



The Wyre Drawer

Edition 47



A Message from the Master

It has been my great pleasure and privilege to have served as the 2025 Master of GSWD, and I hope that all active Company members will have had the opportunity to attend at least some of my events and dinners.

Overall, the Company is in good stead with four very healthy and well led Committees feeding back into the Master's Committee (and then on to the Court).

Apart from the running of seven Master's events throughout the year, the highlight has been raising £55,700 for the Noah's Ark Children's Hospice. What started as a walk (the Master's Marathon) in July, with a target of £10,000 to raise, evolved over the following six months to this amazing figure. Their CEO was presented with a cheque at our November banquet, and that money will be put to very good use to help children with short life expectancies, and their families, to make the best of their time.

This magazine reflects what has happened in the last 12 months, and I very much hope that you enjoy reading it.

Thank you to everyone who has supported me in my year, and I hope that the Company continues to grow and prosper in the years to come.



First Warden

It is my great honour to follow in my father's footsteps as Master of our wonderful Company, an ambition I have held since I became a liveryman back in 2010.

I have had the great privilege of representing the Company in many ways; starting as a Steward, a rôle I highly recommend; then joining the Charity, Fundraising and Events Committee where I also served first as the Charity Steward and the Chairman; setting up our social media accounts; becoming our first representative on the Livery Climate Action Group and working with the Livery Charity Chairs Group, where we were a contributing member of the Livery Food Initiative.

I still work full time as a Senior Data Engineer for one of the main UK banks, but, with whatever spare time I have left, I enjoy building Lego, a great antidote to the stresses and strains of everyday life.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible during my year and hope that you find something on our calendar that piques your interest.

Installation Luncheon Monday 6th January 2026



The day commenced with the Master's procession entering Common Hall at precisely 12 noon. The retiring Master, Catherine Carr, opened the proceedings by expressing her gratitude to all those who had supported her during her two-year tenure. The ceremony continued with the installation of Timothy MacAndrews, with Mark Russell and Karen Watts also being sworn in as Second and Fourth Wardens.



Lassies, followed by Immediate Past Master Catherine Carr, who toasted the new Master.

Entertaining anecdotes about the new Master were shared, including how he and his business partner founded the Snappy Snaps Franchise, his ownership of an ostrich farm and a beauty

products factory, two vintage Route Master buses, a 40-foot motor cruiser, and his possession of a private pilot's licence in the past.



The new Master then expressed his appreciation for Catherine's remarkable service over the past two years and presented her with the Past Master's badge. He further announced that Rt. Rev. Dr. Richard Fenwick had graciously agreed to continue serving as the Honorary Chaplain for the coming year.

A thank you to Catherine Carr for her contributions and Past Warden Jeremy Ray presented her with a special gift, a beautiful brooch of a bumblebee, crafted and designed by two of our Freemen – jeweller Leonid Dementiev and embroiderer Kate Pankhurst.



The procession proceeded to the dining room, led by a piper playing a Scottish reel. Attendees enjoyed an excellent Burn's luncheon. The Address to the Haggis and the Toast to the Immortal Memory of Robbie Burns were delivered

The Master concluded by introducing his theme for the year, which focuses on recruitment and integration, and announced that his personal charity would be Noah's Ark Children's Hospice. The event concluded with a well-received speech, bringing an excellent luncheon to a close.



with distinction by the guest of honour, Tom Quinn, who presented the Master with an engraved hip flask filled with Scotch Whisky. The Toast to the Lassies was given by Third Warden Henry Hobson, while First Warden Anneliese Edgcumbe offered the toast to the



- Jean Scott-Moncrieff

Pancake Race

The Inter Livery Pancake race is an opportunity for us to get together with other Livery Companies and to participate in a fun annual event, organised by the Poulterers Livery Company and takes place in Guildhall Yard. The Gunmakers start each race with a bang; the Clockmakers time the races; the Glovers provide runners with white gloves, and the Cutlers provide the plastic forks. So, it's all-encompassing!



If we had done well, then the following year we would get to run in the finals (with the chance to win the Flying Pan Trophy). Sadly, my running (whilst tossing pancakes) skills did not achieve this, and so I pass that challenge onto next year's Master and wish her good luck!

- *Master Timothy MacAndrews*



The Clink Dinner



On a February afternoon, a group of liverymen and guests visit the Clink restaurant inside HM Prison Brixton. For those of us who had not had the opportunity to visit Brixton itself before, it proved an interesting experience. The Clink project is designed to train those currently in prison towards gaining their City & Guilds National Vocational Qualifications, thereby equipping them for life upon release. The restaurant seeks to simulate a professional working environment, which, in our case, it did very well, and once we were all in the restaurant, there was very little to distinguish it from any other establishment of this type.

Having gathered together, we then went through the process of entering the prison itself. As can be imagined,

security was of the first importance, and all phones, wallets, bags, keys and the like had to be left in lockers within the security office. This was followed by a passage through X-ray machines and, in some cases, a quick frisk by staff prior to gaining access.

The restaurant itself is contained within the Old Governors House. The decor was pleasant and relaxing, with paintings by prisoners lining the walls. The quality of the food and the standard of service were both excellent, and the consensus afterwards was that the whole evening was both interesting and enjoyable, which, added to the worthiness of the cause, made for a thoroughly pleasant experience.

- *Brendan Minahan*

April Dinner

On 7th April we held our Annual Church Service at St James Garlickhythe, where our Honorary Chaplain, the Right Reverend Dr Richard Fenwick, reminded us that we all have our part to play.

During our Court meeting earlier in the day, we had installed Anup Patel as a steward. Eight people also received their Freedom in a variety of ways. Emma Madden and Luke Shimell had been granted their Freedom via the Trade Route in an online meeting during the pandemic but wanted to participate in the full ceremony. Michelle Agnew, who had travelled from Canada, Jason Hyde and Yeena Yoon where also granted their Freedom via the Trade Route.



Sam Maginnis and Thea Viney, who had both previously attended one of our Awareness evenings, were granted their Freedom via Redemption. We also had the unusual admission to the Freedom of the Company via Servitude,

granted to Thomas Cartwright. Tom had been apprenticed to Past Master Mike Gunston. An apprenticeship lasts for eight years and concludes when the two halves of the Indenture are brought together again before the Court. In centuries past, this was the usual route into the Company, but, as most apprentices could not read or write, the document was cut with a wiggly line. This meant that the parts were unique and proved identity when reunited. The tradition has remained. Finally, we clothed four new Liverymen; Govind Bharadia, Gail Kelly, Jonathan Martin and Samir Sumaria.



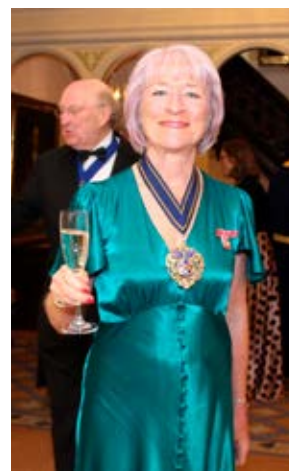
As we dined in Vintners' Hall, in the company of six Masters and their Clerks, we were treated to a jazz interlude from The Skovilles. The Second Warden, Mark Russell,



greeted our guests including many from our military affiliation.

Sir John Timpson CBE provided the response on behalf of the guests, giving some insight into his work with the rehabilitation of offenders through employment opportunities in his retail outlets which has proven so successful. A great evening all round.

- *Anneliese Edgcumbe*



City Ghost Tour

On 31 January, 40 brave Liverymen and guests boarded a Routemaster bus for a fascinating ghost tour of London landmarks. Departing from Northumberland Avenue, the bus and its wacky conductor took us for an hour's tour through Central London, stopping outside celebrated pubs and houses with ghoulish histories. The lights inside the



bus kept going off as screams rang out at every stop, along with fake rats running around the floor of the bus! The conductor kept up a barrage of jokes, songs and stories to keep us entertained. We disembarked slightly shaken but revived with drinks and a carvery dinner at Mark Mason's Hall. It was very different evening of entertainment, but thoroughly enjoyable nonetheless!

- Nick Sillitoe



Shrivenham Defence Academy Visit

In June 2025, some members of the Company were, once again, kindly hosted by Lt Col Steve Roberts MBE, Head of the Defence College of Military Capability Integration, at Shrivenham.

The day started with some insightful presentations by students from the Ammunition Technicians Course, on the development of Ukrainian drone warfare including the strategy, delivery methods and how this has changed the nature of warfare both in the current conflict and globally.

Assisted by Warrant Officers First Class (WO I), senior ammunition technicians, this was followed by a hands-on exercise with plastic explosive to demonstrate the effect of what are known as 'shaped charges' in penetrating armour, including one using the base of a wine bottle! The penetrative power from such small amounts of explosive, which could be delivered using improvised explosive devices, were incredible to see.

After this we visited the armoury which houses a comprehensive collection of weapons, ranging from Brown Bess muskets, in service from the mid 1700s, shotguns hidden in walking sticks, to the most modern assault weapons from around the world. Its purpose is to test the efficacy of weaponry from around the world. There we were also shown some examples of weapons made from 3D printers, showing how advances in technology were impacting both the military and civilian world.



Finally, we visited the Technology Hall to see examples of aircraft, tanks and artillery systems with the opportunity to see, close up examples of modern military equipment from around the world. Overall, a unique and fascinating visit which we had the privilege of attending.

- Ian Burgess

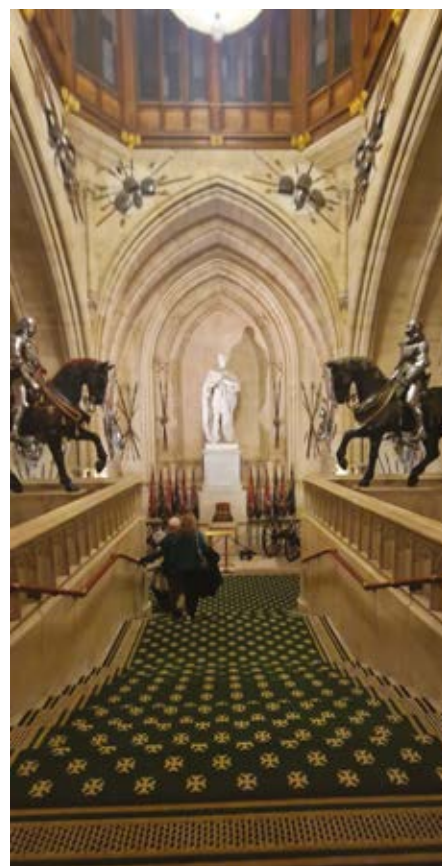
Windsor Tour

On Friday 21 March, the Master, accompanied by almost 60 members and friends, visited Windsor Castle for a fascinating private tour. Windsor Castle is the oldest and largest occupied castle in the world, having been founded by William the Conqueror in the 11th century. It has since been the home for over 40 monarchs including the current King and Queen.

The GSWD party was split into two smaller groups of 30 for the tour. We were honored to visit outside of normal opening hours, which effectively meant we had the castle to ourselves! Two very experienced guides explained how William the Conqueror's wooden castle was rebuilt by Edward III as a stone fortress with magnificent apartments, how Charles II set out to rival the "Versailles" of his cousin Louis XIV; while George IV filled the rooms with outstanding works of art and gave the castle its famous skyline. We also heard about how HM Queen Elizabeth II restored the castle after the great fire of 1992, which destroyed 115 rooms, including nine state rooms. One of the most stunning rooms visited was St George's Hall, featuring over 1,000 shields, each representing a different Knight of the Order of the Garter.

After the tour, which lasted several hours, 37 of those present joined the Master for refreshments at the historic Windsor Guildhall, venue for the wedding of their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla. The Grade I listed building, which stands in the shadow of Windsor Castle was built in 1689, is adorned with the portraits of several former monarchs.

- Les Hutchinson



Master's Visit to Zurich for the Sechseläuten Festival

The Master and I were invited to Zurich for a weekend in April to take part in the Sechseläuten celebrations, which mark the end of winter. We were guests of The Three Kings Guild of Zurich, we were looked after very well by our liverymen Walter Isler and Peter Wild, (members of the guild.) We were also joined by Jonas Fiala, one of our Cambridge prize winners who lives in Zurich.

The celebrations began on the Saturday evening we arrived with members of all the Zurich guilds dressed in their very colourful costumes partying in the centre of the city. The following day we were treated to a cruise on Lake Lucerne and a steep railway trip to the summit of Mount Rigi.



On Monday morning the formal celebrations started with drinks and a long lunch with speeches from the principal guests. The Master's introduction to his speech was delivered in flawless Swiss German, which was appreciated by the audience. We then joined the formal procession around the city cheered by the good folk of Zurich before witnessing the burning of the Boogg, a very large snowman filled with fireworks atop a bonfire. We both enjoyed the custom of women presenting the men in the procession with bunches of flowers.

Dinner and midnight snacks followed before just a few hours' sleep and a flight home. A most enjoyable experience.

- Brian Turner



RAF Voyager Air-to-Air Refuelling flight from RAF Brize Norton



I was lucky enough, along with the Master and nearly 50 other GSWD members and guests, to attend the "money can't buy" Voyager Air-to-Air Refuelling flight from RAF Brize Norton on 17th June 2025. A privilege extended to us through our affiliation with 101 Squadron, and very efficiently arranged between our own Phil Egerton and Flt Lt Carlos Jenkins. The relationship between GSWD and 101, which started in 2010, has led to the earlier two OCs (Officer Commanding) – Wing Commander Mike Udall and Group Captain Pete Thorbjornsen, both joining GSWD as Liverymen.



The motley GSWD crew started the day with an early morning meet at an off-site car park, met by Flt Lt Jenkins and his colleagues we were bused onto the base and delivered to the departure terminal. Everyone had remembered their passports and had left contraband behind, and we were allowed out onto the tarmac and onto the Voyager Airbus A330. The rest of day involved a six-hour round-trip flight (out over the North Sea and up as far as the borders of

Scotland) best described simply through the extraordinary photographs of Typhoon FGR4 jets we were all able to take through the windows of the Voyager! The captain and crew of the Voyager were second-to-none; engaging, friendly and going out of their way to answer questions and allow us extraordinary access to the cockpit even whilst in full re-fuelling mode. It was a trip that none of us will forget, whilst also being a stark reminder of the significant role 101 Squadron play on the global stage in uncertain times.

- Richard Kay



Masters Weekend – Lisbon

Our first sight of Lisbon was through the window of our plane, a beautiful blue sky over a rolling landscape, with a hint of a promise of a great weekend and we were not disappointed. Within minutes, yes minutes, of arriving at our hotel, right in the centre, we were exploring the city of Lisbon and sampled a few of their delightful drinking holes.

The Master did us proud, with an excellent singer to start off the first evening and local food from the Can restaurant ending our first day in Lisbon.

Up early the following day for a delightful tour, the first stop at the Pastéis de Belém for our introduction to the taste of the famous Pastel de Nata, I am hooked. Sintra was picturesque, a visit to the National Palace of Pena was followed by a light lunch and finishing off at a wonderful seafood restaurant in Cascais, that much to my husband's delight also did steak.



However, all this paled into insignificance when we arrived at our destination on Sunday evening for our black-tie event, nothing we could have imagined, quirky, shabby chic, beautiful, words really are not enough and with some interesting entertainment, you had to be there.

Would we go back, yes in a heartbeat, and all because of the wonderful introduction and weekend by the Master and his Consort of the Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers.

- Gail Kelly



Inter-Livery Golf Croquet Tournament

In July 2024 it was suggested to the then First Warden that when Master, he should give serious thought to participating in this special event in the Livery calendar. From our usual enthusiastic Master, I detected a touch of apprehension but nevertheless the date was included in his diary!

About 30 companies booked into this fun event. It was again extremely well organised by the Worshipful Company of Glovers that uses all 11 greens at the world-leading Sussex County Croquet Club near Shoreham, West Sussex. For the third year we entered in the more relaxed B league rather than the A reserved for those who consider themselves more experienced. The Master secured the required three teams comprising of himself and Andrea, Liveryman Nigel Vaughan with wife Jan and my wife Judy and I.

The day was a series of light-hearted competitions either side of an enjoyable informal lunch with afternoon tea a little later. The sun blessed day saw our Nigel and Jan rising the league table; the excitement grew, and they ended up



proudly at third place which is extremely good for two people who have previously hardly held a croquet mallet! This crowned a thoroughly enjoyable day for all of us and hopefully Nigel and Jan will be available next year on the 27 June! 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.

- Michael I Gunstony

The GSWD Golf Society is welcoming new members

Are you looking for a fun and friendly way to enjoy golf, meet new people, and share good times? and you don't need to be a pro to take part! We're all about enjoying the game, the company, and a relaxed atmosphere. Whether you're a regular golfer or just play occasionally, you'll fit right in.

Who We Are

Our society began back in the 1960s and has a proud history of bringing golfers together. We're keen to welcome new members of all abilities to help us grow and currently have around nine regular players, and we'd love to expand our group by a few more. More members mean more fun — and ensures the society can continue well into the future.

What We Offer - 3 games per year at fantastic local courses

Friendly competition with fun prizes (wine and monogrammed golf balls!), great value and a relaxed, welcoming environment where the focus is on enjoyment

Dates for 2026

Wednesday 29th April – Tyrrells Wood Golf Club

Tuesday 2nd June – West Surrey Golf Club

Monday 7th September – Ashridge Golf Club

We meet at noon, enjoy lunch at 12:30, and tee off at 2pm – Contact **the Clerk** for more information

Felix Fund Dinner

I was privileged along with other members of the GSWD to attend the officers mess at RAF Northolt by Lt Col Rob Swan of the EOD (Explosive Ordnance Department), to attend the inaugural charity dinner to raise money for the Felix Fund, a charity which helps past members that have suffered, or are suffering from mental and physical trauma from their service in protecting us.

This is a new chapter in a long relationship dating back to 1989 when our late queen, the then head of the RAOC granted formal approval of our affiliation. From being collected at our hotel to being dropped back after the late late bar, we were treated, not just as guests but

family. Suffice to say, these events open up a whole new understanding to the non-military among us. As these events come and go, the old traditions remain with new ones being added, e.g. the Maltesers on the table, a favourite treat, in memory of Captain Lisa Jade Head who died in active service, and so her memory lives on.

If you haven't attended a Felix Feast yet, I would highly recommend it, as not only will you have a wonderful evening but in turn be adding to the coffers of a worthwhile cause.

- Jim Mee



Haven Charity Lunch

The annual charity lunch at the Haven restaurant in Whetstone took place on 22 June, with over 40 Liverymen and guests attending. As usual, it was a very convivial and gastronomic occasion, with the owner Liveryman Julius Oberegger presiding over proceedings, but it was tinged with sadness as this would be his and our last GSWD lunch at the Haven before his emigration to New Zealand to join his family there.

Over many years, Julius has hosted our Livery lunch at his restaurant, and he has generously donated all the money raised to our charity fund. Every year has been a wonderful occasion, with laughter and music accompanying the excellent food and wine provided by him and his team. Anyone who has attended one of these lunches will know what a great host Julius was, and we will miss him immensely.



July Dinner

The Master chose to hold the July Livery dinner in the unfamiliar surroundings of the historic Stationers' Hall. This decision proved to be inspired as on a beautifully warm early summer evening the Liverymen, Freeman and their guests were able to enjoy pre-dinner drinks in the urban garden shaded from the sun by the enormous central Plane tree, whilst being entertained by saxophonist Paula Juden.



At the appointed time we were called by our Beadle to proceed to the sumptuous Livery Hall where we feasted on gourmet food and drank wine of the highest quality served impeccably by the Hall staff. An unusual quiet, descended upon the Hall whilst Paula again serenaded us.

The usual toasts followed culminating in our principal speaker, Ralph Allwood MBE proposing the toast to the Company. Ralph is a British choral conductor, composer, and teacher, who currently holds the appointment of Fellow Commoner advising in Music at Queens' College, Cambridge.

During his toast Ralph tried to persuade us that everyone was able to sing and that our voices sounded worse in our own heads than to the listener. In my case my wife strongly denies this! To prove his theory, he took to the piano and led us in a rousing rendition of Jerusalem.



The Master closed the formal part of the event with an update on his year and surprised us by advising that the goose we all thought we had enjoyed was, in fact, duck due to a supply issue in the kitchen!

After the stirrup cup, we departed feeling that we had all had an enjoyable evening of good company, delicious food and top-quality entertainment.

- Mark Russell



Court Wyre Drawing



On Friday 11th July a party of liverymen were fortunate enough to visit the Goldsmiths Centre workshop and experience gold and silver wyre drawing at first hand.

This was led by two of our freemen Leonid Demetrieve and Yeena Yoon who are based there, and the Workshop Manager is another freeman Elisavet Messi.



We had a detailed explanation of the organisation the training it offers and then we had the chance to try our hands. It was not however gold and silver wire as we could not be trusted with such valuable materials! It was totally absorbing and fun and most of us tottered off to Smiths of Smithfield for refreshments afterwards. A thoroughly absorbing and informative visit.

- *John Edgcumbe*

Evensong at St Pauls

I was delighted along with Court Assistant Hannah Constantini, to attend Evensong at St Pauls Cathedral to see our sponsored Chorister 'made up'.

This means in simple terms that he has passed his probationary period and is now a full member of the choir, where he will stay until the age of 13.



Being 'a member of the Choir' is a full-time scholastic commitment in that he will attend St Pauls Cathedral School in the City as a boarder whilst undertaking his choral duties, of which there are many.

At the Evensong, despite only returning to school on Thursday, the Choir gave a terrific performance singing several hymns. I spoke to our Chorister after the ceremony who is very proud of his achievement, and I am in no doubt that he will contribute substantially over the next 5-6 years to everything that the Choir undertakes.

- *Master Timothy MacAndrews*

A Royal Garden Party

Kate Pankhurst and Jean Scott-Moncrieff were honoured to represent the GSWD at a special event at a Buckingham Palace Garden Party in May celebrating and recognising the Education and Skills sector in the UK.

The weather was glorious, and the pageantry was magnificent - the Yeoman of the Guard paraded, various bands played stirring music, members of the corps de ballet from the Royal Ballet performed. We enjoyed a lovely tea followed by a walk in the gardens around the lake. Towards the end of the day, we glimpsed the King and Queen as they returned inside the Palace with their VIP guests.

- *Jean Scott-Moncrieff*





When I was elected as the 2025 GSWD Master, I was keen to support a charity and having supported Noah's Ark Children's Hospice a few years before when I was President of the Rotary Club of London, I decided to continue to help that particular charity.

They are based in North Barnet where they have a well-sized facility for looking after very ill and terminally sick children and, most importantly, supporting their families. A lot of their work is done by offering home help, but when the pressure of looking after a child needing 24/7 assistance becomes simply too much, they will accommodate that child to give the family a break. When the end is nigh they will bring the child and their families into the Barnet facility and turn the death into a celebration of the short life that they had.

My predecessor, Catherine Carr, raised money through wing walking. Extraordinarily bold and brave, but I simply could not do that, whatever the cause.

So, I asked Les Hutchinson, our Charity Chair, for a suggestion, and he came up with the idea of a Masters Marathon. By complete chance Noah's Ark in Barnet is exactly 13 miles from Vintners, so the plan was



to walk one way on a Saturday (with a support team) and then back again on the Sunday – making a total of 26 miles.

The two walks were completed over a July weekend and around 8-10 people came with me each day – some setting up their own linked in fundraising pages.

£10,000 seemed like a reasonable target given gift aid on the donations plus a contribution from the Company, but we soon started to exceed that. I then got wind that the charity itself, through their own donors, could fund match some of the money raised, so I decided to keep the appeal running once the walk was completed.

Any events after that that I arranged thereafter had a suggested voluntary contribution on top of the ticket price, and I appealed at every opportunity that I could for more donations.

A combination of generous sponsorship for the walk (both directly to me



all began with a walk...

and some to my co-walkers), donations, gift aid, some fund matching and a company contribution got to the magical figure of £47,000 which should have been the total.

My wedding was planned for December, and attendees started to ask what gifts Andrea and I wanted. We needed nothing and certainly did not want a random collection of toasters and the like, so decided to ask our guests to contribute to this appeal in lieu of a gift.

Again, by virtue of gift aid and some further fund matching, that raised an additional £8,700, making up the £55,700.

An interim cheque for £45,000 was presented to the Charities CEO Sophie Andrews OBE at our banquet on 14 November, and she said a few words of appreciation.



I want to say a big thank you to the members of our company who have given money to this appeal, and to those who walked with me, and turned a potential ordeal into two pleasurable walks!

- Master Timothy MacAndrews

Taxi Send-Off

Getting up at 4am is never a pleasant task, normally for an early morning flight. However, I did so on Friday (12 September 2025) with great purpose as I was going, with Andrea my partner, to Canary Wharf to see off 100 London taxis who were taking severely disabled and sick children to Disneyland Paris for the weekend.



The annual trip is organised by the Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers, and the cabs go with a full police escort and a retinue of medical and other back up vehicles. We had sponsored one of these cabs, and it was



my pleasure to meet the driver Bob and the mother and daughter who were travelling with him. As you can see from the pictures they were well settled in for the journey!

It was a genuine delight to see so many happy and smiling children departing on what will be the journey of a lifetime for them, and I felt privileged to wave them off on their adventure. A truly great charitable concept, and one that we should be proud to support.

- Master Timothy MacAndrews





News from our Freemen and Prizewinners

Jean Scott-Moncrieff

Julia Skupny



'Bloom Like a Summer Flower' Huimin Zhang's award-winning brooch – now acquired by the V&A for their permanent collection.

photo Richard Valencia

The Goldsmiths' Craft and Design Awards 2025

The GCDC promote excellence in craftsmanship and design in the jewellery and silversmithing industry and the GSWD sponsor the Wire Innovation Award. The judges were delighted with the number and quality of the pieces submitted and chose the very best examples of work using hand drawn wire. Two winners were selected – Alexandra Raphael with her 'Honest Bowl' which utilises thirty nine feet of 24 carat gold wire to create the translucent *plique-à-jour* enamel bowl.



Alexandra Raphael's 'Honest Bowl' which also won the most prestigious Jacques Cartier Award.

photo Richard Valencia

Huimin Zhang also won a gold award with her 'Bloom Like a Summer Flower' brooch, which is inspired by her closest friend who is battling breast cancer.

The glittering Awards

Ceremony was held at Goldsmiths' Hall where Master Tim MacAndrews presented the certificates and later met the prizewinners at the VIP reception in the exhibition room where all the winning pieces were displayed.



Royal School of Needlework

The RSN First Prize for Goldwork was presented by IPM Catherine Carr to Ruta Malik in June (above). 'I See You: Noticing the Unnoticeable' is Ruta's sculptural hand embroidery collection which explores the quiet poetry of the ordinary. Drawing inspiration from nature and traditional hand embroidery techniques, she blends craftsmanship with her unique creative perspective, resulting in a new realm of artistry.



The Tapestry of Black Britons (above)

An important memorial utilising a mix of techniques inspired by the Bayeux Tapestry, Akan weaving, Kente cloth, and Caribbean textile traditions. The work centres on Black servicemen and women from the Second World War, in recognition of the 80th anniversary of VE Day, highlighting contributions too often overlooked.

With military knowledge from Clerk David Utting and expert guidance from Freeman Kate Pankhurst, the students added goldwork embellishments to the cap badges, buttons and insignia of the uniforms.



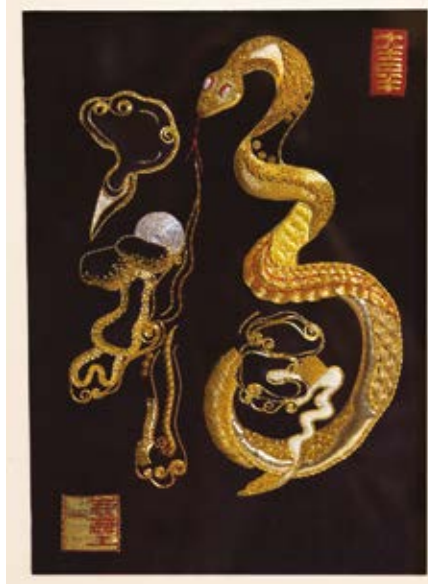
Freeman Andrew Lamb is exhibiting new work at The 2nd 'Integration: Ancient & Modern' China International Contemporary Metal Art Exhibition. He says 'I reinterpret the fluid spontaneity of a line drawing – using ribbon-like aluminium 'thread' interlaced with 18ct gold and punctuated by flashes of colour from repurposed cans of 雪花啤酒 (Snow Beer) and Tennent's Lager.'

'干杯 Slàinte Mhath' Brooch 18ct gold, aluminium repurposed cans of Tennent's Lager & Snow Beer 雪花啤酒, acrylic and stainless steel.

photo Richard Valencia

Hand & Lock Awards

Past Master Emeritus, Ken Blundell congratulating Chenyi Liu, on winning the Best Goldwork Embroidery Award sponsored by the GSWD at the Hand & Lock awards ceremony. (below)



Chenyi Liu's piece 'A Serpent's Blessing' (above) honours 2025, the Year of the Snake, reimagining the traditional Chinese character 'Fu' meaning 'good fortune' by infusing it with motion, transforming its strokes into the form of a coiling snake. She blends Chinese and Western embroidery practices to challenge the boundary between art and craft.

The runner up for the GSWD Goldwork Hand & Lock prize was Lucy May with 'The Tears of Saint Clare' (below). The luminous face intricately stitched in the traditional ecclesiastical technique of *Or Nué*, renders sorrow tangible, tactile and beautiful.



Jewellery designer-maker and Freeman Edwin Charmain (below) has been selected for SHINE 2025, the Goldsmiths' Centre's annual platform for emerging talent. His collection, 'The Garden of Recollection', draws on memories of his Javanese childhood garden and the Sekar Jagad batik motif, symbolising unity in diversity. Working with the filigree technique in precious metals, Charmain

transforms fine wire into forms that are both architectural and poetic.



This striking goldwork sculpture (above) transforms the humble corn dolly – a traditional harvest figure – into an ethereal embodiment of memory, ritual and craft. 'Ghost of the Last Sheaf' by Freeman Kate Pankhurst was a finalist at the Hand & Lock Awards. Her ghostly gown is worked as a self-supporting hollow structure, hand embroidered with Coronation goldwork and over 200 needlelace covered beads.

News from our Freeman and Prizewinners

Freeman Alex Standing participated in various exhibitions during 2025 and was also selected for Crane Court's 'Square Mile Summer Exhibition' which hosted a wide range of artists over four floors. Alex says, 'I was very lucky to have my work displayed in a prime position on the ground floor in good view upon arriving at the Gallery.'

(left) Alex with her Goldwork embroidery 'Ouroboros Lumina'. The artwork explores the interplay between light, illusion, and infinity. The golden embroidery spirals inward, creating a hypnotic vortex that both distorts and reflects its surroundings.

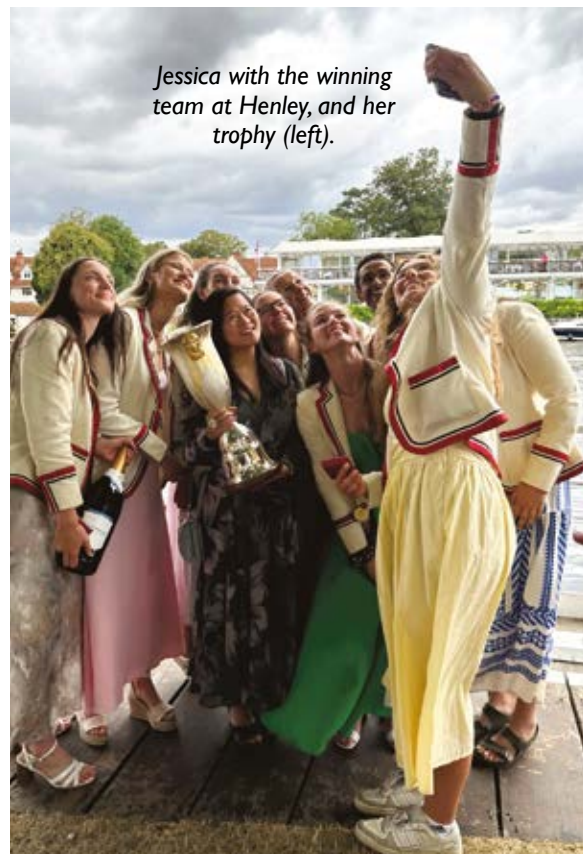


In May, fine jeweller Megan Brown presented her work at Joyce – Hong Kong's iconic boutique known for championing independent designers. Guests discovered her signature woven gold and diamond pieces, each handcrafted in her Soho workshop to capture the fluidity of fabric and the permanence of metal. *(below)*



(left) New Freeman Anna Rennie was awarded The South House Silver Workshop Trust scholarship. In November she spent a month in the Shetland workshop of master silversmith Rod Kelly. Under his guidance she extended her skills enabling her to make this elegant candlestick.

Silversmith and jeweller, Freeman Jessica Jue was commissioned to create the Henley Royal Regatta Trophy to celebrate the first women's event in the Intermediate category. Inspired by the original keystone sculptures of Tamesis and Isis on Henley Bridge, the trophy weaves gold strands with the figures echoing the movement of water *(below)*.



Jessica with the winning team at Henley, and her trophy (left).

Alison Evans, our Freeman specialising in the ancient technique of chainmail was so excited to have been showcased by Goldsmiths' Fair at Collect 2025 in February *(below)*. She submitted a collection of new work using 18 carat gold, silver and titanium, developing further her passion for texture and movement, and making the work come to life through hand drawn wire.





There were twenty Freeman and prizewinners exhibiting at **Goldsmiths' Fair** during the last week of September and the first week of October. Harriet Scott, head of the Fair says 'the Fair celebrates and showcases some of the most exciting, imaginative and sought-after artists and craftspeople working across the UK today.' The GSWD were especially delighted that all four of the pieces featured in the Goldsmiths' publicity campaign (*left*) were made by Freeman of the Company: necklace by Alison Evans, top brooch by Huimin Zhang, middle brooch by Isabella Bedlington and the brooch on the left by Gillian Finlay who is to become a Freeman in April.

photo: Petr Krejci for Goldsmiths' Fair

Silent Ceremony and Presentation of Addresses

The GSWD was honoured to be one of the few Livery Companies to be asked to present Dame Sue Langley, the new Lady Mayor of the City of London with a gift. The Trade Committee decided that a brooch would be an appropriate item to showcase our Freeman's skills and talents. A design brief asking for submissions was circulated and after much deliberation Stepan Terteryan's design was chosen.

Stepan explained: "I have drawn inspiration for the brooch from the water lily flower; the brooch is in silver and yellow gold with elements of silver filigree wire (an appropriate reference to our Company). The design is three dimensional with the petals layered producing a piece with relief and depth. The water lily flower is positioned on an outlined, wire lily pad."



Dame Sue Langley receiving the GSWD gift from Stepan at the Silent Ceremony at the Mansion House shortly before her inauguration as the new Lady Mayor.



Paracas – Embroideries of the Desert

The first GSWD Trade Freeman in modern times, Bella Lane has just published her book on the subject of the ancient embroidered burial mantles of Peru, which date back some 2,000 years and more to the Paracas culture on the coast of Peru, several hundred miles south of the capital, Lima.

Bella, originally from the Amazon rain forest, graduated from the Royal School of Needlework in 2009 and, based in London for the past 25 years, has studied these mantles extensively. Bella's research has included not only examination of surviving examples of the mantles in Peru, but also in the British Museum, the World Culture Museum of Gothenburg and the Metropolitan and Brooklyn Museums of New York.

Additionally, over the past two years Bella has led a team of over 85 volunteer embroiderers based at Hoxton Hall, London, to recreate a Paracas burial mantle. This will go on display in the Paracas Museum in Peru in 2026 at a special exhibition, to be followed by other events in London and elsewhere.

To obtain a copy of the first edition of Bella's book, email her direct at: belladelane@googlemail.com or direct message on instagram @bellaneembroidery

Sheep Drive

Only a year into my life as a Liveryman, I've been determined to say yes to as much as possible – soaking up events, meeting extraordinary people, and discovering what truly lies at the heart of The Worshipful Company of Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers. Having spotted news footage of sheep being driven across London bridge (as one does), I was thrilled to discover that, as a Freeman of the City of London, I could participate in the Sheep Drive, to the delight of my wife who grew up on a Marino sheep farm.



We arrived well ahead of our allotted slot and set about enjoying ourselves: sampling specialist food and drink, admiring beautifully handmade crafts and textiles, and marvelling at some genuinely ingenious wool-

based innovations. Chatting with other Livery Companies at their stalls offered a fascinating glimpse into how ancient trades continue to evolve, adapt, and remain relevant in the City of London today.

Before long, we were gently – but firmly – herded into our pen by a towering man in tweed, who radiated both authority and kindness. Our little flock patiently awaited, and we calmly herded them safely across Southwark Bridge, closed to vehicle traffic for the occasion. Destination reached, our sheep left us for a breather and a sip of water well away from the crowds. We rejoined the spectators



heading back toward the stalls, even managing to spot Adam Henson – Countryfile presenter and this year's celebrity. *The Worshipful Company of Woolmen* then presented us with our certificates.

The day ended in fine style with an Uber River Boat trip to Putney, where we were treated to a magnificent barbecue courtesy of our generous hosts, Henry and Harriet Hobson – a perfect full stop to a thoroughly memorable day. *All proceeds from the annual Sheep Drive & Livery Fair are in aid of The Woolmen Charity and The Lord Mayor's Appeal.*

- Marc Peter



Sandhurst

Early in the summer, around 50 company members and invited guests gathered for an evening at The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. After a welcome and brief presentation by Major General Nick Cowley, the Commandant, attendees enjoyed a private tour through the historic rooms and collections of Old College.

The group then visited the Royal Memorial Chapel, where seeing the names of all Sandhurst Cadets who lost their lives in service to the Crown proved especially poignant.

The evening continued with a drink's reception held in the Old College foyer beneath a portrait of the Royal Family. This artwork commemorates the Princes graduating under the watchful eye of their grandmother. Later, a remarkable curry dinner was served by Gurkha chefs, highlighting traditional Gurkha curries and specialties. While guests dined, funds were collected and subsequently donated to The Sandhurst Trust.

- Tim Sherwood



October Dinner

Fellowship defined the Livery Dinner with its conviviality and camaraderie; Master Tim MacAndrews and his consort Andrea Recchia welcomed over 100 members of the Livery and their guests with six new Freemen and three new Liverymen. Three masters of other livery companies and their clerks were present: David Bole, Master Makers of Playing Cards; David Miller, Master Pattenmaker;



Richard Charlesworth, Master Coachmaker. The Company guest was Rhian Harris, Chief Executive of the Royal School of Needlework. The Master's guest speaker was the Rt Hon the Lord Hunt of Wirral,



our coat of arms watched over the loyal toasts. Lord Hunt spoke eloquently of his political career with amusing anecdotes. The Master delivered an inspiring speech focussing on his chosen



MBE, an eminent British Conservative politician who held cabinet posts as Secretary of State for Wales and for Employment.

charity – Noah's Ark Children's Hospice. In July the Master, supported by several GSWD members, completed his 'Master's Marathon' to raise money for this charity, nothing the original target had been surpassed! The evening ended with a stirrup cup offered in the Drawing Room.



The reception was in the Drawing Room. Old friends and new greeted each other over glasses of fine prosecco. Beadle Janice Scott, Toastmaster for the evening, announced dinner in the Great Hall. An autumn-themed grace in rhyming verse was given by our Honorary Chaplain, The Rt Rev Dr Richard Fenwick. The three-course dinner was accompanied by fine wines and port. A marvellous musical interlude of operatic arias provided by soprano Corinne Hart, accompanied by pianist Samuel Petchey. The traditional display of our company silver, with our historic embroidery showing



- Karen Watts



Culdrose

On Monday 15th September, a group of four of us headed to Cornwall. On previous visits to RNAS Culdrose, I had travelled by train. But on this occasion, our group was travelling either by car or plane. I had agreed to pick up the Master and Warden Henry Hobson from Newquay Airport. The other member of our party, Peter Burke, would meet us at the base.

We were met by our 814 Naval Air Squadron liaison officer, Lieutenant James Wagstaff who happens to be a nephew of the Immediate Past Master, Catherine Carr. He took us over to meet Commander Ed Holland before we received a briefing about the current role of the squadron. We met several members of the team as we toured the facility seeing the maintenance and operations crews. The work of the drone team was incredibly interesting,



especially how they work in tandem with the helicopters. Finally, we gained an insight into how difficult it is to land on the deck of various ships in calm, rough and night conditions as we all had a turn in the simulator. We spent the evening in great company with Ed and some of his officers where we heard about some of the operational challenges they face.

The following day, after checking out of our hotel, we headed back to the base for the highlight of the day, a training flight in a Merlin helicopter. We each had an opportunity to observe the various roles onboard as well as see the spectacular views outside, including St Michael's Mount, St Ives, Botallack and Truro. It was great to see the crew in action. Finally, we had to return to base and, after a Cornish Pasty lunch, we left for home. We hope to return again in 2026.



Apsley House

On a slightly overcast Saturday morning on 18 October, a small group of us collected on Hyde Park Corner. The first part of our event was a tour of the magnificent Apsley House, also known as No. 1 London. It is the residence of the descendants of The Duke of Wellington and, whilst open to the public through English Heritage, the private quarters remain a family home. Our guide took us on an amazing journey through this surprisingly large property. It is crammed with wonderful paintings, beautiful dinner services, amazing sculptures and some interesting design features. However, despite several familiar depictions of the great Duke himself, there seem to be more items relating to his notorious foe, Napoleon Bonaparte.



After our tour, we crossed the road (no mean feat) to Wellington Arch where our next guide told us of the travels that the structure had taken before finally settling at its current location on Hyde Park Corner. There

had been much disagreement, in its early years, about the sculpture placed atop the Arch, but we were able to get a great view of the statue of Nike on her chariot as we climbed up to the balcony. The exhibition inside also told the history of London's smallest police station that operated until 1992.



Finally we headed to the Hard Rock Café on Piccadilly where we enjoyed some refreshments to finish off a great day out.

- Anneliese Edgcumbe

Bishopsland

In October the Master and Clerk visited the Bishopsland Educational Trust at their new site on the National Trust's Buscot and Coleshill Estates in Oxfordshire. They are an internationally renowned centre of excellence in silversmithing, with 30 years' experience, helping emerging and established silversmiths enhance their skills and develop their businesses. GSWD have a long-standing relationship with the trust paying an annual grant to support their activities. Several Liverymen and Freemen, including Nan Nan Liu, have been both students and lecturers at Bishopsland. The new site is a former farmyard and there is



a three-phase renovation and conversion programme which is due to end in 2026. The Master and Clerk met Angela Cork, the Principal, and some of the trustees for lunch before going to the new site to view it and meet some of the students. The progress made was impressive and the site is self-contained with excellent workshop facilities. Accommodation for students is available in cottages five minutes' walk from the workshops.

- David Utting

Remembrance Garden

The Remembrance Garden is the preeminent 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 church yard 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.

- David Utting



The Banquet

It was a chilly, rain-soaked November evening, but the weather did nothing to dampen the spirits of those attending the banquet at the magnificent Painters' Hall. Guests were welcomed in the opulent reception room, its walls adorned with historic and intricate paintings, and greeted with a glass of sparkling wine. The evening began with a dramatic Sabrage—a centuries-old technique where the cork and glass lip are sliced off in one swift motion using the blunt edge of a saber—performed with flair by Master Timothy MacAndrews, Sir David Wootton, and Sheriff Keith Bottomley.

We then moved into the grand dining hall, where a sumptuous four-course meal awaited us, culminating in a classic cheese board with crackers, grapes, and, of course, that obligatory glass of Port! The atmosphere was elevated by the elegant sounds of the London Banqueting Ensemble and a spirited performance by the Royal Logistic Corps of

Drums and then a competing serenade of Bugles by the London Banqueting Ensemble

After dinner, we were treated to speeches from distinguished guests, including Sir David Wootton and a delegation from Japan, who shared insights from their visit. Master Timothy MacAndrews delivered a heartfelt address about Noah's Ark, his chosen charity, before presenting a cheque for £45,000 to its founder—an incredible testament to the generosity of the Livery. As the evening drew to a close, we stepped back into the rain, buoyed by lively conversations, renewed friendships, and the shared satisfaction of knowing that our contributions will make a meaningful difference—not only in supporting one another but in championing the charities that define the spirit of the Livery.

- Minal and Anup Patel



The Company Award

We have an award called the Gold and Silver Wyre Drawer Trophy which we present to a member of our company who has made a significant contribution to our Company either for a specific purpose or served us well in a particular capacity over a number of years.

After much consideration by the Court, it was determined that this year's recipient would be our very special and very unique Bishop Richard Fenwick.

Richard was made a Deacon in 1968, an ordained priest in 1969, and consecrated as a bishop in 2011. After an Arts Degree at Lampeter, he went on to Cambridge to study Theology. He was ordained in the Diocese of Llandaff but continued with his studies in Music. He won Fellowships at the London College of Music and Trinity College London. He then took his degree at Trinity College Dublin. This was followed by a Master's in 19th century Church Music – and finally a PhD of the University of Wales in Ecclesiastical History. Though always lacking time to practice he has played Recitals at over half a dozen cathedrals around our country including two at St Paul's Cathedral, London. His work in the Church has taken him to many parts of the world – latterly as Bishop of St Helena in the Anglican Province of Southern Africa.



He was made an Honorary Liveryman and Master's Chaplain in 1981 making his time as our chaplain 44 years, and apart from the period when he was Bishop in the Diocese of St Helena has written and given the grace at almost all our Livery luncheons and dinners. His graces



are always topical and are always appreciated by everyone. During these many years he has organised, as well as preached, at our company's church services, which are held in the City at St. James Garlickhythe.



When asked, Richard always makes time to council or console our members, who come from a wide cross section of faiths. His sermons, delivered with great warmth and humour, are always listened to attentively by his congregation.



He has an innovative approach to the work and challenges involved in teaching the faith of the church. He is a loyal man, who has the ability to relate to people from all walks of life. He travels up to all of our meetings from his home in Cardiff. Richard was absolutely thrilled to receive this award and made a short and impromptu thank you when it was announced at our banquet on 14 November.

- Master Timothy MacAndrews

Mamma Mia trip at the O2



On 26 November, the Master along with 60 super troopers enjoyed the Mamma Mia party at the O2 arena, in a Greek taverna set on the fictitious island of Skopelos. The actors and waiters all sang and danced their way through the music of ABBA and the storyline of Nikos and his family, and the trials and tribulations of love lost and re-found, whilst we



enjoyed a typical Greek meal, before taking to the dance floor ourselves for a joyful finale. It was impossible not to be carried away with the infectious atmosphere and music throughout the evening, and it was a fitting finale of the Master's social programme for his year.

- Nick Sillitoe



Carol Service 2025

The annual Carol Service was held at our Livery Church, St James Garlickhythe and as usual we shared it with the Needlemakers' Company. This year the service was led by our Honorary Chaplain The Right Reverend Dr Richard Fenwick, supported by the Needlemaker's Honorary Chaplain, The Right Reverend Christopher Chessun, Bishop



of Southwark. The church has a tradition of collecting gifts for disadvantaged children over the Christmas period. These will be distributed to deserving children by the Salvation Army on or near Christmas Eve. With supper after at Dions, Paternoster House in St Pauls Churchyard.

Trade Committee

I am delighted and honoured to take on the role of Chair of the Committee and will try to build on the successes achieved by the founders of the Committee – Rodney Brody, Ken Blundell, Elizabeth Elvin and the late Tim Waller. They decided to reconnect the GSWD with the Trade in about 2010 as although various bursaries and awards were given every year there was no follow up or connection with the prize winners.

We now sponsor three prizes: Best Goldwork Embroidery at the Royal School of Needlework; Wire Innovation at the Goldsmiths' Craft and Design Awards and Best Goldwork Embroidery at the Hand & Lock Awards. All our winners are asked if they would be interested in becoming Freeman of the Company via the Trade route and most of them accept. We also identify exceptional makers who specialise in the use of hand drawn wire who we invite to join us by Special Entry.

Comms Report

The Comms/Editorial Committee exists to keep Liverymen and the public informed on the work and play of the Company and is achieved in three separate ways.

Firstly, the annual edition of the Wyre Drawer is a written and pictorial summary of all the activities of the Master's year of office, including both social and formal events, military liaison updates, trade articles, charity business and Court information. This magazine is co-ordinated by the Editor Minal Patel.

Secondly, the recently updated website, managed by Marc Peter, is an easily accessible platform which showcases the

The original Trade committee have surpassed all expectations - I am delighted that we now have over 50 active Freeman – some are moving on to become Liverymen – and we hope to find ways to encourage and support our Freeman in the future. In March 2026 our Freeman based in Scotland are showing their work at the Scottish Gallery in Edinburgh and members of the Livery will be visiting to see their latest creations.

This year we invited members of the Livery to come with Freeman based at the Goldsmiths' Centre for a demonstration on wire drawing – everyone had a go and were very pleased to understand the processes involved. We will organise this again in 2026 so do come and find out how to draw down a thick length of wire to a very fine thread!

- Jean Scott-Moncrieff

history and current work of our Livery, as well as housing the archive pictures, programme of events and much more information about the workings of the GSWD.

Thirdly, we are developing other social media platforms, including Instagram, Facebook and WhatsApp, to reach a wider audience of possible members and a younger generation to explain what GSWD really encompasses.

The Committee meet four times a year, but welcome input at any time from members of the Livery.

- Nick Sillitoe - Chair of Comms/Ed

Charities Report

Despite being a small, less affluent Company, the GSWD are able to support a wide range of causes each year. The extent of our reach and impact is only possible because of the extraordinary generosity of our members. In addition to our regular donations to support the trade, provide bursaries or prizes for our military affiliates, we are also able to award grants to some excellent charities including those addressing poverty or disadvantaged circumstances, particularly educational charities, supporting the City of London and working closely with youth organisations, particularly the Cadets.

In 2025, the Charity, Fundraising and Events Committee (CFE) met on five occasions and considered over 60 applications to some excellent charities. We were pleased to recommend ten of these to the Court for grants, including UK Veterans Hearing Foundation, which supports veterans across the three services with the provision of hearing aids and aftercare, and to Limb Power a charity that supports children who are amputees or have limb differences. We were also pleased to continue our three-year partnership support to Street Storage, and St Mary Le Bow, both working hard to break the cycle of homelessness and provide young people the opportunity to thrive in life.

It is currently recommended that all members make a voluntary contribution of not less than (£15 per month) or (£180 per annum) to the GSWD 2nd Charitable Trust. With the addition of Gift Aid (for those that are eligible) your donations can make a huge difference. Please check your regular contributions. Another way you can help is to subscribe to the Wyre Draw, for just £10 per month, you can be part of the Wyre Draw which is drawn at every Court with prizes ranging from £250 - £500. Each year the Wyre Draw generates additional funds which are used to support our charities.

During the year, Liveryman Tim Sherwood succeeded Mark Russell as Charity Steward. I thank Mark for his dedication and hard work and wish him well in his new role as 2nd Warden. To Tim, I thank him for agreeing to take on this task and wish him well. I also thank the members of the CFE committee for their invaluable contributions throughout the year and I look forward to continuing to work with them in 2026.

- Les Hutchinson

Youth Mental Health at the Brent Centre for Young People

I had the honour of meeting the team in the centre as the company had donated £1000 to this organisation.

I went to visit them and see how the centre was getting on. For many years, The Brent Centre has provided free, high-quality mental health support for young people aged 14–21 across Brent, London.

As a registered charity there focus remains on service delivery, research, and training to ensure every young person has access to the help they need. I was warmly welcomed by the new Chief Executive Officer, Valentina Levi, who was appointed in April 2024. The leadership remains deeply committed to providing specialist support and ensuring the best outcomes for the young people of Brent.

- Ramji Chauhan



Name of Charity	Rationale/Comment:	Amount
FIVE Collective (Trade)	Support to the Five Collective, a group of jewellery makers including Freeman Jessica Jue	£650 single grant
RSN Teachers (Trade)	A group of teachers from the RSN putting on an exhibition in Bristol.	£1000 single grant
London Search and Rescue	London Search and Rescue, known as LonSAR, support the Metropolitan Police and City Police in searches for vulnerable missing people across London, helping to end preventable loss of life. The grant will enable 5 first responders to be trained.	£3000 single grant
Trial and Error	An annual event where barristers and members of the Old Bailey staff write and perform a series of sketches in support of the Sheriff's and recorders Fund. The Company sponsor a character.	£250 single grant
St Mary le Bow	Working with the homeless to help them secure permanent employment and accommodation. A three year programme of support to this charity.	£3000 extended relationship
RAF Northolt families day	RAF Northolt is the home to two of the Company's affiliations. The families day supports both of them.	£500 single grant
LAPIS	A community-driven organisation based in London, dedicated to providing accessible and inclusive mental health support to individuals with disabilities, neurodivergence, and long-term health conditions	£750 single grant
London Wheelchair Rugby	Providing the opportunity for those with disabilities to participate in rugby up to international level. The Company provided money to purchase equipment and spare parts for the wheelchairs.	£2250 single grant
UK Veterans Hearing	Providing support to veterans with hearing loss with equipment and advice.	£1300 single grant
Felix Fund	The charity, which exists to support all those who have worked in bomb disposal across the three Armed Services, are updating their course and this additional payment supports this.	£1000 single grant
Street Storage	The second year of a three year funding period. This charity supports homeless people to keep their important possessions safe.	£2000 extended relationship
Brent Centre for Young People	An adolescent mental health charity delivering therapy through eight partner schools.	£1000 single grant
Limb Power	An organisation that empowers amputees and those with limb differences through physical activity, sport and the arts.	£1300 single grant
Cheer Up Squad	Supporting patients and families of those recovering from long term illnesses through humour.	£500 single grant

Affiliations

Defence WOME Engineering School

A Year of Achievement and Transition

The Defence WOME Engineering School (DWES) marked an impressive year in 2025, delivering specialist training and contributing meaningfully to the wider defence engineering community. The School successfully ran one Ammunition Technical Officer course, qualifying 12 officers, alongside two Ammunition Technician courses that saw 40 NCOs complete their demanding training.

A highlight of the academic calendar was the annual Industry Day, where DWES students were awarded the prestigious Postgraduate Engineer Prize for their innovative work modelling projectiles through fast jets for the RAF; an achievement that reflects both technical excellence and the School's growing reputation for research impact. Following on from this the DWES staff were also invited to the All Party Parliamentary Group for Energetic Weapons launch event at the House of Commons in June, offering expert advice directly to government and strengthening the School's national profile.

Away from the classroom, the team enjoyed a festive Christmas gathering in Oxford, exploring the Oxford Science Museum and sampling the city's renowned hospitality. As the year concluded we also saw the departure of two members of staff: Sergeant Major Instructor Ted Milward and myself as the outgoing Officer Commanding. As DWES looks ahead to 2026, there is much anticipation under the new leadership of Lieutenant Colonel Andy Sparkes. Lt Col Steve Roberts MBE Head, Defence WOME Engineering School

Defence EOD, Munitions & Search Training Regiment

The Defence Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Munitions and Search Training Regiment (DEMS Trg Regt) has enjoyed a very successful and rewarding 2025. Some 1800 students passed through the doors of DEMS Training Regiment either as part of their initial intake to the British Army, seeking a specific skill, or returning as long-standing Explosive Ordnance Disposal practitioners advancing to the next stage in their qualification journey.

At every turn we have sought to modernise our training through the incorporation of AI, Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality and 3D printing to make sure that we are using the most up to date training models and aids. Much of this work is still in development, the pace of which will continue in 2026 and beyond, but we are pleased to be leading the way in using these ideas and techniques in our training. Drones have made an entrance to our training environments as well and we are seeking to establish a drone piloting element. Use of drones will keep us relevant to the conduct of modern conflict and at the leading edge of Search and Explosive Ordnance Disposal techniques.

Looking ahead to next year we are very excited to be incorporating new equipment and procedures across the whole of our training pipeline. We are also going to be driving staff development through workshops and management training opportunities alongside a concerted effort to tackle the challenges of mental health issues through our charitable support of the Felix Fund. Lt Col Nigel Anderson RLC, Commanding Officer

11 EOD & Search Regiment



It's been another demanding year of delivery for 11 EOD&S Regt RLC, having been in the chair for just over 2 months I shall endeavour to do justice to 10 months of output under Lt Col Rob Swan.

The operational drumbeat continues apace with almost 2000 conventional munition disposal tasks and more than 300 Improvised Explosive Device tasks completed in 2025, of note was the Manchester stabbing where members of Chester troop delivered a superb task under challenging conditions. Similarly, the search troops have conducted 33 searches including providing EOD&S cover for Operation LIBERTY and ESCUDO among others and on the Ammunition side we have deployed 136 people on 109 overseas tasks to 33 countries.

Looking ahead, the Regiment is squarely focussed on evolving to meet the challenge of Russia in 2026 and beyond both at home and overseas. This is a challenging dichotomy given our fulcrum between NATO Article 3 and Article 5 contributions to homeland resilience and overseas warfighting but an exciting challenge nonetheless and one that will shape the next decade at least. Lieutenant Colonel Andy Hambley RLC, Commanding Officer

Navy : 814 NAS has been deployed for the entirety of 2025, with up to 70% of the squadron away from their loved ones at any one time. We have embarked in 6 different ships, visited 17 different countries, travelled as far North as the Arctic, East as the Republic of Korea, South as the Cape of Good Hope and West as the middle of the North Atlantic. 814 has been involved in Operation Highmast with the Carrier Strike Group as well as Operation Ceto – the Squadron's raison d'être maintaining operational advantage in the North Atlantic. Kingfisher Flight embarked in HMS Richmond were recognised for their efforts tracking Russian submarines and safeguarding the Nuclear Deterrent with the Sopwith Pup Award – an award given annually to the Royal Navy Flight achieving the highest level of Operational Capability. This Christmas, two of our flights will be deployed safeguarding our critical national infrastructure and maintaining a presence in the North Atlantic, poised to mark any Russian assets transiting past the UK over the Festive Period. 2025 has been yet another busy year and we thank GSWD for your continued support of the Armed Forces and 814 NAS - what may seem small to you provides those serving the motivation to continue our duty of protecting our nation's people and interests wherever we execute our duties in the world.

- Neill Blundell

RAF Music 2025

The 11th Feb 2025 marked the 40th Anniversary of the tragic accident when the coach carrying the Band of the Royal Air Force Germany collided with an aviation tanker on the autobahn resulting in 19 RAF Musicians, a RAF Policeman and the civilian coach driver tragically losing their lives.

Musical Tributes were held at the Hauptkirche Rheydt Mönchengladbach and in St Clement Danes Church with memorial services at Rheindahlen Military Cemetery and the annual services at RAF Northolt and RAF Cranwell. During the services, the Last Post was sounded, followed by the laying of floral tributes around each monument, accompanied by music from the RAF bands.

On the 5 May, RAF Music formed the Procession Band and took their place among 1300 members of the Armed Forces and uniformed services. Stepping off from Parliament Square, the parade route took in the Cenotaph, Trafalgar Square and Admiralty Arch before heading down the Mall towards Buckingham Palace.

RAF Music proudly congratulated Flight Sergeant Ellson who was awarded a Commendation from the Air Officer Commanding 2 Group in the King's Birthday Honours List 2025.

In July, following the Lionesses historic win at the UEFA Women's EURO 2025, the Central Band of the RAF performed on stage outside Buckingham Palace in a National celebration and Victory Parade.

A Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication marking the 85th anniversary of the Battle of Britain was held at Westminster Abbey, attended by Royal Family, Government Ministers and Senior Members of the HM Armed Forces.

- *Phil Egerton*

101 Squadron Operation Highmast was an extensive eight month 2025 deployment of the UK Carrier Strike Group (CSG) to the Indo Pacific, designed to demonstrate the UK's commitment to global security, strengthen interoperability with partners, and showcase UK Armed Forces capability. HMS Prince of Wales led the deployment with 24 F 35B Lightning aircraft embarked. The operation included numerous exercises and port visits from the Mediterranean to East Asia.

In May, as the CSG prepared to leave the Mediterranean, the RAF deployed four additional Voyager Multi Role Tanker Transport aircraft from 10 and 101 Squadrons to RAF Akrotiri, reinforcing the two Voyagers already supporting Operation Shader. With 60% of the active Voyager fleet in the region, these assets enabled Exercise Med Strike, the first major phase of Operation Highmast. Working alongside the Italian strike group and HMS Prince of Wales, the exercise brought together 21 warships, three submarines, and 41 fast jets. By late June, the Voyagers had returned to Brize Norton and the CSG had reached Singapore.

In July, two Voyagers (ZZ330 and ZZ335) continued to Australia for Exercise Talisman Sabre, the largest bilateral US Australian military exercise, expanded in 2025 to include the UK, Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, and Canada. RAF Voyagers integrated with RAAF A330 tankers at Darwin, supporting complex multinational strike missions involving F 35s, F 22s, and F 18s. Over 35,000 personnel from 19 nations participated, making it the CSG's largest exercise.

Following Talisman Sabre, Operation Hightower saw Voyager ZZ330 operate with UK F 35Bs, the RoKAF, and Japan in Exercise Eastern Panther. In August, ZZ330 continued its global circumnavigation, eventually conducting an AAR trail of two new F 35Bs to RAF Marham.

Highmast capped the Voyager Force's busiest year, alongside commitments including Operation Shader, Eastern Sentry, Red Flag, TANSOR, and global AAR and transport tasks. Their planning earned them the Top Team Award at the RAF Brize Norton BRAVOS.

- *Phil Egerton*



Announcements

Admissions



April 2025– Govind Bharadia, Gail Kelly, Jonathan Martin, Samir Samaria



July 2025 – Peter Crump, David Garside, Simon Hutchings



October 2025 – John Bishop, Thomas Cartwright and Thea Viney



January 2026 – Tony Doyle, Jamie Howes

Liverymen

Govind Bharadia - Lecturer

John Bishop - University academic (Retired)

Thomas Cartwright - Technical Lead

Peter Crump - Goldsmith

Tony Doyle - Inventor and Businessman

David Garside - Retired Police Officer

Jamie Howes - Door Keeper – Houses of Parliament

Simon Hutchings - Army Officer

Gail Kelly - Care Home Owner

Jonathan Martin - Head of Derivatives Product Management

Samir Sumaria - Purchase Ledger Manager

Thea Viney - Barrister

Freemen through the Trade Route

Michelle Agnew - Hand and Lock Award Winner 2024

Bethany Cole - Freelance Hand Embroiderer - Special Entry

Eve Commander - Embroiderer - RSN Future Tutor Winner 2025

Jason Hyde - Video Designer - Special Entry

Lucy Martin - Goldsmith - Special Entry

Anna Rennie - Silversmith and Maille Maker - Special Entry

Fleur Webb - Freelance Embroiderer - Hand and Lock Award Runner Up 2024

Janet Weller - Jewellery Designer - Special Entry

Yeena Yoon - Freelance Jeweller - Special Entry

Huimin Zhang - Jewellery Designer and Metal Artist - GCDC 2025

Deaths (date joined company in brackets)

Honorary Liveryman Robin House - Clerk 2005 - 2016 (2016)

Liveryman Ron Smith (2001)

Liveryman John Tattersall (1975)

Liverymen Jan Van De Pol (1977)

The Court

The Master

T J MacAndrews TD JP

Past Masters

N S Nichols

J W Walsham

M I Gunston

Assistants

P R N Sillitoe JP

L Hui

J R Ray

M W West

P L Egerton

J A Howarth

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

B R Jones

Wardens

A M Edgcumbe

M H Russell

H E H Hobson

K N Watts

B C Turner

C M R Carr

H J Constantinidi

N F K Blundell

T M Kelly

R K Chauhan

L Hutchinson

J C Edgcumbe

E M V Knapper

R D Brody JP

T L Fitzgerald-O'Connor

R J d'O Hope

M F Powell

R G W Lampitt

Clerk - D W Utting DL

Honorary Assistant Clerk - L Hui

Honorary Chaplain - Rt Rev Dr R D Fenwick

If you are interested in writing an article for the next newsletter or have any interesting pictures that have been taken at any of the events, please do contact the editor of the newsletter, Minal Patel on editor@gswd.co.uk

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EXHIBITION

5 - 28TH MARCH 2026

SPECIAL VIEWING WITH THE MASTER AND FIRST WARDEN

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all welcome – book through the Calling Notice or Events www.gswd.co.uk

The Scottish Gallery, 16 Dundas Street, Edinburgh EH3 6HZ

www.scottish-gallery.co.uk



Anna Gordon



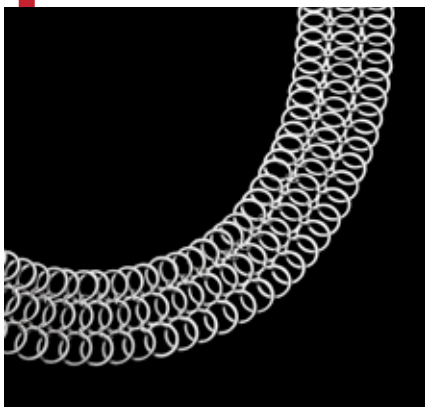
Isabella Bedlington



Andrew Lamb



Joanne
Thompson



Heather Woolf



Susan Cross

Joanne Thompson Hanna necklace oxidised silver photo: Paul Gray
Heather Woolf Grid necklace sterling silver photo: James Robertson
Isabella Bedlington Chronos necklace sterling silver and 24ct gold photo: Stacey Bentley
Susan Cross Shimmer brooch 2025 oxidised silver, black spinel photo: Shannon Tofts Photography
Anna Gordon Ghiordes brooch - kinetic oxidised silver and 18ct yellow gold photo: Shannon Tofts Photography
Andrew Lamb Vortex Necklace 2022 18ct white gold, silver, platinum and titanium photo: Shannon Tofts Photograph