helped him become their Master. After he joined the Livery, he joined our Lodge of Love and Friendship of which he was still Almoner.

He took to the Livery like a duck to water and soon was on the Court and then the ladder towards becoming Master. In recognition of all he

had done for the Company, he was elected to the unique role of Honorary Assistant Master in January 2024. He sadly died in early March.

He had a natural sympathy for charity and served on the Charity and Fundraising Committee, becoming its Chairman for several years. In 2021 he was struck down with cancer and underwent major surgery which was very successful; but unfortunately, late last year the cancer returned, and he became aware that he could not physically undertake the onerous role of Master.

He was a stalwart of his Church and Choir and with his wife, Alexa, was very active in Livery events and friendships within the Livery.

A warm and gentle man who will be much missed by all who knew him in the Company. He lived respected and died regretted.

- John Edgcumbe

Neasden Temple Visit

In July, thanks to Liveryman Ramji Chauhan, a group of 29 of us were fortunate to have a unique opportunity to visit the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, otherwise known as the Neasden Temple. This is the largest Hindu temple, or Mandir, outside of India. It is a masterpiece of exquisite Indian design and workmanship and we all marvelled at the intricate marble and wooden carvings. Using 5,000 tonnes of Bulgarian limestone and Italian and Indian marble, it was hand-carved in India before being assembled in London in just 2½ years, funded entirely by personal donations.

As well as a chance to visit this amazing place there was time to learn more about the building of the Mandir and the history of the Hindu faith. We witnessed a



traditional Hindu prayer ceremony called the Arti ceremony; an ancient Hindu offering made by waving lighted wicks before the sacred images to the accompaniment of musical prayer.

At the end of a fascinating tour, we were treated to a delicious lunch. We all enjoyed a few hours of beauty, peace and discovery and felt very honoured to have been treated so generously.

A voluntary contribution was split between the Master's charity and the Mandir.

You can learn more about the temple at <https://londonmandir.baps.org/> and would encourage others to visit the Mandir for what for us was an educational and enriching experience.



The Grand Banquet

As befitted a celebration of the Company's 400th year the Master and Wardens welcomed 341 people to the magnificent surroundings of the Guildhall Great Hall for the annual banquet. It was the perfect venue for the occasion being the oldest room in the Guildhall. Dating back to 1502 it has been the witness to some of the great events of history including the trial of Lady Jane Grey. The principal guest was the Lord Mayor, Rt Hon Alderman Nicholas Lyons, accompanied by his wife, Felicity, and the two Sheriffs and their Consorts. Guests, including 27 Livery Company



Masters and their Consorts, and representatives from our military affiliations, had the opportunity to view the Treasures of Gold and Silver Wyre Exhibition before the reception in the crypt. Once again, the step lining was done by our two sponsored cadet units, St John Ambulance and TS BARROSA. Dinner began with a solo by our St Paul's chorister, Joshua Cohen. A highlight was the performance by the Corps of Drums of the Royal Logistics Corps. The lights went down and they then thrilled us all with a display of showmanship complete with illuminated drumsticks. We were entertained throughout dinner by the London Banqueting Ensemble who finished off with the traditional Post Horn Galop.

The Lord Mayor spoke of the unique contribution of the Company to the City of London, especially through the exhibition, and the many achievements through the year



of our first lady Master. He also presented the Company Award to Assistant Dr Karen Watts for all her hard work delivering the exhibition. The guest speaker was Mr Robert Rinder MBE, the barrister well known as Judge Rinder on television. He spoke amusingly of his experiences in public life and in various television events. Complimenting the Company on how well known and respected it was for what it had achieved in 2023 he then spoke passionately about the contribution the livery movement makes to public life.

In all an evening that will live long in the memory of all who attended.

- *Jeremy Ray*



Hand & Lock THE PRIZE



photo: Gabby Richie

Freeman Kate Pankhurst was a finalist at the Hand & Lock Prize for Embroidery with **Fancy Free** (below) a life-size 3D goldfish created in goldwork embroidery. He symbolises good fortune, fertility and freedom in many spiritual practices. Use of the rare Opus Anglicanum technique 'underside couching' is homage to the great ecclesiastical embroiderers of the medieval era.



Fourteen Freeman exhibited at Goldsmiths' Fair in September and October including Alison Evans who won the coveted Goldsmiths' Trade Warden's Award for her silver and titanium necklace. (right) Goldsmiths' Trade Warden, Joanna Hardy congratulating Alison on her award.

News from our Freeman and Prizewinners

from Jean Scott-Moncrieff

The Master, Catherine Carr was delighted to present Naomi Aidow-Clark (left) with the GSWD Award for Student Textile Art 2023 at the Hand & Lock prizegiving ceremony in November. Naomi's piece is titled **Grounded** and explores the

rhythmic, repetative nature of craft and its importance to our mental wellbeing.

(left) 'Grounded' smooth purl, silk organza, copper, enamel, silver

photo: Jutta Klee



We heard from Freeman Shimell and Madden that they had some sales as a direct result of the

Treasures of Gold and Silver Wire

exhibition at the Guildhall Art Gallery:

'The former master of The Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London had visited the exhibition with his wife, and after seeing our piece decided to come and visit us at Goldsmiths' Fair as we were exhibiting there too. They decided to commission a pin from our Rope Ring design (above), opting for a colourway of 18 carat white, rose and yellow gold. We created a curved pin that seamlessly attaches to clothing.'





The Weavers Candelabrum by Liveryman Nan Nan Liu who explains, 'This piece was commissioned by the Worshipful Company of Weavers to celebrate the year of the late Queen's platinum jubilee in 2023. Constructed mainly in silver, it also has platinum and gold wire to represent the years of her Silver, Gold and Platinum Jubilees. I was inspired by the Rococo-styled candelabras and motivated by modernising traditional designs and trying to find a fine balance between indulgence and simplicity. From mulberry trees and their leaves to silk threads - these were the main inspiration for this design. The entire piece is made of wires.'

photos: Yeshen Venema



Catherine attended the Bishopsland Educational Trust's event at Cutlers' Hall in London at the end of November. Their new Principal, Angela Cork, gave a presentation on their future plans. Upstairs there was an exhibition of work from their current cohort of post graduate students and alumni, including Freeman Megan Brown seen here showing Catherine a piece from her latest collection.



photo: David Utting

Freeman Hannah Mansfield, (above centre at the graduation event at Highgrove) says, 'From January to July I was a tutor for the first year of the new CHANEL and The King's Foundation's Métiers D'Art Fellowship. The fellowship is a specialist embroidery training course to develop embroidery skills to haute couture standard. We were working in partnership with Le19m (a group of specialist ateliers located on the outskirts of Paris and supported by CHANEL). I was part of The King's Foundation team, delivering the course at the Highgrove estate, and am now preparing for the new students in 2024.'

There was a Gala Dinner for the Felix Fund, the bomb disposal charity at the end of September at Drapers' Hall. The evening was attended by around 150 people including guests from the GSWD. Earlier in the year Liveryman Jean Scott-Moncrieff organised making a gold pendant and a pair of silver cufflinks featuring the Felix mascot (with diamond eyes!) which were auctioned at the dinner. The evening raised over £40,000 for the charity and was a tremendous success. The speaker was Brigadier Karl Frankland, the Chairman of the Felix Fund (right).



The Lord Mayor's Show

I was surprised and honoured to be asked by the Master to represent our Liverymen and be a part of the parade for the Lord Mayor's Show. For only the second time since I joined the Company I put on a Liveryman's gown and joined the Master and Consort, First Warden and Clerk to form part of the Senior Livery Companies walking float. This is made up of those older companies that do not have their own float in the parade. We all gathered at the Ironmongers Hall for a briefing and breakfast where there was time to admire the many colourful robes of our fellow Livery Companies.

Then it was time to join the rest of the parade on London Wall. The variety of floats was amazing; some musical, some colourful all works of art and often engineering too. There were participants from across the globe. Interspersed between the floats were various bands to keep us entertained, and the uniformed parade marshals to ensure we kept to time. We all waved as we passed the new Lord Mayor, Professor Michael Mainelli, at Mansion House. It was lovely being able to interact with the crowd, and I even had said to me, 'Congratulations to your Company for the wonderful Exhibition'. A stop for lunch at Carmen's Hall allowed us to see the rest of the parade. It was an unforgettable experience.

- Nan Nan Liu



The Master's Charity 2023



Thank you all for supporting the Chiltern Centre last year at all our events and fundraising efforts. As a result of the incredible generosity of the livery, friends and family, the Centre will receive £12,000. They are thrilled and every penny will be spent wisely. A huge thank you to all – and worth falling out of a plane and plummeting 140 miles an hour (well it was only for 4 minutes before the parachute opened but it felt like an hour!) My thanks to Mike West for arranging this with the army Silver Stars.

- Catherine Carr



Treasures of Gold and Silver Wire

an exhibition of exquisite craftsmanship to commemorate
our first royal charter of 1623

29th September - 31st December 2023 at the Guildhall Art Gallery



(left) Detail of the GSWD embroidery made in 1923 for the 300th anniversary

This exhibition was five years in the making. We had the support of successive Masters and the Court and we were fortunate that our company had the varied skills and experience to pull it off. From the start, we wanted to showcase contemporary works of art by our own Freeman, award-winning students, and our affiliations, both religious, military, royal, technical and above all, charitable.

We first searched for a venue and approached the Guildhall Art Gallery. Our timing was perfect as the Director was considering hiring out the exhibition space for the first time to an external institution, and the Guildhall was ideal being our historic London city home. Cost was a constant concern, we could only afford to pay for the hire for 6 weeks, which was fine.

We started off with a wish list of 100 objects and our own core collection. To our surprise we got them all and when word spread about the exhibition, more and more prestigious

lenders wanted to be part of it, including other livery companies. In the end, we had an astonishing 292 objects from 73 lenders which required a high level of logistical planning.

The exhibition was designed in themes: the commemoration of the Company; the technology; royal regalia and civic ceremonial; ecclesiastical; performing arts; military; and contemporary virtuoso works of art. We wanted the exhibition to reflect not only the trade history, but to draw attention to the livery movement's current role in charitable giving. We had three major rooms and decided to divide the main second room with a wall and cross wall leading visitors so that various treasures were revealed around corners. We built stages and



Installation of walls and stages to create the exhibition

displayed costumed figures on them. Cases were a concern, but after we had borrowed the Guildhall's tabletop cases and two Victorian cases, we fortunately discovered that the Royal Academy were disposing of cases free (except for transport costs). We only had to custom-make two cases.

View from above of the exhibition.



The Guildhall Art Gallery with the exhibition banners





(left) Some of the Louvre interns unpacking GSWD objects

(below) Ken Blundell lifts a case that he had made specially for the Fishmongers' Hall



The 1771 drawplate still in use today



(above) Entrance to the exhibition with AV screen and thank-you board

Exhibition security with Naz (right)

(below) Installing Queen Mary's coronation dress



Everyone loved the exhibition as attested by many letters and emails and our visitor's book which was filled with pages of wonderful compliments. We all have stories from the visitors that we met.

The exhibition was due to close on 12th November. A few weeks before its scheduled end, it

We hired a brilliant exhibition installer, who brought in a team to build it and we could not have done this without the support of all the Art Gallery team. Installation personnel costs were kept low by arranging an official internship programme with the French national curatorial training institute at the Louvre. We had nine École du Louvre interns who were generously given accommodation by our Liverymen enabling them to come, paying only their travel costs and receiving, in exchange, a practical training in exhibitions. The first thing that they did was clean all our company silver!

Following the official opening by our Patron, HRH the Duchess of Gloucester on 28th September with another gala event on the 29th the doors opened to the public, and to our delight, the exhibition drew in large numbers from the start. We were open seven days a week and had livery presence in the exhibition space every single day. Visitors came from all over the world, especially from the USA and all over Europe. As well as many hours of private views, another surprising

was revealed that this was in fact the most successful exhibition that the Guildhall Art Gallery had ever held! So, we were approached by the Guildhall to extend the exhibition at their cost to the end of the year. All our personal plans were put on hold and every single one of the lenders had to be contacted to ask if they would be willing to extend their loan. One dress had already been promised for display and sale in USA, but otherwise, to our amazement, all were happy to agree.

We closed on 31st December, tired, sad, but elated. It had been an outstanding success. The Lord Mayor 2022-2023, Alderman Nicholas Lyons, commented 'This amazing exhibition was a magnificent showcase, not only for the wonders of gold and silver wire over the ages, but also for the livery movement as a whole. Many congratulations to the Master, the Curator, and all concerned'.



Karen Watts, Court Assistant



Family events and large print labels

element were the large numbers of group bookings who received a special dedicated guided tour and a free commemorative book. This was written and designed by us with glorious colour photography to be a souvenir of the exhibition. We printed 2000 and sold out. Our biggest single group was the 130 Australians who came in 4 coaches.

'THE BEST EXHIBITION EVER HELD AT THE GUILDHALL ART GALLERY'

As the year draws to a close so does the Treasures of Gold and Silver Wire exhibition, a truly spectacular tribute to our 400th anniversary which has exceeded all expectations.

The grand opening on 28th September by Her Royal Highness, The Duchess of Gloucester was a magnificent occasion. She was greeted by the Lord Mayor and the Master who presented her with a personally embroidered purse created by Freeman Laura Baverstock (*above*). In addition, as she is an Honorary Liveryman, the Master presented her with a Liveryman's brooch which she wore with pride for the rest of the evening. After meeting the Wardens and 400 Committee, the Duchess was given a personal tour of the exhibition by the Curator, Karen Watts, who was delighted that she took great



Military section

bringing friends and families, the best marketing was word of mouth. As the magic of the extraordinary exhibits was revealed, cries of 'wow' resounded from our visitors. We never needed to have worried as the splendour of the displays spoke for themselves.

When the curtain finally fell it is clearly seen that all the original aims have not only been met but exceeded: the appeal achieved its target, nearly 10,000 people visited the exhibition, all the catalogues were sold, the reputation of the GSWD has



The Master showing the Bacton Altar Cloth to visitors

interest in every item on display, spending much more time than planned. We were most grateful for the perseverance of those waiting patiently upstairs. The following day saw a second VIP event ensuring that all exhibitors, helpers, donors and sponsors received an invitation.

Prior to this the media team had been hard at work coordinating press releases and media interviews (recorded and live). We got excellent positive reviews in the press (British newspapers, New York Times, Vogue Online, trade magazines etc). All were very positive, and our own dedicated social media team sprang into action to spread the word as far and wide as possible. But was it enough, would anyone want to visit? The answer was immediately clear: people came in their droves, many returning several times



Commemorative books



Performing Arts section

been greatly enhanced, and our 400th anniversary has most definitely been commemorated and celebrated. The financial reckoning will come later but it is already evident that this too will have been surpassed.

An enormous debt of gratitude must go to Karen Watts for her vision, determination, expertise and amazing energy to create – as described in the media – 'the finest collection of gold and silver wire objects to ever be brought together in an exhibition' 'a fascinating journey through history, where visitors can marvel at a dazzling display of over 200 items, from centuries-old robes to contemporary jewellery.' Very special thanks also go to Ken and Lesley Blundell and the Master, Catherine Carr, as well as so many others who have given so much of their time, skill and dedication for so long to have made this spectacular exhibition possible.

Mark Dickens, Liveryman



(above) Royal Regalia section



(left) The exhibition was fully accessible for disabled visitors, here viewing Queen Mary's Coronation Gown



(above) Fishmongers' Pall with young visitor



(below) Liz Elvin lecturing at the exhibition Seminar Day



Visitors viewing the Contemporary section (above)

(left) The Duchess of Gloucester admiring Darcey Bussell's tutu

(right) Visit by the granddaughters of one of the embroiderers of the Jubilee Cope in the Church section



(below) Visitors enjoyed regular demonstrations from our Trade Freemen



The Master's Charity Day

As I am sure you are all aware, my chosen charity this year is the Chiltern Centre, a wonderful charity dedicated to specialist care for young adults with learning disabilities, physical disabilities, and complex medical needs. It provides opportunities for them to have unique and practical experiences which nurture, encourage and teach them valuable skills for the future. In addition to the generosity of our Livery Members to this worthy charity, the Carr family challenged itself to see how the farm could support the Company's fundraising effort.

It all began with the sunflowers. Two acres of glorious vibrant flowers in which hundreds of visitors would meander, absorb and pick their own throughout the summer, raising £1,420. Twelve beehives on 100 acres of wildflower meadows and a warm summer delivered a bountiful harvest, which also has been shared with our Livery company, together with eggs from the ducks and chickens contributed to the fund.



'A Day on the Farm' event was held in September. Friends helped us generously with their time and skills providing all manner of activities and refreshments. I learnt so much about how the not inexpensive infrastructure (generator, Portaloos, marquees, water-supply etc) and time-consuming planning of every detail is essential to successful fund-raising!

The morning was devoted to making sure the young adults from the Chiltern Centre had the best time. Together with their carers and families, they spent the morning enjoying tractor rides through the sunflower fields and vineyard, picking as many sunflowers as they liked. The guided painting therapy (sunflowers of course)





The funds raised will go towards supporting 24 hour care costs, providing generally under rated but so incalculably important respite care to strained families; providing support to parents in how to deal

with the challenging behaviour of the young adults aged 16 to 30, and training on the Vara Trust organic farm. Here the young adults gain a work ethic, purpose and sense of belonging, in an environment providing a similar aged social network. The invaluable experience is essential for the young adults at The Chiltern Centre who, each week learn practical life skills which will help them in gaining job opportunities and transition into supported living.



and our very own Vivienne Havell starring again with her gold and silver bead making sessions proving to be very popular, as was the large display of tractors, combines and forklifts they were able to clamber all over.

The afternoon was open to the public, and included vineyard tours, wine-tasting, go-carting, barbeques, and of course a large display of tractors, combines and forklifts which the young at heart were thrilled to clamber over. The whole day went far beyond our expectations – the weather was fabulous, people were happy and heart-warmingly generous. The Family Carr team were thrilled, and relieved and proud, that it all worked out so well in the end. It was 'A Proper Magical Day'. The total raised was £7900.00 including gift aid. And these photos sum it all up!



'The emotional benefits such as reducing feelings of depression, anger, anxiety and isolation, working together as a team, developing communication and interpersonal skills and feeling joy, freedom in the countryside and love for the animals, are beyond comparison.' says Izzy Ansell for the Chiltern Centre. 'Thank you GSWD for your generosity – you have certainly made their lives next year a little more joyful.'



Felix Fund Charity Skydive

Assistant Mike West completed his charity skydive for the Felix Fund in January with the Army Silver Stars parachute team. The jump took place over Netheravon in Wiltshire from a height of 13,000ft, including 7,500ft of freefall.



Mike was generously sponsored by members of the Livery, friends, family and RLC folk. All of the funds raised go to the Felix Fund, as Mike covered the cost of the skydive himself. A total of £3,000 was raised for this important charity.

'From the door of the plane', says Mike, 'you find yourself tumbling in a vast empty space, rapidly approaching terminal velocity of 120mph.'

Deano, the brilliant instructor, quickly stabilised our descent and within seconds you are high-fiving the other members of the magnificent Silver Stars team.

Special thanks must go to Rhian, an Ammunition Technician, for taking such care of me and for her excellent camera work.'

The Felix Fund does important work for the bomb disposal community. Almost every day bomb disposal personnel deal with highly pressured situations, and this continued exposure to intense stress can have lasting physical and mental effects.

- Mike West, Assistant

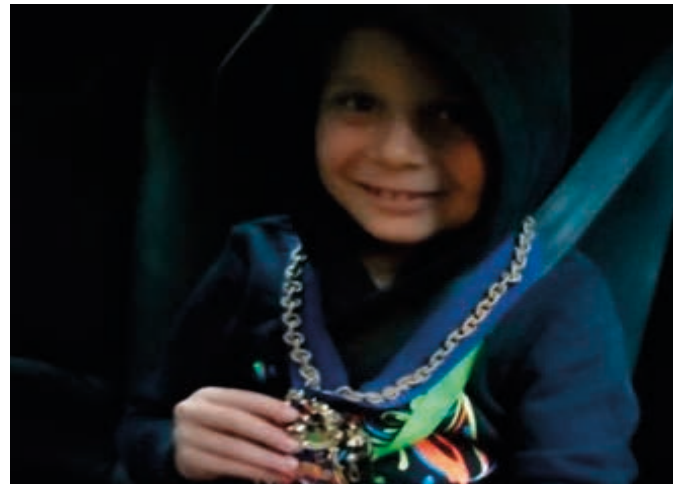
Hackney Carriage Drivers Magical Taxi Tour

Every Master knows what a privilege and an honour it is to spend a year representing their Livery Company. But one of the most heartwarming mornings we will ever spend is as a guest of the Hackney Carriage Drivers. Walking into a venue at East Wintergarden in Canary Wharf before sunrise and seeing a huge room filled with Disney sights and sounds everywhere is mesmerising – just full of fun and laughter.

What the Hackney Carriage Drivers, their friends and family do, is nothing short of a miracle. They arrange for 93 taxis to take 100 children suffering from a range of chronic illnesses and life-limiting conditions, together with their family and carers to Disneyland Paris for the trip of a lifetime.

William and I met mum Lisa, and Raif with his brother, in a taxi sponsored by our Livery Company. Eight year old Raif, who has leukaemia, was so happy and excited and chatted happily about his trip. I cannot picture him any other way. Yet as we waved to the last vehicles in the procession, I realised they were the ambulances and medics cars. Fortunately, Disneyland is enchanting and full of magic, so I am sure that all their dreams came true.

- Catherine Carr



Royal Logistics Corps Top Ammunition Technician Award

In pursuit of strengthening the Livery's connection and support of the services, Mike West (Livery Army Liaison Officer) and Lt. Col. Steve Roberts organised what was an uplifting day for all. The visit was designed to provide the students with the opportunity to develop their own skills both in the making of presentations and hosting us, as visitors, over a buffet lunch. The students, some of whom had only joined the army a few months ago, and having only spent seven weeks at Shrivenham, the home of the Defence Academy, proceeded to explain the different types of munitions and the practical applications, all under the watchful eye of one of their instructors, Liveryman Pete Norton GC.



Much to the amusement of some of the older attendees one of the students used the phrase "back in the day" and chatting with him afterwards revealed that he was born in 2003 and is representative of the age of the class, so all very young.

Following lunch and an introduction from the Commanding Officer, Mike West then provided a little of the history of the Livery setting this against the modern day purpose of promoting fellowship, charity and craftsmanship.

Mike Gunston, Past Master, took the honour of presenting the Top Ammunition Student award, a glass decanter, to Private Conall Hammond. We were then treated to a presentation by the Chief Armourer in which he not only explained the work undertaken by his team, but also showed the vast array of guns from all around the world which have been studied and are maintained in working order.

Steve then took us on a guided tour of the Tank Shed which holds an amazing collection of tanks, many of which are Russian, as well as artillery and other weapons, not to mention a Tornado fighter jet!!

The visit again demonstrated the true professionalism of our armed services and the benefit to them and to the Livery of developing and maintaining our association with them.

- Chris Ratcliffe, Liveryman



SO15 Visit in October



If there were ever a reason for joining the GSWD, the recent visit to SO15 would be one of them. A fascinating and informative afternoon was spent with Matt Middleditch and his team from SO15 at their headquarters in NW1. Members of the Livery gained a rare and privileged insight into the workings of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit which sits within the Met Police Counter Terrorism Command (SO15). The afternoon started with a talk through some of the terrorist attacks in London in the not so distant past, London Bridge and Parsons Green, and how calls came in, the response times and how decisions are made in split seconds, that can make or take a life.

In the briefing room, we were surrounded by bombs, bullets, and explosive devices, which I had assumed were gathered from around the world, but were, in fact, all from the Greater London area and had been made safe!

After the briefing, we were escorted into the yard where another array of equipment was laid out in front of us. This ranged from the different types of chemical suits and radiation detectors, all the way down to the not so humble hand-held door rammer.

After such an enjoyable day and having taken on so much fascinating information, there was only one more visit required, and that was to the Queen's Head & Artichoke pub to defuse over a few glasses.....

- Jim Mee, Liveryman



GSWD Golf Society 2024

Our Livery Company has a vibrant and fun Golf Society. Handicaps range from 4 to 44, although you do not have to have a handicap to join us. We will sort you out with one after playing a few holes with you. We want everyone to have a great time in good company.

It's free to join so, if you are interested, please email the Secretary with your name and mobile number.

Our 2024 fixture list

Monday 25th March - Hadley Wood GC. A challenging and enjoyable course for all standards of golfer.

Thursday 20th June - Tandridge GC. A Harry Colt designed classic course in the Surrey countryside.

Monday 2nd September - Ashridge GC. A beautiful course where we hold our Captain's Day.

Thursday 3rd October - West Surrey GC. A friendly private members' club.

Inter Livery Competition

Thursday 16th May - The Prince Arthur Cup. 36 holes played against teams from most of the other Livery Companies at Walton Heath Golf Club. Players need an official handicap, those over 18 will play off 18.

We have a great selection of trophies, team, and individual prizes of bottles of wine and golf balls.

After each game we finish with a meal and prize giving.

Contact Secretary Henry Hobson henry5hobson@gmail.com

Inter Livery Competition organiser: Paul Day pauljday78@hotmail.com.

Announcements

Admissions

Court Assistant

Hannah Constantinidi



Neill Blundell



Liveryman

Barry Holt –
Management Consultant



Freemen (Redemption)

Anup Patel - Doctor

Minal Patel - Solicitor

Roy Pummell – Salesman
(Retired)

Adam McCrae – Army
Officer

Stuart Ludlow – FGC
Co-ordinator (Retired)

Freemen (Trade)

Joanne Thompson - Jeweller,
GCDC Award Winner

Edwin Charmain – Jeweller,
GCDC Award Winner

Deaths

Hon Asst Master Roger Carter

Liveryman Adrian Quick

Past Master Emeritus James Simmons

Liverymen Brian Stevenson

Liveryman James Salmon

Resignations

Past Master Malcolm Craig

Liverymen Dorothy Rochester

Liveryman Peter Bart-Smith

Liveryman Graham Tebbutt

Liveryman Keith Emery

Charity Donations

Name of Charity	Rationale/Comment:	Amount (£)
Street Storage	This organisation provides storage and other facilities for those who are homeless. They are a small charity operating in inner London and the request was to provide laundry supplies and sundries.	1,000
City Harvest (Livery Food Initiative)	This is a Pan-livery activity supported by many Companies. Whilst City Harvest is a very large organisation, this fundraising is to keep a vehicle on the road. Each van costs £190,000 to operate for three years, during which time it will deliver food for 2.4 million meals.	1,000
The Grand Union Music Theatre Limited	The organisation has been supporting cross-cultural music making for over 40 years with the aim of keeping participation free, enabling all members of the diverse communities to take part. This is a small charity operating in East London and the request is for funding to support one multicultural workshop.	1,000
Tower Hamlets Parents Centre	This organisation provides services to the local community, addressing a number of social issues. They aim to improve employment prospects through training, improve financial inclusion, reduce isolation and loneliness (especially in the elderly) and support children's educational needs. This is a small charity operating in the Borough and the request, which was for a larger sum, is to support their activities.	1,000
Bee-Lieve Foundation	This organisation was suggested by Past Master Nigel Nichols. They work to improve resilience in young people to try to reduce the increasing levels of mental health issues experienced, especially since the pandemic. They provide grants to schools to enable teacher training and to help support workers in education. They are looking to extend their activities nationwide, but we would ask them to use our funds within London if possible.	1,000
TOTAL		5,000

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