

theFramework

MAY 2011



Knitter

The Newsletter of the Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters

The Installation Dinner at Skinners Hall

– Was that “sixes or sevens”?

The venue chosen by our newly elected Master, Paul Bethel, for this year’s Installation Dinner was Skinners Hall. Skinners are one of the Great Twelve, although their position of number 6 or number 7 is hotly contended with Merchant Taylors and they now alternate annually.

Despite their hall burning down in the Great Fire of 1666 The Skinners had rebuilt it by the 1680’s. It is a particularly magnificent building rightly designated as Grade 1 listed.

The Skinners are descended from the medieval trade guild of the furriers but have not been associated with that trade for many years and today administer their schools, charities and almshouses.

The weather was glorious and, following the reception line, we were able to enjoy the open air courtyard before we were summoned to Dinner where Grace was said by the Masters Celebrant, Mrs Cay Ward. We were then treated to a sumptuous feast accompanied by equally delicious wine.

Beautiful music throughout the evening was provided by a String Quartet from The Guildhall School of Music and Drama and during Dinner The Master took wine with our three newly elected Livery members, Mrs Angela Jenkins, Mr Jonathan Ward and Mrs Sharon Smith, the wife of our Upper Warden, Graham Smith. This was followed by The Ceremony of The Loving Cup.

Following Dinner the toast to the Guests was proposed by Assistant Linda Smith. We were very fortunate to be joined by Brigadier Andrew Williams OBE and his wife Jacs, Henry Gewanter, Master Loriner Lady Harriet Milnes Coates and her husband Professor Sir Anthony Coates Bt, Master Needle-maker Roger Staines and his wife Jenny, and finally Past Master Joiner



Master Paul Bethel, Upper Warden Graham Smith and Under Warden Stephen Woolfe with partner and wives.

and Ceiler, Peter Motteram and his wife Maggie.

Brigadier Williams replied on behalf of the guests, quoting many similarities between the role of our livery company and his duties within the armed forces. His latest posting has been the reform and future design of the Afghan Ministries of Defence and the Interior for which he was awarded the US Bronze Star Medal.

The toast to the Company “root and branch” was proposed by Henry Gewanter, a former work colleague of The Master. Mr Gewanter is perhaps best known for his exposure of the MP’s expenses scandal and he spoke of the frustration he felt as he was turned down by many publications until finally The Daily Telegraph agreed to run the story.

The Master responded in typically humorous fashion, whilst also giving us an insight into his vision for the company over the coming 12 months. The evening was drawn to a close with a Stirrup Cup before carriages were called. Yet another thoroughly enjoyable evening in the company of many good friends, old and new.

Assistant **Matthew Ellis**

Can we regain our trophy ?

We are sailing hopefully in warm weather with a good wind to fill the sails and enable our livery men to regain the Henderson Trophy on May 21.

No doubt Daniel Carter from the Chartered Surveyors will be planning a third successive victory! So we need extra enthusiasm and effort on this special day at Rutland Sailing Club.

If you are not competing come and have some tuition in lasers, before relaxing with your picnic lunch.

Alternatively you and your family or friends can cycle around Rutland Water. For others there is a conducted walk in Oakham, or a visit to the bird sanctuary, Normanton church and museum. You could also visit Stamford. Finally there is dinner in the clubhouse.



THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FRAMEWORK KNITTERS

2010-2011

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Mr Stephen Woolfe

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New Members



Mrs Angela Jenkins, a retired accountant from Cobham who worked in the City of London is very interested in the trade of the Guild and the City's history. Her hobbies include dress making and soft furnishing, antiques, wine and opera. She keeps fit by dancing and playing badminton and enjoys watching sport. Spare time is spent helping The Princess Alice Hospice Trust, Marie Curie and Royal British Legion.

Miss Laura Alexandra Tranter's interest in the history of the textiles industry and the work of the company is hardly surprising since both her father Philip and grandfather Derek are members of the livery. She left the Abbey School, Reading, and in 2005, in the same year began a bachelor of science degree in pharmacology and graduated with a 2:1 class degree. Currently Laura is completing a graduate diploma in law at Guildford College.



Charles Derick Horsfall of Wigston Magna is a retired textiles sales director. He spent 26 years with Coats-Patons and a further 21 years with Courtaulds. Since retiring, this native of Blackpool who was educated in Glasgow, joined Oadby & Wigston Borough Council. Between 2003 and 2007 he was both a Councillor and Mayor. In 1975 he joined Courtaulds as sales director and left in 1997 when he was consultant on Far East sales. As a young man he was commissioned in the Royal Signals. By 1950 he was involved in management training with JP Coats, ultimately travelling as sales manager and becoming managing director. During these years he learnt and spoke many languages. He keeps fit by swimming and playing bowls.



Sharon Louise Smith, writes "Over the past eight years of attending the Framework Knitters events my respect for the company has grown, I would like to contribute to its future". Sharon, is the wife of Upper Warden Graham. During this year and next she will be busy supporting Graham the Upper Warden and the Master-elect. She worked within the recruitment industry for ten years and was the director of a busy commercial agency when she left the industry. Since then she has taken a foundation degree in photography and works for charity and the fashion industry. Born in Brazil, she was educated in England and at De Montfort University. When at home in Bushby she enjoys walking the dog.



Jonathan Louis Hamilton Ward, a Companies Director and Management Consultant from Leatherhead is a past member of the Textile Institute. He spent 38 years working in the manmade fibre industry, textile industry, clothing industry and retail clothing. He was commissioned into the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) who enjoy the Freedom of the City of London and spent five years in the T.A. with the same regiment. He keeps fit by swimming and is a full member of Cambridge Hawkes Club, Henley Club, Henley Royal Regatta, plus the Royal Automobile Club. He is also a member of CBI Energy Policy Committee and of the National Economic Development Office Manmade Fibre Committee. Educated at St Pauls, London, he went to Queen's College, Cambridge, where he captained the college Boat Club and gained Goldie Boat Colours.



Laura Tranter with her father and grandfather when she joined the Livery.



The Master

A year to share with you

When my late Father, Dr. David Bethell, invited me to join this Livery Company some 21 years ago, I – like, I suspect, most people – had little idea what a Livery Company was, let alone the traditions behind this one and the work that it does. Similarly, I had little idea what fun becoming a Liveryman would be, nor what wonderful opportunities it would open up.

Certainly, I had no inkling that I would one day end up as the Master for a year. Yet I was living in London, I had worked in the City for many years as a banker, and so – being already a great believer in the City and its traditions – it seemed a reasonable suggestion.

The path to becoming your Master has been an interesting one. Like many Liverymen (too many, some might say), in the first few years after joining I did little more than attend the occasional Livery Dinner or social function.

I knew nothing about the Court, nor the work involved in keeping the show on the road. I had the vague impression that it was a sort of glorified dining club – albeit in a variety of splendid surroundings – with some entertaining social events thrown in (I particularly remember the Go-Karting and dragging a poor sheep over London Bridge).

Then one day it was suggested that, as I lived locally, I attend the City & Guilds AGM on behalf of the Livery, as we had just been recognised as a Founding Member. That was the beginning of a long relationship, not only with City & Guilds, with whom we are now working closely to broaden our Awards scheme and to further promote the Livery, but also with the Court, as I had to attend to deliver the first of my many Annual Reports.

Suddenly, I was invited on to the Court, taking part in various committees and – almost before I knew it – here. I have been proud to follow in my Father's footsteps, particularly on the Education Committee which he did so much to develop, and I hope to continue his tradition of encouraging the development of both academic and practical contributions to the knitting industry.

Today's challenge is to continue to promote and grow the Livery, becoming more inclusive by welcoming all suitable candidates from any background provided that they too espouse our values and treasure the heritage that a traditional organisation such as ours enjoys. But we must also look forward: we have already started recruiting Bursary & Award candidates, I am inviting everyone (and their friends) to join us at our



The Master with his partner Mrs Claire Phillips

Leicester dinner in September, and I hope to see many of you and any prospective new members both there and at other social functions.

My plan is to spend my year sharing as much of the enjoyment as possible with fellow Liverymen: I hope to get to know many more of you and to end my year knowing that I have brought as much pleasure to others as the Livery has brought to me.

A Choral Occasion

On the day after the announcement of Westminster Abbey as the venue for the Royal Wedding, Sharon and I attended the Festival of St Cecilia at the Abbey. (24th November 2010 as near as we shall get to the Royal Wedding!!)

The Festival is an annual event in aid of the Musicians Benevolent Fund and rotates the venue between St Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey and Westminster Cathedral. The combined choirs of the three churches sing the music.

The service was started by a procession of Livery Masters in their robes, including our Master, and then the choirs entered.

There were a number of anthems performed by the combined choirs and hymns for all to sing. The readings were given by Diane Louise Jordan (BBC 1) and Sean Rafferty (Radio 3).

We enjoyed the experience of being part of a service in the wonderful surroundings of the Abbey and with the beautiful music and singing from the combined choirs, it was a very pleasant morning.

Upper Warden **Graham Smith**

Courtaulds - A Special Visit - And An Experienced Director

The Social Committee invites you to join the Master and Fellow Liveryman and guests on a visit to the Courtauld Gallery on Saturday 16th July 2011, and to enjoy a guided tour organised especially for the Company by the Courtauld Institute of Art.

The core of this nationally important collection consists of the bequest by Samuel Courtauld (Chairman of Courtaulds between 1921 and 1946) of magnificent French Impressionist paintings. With subsequent gifts to the gallery it now has a comprehensive range of works from the Renaissance to the twentieth century.

Also on display is the superb collection of Courtauld silver comprising over fifty pieces made by three generations of this family in the early nineteenth century. This is housed in the north wing of Somerset House.

We will meet in the entrance hall of the

Gallery, which is under the arches on the righthand side as you enter from the Strand, at 10.45 for the start of the tour at 11.00am.

A two-course lunch has been arranged at Tom's Kitchen afterwards. This restaurant is a new venture by the renowned chef, Tom Aikens, and is in the South Wing of Somerset House, across the Fountain Court.

The cost of the tour and lunch will be £35 per person – with free access to the Gallery in the afternoon as well if you wish to return. As places are limited applications will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis, and we would be grateful if you could please send your form and cheque to Diana de Froment by Wednesday, 15th June. Any queries on the day, please contact Diana on 07950 260 471.

If you are one of many people who worked at Courtaulds why not share your history and interest?

Derick will willingly share his knowledge and trade experience with fellow liverymen.

Not only a resident of Wigston, Derick Horsfall is a Trustee of the Framework Knitters Museum. He is delighted to have become a liveryman after many years in the trade, twenty one of which were spent with Courtaulds.

During forty seven years in industry he acquired specialist knowledge in the use of natural, regenerated and synthetic fibers plus the spinning, knitting and weaving techniques involved in clothing manufacture.

He specialised in sales which meant travelling to Turkey and Sudan, South Africa and Namibia, Mexico, even Finland. While training he learnt German, Swedish, French and Spanish, he even used Turkish and Arabic.

On joining Courtaulds he spent a year with Clustom Penn in Swansea, where he was sales director, then moved to Penn International. Seventeen years later he was international sales director (fabrics) in Hong Kong and the Pacific rim. He retired in 1997.

Peter Tahany 1924 - 2010

A Leicestershire man who contributed much to local life, Peter Tahany died at the age of 86 in September 2010.

He spent his childhood in Evington and became an enthusiastic rigger player, making 33 appearances for Leicester Tigers during 1945-48 seasons.

Through founding Northbridge, the Wigston Aero Space parts manufacturing business, he contributed to the Apollo mission to the moon.

He also lived at Claybrook Magna and leaves a son called Peter.

Special Exhibition For 2012

An exhibition not to be missed, and one at which our own framework knitters hope to illustrate our craft, is part of the 2012 "Cultural Olympiad" being staged by the City of London Corporation.

"The Butcher, Baker and Candlestickmaker" (taken from the nursery rhyme) will celebrate 850 years of London Livery Companies at the Guildhall art gallery from 22nd June to 23rd September. It will feature interesting treasures from the many medieval countryside crafts and trades that formed the basis of these companies, as well as their charity, schools and almshouses support. Some of the Corporation's treasures will also be shown. The three named liveries are those organising the event.

In 2013 our own Livery will celebrate the 350th anniversary of being granted our Royal Charter.

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Winter Livery Dinner 2011

The Master presided at the Winter Dinner held at the Cavalry and Guards Club on Piccadilly. We were welcomed to the club by its Chairman, David Rosier, accompanied by Mrs Sarah Stanley and, in addition, among the guests were the Master of The Shipwrights Company Simon Sherrard and his wife Sara and the Past Master of The Fuellers Company Brigadier Edward Wilkinson and his wife Joy.

A pianist played as we assembled for the reception in the Waterloo and Peninsular rooms and in total eighty-one members and guests sat down on round tables adorned with club silver candelabras lighting the magnificent surroundings of the 'Coffee Room'. The club's reputation



*Winter Dinner at Cavalry & Guards Club
left to right – Mrs Wilkinson, Past Master Emeritus Roger Stevenson,
Mrs Stevenson and Brigadier C.E. Wilkinson.*

for good food in elegant setting was upheld: a delicious dinner, the main course being quite superb sirloin of beef and the meal concluding with a savoury, the most splendid cheese soufflés - a club speciality.

The Master's Award presented to the Company by Liveryman Silvia Bryars and her family in 2010 in memory of her husband David, was made to Liveryman Mike O'Brien for his quite outstanding contribution to the work of the Company. The Immediate Past Master Jeremy Beachell paid tribute to the Master for a most successful and appealing year at the helm. Adjourning after Dinner the Master hosted us to a stirrup cup in 'Geoffery's Bar' decorated with an array of original cartoon's, pictures and memorabilia with the ardent 'party animals' departing just after midnight.

Our ever active Chairman of the Social Committee, Assistant Linda Smith, arranged visits to Wellington Arch and Apsley House for the following day. Twenty five of us turned out and had the most illuminating conducted tour of Wellington Arch. Set in the heart of Royal London at Hyde Park Corner, Wellington Arch is a landmark for Londoners and visitors.

It was originally commissioned as a grand outer entrance to Buckingham Palace and moved to its present site in 1882. We took to the balconies just below the spectacular bronze sculpture surmounting the arch from where we viewed the glorious panoramas over London's Royal Parks and the Houses of Parliament. Inside the Arch, three floors of exhibits tell its fascinating history reinforcing our guide's explanations and accounts.

Across the road to an addresses that does not come much grander than 'Number One London', the popular name for Apsley House, to one of the most interesting visitor attractions in London. Home to the Duke of Wellington after his victory over Napoleon at Waterloo, the interior of the house has changed very little since the days of the Iron Duke. It boasts one of the finest art collections in London, with paintings by Velazquez and Rubens as well as a wonderful collection of silver and porcelain. Pride of place goes to a massive statue of Napoleon.

After the visits we adjourned to the Blue Posts in St James's for a good old fashioned and much enjoyed 'pub' lunch.

Assistant **Nick Turner**

THE SOCIAL COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

- Do you enjoy the Company's convivial and varied social events?
- Have you ideas for other trips and activities?
- Would you like to join the Company's Social Committee?

The Social Committee has the happy task of arranging many of the Company's social events.

These are an excellent opportunity for Liverymen, their families and friends to meet in a relaxed atmosphere outside the formal Civic and dining calendars. They are also ideal occasions to introduce potential new Liverymen to the fellowship of the Livery. We would love to welcome one or two new members to our Committee – all Liverymen would be welcome, regardless of age or when you joined as long as you have bright ideas for future activities and are prepared to help in arranging them.

We currently meet twice a year, once at the Cottage Homes during the Leicester weekend and once in London but we do much of our business informally via e-mail and telephonic communication and at present are looking for a Committee secretary.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact Linda Smith telephone 01462 435341. e-mail: linda.smith11@btconnect.com.



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The Court of Assistants 2010-2011



Back Row (left to right): Simon McIlwaine, Nicholas Turner, David Miller, Linda Smith, Matthew Ellis, Sheila Turner, Peter Corah.
Middle Row (left to right): Stephen Woolfe, Simon Burrows, Jeremy Beachell, John Strange, Sara Richards, Derek Buswell, Sally Murray, Alan Clark.
Front Row (left to right): Jonathan Dean, Anthony Wessel, Paul Bethel, George Turner, Graham Smith, Jeremy Ridge, Hugh Stevenson.

City Briefings for New Liverymen

Some forty Liverymen and Freemen, plus some partners, from twenty-five Livery Companies attended the City Briefing for new Liverymen and Freemen held at Innholders' Hall on 10 November last. This was one of four such Briefings held each year for new Liverymen and Freemen, organised by the Wax Chandlers Company on behalf of the City of London Corporation's Livery Committee. Liverymen and Freemen of longer standing, who have not been to a Briefing, are also encouraged to attend.

Starting at 5.30 pm, presentations, illustrated with slides and a film, on the work of the Corporation were given by Peter Nelson, an Assistant Town Clerk. Of particular interest was the explanation of how the Corporation is financed, as was

hearing about the considerable amount of open space land outside the Square Mile owned and maintained by the Corporation. This amounts to over ten thousand acres, and includes Hampstead Heath and Epping Forest.

Moving on to the relationship between the Corporation and the Livery Companies, Dougal Bulger, the Clerk of the Innholders' Company, spoke about the important role of the Livery in the governance of the Corporation, past and present.

Both speakers were interesting and entertaining, and the information provided was most enlightening as well as useful. Consequently, it is not difficult to understand why some Livery Companies now insist that their Freemen attend one of these Briefings before they can be advanced to the Livery.

A Question and Answer Session was followed by the serving of wine and some extraordinarily good canapes and the opportunity to talk informally to the speakers, to members of the Livery Committee present, and to members of other Livery Companies, with the evening ending at about 7.45 pm. At a cost of only £10 per person the event represented tremendous value for money, as well as being extremely worthwhile.

Not many Framework Knitters have attended these Briefings in the past and the Livery Committee is very keen to remedy this situation. Dates of future Briefings can be found on the Framework Knitters Company's new website, and further details and application forms can be found on www.liverycommitteecourses.org.uk.

Liveryman **Keith Williams**

THE ROLE OF THE ASSISTANT CLERK

In 1994 finding a suitable warden for the Cottage Houses in Oadby proved difficult. So the Managers decided to appoint someone who was not resident on site and to change the job description, combining some of the Assistant Clerk's work with some of the Warden's job. The position was given to Mrs Anne Brown.

This was very advanced thinking at the time and now a lot of Social Housing complexes no longer have resident Wardens, but someone like me who is on site for a set time each day.

I come from a line of Framework Knitters – both my grandfather, Brig Bernard Morley (1951) and my father, Peter Morley (1977) were Masters of the Company. My mother, Davida Morley, was the first Hon Lady Liveryman and served on the Cottage Homes Committee for many years. I joined the Livery in 1998 and my children, Debbie and James have both been apprenticed to the Company.

Over the years, my job has gradually evolved and expanded. I continue to have to learn new skills to meet changing circumstances; my background as a PA has stood me in good stead.

I am now able to cope with workmen of all sorts. Having had builders on site for much of the last 17 years as the Company has renovated/extended or rebuilt all the Cottages. There are currently 26 cottages and 33 residents with a new couple due to arrive next month.

Having an office with a wonderful view of the grounds is a real perk. I supposedly work 4 hours a day – usually in the mornings – but as many of you know when you are trying to find me, I do work some very odd hours occasionally.

On a day to day basis I liaise with Karl Whatsize (Gardener/Handyman) and deal with any queries and problems the residents may have. I am responsible for the maintenance of the cottages and site, administrate and liaise with such people as the resident's families, the local authority, social services and anyone or anything else that a resident might need help with.

Dealing with suppliers of utilities on their behalf when things go 'wrong' is my worst nightmare! There is a constant supply of maintenance jobs. Fortunately I have a very supportive Management Committee to turn to in times of stress and an extremely able and cheerful colleague in Karl!

One of the more enjoyable aspects of the job is arranging social events and outings for the residents. There is the annual Christmas party, the lunch after the Annual Church Service, resident's 90th birthday parties along with outings to interesting places for the day or tea at one of the Liveryman's houses on a summer afternoon.

Over the years I have also become involved with the Bursary Award Scheme. After Dr David Bethell's retirement, I took on the administration and all its paperwork that this generates twice a year. Unfortunately I don't meet many of the applicants, unless they receive an Award, but I do admire some of their work and enjoy the involvement with this Committee.

Alan Clark and I maintain contact regarding our particular jobs. I try to assist at Court Meetings and functions when I am down in London and he helps me when up in Leicester. I enjoy my rather unpredictable job – I get a new boss every year and never know quite what the day will bring when I arrive in my office.



Assistant Clerk **Anne Brown.**

The Master's Award

This year's recipient of the Master's award is Liveryman Michael O'Brien. The award was presented to the Company in memory of Liveryman David Bryars by his family and is awarded each year by the Master recognising an outstanding contribution to the Company by a member.

Michael has been a member of the Company for more than twenty five years and during that time has been a loyal supporter of Company events and a regular attendee at the dinners. However it is primarily for his contribution to the Bursary and Awards scheme that he was chosen as this year's recipient. He has put his exceptional knowledge of knitting machinery and the knitting industry to good use in helping select suitable candidates for our various awards and has been an excellent mentor to several of our winners.

Immediate Past Master
George Turner.



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Dates for your Diary . . .

2011		Contact
May 17	Festival of the Sons of the Clergy, St Paul's Cathedral	The Clerk
May 21	Rutland Water Day (Inter-Livery Sail)	Miss Linda Smith
June 24	Common Hall for the Election of Sheriffs, Guildhall	The Clerk
June 30 – July 3	The Master's Livery Trip to Paris	The Master
July 15	Summer Court and Livery Dinner, Inner Temple	The Clerk
July 16	Livery Visit to the Courtauld Gallery	Mrs D de Froment
Sept 8	Framework Knitters Golf Day and Dinner, Leicester	Matthew Ellis
Sept 9	Court Meeting and Livery Dinner, Leicester	The Clerk
Sept 10	Annual Barbecue at the Cottage Homes, Oadby	Matthew Ellis
Sept 11	Annual Church Service and Buffet Lunch, Oadby	The Clerk
Oct 3	Common Hall for the Election of the Lord Mayor, Guildhall	The Clerk
Oct 14	Annual Livery Banquet at Plaisterers' Hall	The Clerk
Nov 23	The Festival of St Cecilia Service, Westminster Cathedral	The Clerk
Dec 10	Residents' Christmas Lunch	The Clerk
Dec 11	Annual Carol Service for the Livery and Residents	The Clerk
2012		
Jan 20	Winter Court and Livery Dinner, Cutlers' Hall	The Clerk
Mar 23	United Guilds Service, St Paul's Cathedral	The Clerk
April 20	Installation Court and Livery Dinner, Goldsmiths' Hall	The Clerk
June 28	Summer Court (venue tba) Livery Dinner at the House of Lords	The Clerk



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