



The Wyre Drawer

Edition 46 - Spring 2025





A Message from the Master

Whilst this edition covers my year as Master in 2024 clearly having started as Master in 2023, many activities and themes have continued over the two years. Previous editions have spoken about our wonderful exhibition which raised the profile of our Company significantly throughout the City. This year we have done much to build on that which is why I'm thrilled to have been asked to chair the new Conservation and Legacy committee, a fantastic opportunity to continue to make an active contribution with exciting conservation projects lined up already.

Covid gave us the breathing space to make some significant changes to the Company and we have built on the work that was started then. You will shortly see a new website too which our new Liveryman Marc Peter and his team have worked very hard to bring you, a great start to 2025. The Wyre Drawer has evolved as well, and we are delighted to have a new Editor with fresh ideas, and a new look to our magazine which I hope you enjoy reading. It would be impossible to list all the events William and I have been to as ambassadors for the GSWD and the hospitality we have received, but it has all continued to be fantastic. I do hope that the pictures accompanying this article will convey, in images, more than my words can. As Master you never achieve all you hope for, but I am proud of what we have done together.

- Catherine Carr



Master for 2025 – Tim MacAndrews

It is my privilege and pleasure to succeed Catherine Carr as the Master of our fine Livery Company. My background as a Chartered Accountant, who at a relatively young age, along with my business partner, diversified by starting up and then running for over 30 years our own retail franchise business – Snappy Snaps.

I have had various other life experiences which I very much hope will assist me in steering our livery company to increased membership, greater participation and enjoyment by our members, hopefully then in turn leading to greater charitable giving.

Charity is, of course, at the heart of the livery movement. My own personal support goes to Noah's Ark which is a children's hospital/hospice located in North London, but in the course of a year our Company gives money to dozens of well deserving causes. I, and my consort Andrea, very much look forward to getting to know you better as the year progresses.

- Timothy MacAndrews

New Editor – Minal Patel

Having been a Liveryman for only a year, I was deeply honoured to be asked to take on the role of Editor for our annual newsletter. Professionally, I have been a solicitor since 2003 and currently serve as a District Crown Prosecutor for the Crown Prosecution Service. Balancing a full-time career with the joys and challenges of being a mum of two, I believe my background equips me with the skills (and a touch of hope!) to deliver a newsletter that captures the essence of our Company. My aim is to provide all our members with a vibrant snapshot of the incredible events and charitable initiatives we undertake throughout the year.



A new website has been launched at the beginning of 2025 – www.gswd.co.uk

Installation



There is something special about the way this Company starts the year with Installation. A New Year and a new Master. However, 2024 was a bit of an exception. Sadly, Roger Carter had announced that he was unable to take on the role and thus Catherine Carr was persuaded to do a second year. Roger Carter was given the title of Honorary Assistant Master in recognition of all that he had given to the Company. Henry Hobson was installed as the new Fourth Warden. Lunch saw over 100 people, including Masters and Clerks from six other Livery companies listen to an excellent speech from The Reverend Keith Powell, Late Master Cook and six newly clothed Liverymen joined the Company for lunch.



Pancake Race

Whilst there are numerous pancake races held the length and breadth of the country, the Inter-Livery Pancake Race is one of the most visually spectacular of them all. Organised by the Poulterers who also provide the eggs for the pancakes, every other aspect is allocated to the relevant livery. The Gunmakers start each race with a bang, the Clockmakers time the races, the Glovers provide runners with white gloves, the Fruiterers bring the lemons, and the Cutlers the plastic forks.



I really had hoped to be good at this, but the Pancake Gods have been against me. Last year we didn't really understand how it worked, despite celebrating its 20th anniversary and this year a persistent light drizzle made the Guildhall Yard 'unplayable' and the outfield was just too slippery. All the Masters, Runners and



Supporters decamped to the crypt of the Guildhall where alternative variations of the competition were held. We Masters stood 6 in a row, and against the clock had to toss (or flip) our pancake as many times as possible in a minute. Although my flipping performance generated great hilarity amongst the spectators, sadly it did not take me through the rankings to the final. I'm hoping the GSWD will enter a pro team next year and win the Frying Pan Trophy with flying colours. Lunch provided by the Clink was, of course delicious pancakes.

- Catherine Carr, Master

College of Arms

On the 29th February 2024, the Worshipful Company of Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers enjoyed a fascinating visit to the College of Arms. The official heraldic authority for England, Wales, Northern Ireland and a significant part of the Commonwealth, including Australia and New Zealand. The event, hosted by Dr Dominic Ingram, Portcullis Pursuivant of Arms, provided a unique insight into the history of heraldry and the work of the heralds.

Dr Ingram led a guided tour of the College of Arms and discussed the architectural heritage of the building. The highlight of the visit was an hour spent in the record room, where attendees viewed manuscript records dating back to the fifteenth century, offering a rare glimpse into the centuries-old traditions of British heraldry. Among the

ancient manuscripts was a book featuring a hand-drawn picture of three Wyre Drawers' coat of arms, a testament to the long and distinguished history of our livery company. The event concluded with drinks, providing an opportunity for attendees to ask further questions and engage with this rich aspect of British heritage.



- Jacqueline Chan



Visiting the Old Bailey – and its most famous Court Room – Court No.1

400 years of Newgate & Old Bailey - Trials & Error

There are some buildings you need to see for the right reasons and when the circular arrived to visit the Old Bailey, we jumped at the chance to join the Master and Consort on a cold March evening. So often, we don't get to see the inside of such civic buildings but only observe their rather austere grey Portland stone exteriors. What a treat to access (thankfully) through the visitor's entrance and pass through the interior lobbies, to climb a monumental staircase with opulent Sicilian marble floors, rising to a hallway with spectacular paintings. Finally, to enter the historic Court No.1, surrounded by ornate mosaic arches, in what is a truly special building.

Nothing could prepare us for what to expect, but we were promised an evening of light entertainment watching members of the Bar, Judiciary and the City perform songs and sketches! This run of Trial and Error, marked 10 years since the late Anthony Arlidge KC and Peter Rook KC first turned Court No. 1 at the Old Bailey into a theatre for a few March evenings. These performances focused on how the state sought to intervene in trials. Sitting on the wooden juror's benches in the historic Court No.1 there was a palpable feeling of history and thoughts of criminal prosecutions of years gone by. We were treated to a



Photo credit: Mike Williams Photography.

boxset of re-enactments of various historic cases, a mixture of excellent theatre, music and singing. The cast donning 17th century full-bottomed wigs and costumes. With interludes of song, including a rendition of 'Diamonds are a Girl's (Queen's) Best Friend', we were taken through key moments in legal history. The performances were interactive and brilliantly devised, with the cast appearing at the dock, in the middle of the audience, to answer to the court.

A brilliant night, for a very worthy cause, benefitting the Schools Consent Project, the Sheriffs' & Recorder's Fund which aids prison leavers, and Pan Intercultural Arts supporting the vulnerable through arts for social change. What an insightful, entertaining, and ever-amusing evening – not to be missed if you ever get to visit the Old Bailey 'for all the right reasons.'

- James Howarth, Court Assistant & Liveryman

Sechseläuten April 2024

In April our Master led a small contingent from GSWD to Zurich for their annual Sechseläuten celebrations. The city's celebration of spring arriving. Usually held on the third Monday in April and a local holiday, thousands of people get involved in the colourful and spectacular parade around the city. The afternoon culminates in a symbolic snowman (pictured) being burnt on a large bonfire at 6pm precisely to symbolise the end of winter.

The Zurich Guilds (their equivalent of Livery Companies) are heavily involved in all aspects of the day. The day kicked off at 10.30am with a drink's receptions, followed by long lunches, a parade, the bonfire and dinners at their respective Guild Halls.



Our small group was privileged to be invited to attend this very long day by the Master of one such Guild - *Zunft zu den Drei Königen* Zurich (Guild to the Three Kings). It was facilitated by some old friends of GSWD, Walter and Jean Isler. The day concludes with the Guild members going to each other's halls to partake in drinks until 2am - That makes for a very long day! This year the event was marred by



strong cross winds in the late afternoon and the bonfire lighting had to be cancelled for health and safety grounds. Hey ho, maybe an excuse for us to go back again in 2025 to see the day properly conclude.

A second good reason would be that Alistair King, next year's Lord Mayor, is planning an official visit, taking with him representation from various livery companies.

- Timothy MacAndrews



Tower of London

Despite the heavy downpour of rain earlier in the afternoon, the weather had settled, and a few spots of rain wasn't going to stop our group from enjoying the evening. Paul, the Yeoman designated to teach this gang of Liveryman and their guests the history of the Tower of London, kept us engaged with the history, evoking images of the olde and with a promise of a pint at The Keys! Listening intently, we understood the significance of the occasion, history, tradition, the common thread that joined the Tower with the Livery.

As dusk fell, the lights of Tower Bridge illuminated. Paul jangled some keys. He opened the doors to the chapel, we sat in the church benches and gazed at the gold of the organs, the tombs and the plaques on the walls.

We enjoyed refreshments in The Keys public house, manned by Yeoman and a cash only bar. Decorated with swords, flags, relics and history, how could this not be a moment to be cherished by all! A raffle takes place, and competition is fierce for the Tower delights offered as prizes! Ushered out for the ceremony of the keys, the sky is the darkest of blues. We watch the Gurkhas close the gates and hand over keys. Hearing the trumpets of the last post, sent chills down our spines. A final drink at The Keys. Catherine and I were thrown out at midnight!

- Minal Patel



April Dinner



Our April Livery Dinner is always a special occasion as it follows our Annual Church Service at St James Garlickhythe presided over by our Honorary Chaplain Right Reverend Dr Richard Fenwick. We welcomed Richard Lawton, Marc Peter, Gary Stratmann and Peter Wild who were all admitted to the Freedom of the Company during the afternoon's Court meeting. We also continue to grow our number of Trade Freeman with embroiderer Daisy Streatfeild and our Cambridge Award winner from 2022, Gábor Pituk, being admitted to the Freedom via the Trade Route.



As our number dined in Vintners' Hall, in the company of six Masters and their Clerks, we were treated to a musical interlude from three musicians from the Royal Corps of Army Music organised by Liveryman Craig Hallett. He then joined them for the ever-popular Post Horn Galop with some good natured sparring between himself and the other horn players. Craig has now left the Army and secured a new role as the Clerk to the Coachmakers.

Her Honour Wendy Joseph KC, Master Pewterer, provided the response on behalf of the guests, giving some insight into her work in the criminal justice system. She also presented the certificate to our 2023 Cambridge Award winner, Mingle Chen. A great evening was had by all.

- Liese Edgcumbe



Chelsea Physic Garden

On a wet day in May a group of Liverymen and their guests led by the Master and Clerk braved the elements and visited the Chelsea Physic Garden. Meeting under the gaze of a statue of Sir Hans Sloane we were firstly given a potted history of the Garden by Claire, our guide.

The Garden was originally established over 350 years ago by the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries as an outdoor classroom to train their apprentices. Apothecaries were an important part of society, offering general medical advice and treatments often made from plants and herbs.

In the 1680s Sir Hans Sloane trained at the Garden which enabled him to accumulate a vast fortune during a lengthy career as a physician and scientist. Using this fortune he purchased the Manor of Chelsea, 166 acres of land including the 4 acres which made up the Chelsea Physic Garden. In 1722 Sloane agreed to rent these 4 acres to the Worshipful Company of Apothecaries for £5 per year in perpetuity.

We were treated to a tour of the garden with Claire describing the medical and, sometimes toxic, qualities of



some of the 4,500 species of plants growing in the garden. We learned that the Garden has its own microclimate allowing plants from all over the world to be grown there.

The Clerk and I were particularly drawn to the plant, *Stachys Officinalis*, which was described as “preserving the liver and the bodies of men from the danger of epimedical diseases and from WITCHCRAFT”. Rather worryingly some of our group showed a keen interest in the more poisonous qualities of plants such as Deadly Nightshade. The Master thanked Claire for sharing her knowledge with us and the group moved to the café in the Garden for a convivial lunch. This was a most informative and educational visit, there is no doubt that we could have spent longer in the Garden and a repeat visit is recommended.

- *Mark Russell*

RAF Northolt Affiliations Showcase Day

I had the pleasure and privilege, along with 17 other members, of attending the Showcase Day put on for us by our three affiliations at RAF Northolt, the Station, The Kings Colour Squadron and RAF Music.

The day started with a fascinating presentation by Squadron Leader Andrew Bull about the King's Colour Squadron. Whilst they are the ceremonial unit of the RAF, the Regiment/Squadron also perform many other important strategic and defensive roles (including operating drones!). After the presentation we watched the Squadron rehearsing on the Parade Ground to mount the King's Guard at Buckingham Palace from the following Monday.

Secondly, we were allowed to sit in on a rehearsal by the Central Band of the RAF in the very impressive music services building at the base. Perhaps I shouldn't have been surprised but I was blown away by the quality and professionalism of the band. Some of us tried our hand at some of the equipment (including robots) used by 621 Squadron I I EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) who are

also based at Northolt due to its proximity to London and the M25, with responsibility for bomb disposal for much of southern England. The icing on the cake, we had the honour of lunch and a history lesson in the iconic Grade II Listed Officers' Mess with Station Commander, Group Captain Jon Hough. It was indeed another example of a GSWD "money can't buy" visit, never to be forgotten by all who attended.

- Richard Kay



July Dinner

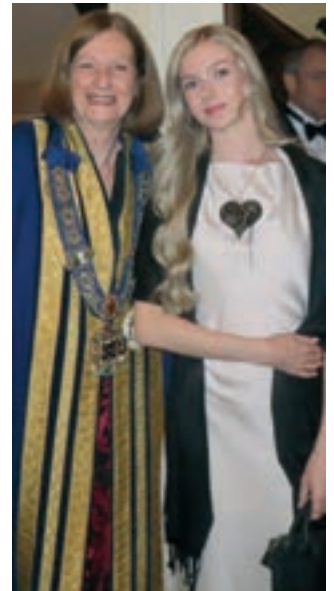
On Monday 1 July, the Master welcomed Liverymen and their guests to Vintners' Hall for a Livery Dinner, with two visiting Masters and their Clerks, two Naval officers from HMS Victorious, Lt Cdr Steve Chaston and LET(MESM) Gordon Sinclair and the principal guest Jonathan Grosvenor JP.



The Master ended proceedings with thanks to the speaker, an explanation of the Or Nué Stitch which was displayed in the reception area, and plans for the remainder of her year in office. Guests enjoyed a stirrup cup before departing Vintners' Hall following a most enjoyable evening.

- Nick Sillitoe

As everyone assembled for pre-dinner drinks, we were entertained by the delightful musical duo of Chloe Vincent on flute and Olivia Jageurs on harp. Dinner began with a typically topical grace from the Honorary Chaplain, the Rt Rev Richard Fenwick. Following a delicious meal, two new Freemen, Andy Clark and Gill Galloway-Whitehead were introduced to guests. We were treated to more beautiful music from Chloe and Olivia, before the traditional toasts, and the principal speaker then took to his feet, delivering a fascinating talk on his version of the history of Livery guilds. The winner of the 2024 RSN prize, Sophie Dinning, was presented with a certificate and said a few words. She wore one of her own pieces of embroidery which enabled everyone to see why she was such a worthy winner.



Sheep Drive



One of the first things people say to you when you tell them that you are a Freeman of the City of London is "you can herd sheep over London Bridge." I'll admit that I was keen to exercise my ancient right as soon as I could and was pleasantly pleased to see an invitation.

Having chatted to some fellow "newbies" to the Company we agreed to attend as a group. I was surprised how easy it was to register for the event online. The day of the event came and suitably attired in flat cap and tweed I, my wife Sue and a group of friends made our way to Southwark bridge. I'm, sure my wife was keener to see actor Damian Lewis, the chosen celebrity to lead the event, than attend the event itself. Brilliantly organised by the Worshipful

Company of Woolmen and coinciding with The Livery Fair, which bought together a number of specialist stall holders, displaying and selling wool-based products, textiles, arts, crafts, food and drink. My time slot arrived, I and the Sheep moved across the bridge in a controlled and safe manner. I think I was herded by the sheep in reality!

During the crossing Catherine the Master met up with the group and we retired to a local hostelry. For those members of the Company concerned about the welfare of the hard-working sheep they are rested between runs, with food and water available; a vet and RSPCA are also represented on the day. In short it was a great family day which I would recommend to all who have not as yet exercised their right. All proceeds from the annual Sheep Drive & Livery Fair are in aid of The Woolmen Charity and The Lord Mayor's Appeal.

- Adam McRae



October Banquet



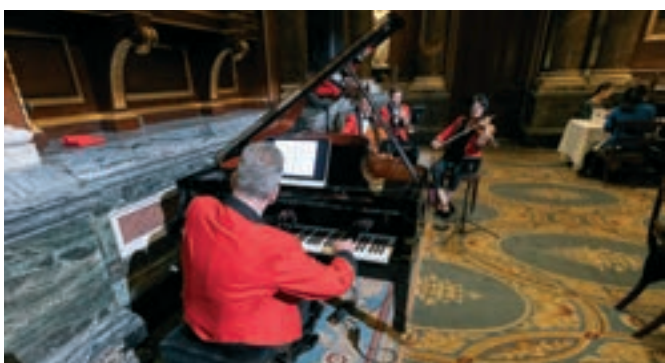
A spectacular Banquet in the spectacular setting of the Drapers' Hall. From the champagne reception, we were led into the Drapers' Hall with its elaborate ceiling influenced by the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican. We were entertained by the London Banqueting Ensemble and later by the Saxignon Blanc, a saxophone Quartet of RAF musicians.

The food and wine were of the highest order and later the First Warden introduced our Principal Guest, Air Marshall Andrew Turner CB CBE, explaining his RAF role was one many his roles at home and abroad which could be collectively based upon the Defence of the Realm. Air Marshall Turner responded with a most interesting description of the UK's involvement and leadership in many areas including quantum science which speaks to his past studies and areas of interest and involvement. The Master responded and thanked Air Marshall Turner for a most

interesting and illuminating speech and reflected upon her own two years as Master, including the record breaking 400th Anniversary Exhibition in 2023 at the Guildhall Art Gallery, and thanked all who had made her Mastership so successful and enjoyable.

Undergraduate, Louis Hobson was presented the Cambridge Award by Sheriff, David Chalk. The company award was presented to Julius Oberegger. A memorable and extremely enjoyable evening where all felt that they had been well entertained.

- *Jeremy Ray*



Garden of Remembrance service and lunch

The laying of crosses in the Remembrance Garden is the pre-eminent City act of remembrance. It takes place on the Monday before Remembrance Sunday. The Masters of 90 of the City's Livery Companies and Guilds gathered in St Paul's Churchyard in 2024 for a service of remembrance lead by the Bishop of London. Along with the senior leadership of the City of London there are members of the Armed Forces including local Cadets. A band from London District played during and after the service. Crosses were then planted by those attending led by the Lord Mayor, Sheriffs and representatives of the Armed Services. The Livery Masters went up in order of company seniority to

plant their crosses. It is fitting that for the Lord Mayor this solemn act of commemoration is one of the last events they attend whilst in office. Each company makes a financial contribution to the event which goes to support the Royal British Legion's annual Poppy Appeal.

- *Catherine Carr*



St Paul's Cathedral

On 12th November, the Master and fellow Liverymen and partners took in a private tour of St Paul's Cathedral - the Livery's main Church. With a private guide, we went through the 'secret door' and up the staircase to the Triforium level. Here we were given a history of the many reincarnations of the Church over the millennia. Learning interesting facts such as St Paul's was the tallest building in London between 1710 and 1963. We toured up to the Triforium level and looked down in the aisle and altar of the Church. A view of Wren's model of St Paul's and the Library was definitely a wow moment.



On we went to visit the 'ladies in the tower' - the Broderers; hard at it mending and stitching all manner of religious copes and hats. They made us feel most welcome and it was fascinating to learn from them the history of some of the garments. Further into St Paul's we found the spiral staircase, remnants of bits and pieces of savaged stone and masonry, rescued from either

fire or bombs. A walk round the Whispering Gallery was a particular highlight and the intrepid Master and her husband went even higher to the top of the dome. We then were joined by Sarah Beddows, the Senior City and Music Giving Manager of St Paul's Choir School, who talked to us about the school choristers and in particular the introduction of the girls to the school. Finally, we all went to Evensong to listen to the boys and girls sing. We were fortunate to be given prime seating in the choir stalls, which was very special. A lovely day and very many thanks to the St Paul's Cathedral organisers and tour guide for a memorable day.

- *Hannah Constantinidi*



RAF Music, The Guards Chapel, Wellington Barracks

On Friday 25th October, Liverymen, members of the public and guests attended a free concert at the Guards Chapel. At the start of 2023, my fellow Liveryman, Phil Egerton had a brainwave. He approached RAF Music Services based at RAF Northolt and asked if The Central Band of the Royal Air Force would entertain the idea of putting on a concert with the GSWD to raise funds. The response, I am happy to say, was a resounding yes.

Our first task was to find a venue - to which many thanks go to Liveryman Lt Col (ret'd) Craig Hallatt. Next, we had the RAF Benevolent Fund on board and between us a super concert was given.

We were taken through various types of music, from traditional RAF music. Swing, jazz, flugel horns, wind and trombone. The melodious voice of Sergeant Matthew

Walker, my conversion to the Saxophone because of the sublime Corporal Emma Jones. For those who attended the banquet, she was playing there as well. Finally, the Royal Air Force Squadronaires. It was a truly uplifting, fun and enjoyable evening. There are many people to thank. Phil for the idea in the first place. The RAF Benevolent Fund; RAF Music Services, ably led by Wing Commander Richard Murray, Principal Director of Music for the Royal Air Force and our conductor on the night Squadron, Leader Chris l'Anson. A great night was had by all.

- *Hannah Constantinidi*



Charity Wing Walking

The daily life of a jeweller in a London studio can at times be mundane. So, when the opportunity to support Catherine Carr in raising funds for charity and tackle my fear

of heights by wing walking on a 1941 original bi-plane, I jumped at it or rather I clambered slowly up onto the wings of this beautiful plane under David's careful instruction.

It was a spectacular summer day, clear skies, and I was ready for an adrenaline rush David had likened to riding a motorbike at 140 mph!

Somehow, strapped firmly to a pole, with the propeller whirring into action less than a metre from my feet it did not feel quite like a motorbike! The engine rumbled, we bounced across the field and then we were up... up... And still further up! The view was amazing once I got control of my knees and could begin to look around. A bird's eye view over the Cotswolds, with the wind pummelling me and the



roar of the engine at my feet, I felt 100% alive – thrilling, exhilarating and over all too soon.

We landed, as Dave rightly said "more smoothly than Ryanair. With my feet safely back on terra firma I realised it's great to challenge yourself sometimes. Thank you to pilot Dave and all those who supported me. Till next time! Including GiftAid the amount raised for GSWD was £8119.

- *Stepan Terteryan*

Build Up Foundation



The Clerk and I went to North London in April to visit this charity which puts young people in control of the design and construction of their own playgrounds. It was packed with youngsters, despite the rain, and once we had said hello, they showed us round each of the extraordinary, huge structures they felt they had designed and built themselves. They showed such a sense of ownership, and they were so proud of their space, the skills they had learned, and what they had achieved together. Then they told us about what they wanted to build next, and their creative ideas were very whacky and fun. We then watched others who, with supervision from skilled members of the charity, measured twice, sawed, bashed nails in, and used some heavy-duty tools which I have to say was slightly scary. But they were clearly loving the experience of making these extraordinary colourful structures that they wanted and had a hand in building. DIYers in the making. A good home for your money.

- Catherine Carr



Street Storage

The Master, Clerk and Assistant Hannah Constantinidi had the pleasure of visiting Street Storage at Kings Cross. The charity provides short term storage for the possessions of those who have become homeless and need somewhere secure to keep their valuables. The charity is based in a Yellow Box storage facility with attached offices. They can expand and contract their storage as necessary. Whilst they try and limit people to one suitcase they do have some flexibility. The intention is to support people as they get back on their feet and they provide advice and computer access to those who use the service. The average time that an individual has items in the facility is 70 days. Chief Executive Rachel Woolf showed the party around and discussed their plans for 2025. It is the only facility like this in the whole of the UK. The Company have committed to supporting them for three years.

- *David Utting – Clerk*



Treloars

The Mayoress hosted a Tea Party at Mansion House in aid of Treloars in April, and William and I went along to support this charity, wearing The Hat, of course. I was so impressed with the speeches about how this charity provides support for youngsters with severe disabilities that I asked to visit the school. It was a visit I will never forget. The students, often with very complex medical needs, were able to access education and sport with the outstanding specialist support and assisted technology needed to help them be as independent as possible, and the results were

incredible. The charity needed a portable light sensory unit, a vital piece of equipment which could be used throughout the school as almost 50% of students have significant visual impairment. Together with the Worshipful Company of Needlemakers, Makers of Playing Cards and the Fan Makers, I am delighted to say that the GSWD donated the final sum to cover the cost of this, and we hope it will make a difference.

- *Catherine Carr*

News from our Freeman and Prizewinners

Jean Scott-Moncrieff

The Goldsmiths' Craft and Design Awards 2024

The GDCD promote excellence in craftsmanship and design in the jewellery and silversmithing industry and the GSWD have sponsored the Wire Innovation award since it's inception in 2010. Liveryman Jean Scott-Moncrieff and Freeman Joanne Thompson were among the judges to select the very best examples of work using hand drawn

wire – they were delighted with the number and quality of the pieces submitted.

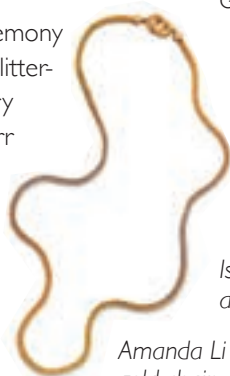
Early in March the Awards Ceremony was held at Goldsmiths' Hall – a glittering occasion dubbed 'The Jewellery Oscars' and Master Catherine Carr

presented inscribed certificates to the winners.

Following the ceremony the Master met the prizewinners at the VIP reception in the exhibition room where all the winning pieces were displayed. All were thrilled to have won their awards – Anna and Megan are already Freeman and Amanda and Isabella have recently become Freeman of the Company.



Freeman Anna Gordon's 'Fragmented Memory' brooch in silver and gold flattened and curved wire
photo: Richard Valencia



Amanda Li Hope's multi coloured 22 carat gold chain – silver award (left)



Freeman Megan Brown's woven gold and platinum bombé ring – bronze award (left)



Isabella Bedlington's oxidised silver and gold brooch – junior silver award

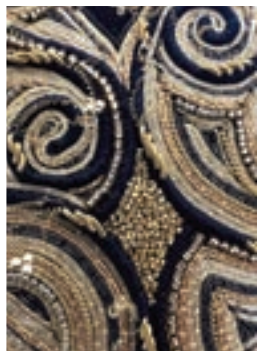
Julia Skupny

Richard Valencia

Royal School of Needlework

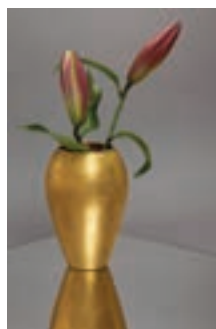


(above) The RSN First Prize for Goldwork was presented by Catherine to Sophie Dinning in June. Sophie showed her examples of the Or Nué stitch in her winning work – a special delight, as the GSWD is sponsoring that stitch in the RSN stitchbank.



(above) The RSN

FIVE at 'Collect' the prestigious international applied arts exhibition held at Somerset House in February 2024. The group of silversmiths represent the best in contemporary silver and metal design in the UK. The GSWD contributed to the funding of the stand and photography for this innovative and successful collective of makers.



Mosaic Vase by Freeman Jessica Jue
photo: Nicola Tree

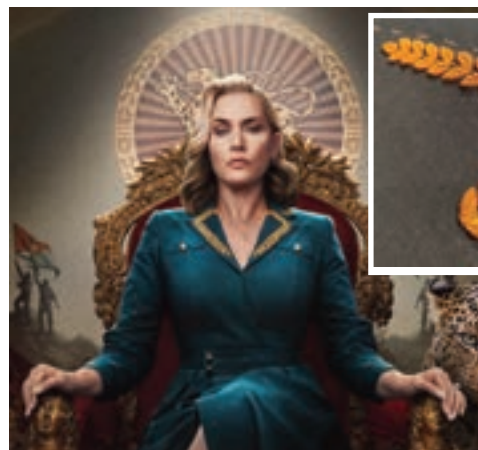


Mixed Metal Box by Freeman Patrick Davison



Liveryman Nan Nan Liu received an exciting commission to make a pair of candleabra to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the Athanaeum Club in Pall Mall. This stunning piece features her signature long silver wires – earlier Nan Nan spent a few days in Paris researching the elegant neoclassical architectural details which inspire the design.

Freeman Alex Standring has worked on costume embroidery in a variety of projects including *House of the Dragon*, *Wicked* and *Gladiator 2*. The most notable of the projects was creating some Goldwork embroidery for the costumes worn by Kate Winslet in the HBO limited series *The Regime* which was released in April 2024. One of the costumes (navy with gold embroidery above) was used in the majority of the posters and advertising for the series.



photos courtesy HBO



Hand and Lock prizewinner

(left) The Master presenting a certificate to Michelle Agnew, the Hand and Lock winner of the best Goldwork Embroidery sponsored by the GSWD. Michelle's piece 'Unsewn' features 3D roots growing through patterns of drift-wood embroidered on silk purchased by Agnew's great-great uncle while stationed in post-war Japan. It includes shards of heirloom china and is framed in wood from the Dalziel Barn, a historical site in Toronto that once belonged to Agnew's family.



(above right) 'Unsewn' by Michelle Agnew
(right) Runner up Fleur Webb's 'Thalassophobia'



Mouth of the Gods

Bella Lane, our first modern embroiderer Freeman has been working with a community group at Hoxton Hall creating a multi-media performance event – *Mouth of the Gods* with Indigenous Andean Opera.



(above) Bella with beautiful 'Killa' a human size puppet made with different upcycled textiles. Embroidery, sewing, appliqué, painting, collages are used to bring this puppet life. The result is mesmerising – Killa is wearing ancient Pre-Columbian designs on her clothing and face.



Heather (right) with Bryna at her stand in New York

MAD about Jewellery New York, 4-8th May 2024

Freeman Heather Woof says, 'I was invited to take part by the expert jewellery curator Bryna Pomp and the funding provided by the GSWD enabled me to participate in this international exhibition and has supported the development of my career. I made connections with new clients, jewellery colleagues and collectors. Participation has helped to raise my profile and to showcase my work in wire and I expect opportunities to continue through the coming months.'

Freeman Leonid Dementiev, Amanda Li Hope, Megan Brown and candidate Freeman Yeena Yoon brought their GC&DC prizewinning pieces to show at the Goldsmiths' Company reception. We had many interesting conversations and people wanting to know more about the GSWD Wire Innovation prize for the Goldsmiths' Craft and Design Competition. Liveryman Marc Peter kindly supplied the artwork for some GSWD business cards and the video link to show more about our Freeman makers on the plasma screen.



Susan Cross – Pearl Dot III, Brooch 2024 oxidised silver & freshwater pearls 6.8 x 6.8cm
This brooch is dedicated to the memory of Dorothy Hogg MBE (1945-2022) who was Head of the Jewellery & Silver-smithing Department, Edinburgh College of Art, Scotland from 1985 – 2007.
Photograph: Shannon Tofts

Women's Jewel's – women to women 2024, Abbey Church of the Chateau, Saumur, France. Curated by Jean-Yves Le Mignot, France.
14 European countries, invited 30 artist/jewellers and Freeman Susan Cross was the sole UK representative.



photo Yeena Yoon

Goldwork Embroidered Lectern Fall

Kate Pankhurst

'Love Draws Friendship'

Creating a goldwork embroidered lectern fall for the Worshipful Company of Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers has presented a wonderful opportunity to depict the company's values, celebrating the artistry of craftsmanship and the enduring essence of friendship woven through time.

The design centres around a stylised depiction of interconnected golden hearts with a molten silver centre – some of which overflows. The metal is collected as wires to a bobbin, which then weave and intertwine as they are 'drawn' down by two stylised hands. Finally the threads create the Company motto, 'love draws friendship'.



The bobbin is a wooden reel wound with fine silver and 18 carat gold round wire.



Goldwork embroidery uses thread conditioned with beeswax, hence the inclusion of a life-size honeybee at the base. This also represents our Beekeeper Master, who commissioned this work as a gift to the Company.

Materials & techniques

Goldwork: Or Nué, cutwork, applique, couching, stump work

Materials: gilt & silver plate: bright and wire check, smooth and rough purl, crimped plate, millary wire, Japanese soft, Rococo, Twist, pearl purls, spangles and kid leather.

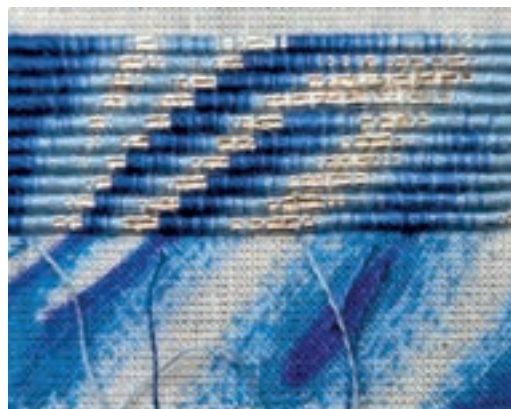
Bee: Stranded lumiere padded body in long & short and Turkey rug stitch. Wired organza wings with fil au chinois veins, Bead eyes. Worked as a slip and applied.



The Master and Kate Pankhurst with the Trade Committee. The Master has just added her stitch to the Lectern Fall.

The GSWD coat of arms at the top is stitched in 'Or Nué', a goldwork technique sponsored by the GSWD on the Royal School of Needlework Stitchbank in 2024.

Or Nué



Or Nué is a goldwork technique which uses coloured threads to couch metal (traditionally gold) threads to create images and designs. Historically, the majority of the metal thread is covered by the coloured couching threads with small areas revealed to provide highlights, although modern Or Nué often features large expanses of gold with coloured threads used to create a design. The name can be translated as clouded or shaded gold.





Lectern Fall at the Drapers' Hall Banquet

(left) The Lectern Fall in position at the Banquet held at Drapers' Hall on 31st October, ready for the Master, Catherine Carr to deliver her speech.

Contributors

As a special piece of work, Freeman embroiderers were invited to add their ceremonial stitch to the lectern fall.

The following were able to contribute:



Liz Elvin Liveryman



Francesca Lim



Kate Pankhurst



Anja von Kalinowski-Meager



Kate Barlow



Alex Standring



Laura Baverstock



Daisy Streatfeild



Sabina Lima



Sophie Dinning



Jess Ingram

Company Awards: Julius Oberegger

Over 16 years, Julius has raised over £50,000 for charity and this is why he received the company award in 2024. This is because annually, at the end of July, 40+ of the company are treated to a truly excellent lunch. This year, it was a very happy, noisy affair, and we all saluted Julius in between every

delicious course. Catherine gets to eat out a lot, and she says this meal, surrounded by Livery family is honestly one of the finest lunches around. We always look forward to the Haven Lunch event every year. Thank you, Julius and team!



New Beadle: Janice Scott

It is my great pleasure to introduce myself to you all as your new Beadle. My name is Janice, I come from Hungerford where I lived until I joined the Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS) in 1982 as a Stores Accountant. I met my husband, Michael, in 1983 and we married a few months later in my family church in Newbury which is where we moved to 18 years ago from Swindon. We have two sons, Sam (31) and Ben (29), who both have their own homes in Newbury, so we get to spend quality family time together, mainly when Mum is cooking! The last four years of my career were based in London as an Engagement Officer for the Naval Regional Commander, based in the RNHQ. It was through my work I was introduced to world of the Livery Companies and the City of London. A chance meeting with the Master at an International Women's Day event in March 2024, and here I am, grateful to the Master, Wardens and Clerk for showing faith in me, enough to appoint me. I promise to serve you as best as I can and look forward to getting to know you all.



A visit to the palace for Paul Hughesdon MBE

I am sure all at GSWD will all join me in passing on our sincere congratulations to fellow Liveryman, Air Commodore Paul Hughesdon, on the award of his well-deserved MBE.

The honour was bestowed by HRH The Princess Royal at Windsor Castle on the 9th April 2024 for his long-standing service to Veterans. Paul was heavily involved with the support of ex-service personnel during his time as Director of Welfare with the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund from

2009 to 2023. Paul served in the Royal Air Force for 26 years, culminating in his role as Station Commander at RAF Uxbridge, which was his first experience of the GSWD.

Root and Branch Award

Karen Watts was awarded the winner of the Root and Branch Award. This Award is given by the City of London Livery Club to a liveryman who has made an exceptional contribution to the work of their livery, or the wider livery, which enhances the understanding or profile of the livery.

Ken, Lesley and I accompanied Karen to a Banquet at Stationers' Hall where the Award was presented to her by the President, and the Lord Mayor, Michael Mainelli. It was very special, and we were all absolutely thrilled. So well deserved, and how great that all her hard work has been recognised by the City of London. Karen wears her badge proudly at all livery events so do please congratulate her.



Affiliations: St Edward's School Witley

There are many schools supported by the Livery movement and some companies even have their own schools. It thus sometimes feels that GSWD is a very small player in this field, however we do have a small school's budget which we use to give prizes. One school we do support in this way is St Edward's School Witley, which was founded at Bridewell Palace in the City of London in 1553 when Nicholas Ridley, the Bishop of London, persuaded Edward VI to release some of the unused Royal Palaces. The same Royal Charter created Christ's Hospital and St Thomas' Hospital. On 12th March the Master, Clerk and Fourth Warden Henry Hobson (Schools liaison officer) attended St. Brides Church for the annual Bridewell Service to recognise and acknowledge another successful year for pupils from King Edward's School Witley. A buffet style lunch at the Guildhall followed, where we had plenty of opportunity to mingle, meet the pupils, teachers and representatives from other Livery Companies. The guest speaker was the Lord Mayor Michael Mainelli.

On the 5th July the Clerk had the privilege of travelling to the school site in Witley for their annual prize giving. The school has a Head Boy, Alfredo Ruiz Resendiz, and a Head Girl, Yoon-Jee Nam, who work together, and both spoke at the ceremony. It was clear that they had a great working partnership. Neither were born in the UK; the Head Boy had come from Mexico at the age of 16 speaking no English and had gained a provisional place at Cambridge. The prizes given, whether it was for academic achievement or prowess on the sports field, were books which the pupils had themselves selected. To see some of the multiple prize winners with their pile of books was truly inspiring. The speaker was a former pupil, Ms Stella Dadzie (1968) who herself had chosen the Famous Five anthology when she was a prize winner, but received the Complete Works of Shakespeare, which in hindsight she realised was the right choice.

- Henry Hobson

St John Ambulance Cadets Awards Evening – March 2024

It was a great privilege to be able to represent the Company at the annual awards ceremony at the St John Ambulance Cadets in Sidcup. The evening is an opportunity to recognise the success of the individual cadets in front of their parents. In some cases, this was for passing tests to enable them to reach the next level and in others for some outstanding achievement. There was an award for the cadet who had put in the most effort over the year, and the smile on his face was wonderful as he was not expecting it at all. The award with the most meaning in many ways was the one where the cadets themselves had selected the winner, and that level of recognition by your peers is one of the most satisfying things. It is a wonderful vibrant unit which currently has a waiting list of over 240. The struggle that many youth organisations have is to get enough adult volunteers to be able to run safely and successfully and in Sidcup they have been lucky to have a dedicated team of former cadets who now give something back by volunteering themselves. The cadets were a pleasure to meet, and many of them are looking at either a medical or other STEM career. An evening that makes you proud that the Company sponsor them.

- David Utting, Clerk

The GSWD also supports the cade unit TS Barrosa, and I caught up with them in Mill Hill one cold February evening. The warmest of welcomes was waiting for me, and I joined the eager youngsters in marching, and watched them perform flag bearing displays for me with such discipline and keenness. I met many of the 27 who formed our stair guard at the Banquet in the Great Hall, Guildhall last year, and I was proud to see them again. The dedication of the volunteers who give their time to create confident, resilient young people, often from difficult backgrounds, is humbling. The RN cadet units are heavily subsidized by the Royal Navy with parents providing top ups, and their own fundraising. Where families are unable to pay, they dip into the £1,000 we the GSWD support them with every year. Money very well spent!

- Catherine Carr, Master



Armed Forces Covenant

The Company has always been proud of its support to the Armed Forces and Cadets. Signing the Armed Forces Covenant is a way for organisations to demonstrate their commitment to the principles of the Covenant and to make those changes that might be needed to help deliver the promise. This is that together we acknowledge and understand that those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces, and their families, including the bereaved, should be treated with fairness and respect in the communities, economy, and society they serve with their lives.

Its two principles are that those who serve in the Armed Forces should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services and that special consideration is appropriate in some cases, especially for those who have given most such as the injured and the bereaved.



The Armed Forces Covenant has been a priority for the last two Lord Mayors and the Banquet was a great opportunity to sign with so many of our affiliations represented, as well as members of the Livery who have served and our Liaison Officers who work so hard to make the relationship work. Colonel Jacqueline Powell ADC, the Corps Colonel RLC, signed on behalf of the Armed Forces and the Master for the Company.

- David Utting, Clerk

GSWD Royal Navy Liaison Report – 2024 Annual Report

HMS Victorious

HMS Victorious remains out of action during an extensive refit and is unlikely to return to sea until 2027. Our main contact had been Slt Will Stuart who left his role with HMS Victorious in April 2024. We have now been formally introduced to Lt Cdr Stephen Chaston RN who became the Executive Officer for HMS Victorious in May 2024. We had a good “get to know one another” video call in June 2024 and Stephen attended the July Dinner. We also offered a July dinner place to a deserving young sailor of merit from HMS Victorious. Leading Engineering Technician Gordon Sinclair accompanied Stephen to the July dinner. Gordon is a very deserving junior sailor who has excelled over the last 18 months and has now been promoted to Petty Officer. We have offered to sponsor a family day in the Summer of 2025.

814 NAS Culdrose (Navy)

There has been progress and contact has now been made directly with the new Commander of 814, Ed Holland. Both Cdr Holland and Lt Jarvis Wagstaff of 814 (the Master's nephew) attended the GSWD Banquet on 31 October 2024. The 814 Naval Air Squadron has also invited up to 15 liverymen on a flight around Cornwall, which was originally offered to us for October 2024 (at relatively short notice). The 814 Naval Air Squadron has also invited up to 15 liverymen on a flight around Cornwall, which we hope will take place in the spring of 2025. The pictures below are of Cdr Holland and Lt Jarvis Wagstaff with Neill Blundell and the Master.

- Neill Blundell

The Origins of our Army Affiliation

The GSWD's association with the Army had its origins in 1981 when Sir Christopher Leaver, a former officer of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps (RAOC), became the 654th Lord Mayor of London. The RAOC provided his Guard of Honour, and a relationship was formalised between the RAOC and the City of London. It was not until 1989 that a Memorandum of Association (MoA) was signed between them and the Company. The RAOC was amalgamated with the Royal Corps of Transport and the Army Catering Corps in 1993 to form the Royal Logistic Corps (RLC) and new articles were signed at a ceremony in HM Tower of London. A silver-framed version of this MoA is held in our archive.

A summary of the main events in 2024

The graduation ceremony for the 2301 Ammunition Technical Officer Course took place in March, with a decanter for the top student presented by Army Liaison Officer Mike West, supported by Assistant Thomas Kelly. Decanters were presented to the top students at the Ammunition Technician graduations held in May and October at Shrivenham. A course is attended by young soldiers fresh out of their basic training which gets them up to speed on maths followed by some chemistry, physics, ballistics, electronics and material science.

In July, Lt Col Steve Roberts did us proud with our visit to the tank hall at Shrivenham. When we had the opportunity to climb in and out of the tanks and armoured vehicles from a range of nations, including Russia. This was followed by an explosives demonstration which started off with some small pops and culminated with a Hollywood finale.



A visit to the armoury followed where thousands of small arms were on display, ranging from the Civil War to the present day. This visit generated £480 for the Felix Fund.

About the Felix Fund

The livery has supported the Felix Fund for many years. Felix is a small charity. They do incredibly important work for the EOD community with dashboard courses and are currently standing by for a wave of PTSD referrals following the insurgency in Afghanistan. With an increased understanding of mental health issues within Defence and the EOD fraternity, the demands on mental health care providers are under significant strain.

According to the commanding officer of 11 EOD and Search Regiment, Lt Col Rob Swan, "I have seen firsthand the positive impact these dashboard courses have had on the men and women within the Regiment. It is no exaggeration to say these courses have saved lives. Without the hard work and efforts from the Felix Fund, this support would simply not be available to the EOD fraternity"

In September, the inaugural Friends of Felix Charity Dinner was held at Didcot. It was a wonderful evening which was very well supported by 14 livery attendees. Also in attendance were the magnificent RLC Corps of Drums. In addition to the ticket price, liverymen generously donated a further £765 to the Felix Fund.

- Mike West, Army Liaison Officer



RAF Affiliation Report 2024

GSWD are very fortunate to have 3 military affiliations at RAF Northolt. These are with the Station as a whole, the King's Colour Squadron and RAF Music Services. These affiliations go back to 1992 and are very strong and active. Therefore, in conjunction with the RAF, it was decided to showcase those affiliations to a wider group of Liverymen than has been possible in recent years by holding a half day Event so that time could be spent with each affiliation.

In May, a small group of Liverymen visited RAF Northolt as guests of the Station Commander, Group Captain Jon Hough, and saw our affiliations at work on their home base. The Kings Colour Squadron gave us a presentation on their roles as members of the RAF Regiment. Whilst known as the ceremonial unit of the RAF, they also perform the standard RAF Regiment Airfield Protection responsibilities and will be spending Christmas away from loved ones defending RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus. We also watch the Squadron on the parade ground as they prepared for Mounting the Guard at Buckingham Palace. We then went to the purpose-built acoustic band rooms within the modern dedicated RAF Music Services building to watch the Central Band of the Royal Air Force rehearsing several pieces in preparation for supporting the Kings Colour Squadron at Buckingham Palace. The musical quality was outstanding, and it was a privilege to be invited into the band room whilst they rehearsed. The final visit was to 621 Squadron 11 EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) as one of a plethora of non-RAF units based at RAF Northolt. Although part of the Army (and part of the GSWD Royal Logistics Corp Affiliation), 621 Squadron are based at RAF Northolt due to its proximity to London and the M25 and they have responsibility for Ordnance Disposal for much of southern England, excluding London. The group was given an overview of the Squadron's role along with the equipment and techniques they use to make safe a variety of different types of ordnance. The group were even allowed to "play" with their remotely controlled robots. Before we departed, the Station Commander gave us a tour of the iconic Grade 2 listed RAF Northolt Officers' Mess.

It is the same (albeit extended) Officers' Mess that served the Officers who fought the Battle of Britain from RAF Northolt.

GSWD are also fortunate to have an affiliation with 101 Squadron who are a refuelling Squadron based at RAF Brize Norton and part of the Air Mobility Wing. The last two OCs of the Squadron have gone on to become GSWD Liverymen. In May, RAF Brize Norton staged a Livery Engagement Day for the 15 Livery Companies affiliated with the Station. We were allocated 11 places out of approximately 170 Liverymen attending and had a four-hour flight in either a A400M Atlas or a Voyager refuelling aircraft. The flights took us over the Lake District and to the Air-to-Air refuelling area off the north Norfolk coast where several Typhoons were refuelled.

Throughout the year, the Master also attended other RAF Events, either as an Honorary Member of the RAF Northolt Officers' Mess or as a direct result of our RAF Affiliations. These included Burns Night at RAF Northolt, lunch at St James's Palace and the Air Combat Power Visit 2024 at RAF Brize Norton where she was entertained to a deafening display from an F35B Lightning which flew in from RAF Marham in Norfolk.

The Master also presented GSWD awards and engraved glassware to 101 Squadron at their Squadron Dining-In Night held under the wings of Concorde in Bristol, to the Kings Colour Squadron at their Dining-In Night at RAF Northolt and to RAF Music Services at their Soloist Competition held in Regent Hall, Oxford Street.

The year ended with a superb charity concert performed by the Central Band of the RAF in the wonderful Guards Chapel at Wellington Barracks in support of the RAF Benevolent Fund and GSWD.

- *Phil Egerton, RAF Liaison Officer*



Awards

Each year we present an Award to a representative of each of our RAF Affiliations.

Mens Agitat Molem Award

On 12th September, the Master, Consort, First Warden and RAF Liaison Officer attended the 101 Squadron Dining in Night held in the Concorde Museum in Filton, Bristol. The dinner was held under the wings and fuselage of Concorde G-BOAF and was attended by all five 101 Squadron OCs of the Voyage era – two of whom are GSWD Liverymen (Group Captain Pete Thorbjorsen and Wing Commander Mike Udall). During the Dinner, the Master presented our Award to 101 Squadron in the form of an engraved decanter to the Squadron member selected by the Squadron leadership team. This award is known as the Mens Agitat Molem Award after the Squadron Motto.

Musician of the Year Award

On 9th October, the Master presented the annual GSWD Award to RAF Music Services. This Award, presented as part of the annual Soloists Competition held at Regent Hall in Oxford Street, is known as the Musician of the Year Award. The winner received an engraved Tankard and a framed certificate.

Gunner of the Year Award

Also on 9th October, the Master presented the annual GSWD Award to the King's Colour Squadron. This Award, presented as part of the annual Squadron Dining in Night held at RAF Northolt, is known as the Gunner of the Year Award. The winner receives an engraved Tankard and a framed certificate.

Bee-autiful

Catherine Carr was presented with a very special gift at the January 2025 Installation Lunch to reflect her 2 Year stint as Master. This was a beautiful brooch of a bumble bee, to relate to her interest in bees and honey, which was designed and created by two of our leading Freeman, jeweller Leonid Dementiev, and embroiderer Kate Pankhurst.



Charities committee report

In the last few years, we have looked to deepen the relationships with the organisations to which we allocate a grant. We are not a wealthy Company; therefore, it is important that we ensure the funds we provide make a difference. We try to issue restricted grants so that the money is allocated to a designated purpose,

rather than just being added to the coffers. The Charity, Fundraising and Events complete due diligence on all of the requests received to ensure we are focussing on smaller organisations that fit with our aims to support community wellbeing, military charities or livery initiatives. This year, we have supported the following organisations.

Name of Charity	Rationale/Comment:	Amount
St. Mary-le-Bow Young Homeless Project	The charity works with retailers, such as Pret a Manger, to find work for the young people in the project. It also works with the Peabody Trust to provide temporary subsidised accommodation. If an individual makes good progress, they will then move on whilst still being supported. They are also taught practical skills such as budgeting, to help them make the transition.	£3,000 Extended relationship
Air Pilots Youth Gliding Scheme	The Worshipful Company of Air Pilots have a scheme that provides glider training sessions for children who would not normally have such an opportunity. We have agreed funding for at least one session.	Initial £800 Extended relationship
Lennox Children's Cancer Fund	The charity provides a break in the New Forest for the whole family including spending money. The family then 'send a postcard' to the donor. The cost is £1,000 for a four-day break or less for a three-day break.	£1,000 single grant
Street Storage	We supported this organisation last year and they provide unusual support for homeless people in Central London. They have since secured larger premises where they offer laundry services, storage facilities and support to find stable accommodation. The Master nominated this charity in her Wing Walking fundraiser.	£2,000 Extended relationship
Build Up Foundation	This is a small charity that organises youngsters to design and build their own community space. They are developing the Larkhill Park Youth Chill-Out Space in Lambeth.	£1,500 single grant
The Transforming Autism Project	We have previously supported this charity. They are looking to develop a network in South London and this grant will cover the therapist fees for a parent support group for ten families.	£1,500 single grant
Adult Literacy Trust	This is a small charity working across London, providing reading and writing support to adults. These funds will support several people through the programme.	£1,500 single grant
Loughborough Junction Action Group	We have supported the Grove Adventure playground before. This payment would provide a week's catering or an excursion for the children who attend.	£1,000 single grant
Crackerjacks Children's Trust	Crackerjacks supports the needs of children with disabilities, helping with the purchase of adaptive equipment. We asked that the funds be used to support children within the London area.	£1,500 single grant
Treloar Trust	The Master had identified an opportunity to combine with the Fanmakers, Needlemakers and Spectacle Makers to purchase a sensory bed.	£3,075 single grant
Livery Food Initiative (City Harvest)	This Livery initiative has recently purchased a refrigerated van enabling City Harvest to collect food donations from further afield. We contributed to this. The funds now support keeping the vehicle on the road.	£1,000 single grant

Comms / Editorial Committee report

The work of our committee is in a transitory phase. Historically, we have produced the Wyre Drawer magazine bi-annually, which covered all aspects of the Livery, including the Master's programme, social events, military affiliations, Court meetings and dinners, and our special links with the Trade. This magazine was primarily aimed at Livery members, although it was circulated to other Livery Companies. In addition, we had a rudimentary website that contained many photographs of the Livery events over the years, as well as some information about upcoming events, but needed a major upgrade!

The Committee comprises myself, Nick Sillitoe, as Chair, along with half a dozen other Livery members, and the Master, Wardens and Clerk are always invited to attend the three annual meetings. At the start of this year, we recognised that our role needs to change, not only to become more relevant to changing social media trends, but to present a more outward facing public platform through a revitalised website and by using the most popular media channels.

Several personnel changes and some new members to the Committee now mean we can tackle this way forward. We also agreed to reduce the Wyre Drawer magazine to a single yearly edition, reflecting the outgoing Master's year of office, and saving some printing costs. We now have a new Editor, Minal Patel, a new website master, Marc Peter. We aim to launch the new website straight after the new Master's installation in January 2025. Social media platforms such as Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn are dealt with by committee members. We also have a Whats App group for internal communication. There is much work to do on the Archives, but a separate Committee is being formed to review the mass of information and photographs already on file.

As always, the Committee is keen to receive ideas and suggestions from any Liveryman, so please send them through!

- Nick Sillitoe, Chair, Comms / Editorial Committee

Finance Committee Report

So why does the Company need a finance committee and what is its role and responsibility? As the saying goes 'a fool and his money are soon to be parted' and this probably sums up the main reason the Company needs a prudent and educated committee of professionals to look after its fiscal planning and ensure good governance over its assets and liabilities. Whilst the financial control of the company ultimately vests with the Court, this is delegated to the Finance committee.

The principal objective is to set the Companies budgets and make recommendations to the Court over the level of Fines and Quarterage necessary to ensure that the books balance. Alongside the Clerk of the Company, it provides necessary oversight of the budgetary process and ensures the company can afford all its commitments and ensures compliance with HMRC guidelines over tax and accounting standards.

Of course, we also have the professional input from external accountants, auditors and any necessary advisors. Regarding the assets of the Company held in the Second Charitable Trust (2CT) and General Fund, the Company itself is the sole Trustee. Governance is provided by the Master's Committee and delegated to the Finance

Committee to seek advice from professional advisors to agree the Companies investment policy, to be engaged in reviewing the overall performance of its funds and to ensure our objectives are met. The Finance Committee is involved in regulating available funds, on an annual basis, for our charitable purposes and to meet the objectives of the company.

The last 12 months has been an interesting time, where through the success of the Company our annual turnover has surpassed the VAT threshold, and the committee has had oversight of the Clerks activities in registering the company for VAT and liaison with HMRC to ensure the Company remains fully tax compliant.

The committee meets 4 times a year and, on an ad-hoc basis when required, it is usually a lively but focused debate on how best to serve the interests of the wider Company.

- James Howarth

Trade Committee

The Trade Committee has had an active year under the Chairmanship of Past Master Rodney Brody. We have studied a number of Charitable Requests from different institutions across the country and have interviewed a number of individuals; goldsmiths, silversmiths and embroiderers, most of whom are acknowledged Prize Winners in their fields, and all of whom wish to become Freemen of the Company.

Jean Scott-Moncrieff has been particularly active in contacting and assessing many of these candidates, including the Deputy Curator of the Goldsmiths Company, who have shown an interest in joining the Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers, and by year end a number of these candidates will have been made Freemen of the Company via the Trade Route.

The Committee has also assessed the unique, 500 year old Henry VIII Tapestry, which includes lavish amounts of gold thread, and is viewed as the Holy Grail of Tudor Tapestry.

It currently resides in Spain but the Faith Museum in Durham has plans to bring it to the UK if funds can be found to fund the purchase it.

Through the Trade Committee the Livery funds students and prizes at the Royal School of Needlework, the Goldsmiths Centre and Hand and Lock (embroidery).

We have also established contact with the Scottish Gallery who are mounting a major Exhibition in Edinburgh, in 2026. In 2024 we funded the fifth year of the Cambridge Award given to the leading third year student in the University's Department of Computer Science and Technology.

Finally, the Committee has been strengthened by the addition of three new members, Karen Watts, Nan Nan Liu and Kate Pankhurst, which has added further expertise to the committee in the world of gold and silver wire. Looking ahead to 2025 our future looks bright.

- *Jeremy Ray*

The Court (As at 8 January 2024)

The Master
CMR Carr

Hon Asst Master
R Carter

Past Masters
N S Nichols
R G W Lampitt
J W Walsham

Past Masters Emeriti
P G Nathan OBE DL (Senior Past Master)
K P Kirby
K F Blundell
M C Roberts
J E Walker
S J Holmes MVO

Assistants
P R N Sillitoe JP
T Q Brunning
R C Booth
W A Fitzgerald-O'Connor
K N Watts
L Hui
N J Vaughan

Clerk - D W Utting DL

Honorary Assistant Clerk - L Hui

Wardens
T J MacAndrews TD JP
A M Edgcumbe
J R Ray
H E H Hobson

M I Gunston
B C Turner

B R Jones
M F Powell
J C Edgcumbe
E M V Knapper
R D Brody JP
T L Fitzgerald-O'Connor
R J d'O Hope

M W West
P L Egerton
J A Howarth
M H Russell
H J Constantinidi
N F K Blundell
T M Kelly

Honorary Chaplain - Rt Rev Dr R D Fenwick

Announcements

Admissions

Liverymen

Alexa Carter - Retired Psychoanalytic psychotherapist

Andrew Clark - Trainer and Coach

Richard Hallett – Army Officer

Rie Hamaguchi – Property Developer

Heather Kennedy - Associate Director Investor Relations

Richard Lawton - Financial Services

Stuart Ludlow - Retired FGC Co-ordinator

Adam McRae – Army Officer

Judith Millidge – Editor and writer

Anup Patel – Doctor

Minal Patel – Solicitor

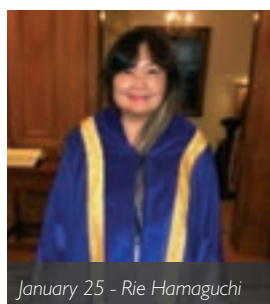
Marc Peter - Creative Director, Graphic Designer

Roy Pummell – Retired Salesman

Tim Sherwood - Retired Innovation Chair

Gary Stratmann - Facilities Manager (Rtd)

Peter Wild – Lawyer



Freemen through the Trade Route

Isabella Bedlington – GCDC 2024

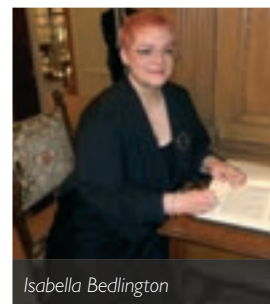
Dr Frances Parton – Curator and academic – Special Entry

Gill Galloway-Whitehead – Goldsmith – Special Entry

Amanda Li Hope – Jeweller - GCDC 2024

Gábor Pituk – Cambridge Award Winner 2023

Daisy Streatfeild - Freelance embroiderer – RSN Award Winner



Honorary Liveryman

John Hollingsworth – Former Beadle



Deaths

Honorary Assistant Master Roger Carter

Liveryman Sir Christopher Benson

The Worshipful Company of Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers - Key Dates for 2025

	GSWD	City Events
January 6	Court and Installation; Lunch-Vintners'	
January 10		Annual City New Year Service – St Michael Cornhill
January 31	City Ghost Tour and Dinner	
February 20	Clink Dinner – Brixton Prison	
March 4		Pancake Race
March 6	Court Dinner – House of Lords	
March 21	Windsor Castle Private Tour	
March 24	Awareness Evening – Vintners'	
March 28		United Guilds Service
April 7	Court; Livery Dinner and Annual Service-Vintners'	
April 10		Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch
April 26-29	Sechseläuten – Zurich (3 Kings Guild)	
May 8	Gold Medal event - GSMD	
May 10	Royal Military Academy Sandhurst – Tour & Dinner	
May 13	Clergy Support Trust	
May 23-26	Master's Weekend - Lisbon	
June 5	Felix Fund Dinner – RAF Northolt	
June 14		Inter Livery Croquet
June 22	Haven Charity Lunch	
June 24		Election of Sheriffs
June 26	Awareness Evening – Vintners'	
July 7	Court; Livery Dinner-Stationers'	
Sept tbc	Shakespeare's Globe Tour	
Sept 25	Awareness Evening – Vintners'	
Sept 26		Admission of Sheriffs
Sept 28		Sheep Drive
Sept 29		Election of Lord Mayor
Oct 6	Court; Livery Dinner - Vintners'	
tbc (Sat)	Apsley House/Wellington Arch/Hard Rock	
Nov 7		Silent Ceremony
Nov 8		Lord Mayor's Show
Nov 14	Banquet- Painter Stainers	
tbc	Abba – Mamma Mia (O2)	
Dec 18	Carol Service – St James Garlickhythe	

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