



Knitter

The Newsletter of the Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters

The Perfect Setting for our Annual Banquet

The Master, Honourable Elizabeth Green, accompanied by her husband, Mr Peter Green, welcomed 193 Members and guests to the Mansion House on the evening of 14th October 2016 for our Annual Livery Banquet. The occasion was graced by the attendance of The Company of Pikemen and Musketeers, dressed most strikingly in their full uniform with pikes and muskets.



This felt very appropriate on the 950th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings, and certainly added distinction to an already grand occasion.

Following the reception, we moved through to the magnificent Egyptian Hall into which the Master and her principal guests processed. Grace was said by the Master's Chaplain, The Very Reverend Dr Derek Hole, in his own inimitable style. Music was splendidly performed by the Band of the Royal Yeomanry (Inns of Court and City of London) who played a variety of well-known pieces, culminating in the Post Horn Gallop.

The catering staff served a most appetising dinner of Salmon Confit followed by Fillet of Beef and concluding with Pear and Chocolate Mousses. This veritable feast was accompanied by wines of distinction.

After the sung grace, the Ceremony of the Loving Cup and the usual toasts, Past Master George Turner, as Chairman of the Bursary Awards Committee, presented four of the recent Bursary winners, who received their awards from Alderman Sir David Wootton. Bethan Jones won the Byford Bursary, an award with its origins within the Master's family.



Socks for our Guests

Then, the Master introduced the two speakers – Sir David Wootton and Mr David Mercer.

She also welcomed the Masters of a number of other Livery Companies, and in her allocution amusingly and touchingly referred to Baroness Byford as "Mum".

Sir David spoke entertainingly, apologising for his inability to be with us during his year as Lord Mayor. He noted that he had since made up for this by speaking twice to us in recent years. He

was also delighted to point out that our Master and her mother hold the distinction of being the first mother and daughter to be Masters of Livery Companies. On behalf of the Lord Mayor, he presented our Master with a pewter dish and our Clerk with a pair of cufflinks.

David Mercer, who had been a senior Wimbledon umpire and is a well-known sporting broadcaster, spoke humorously of his experiences as a BBC commentator. These included reminiscences about a range of personalities including Fred Perry, David Coleman and Brian Johnston. He had been the umpire in the legendary Wimbledon Men's Singles Final in 1984 between Jimmy Connors and John McEnroe. Echoing McEnroe, he told us that he "could not be serious"! Our Master then warmly thanked the speakers and presented them both with the customary Company socks. She also thanked all those who had helped to make the evening such a success, particularly our Clerk, Shaun Mackaness, and our Beadle, Jamie Wallis.

After our Master, Wardens and principal guests had processed back into the splendid Mansion House Reception Hall, we followed them for all to conclude the evening with a Stirrup Cup.

Liveryman Helen Woolfe



Our Bursary Winners



**THE WORSHIPFUL
COMPANY OF
FRAMEWORK
KNITTERS**

2016-17

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New ... New... News !!

New Liverymen

**We were delighted to welcome four new Liverymen at our
Installation and Summer Courts. Here's who they are.**



Barrie Moore was born in Halifax, West Yorkshire, and was Head Boy of Rishworth School. Before University, Barrie was employed for a year in the HSBC Group; and after graduating from Essex with an Economics degree in 1978, joined First National Bank of Chicago. Barrie went on to have an extensive career at a senior level in the City with several financial institutions including County NatWest Ventures and as a Director of Close Bros. He is currently a founding partner and Investment Director of Bond Capital Partners – a private-equity business in London. In 1982, Barrie became an Upholder in order to further his interest in the City of London. He has interests in opera, rugby and cricket and, after training at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, regularly sings at private events. Barrie also holds a PG Dip in Financial Strategy from the Saïd Business School, University of Oxford. He has attended many of our functions over the last five years and decided it was time to become a member in his own right.



Mike Piper is CEO of Venture Investment Partners Ltd., providing services to companies seeking to raise finance or make acquisitions, and Non-Executive Chairman of Ultrasound-Direct Ltd, providing ultrasound scanning services through a network of 70 UK locations, and of HR4UK Ltd, which provides HR & Payroll services to small businesses. He has 30 years experience in venture capital and private equity as a director of 3i plc. and as a founder director of Catapult Venture Managers Ltd. which he sold to management in 2005. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Leicester, President of The Leicestershire Lawn Tennis & Squash Club, and Chairman of Tennis Leicestershire. He has lived and worked in Leicestershire for over 20 years; and during his career came into contact with many companies allied to the Framework Knitting industry. He is a keen golfer and tennis player, and believes that membership of the Company will offer an opportunity to meet many new and interesting people through our events.



Maureen Sykes was born in Leeds and graduated as a teacher from Sheffield University, with a further course in ceramics at Leeds College of Art. Her first teaching appointment was at St. Peter's School in the centre of Leeds. She has always been a keen motor racing enthusiast, and that is where she met her future husband, Robert. Living first in Banbury, and having their two sons there, they found the life much too idyllic, and so emigrated to Canada where she had a very exciting and fulfilling time developing her interest in art and antiques, and was soon running a business importing antiques from England, finally having a shop in Niagara on the Lake. They eventually returned to Cobham, bringing an addition to their family – their daughter. Maureen returned to teaching as head of Art and Design at Danes Hill School in Oxshott, later becoming head of marketing. An enthusiastic golfer, she was lady captain at the Royal Automobile Club in Epsom, and continues to follow her interest in Art, being Chairman and now President of the Local NADFAS Society.



Suzan Woods is a writer, and worked in the glass industry, ICI and newspapers before freelancing in website development. Her husband Dennis was Master Fueller in 2013-14; and as Mistress Fueller she had a characteristically busy year, meeting several of our senior Liverymen at various events and subsequently taking on an important rôle with the organisation of her Past Masters' Year Group. She is a founder member of the Mistresses/Consorts Picture Book Committee, collecting photos of all masters' partners for a handy reference book and she also holds fund-raising events to support the project. She got her Freedom of the City on her birthday last year in the company of a large number of the Woods family and her own – the Coates family. Given the northern links of the Framework Knitters, she is proud to say that the Coates come from Helperby, but sadly can't trace connection to the Coats Cotton family nor to the trade. Suzan and Dennis have lived in Windlesham, Surrey, for the past 37 years and have 3 children Richard, Tim and Jenny and 2 tiny grandchildren.

From The Master



Driving sheep, with the Upper Warden



Frezenberg Service in Newtown Linford

some of the interviews of potential bursary award students – last year, seeing their portfolios and listening to their presentations was inspiring, and members of our Education Committee continue to offer advice to students long after they graduate. You can read overleaf about the refurbishment of four of our cottages in Oadby and the ongoing maintenance programme. Our Entertainment Committee arranges a variety of outings for our residents. The Social Committee organises fascinating visits for us all, and we enjoyed a wonderful visit to the Royal College of Art, where we met some of their students, including some of our bursary winners. Our Membership Committee is holding some drinks evenings in the City to encourage people to join us. It was a great pleasure to welcome new Freemen and Liverymen in April, and we are due to introduce more new members at our January Court Meeting.



Supporting Fairtrade

Rather than write lots of words about the past six months, I thought a photo diary would be the most effective way to explain what I have been up to on behalf of the Company – it is a real privilege, and both Peter and I have accepted as many invitations as possible to fly the flag for our Livery. As anyone who has dipped into the Master's Blog on our website will have seen, the opportunities and range of events to attend are endless. Peter and I were thrilled to host thirty-five Masters and their consorts to a guided tour of the Houses of Parliament, which was followed on a lovely sunny day by drinks on the terrace and lunch in the Cholmondeley Room.

Events I have attended include the election of the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs, the Army Cadet Force training day at Sennybridge in Brecon, the Sheriffs' Ball at Guildhall, a trip to both the Ruddington Museum and the Wigston Framework Knitters Museum, lectures on subjects such as Globalisation and the flight of Amy Johnson, the Distillers 'Tasting Evening', driving sheep over London Bridge, fundraising evenings for Veterans Aid and the Army War Widows, and so much more! As a Company we have taken part in the Swimathon and various golf days, and our Leicester weekend was well supported and much enjoyed by Liverymen and residents alike. My Master's weekend away was a very special weekend, and having Past Master Rolf Noskwith with us at Bletchley Park was the icing on the cake!



We've just elected the Sheriffs

Looking forward to the next six months, I will be attending



The Master's Tea Party for our Residents at Oadby

Finally we are very excited to be taking part in the Lord Mayor's Show on 12th November 2016, and you can see a sneak preview of our float on the back page of this Newsletter. Peter and I are very grateful for all the support, advice and encouragement from our Liverymen, Assistants and Past Masters.

We very much look forward to serving and promoting the Livery in the next half of our year.



Relaxing at Ironbridge



Jailed & Bailed

A New Look for our Cottage Homes



Just about to start

The Cottage Homes Management Committee took the decision early in 2015 to renovate the four oldest cottages – 12, 13, 14 and 15 – all built in 1909. The Almshouse Charity, whose guidelines we follow, recommends that properties are maintained to a sufficient standard, and we have in place a rolling plan of action to deal with all the cottages as required.

All four properties were largely in sound condition, and we came to the conclusion in all cases that a rebuild was not required. Therefore, the decision was taken to build an extension to each of the kitchens in order to provide a lot more space, to have a complete overhaul of the bathroom and conversion to showers as requested



One of the new kitchens – light, airy and a pleasure to use

by all residents, and that general painting and decorating and new carpets to the rest of the property would achieve the required improvements.

The renovations began at a time when two cottages – 12 and 13 – were empty sadly owing to Eileen Kimberley's death and Sylvia Waterfall being taken into care.

In September 2015 we therefore moved Hazel and Vi out of 14 & 15 and into 12 & 13 for the short term (with their full agreement!) so that we could renovate those cottages first and hopefully have them back in for Christmas. This almost worked: in fact, it wasn't until early January that we managed to move them both back home and start work on 12 & 13.

Following a few issues with the weather (and particularly the water board!) I am pleased to report that cottage 13 is now occupied by a new resident – May O'Reilly – and that cottage 12 will shortly be occupied.

The accompanying pictures show the new kitchen and the external view of all four cottages with their extensions. Hazel and Vi have both expressed their delight with their "new" cottages.



Honorary Treasurer Matthew Ellis

The Finished Product

Not-So-Horrible Histories



The day after the Banquet saw 31 Liverymen and friends assembled at the Tower of London for a tour. It transpires that many of us have not visited the Tower for years, and we were all impressed by the innovations which have taken place. We were taken around by an excellent guide, Wendy Hammerston, who impressed us with her detailed knowledge and

enthusiasm. What came as a surprise was the many different uses of the Tower over the years – it was:

- originally built as a Royal Palace though has not served that purpose since Henry VIII's day;
- the Royal Mint until 1840: Sir Isaac Newton was Master of the Mint (in 1699 alone, he prosecuted 28 people for counterfeiting!). I wonder what he would make of the new £5 notes;
- the first Observatory, though its position as such is rumoured to have been compromised by the incontinence of the ravens, which made rather a mess of some of the equipment! King Charles agreed to their destruction until he was reminded of the legend that if the ravens left the Tower, the monarchy would be under threat. So the ravens remained, and the Observatory was moved to Greenwich;



- the first Royal zoo – the menagerie included lions, elephants, and polar bears. Sadly, the animals frequently attacked one another and indeed the staff – hence the animals were moved to more suitable premises in Regents Park;
- a residence for the famous Yeomen Warders ('Beefeaters') – of whom there are currently 37, all former non-commissioned officers.

Other uses, as well as housing imprisoned traitors and providing safe keeping for the Crown Jewels (which we all admired), have included the Public Records Office, the Royal Armouries, the Royal Treasury and barracks to house a thousand troops.

Although the ravens haven't left the Tower, some of us were intrigued to learn that this is because they have had their wings clipped, to ensure that they stay put – so they don't have much choice! Given that each is fed 6 ounces of raw meat a day, bird biscuits dipped in blood as well as a whole (presumably dead) rabbit as an occasional treat, and are looked after by their very own raven master – Raven Heaven in other

Wendy Explains All

words – it seems unlikely that they would want to leave.

Wendy described some of the sadder aspects of the Tower's history – nine people were executed there, including 3 queens and 2 kings – with a little too much grisly detail for some. Anne Boleyn was executed at the Tower, as were Lady Jane Grey and Catherine Howard. A rather beautiful modern memorial, opened some ten years ago and designed by British artist, Brian Catling, commemorates the spot where the scaffolding was assembled each time it was required for its gory purpose – presumably with the poor prisoner gazing down from the Bloody Tower where many of them were incarcerated. Much of the graffiti they left is still visible. We learnt about the fate of the two young princes who were sent to the Tower by their uncle, the Duke of Gloucester, declared illegitimate in 1483 and were never seen again. Though their actual fate has never been uncovered, it is assumed that they were murdered on the orders of their uncle, who was then crowned Richard III and whose resting-place we visited during the Leicester weekend. What is more certain is that two skeletons discovered under the stairs during renovation work in 1674 were those of the two young princes – they were reburied in Westminster Abbey.

Following a fascinating tour, we had an excellent lunch at a local hostelry – Hung, Drawn and Quartered – before leaving for either a return visit (included in our tickets) or for home, after what all agreed had been a thoroughly enjoyable weekend.

Liveryman Claire Bethel



A Sizzling Sunny Summer



A Warm Reception

Very Reverend Dr Derek Hole – proceeded with his usual inventive and entertaining grace. The menu choice was excellent - I particularly enjoyed the Saddle of Welsh Lamb! – each course being complemented with a very palatable wine. The Master took wine with new Liveryman Michael Piper and also allowed her guests the usual standing exercises for the toasts to “The Queen” and “Other Members of the Royal Family” together, of course with the toast to the “Lord Mayor and City of London Corporation”. We were then beautifully entertained by members of The London Youth Choir – which was established two years ago and is composed of young people between the ages of 7 and 21 from all backgrounds.

The Master then introduced the first speaker – Miss Caitlin Charles-Jones. Caitlin spoke with a maturity and eloquence that belied her young age but that showed she was a deserving recipient of her many awards since graduating from the University of Kingston. She received an award from our own Company in 2014, followed by a Bursary which assisted her in accepting a place at Cockpit Arts. She acknowledged the valued advice and assistance given to her by Past Master George Turner when studying at the Royal College of Art. Graduating with an MA, she then went to work in Italy at Missoni, before coming back to the UK to set up her own business, and has since exhibited collections at London Fashion Week. Caitlin has taken up the Freedom of the Company and is currently a valued member of our Membership Committee.

Our second speaker was Professor Lord McColl of Dulwich CBE who is a Past Master Barber. Lord McColl spoke about some of his experiences as a surgeon involved in the charity, “Mercy Ships”. He gave a brief history of its beginnings, explaining how with an initial donation of £4 million it enabled the purchase of a 15,000 ton Danish ship, which was converted into a

On Friday 1st July 2016 we were treated to a lavish summer dinner at Skinners’ Hall. The surroundings were truly magnificent as is befitting of one of the “Great Twelve” Livery Companies of the City of London.

We were greeted by the Master, Honourable Elizabeth Green, and her consort Peter, together with Upper Warden Peter White and his consort Julia. The outer hall area was very light and spacious, with French doors opening out onto an inner court garden – very much adding to the country house feel of the occasion – for the pre-dinner drinks reception. After greeting the Master and Warden and guests into the banqueting hall, the Master’s Chaplain – the



Dining in splendour

Delight at Skinners' Hall

100-bed floating hospital. Currently, there are up to 450 unpaid volunteers on board providing medical assistance mainly in and around the African continent. As a surgeon on board for up to three months a year, he has clearly contributed to bettering many patients' lives and saving the lives of many others. He gave a most interesting insight into his 16-year commitment to the charity, especially when one considers his free time is fitted around a very busy schedule as an active member of the House of Lords.

The Master then rose to her feet to thank both speakers and present them with the customary FWK gift of socks and 'The History of The Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters'

book. She then spoke fondly of her first three months in office, and shared some of her experiences to date with us. Mention was made of the Master's Weekend based at Woburn, and thanks were expressed to Past Master Rolf Noskwith and David Bentata (Past Master Feltmaker) for their contributions during the weekend. Additional thanks were expressed to Past Masters Brian and Graham Smith for providing a milk 'Float', which is currently being adapted for our entry into The Lord Mayor's Show in November, and also to Assistant Matthew Ellis for the work he has done in overseeing the refurbishment of our cottages in Oadby. Last and by no means least, the Master thanked the Company's Clerk, Shaun Mackaness, and his wife, Mary, for all their efforts in organising a most successful summer dinner.

After thanking all her guests and fellow Liverymen for their valued support and attendance, we were all invited to join the Master for a stirrup cup before carriages, to conclude a most excellent and enjoyable evening.

Assistant Ian Grundy



The London Youth Choir



Caitlin Charles-Jones



Professor Lord McColl

Stately Homes, Secrets and Spies

This year, our Master's Away Weekend took us first to Chicksands, then to Bletchley Park, and finally off to Woburn Abbey. For many of us, the weekend started on the evening of Thursday 5th May, as we joined fellow Liverymen and guests for dinner at the delightful Woburn Hotel. But the trip started in earnest the next morning, when we were whisked off to the Military Intelligence Museum in Chicksands – the top-secret (well, almost) training school for intelligence agents in all three armed forces. Then to Bletchley Park, to see how the Intelligence Services helped win WW2. A formal dinner that night prepared us for a grand tour of nearby Woburn Abbey on the Saturday. Read all about it below.

Chicksands – A School for Spies



Chicksands is one of the most striking military bases in the UK, being sold to the War Office in 1938. Ever since then it has been

associated with intelligence operations, and we needed our passports before being allowed in !!

The museum is a treasure-trove of memorabilia covering the history of espionage, and our guides (Tim Fryer & Sally-Ann Reed) took great pleasure in showing us the exhibits and explaining how everything worked (well, up to a point). We learned about Sidney Cotton, the Australian who in September 1939 pioneered the use of high-speed 'planes (he commandeered and converted two spitfires) for aerial photography to gather intelligence. The Secret Intelligence Service wore hidden lapel badges marked 'CC11', standing for 'Cotton's Club' and the 11th Commandment: 'thou shall not be caught'.

To maintain the camaraderie of those days, the Medmenham Club was formed in 1946: membership is now open to anyone closely associated with photographic intelligence.

commandeered by our Master for this event – showed us many of the fascinating exhibits, including, of course, a demonstration of the Enigma machine. Next, a visit to see a demonstration of the Turing-



A model of the 'bombe'

designed 'bombe' which was used to decrypt it. Every day, Chicksands sends an encrypted message to Bletchley for decryption: so far, they've always succeeded.

But we just scraped the surface: there was far too much to take in; so we were all delighted to learn that our tickets were valid for repeat visits for a whole year!

Bletchley Park & WW2

Bletchley Park was the central site for Britain's code-breakers during World War II. Run by the Government Code and Cypher School, it regularly penetrated the secret communications of the Axis Powers – most importantly the German Enigma and Lorenz ciphers. The official historian of World War II British Intelligence has written that the "Ultra" intelligence produced at Bletchley shortened the war by two to four years, and that without it the outcome of the war would have been uncertain.

We've all heard about Alan Turing and Gordon Welchman, but one of the unsung heroes was our very own Rolf Noskwith, who joined the team in June 1941 and went on to become our Master in 1984. So we were delighted that he and his wife, Annette, were able to join us that Friday for a very personal guided tour, full of wonderful tales of derring do. But even Annette didn't learn of Rolf's involvement until 1974 following the publication of F. W. Winterbotham's *The Ultra Secret*, such was the degree of secrecy to which everyone there was sworn.

Our other guide – Col. David King, a former Clerk to the Farmers' Company for some ten years and



An Enigma Machine



The Master with Rolf Noskwith, back at his old desk

– all part of our Master's Weekend

A Warm Welcome at Woburn



A little snack beforehand

and in 1985, 22 deer from the Woburn estate were returned to China (as their native herd had by then died out), with a further 18 sent two years later. There are now nine species of deer in the park.

We all met for coffee in the Duchess' tea-room before entering Woburn Abbey, originally a monastery, given to the Russell family by Edward VI in 1547. We toured the Palladian mansion – the home of the Duke of Bedford's family – in groups of ten, admiring priceless chinoiserie, magnificent works of art including Rembrandts, Van Dycks, Canalettos, Gainsboroughs and Reynolds. We saw exquisite porcelain including the Sèvres Pavilion, many Russell family portraits with ornate and exquisite gilding and opulence on a scale to rival Buckingham Palace; and descended the Vaults to gaze at the Russell family collection of silver and gold table-pieces.

Our friendly and well-informed guides were able to advise us about many of the personalities of the portraits, and pointed out pencil sketches by Queen Victoria of her children, the famous "Armada" portrait of Queen Elizabeth I, and the portrait of Duchess Anna Marie who entertained her friends at Woburn Abbey at 4.00pm., thus starting the tradition of afternoon tea.

Much was also made of recently uncovered unique and ancient Chinese wallpaper wall decoration.

Apart from the magnificent state rooms, we were able to view the family rooms and had a glimpse of the Duke's family's use of the property. The Abbey is home to the 15th Duke, his Duchess and their two young children.

After meeting again for lunch we divided into groups touring the splendid gardens, and returned home happy and thankful for a memorable and very well-organised weekend.

After our fascinating day at Chicksands and Bletchley Park we were all looking forward to our visit to Woburn Abbey, and it did not disappoint.

The Woburn Estate includes Woburn Abbey, the Woburn Hotel, the Safari Park and Deer Park, and Woburn Golf Club with its three fine golf courses.

We left the Woburn Hotel for a one-mile drive to the Entrance Gate of the deer park. "It's easy", said the gate-keeper, "just keep going through the park for two miles and you will come to the House" – giving us an idea of the enormity of the Woburn Estate, which seemed to stretch from horizon to horizon.

We passed huge stags of the "Père David" breed, brought centuries ago from China, which saved the breed from extinction. Its herd now numbers more than a thousand;



All assembled and ready to tour

Golf and our Livery Company

The Prince Arthur Inter-Livery Golf Cup

Held at Walton Heath Golf Club near Epsom, Surrey, this event is the key Inter-Livery golf event of the year and fifty-one companies took part. The format is a very tough foursomes 'bogey' competition, and the club has two challenging courses (we played round both of them), which have very long holes and lots of heather to catch any wayward shots!

Our team consisted of Assistant Tony Jarvis, Adrian Keene, our Master and me. We were first off at 7.45am, which meant an overnight stay nearby the previous evening. We played with Liverymen from the Founders' and Cutlers' and enjoyed their company (and some of the Founders' golf was spectacular!). Over the two rounds we scored respectably (Tony and Adrian in particular), and hopefully we played sufficiently well to be invited back again next year. Thankfully it was a dry and very sociable day, until we joined the M25 at rush hour!

Past Master Hugh Stevenson



Meet the Team

The Horners' Inter-Livery Trophy



Meet the Team

The 12th Inter-Livery Golf Challenge for the Horners trophy was held at Ashridge Golf Club in Buckinghamshire on Wednesday 15th June. One of the top courses in the country, the Ashridge is set in a lush swathe of National Trust woodland.

The Livery was represented by the Master Liz Green, Past Master George Turner, Assistant Ian Grundy and Liveryman Martin Madden. All enjoyed the game, the camaraderie and the fellowship which is the hallmark of our Livery and which was ever present throughout the round. The result was never really in doubt; and the unexpected fine weather, the quality food and good company at the luncheon beat the best efforts of our Livery Golf team. However, all was not lost,

assuming one overlooks a number of golf balls, for what was gained was a meritorious middle-order placement behind worthy winners from the Worshipful Company of Fruiterers.

Our Livery has previous good form in this competition as past runners-up and as winners in 2014. The team of 2016 is determined to improve; and – with the inclusion of other golfers from the Livery – looks certain to do so. Next year's date of Wednesday 14th June – again at Ashridge – is eagerly anticipated.

Liveryman Martin Madden

Leicester Golf Match and Dinner

The annual Company golf competition for the Howard Ellis Salver was held on Friday 9th September, to mark the beginning of the Leicester Weekend (see also Pages 14 & 15). The event attracted a good field of players, with twenty-nine liverymen and guests enjoying the Leicestershire course. Once again, although rain threatened occasionally, the weather remained fair.

It is embarrassing to report that as organiser, I was the winner of the Company trophy by one Stableford point from Martin Madden, with Tony Jarvis coming in third. The Byford Cup for the guests was won for



Adrian receives his prize



As does Mike Davis

the second year running by Mike Davis (a guest of Past Master George Turner), followed by Susan Barrett in second place and Marion Keene in third.

The golf was then followed by dinner, where we were joined by a number of other

Liverymen and their guests when once again the catering staff at the Club produced an excellent meal. These post-golf dinners are always open to non-playing Freemen, Liverymen and all their guests, and it always makes a great start to the Leicester weekend.

The event for next year will be held at the Leicestershire Golf Club on Friday 8th September 2017, and as ever, all Liverymen and their guests will be most welcome to the dinner and the golf.



A Great Dinner to Complete the Day

Liveryman Adrian Keene

The Art of Textiles

A Social-Committee Outing to The Royal College of Art and The Victoria & Albert Museum



Meeting the students



Lunch in the Senior Common Room

In our previous newsletter, we outlined our involvement with knitting students; and on Wednesday 25th May we were able to meet for ourselves some of the students that we support, and see their creations and see where it all happens.

In the morning, thanks to the kind offices of Sarah Dallas – RCA's Senior Tutor, Fashion Knitwear – 17 lucky Liverymen and their guests were treated to a splendid tour of the RCA's knitting and other facilities along with the opportunity to meet some of the students themselves – including some of our Bursary-Award winners. Then, after a delicious lunch in the Senior



Admiring a V&A Tapestry

Staff restaurant, we made our way to The Victoria & Albert Museum, where we met up with our highly-knowledgeable guide Anne Haworth, who steered us round a wealth of textile-themed exhibits to the delight of all.

Afterwards, we went our separate ways to explore more of the V&A before returning home.

Visit to the Royal Hospital Chelsea



**The Master with
Sergeant Michael Allen**

Assembling at Chelsea Gate to await the start of our visit to the Royal Hospital, the Master, members and friends of the Livery, engaging themselves in appreciative talk of the previous evening's Summer Dinner, gave way to a friendly if definite call to attention by Michael Allen. The former Sergeant in the Royal Military Police, dressed resplendently in the Hospital's distinctive scarlet uniform, introduced himself as our guide. Michael gave us a most informative and interesting talk about the Hospital, its formation, traditions and the lifestyle of its residents. Nothing particularly unusual in that as you might expect: however, what was not usual nor anticipated coming from a 75-year-old retiree, was the dry wit and self-deprecating turn of phrase, out-loud mirth and good natured ribbing of the French in particular, which formed his humorous personality, more akin to a cabaret turn and far from a rote of dry facts and figures.

So the visit got off to a good start, and continued at that level with anecdotes, asides and observational humour. The story behind the 68 acres in South West London came to life, a mix of revealing facts and insights: the Hospital is not a hospital as we understand it, although there is an infirmary... it's slightly more complicated. Founded in 1682 by King Charles II as a home for soldiers who were unfit for further duty because of injury or old

age, the origin was a 'hopital,' from the French, a place of care, hosting and hospitality. Much of the initiative for the Hospital came through the persuasive charms of Nell Gwynne on King Charles. Other curios uncovered on our walkabout: the absence of any Sailors and Airmen, the short-lived and sadly missed brewery under the Great Hall, the court marshalling in the Great Hall of Captain Bligh of 'Mutiny on the Bounty' fame, and General Wellesley. Though, in the case of the Duke of Wellington, reconciliation was made by the use of the Great Hall for his lying in State. Turning to newer historic figures, the hospital's patronage by Baroness Thatcher is



Laughter in the Great Hall

recognised by having the new infirmary named after her. The former Prime Minister's ashes, and those of her husband Denis, are interned in the grounds.

In detail, we saw a model of the former stark conditions of the windowless 6ft x 6ft berths on the Long Ward, contrasting with a video of today's independent living: studio-apartment accommodation for its 286 residents equipped with wet rooms, living space, bedroom and that previously denied liberty – a window. Leaving College Court and entering Figure Square, 'the wow factor' meter soared: the 7ft 6 inch statue of Charles II dressed as Caesar sculptured by Grinling Gibbons, cast in a copper alloy

originally gilded (it was bronzed in 1787), and in 2002 the statue was regilded to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee. Put simply, it was a standout feature. The square, built up on three sides to a Wren design, is the back-drop to the annual Chelsea Flower Show held in the grounds and woods by the Royal Horticultural Society. It is also the staging point for the Founder's Day parade, held on the first Thursday of June and supported each year by Royal attendance.

Through the Portico under the Cupola, the tour took us to the Great Hall – a most magnificent dining room with its oak panelling honouring battle campaigns and eye-catching pendant light fittings. The service is at table, allowing more time to appreciate the surroundings. A quick peep at the menu card showed what quality fare is available. Then across the Octagonal Hall and into the Wren-designed Chapel of clear windows, collegiate-styling and oak panelling, with its altar-piece depicting the resurrection following St. Matthew's Gospel. It is used for Church of England services. There is another chapel – All Saints – in the infirmary, which is interdenominational.

Further interesting facts: the youngest resident is 65, the oldest 102, the average age 87. There are 13 ladies out of the 286 residents; and understandably, there is a waiting list, which is currently suspended due to demand. To be eligible for admission, a candidate must be a former non-commissioned officer or soldier of the British Army (including National Service) who is over 65 years of age, unencumbered by having to support a spouse or family and in receipt of an Army Pension or War Disability Pension. The Hospital receives an annual grant of £10 million from the Ministry of Defence to be spent on the well-being of the residents, which leaves a significant fund to be met by other sources for the buildings' upkeep.

Our visit concluded, the Master spoke warmly of our collective appreciation, thanked Michael and wished him well. Afterwards, we walked to Sloane Square for our pre-arranged lunch at Côte Brasserie – part of Sloane Square Hotel – for a most enjoyable and good-value lunch.



A history lecture from an expert



The Group all ready to learn

Grateful thanks to the Social Committee for their help and organisation, and to Liveryman Helen Woolfe, who had special responsibility for this outing.

If you liked what you have read (despite my own failings as a reporter), this is an example, not an exception, of the social programme which follows most London dinners. It is always an option; but in many ways it is a composite part, making a contribution to the enjoyment and adding more to their weekend for those who take up the visits. So if you want, you can just book in and come along on the Saturday visits: an appealing feature of our friendly Livery.

Liveryman Martin Madden

As ever, the traditional Leicester

Visiting Richard III

So you want to be a King? You want to be buried under a car park? Look no further than a weekend in Leicester. The whole history of Richard III is beautifully illustrated at the Visitor Centre, which is adjacent to the Cathedral. Richard was the last Yorkist king, and effectively his death ended the War of the Roses. His father's continual conflict with Henry VI was the major cause of that war. Richard's father and brother were killed at the battle of Wakefield, when Richard's elder brother became Edward IV. Richard became king on his brother's death in 1483. Enter the Duke of Buckingham, a former ally of Richard's, who spread discontent among the aristocracy. Henry Tudor, living in France, landed in South Wales and then engaged Richard at Bosworth Field in August 1485. If you want to be king, learn to ride and stay on a horse, particularly in full armour! Richard didn't, fell from his horse, and suffered eleven wounds to the head. These are particularly and gruesomely illustrated in the Visitor Centre. His body was taken unceremoniously to Grey Friars church, and discreetly buried by the Friars, without ceremony. He suffered curvature of the spine, the Friars bending his body to get it in the coffin, as the new King Henry VII did not want to make a shrine to the late King Richard. In August 2012, Leicester Council, Leicester University and The Richard III society initiated a search, not only for where they thought Richard was buried, but also to search for Grey Friars Church, which burnt down some years ago. You can see where the body was found, and once DNA had established that it truly was Richard, there was a wonderful memorial service in the Cathedral, where he finally lies to rest in his own splendid tomb.

We are particularly indebted to Liveryman Martin Traynor who, as the leading light behind the Centre, not only organised the outing but provided us with splendid refreshments on arrival – and waived the entrance fee too !! He also organised the luncheon afterwards at the nearby Case Restaurant – the perfect venue to complete a perfect morning.

Liveryman Robert Sykes



The Richard III Centre



Tomb in the Cathedral



To end, lunch at Case



Our Clerk
sings for his
supper

Dining in Regal Splendour

Following the stimulating visit to the Richard III Exhibition and an afternoon spent at our leisure, we assembled in an ante-room in the Grand Hotel for an aperitif and then made our way to, appropriately, The King's Room for dinner. The meal was enjoyed by all, and we were delighted that some 20 residents of the Cottage Homes were able to join us this time – more than on any previous occasion.

We dined on duck followed by salmon, and finished off with a glazed lemon tart, all accompanied by matching Italian and Australian wines. This was only the second time we have dined at the Grand Hotel during the Leicester weekend – the hotel had responded well to feedback following last year's event and everyone who attended agreed that the meal was of a very high standard and in a splendid setting.

Weekend continues to flourish

We then enjoyed an unprecedented musical entertainment when – to our great delight and, to most of us, surprise – our very own Clerk, Shaun Mackaness, took to the floor and sang *Madeira M'Dear* from *At the Drop of a Hat* by Flanders and Swann to great – and enthusiastic – acclaim. This was followed by Emma Trounson, a soprano soloist, who is the Choral Director at Leicester Cathedral. She was accompanied (as was Shaun) on the keyboard by Dr. Chris Ouvry-Johns, the Director of Music at Leicester Cathedral, which many of us had visited earlier in the day. Their programme comprised three numbers from musicals ranging from Leonard Bernstein to Andrew Lloyd Webber – also deservedly well-received. Colonel Robert (“Bertie”) Boyle then presented the Master’s Annual Awards to two members of the Leicestershire and Derbyshire Yeomanry, which is affiliated to our Livery Company, in recognition of their outstanding commitment to their Squadron: Sergeant Ben Brassington and Lance Corporal Matthew Mensak. Sadly, they were unable to be with us to receive their commendations, but their citations described their enthusiastic contributions to the important work that the Squadron does on our behalf. And so, after an exhausting but entertaining day, via a stirrup cup, to bed.



Dinner in King’s Hall

Liveryman Claire Bethel

Our Annual Church Service

One enduring feature of the Leicester Weekend is the Sunday Service, presided over by the Master and usually conducted by the Master’s Chaplain, currently The Very Rev’d Dr. Derek Hole, in our local parish church – St. Peter’s, Oadby. This year, Derek spoke passionately about our origins and the charitable work undertaken by our Livery, emphasising how Leicester’s proud history and cultural diversity is reflected in the way that we care for our Cottage Homes residents and others in the knitting industry, and he also specially praised our work with the Education Award winners, who continue to make a great contribution to society. And as with all of our weekend activities, the church service is open to all Residents, Freemen, Liverymen and their guests.



With thanks to Liveryman Derek Hole

St. Peter’s

Last but not least – Our Barbecue



Lunch on the lawn

Our Saturday visit to the Richard III Exhibition may have been wetter than we would have liked, but the Sunday brought us the now almost-mandatory warm weather for our annual barbecue in the grounds of Corah Hall. Freemen, Liverymen, Guests and our Residents all joined in, with Master Chefs Assistants Matthew Ellis and Peter Corah cooking all of our food to perfection. Visitors bring their “main course”, but the Company provides all the other barbecue essentials, including jacket potatoes, baked beans, a variety of sauces and mayonnaise and, of course, for those on a diet, a healthy selection of salads. With butter and lighter spreads and bread rolls aplenty, a good time for all is always guaranteed.

Dates for your diary

2016

2nd November	City of London Briefing, Guildhall	The Clerk
7th November	Festival of Remembrance, St. Paul's Churchyard	The Clerk
11th November	Silent Ceremony to install The Lord Mayor, Guildhall	The Clerk
12th November	The Lord Mayor's Show	The Social Committee
17th November	New and prospective Members Evening, City venue	Assistant Simon Burrows
23rd November	St. Cecilia's Celebration of Music, Westminster Abbey	The Clerk
30th November	City of London Briefing, Guildhall	The Clerk
6th December	Ladies Outing at The Bank of England, with lunch at The Don	The Clerk
10th December	Brigantes Supper & Concert, Chester Cathedral	The Clerk

2017

20th January	Winter Court & Dinner, Cutlers' Hall	The Clerk
21st January	Post-Dinner outing to The Foundling Museum	The Social Committee
28th February	Inter-Livery Pancake Race, Guildhall Yard	The Clerk
15th March	Evening visit to the College of Arms, plus supper	The Social Committee
31st March	United Guilds Service, St. Paul's Cathedral	The Clerk
6th April	The Lord Mayor's "Big Curry Luncheon"	The Clerk
7th April	Installation Court & Dinner, Vintners' Hall	The Clerk
8th April	Post-Installation Outing to Sir John Soane's Museum	The Social Committee
10th May	Bart's View Day, St. Bartholomew the Great / Bart's Hall	The Clerk
12th to 14th May	Master's Weekend in the Surrey Hills	The Clerk
23rd June	Summer Court & Dinner, Stationers' Hall	The Clerk
24th June	Post-Dinner Outing – venue to be decided	The Social Committee
26th June	Common Hall for the election of the Sheriffs	The Clerk

The Leicester Weekend: 8th to 10th September

8th September	Golf Match & Golf Dinner	Liveryman Adrian Keene
9th September	Ceremony of the Socks and Livery Dinner	The Clerk
10th September	Annual Church Service, followed by Barbecue at the Cottage Homes	The Clerk
29th September	Common Hall for the election of the Lord Mayor	The Clerk
27th October	Livery Banquet, Fishmongers' Hall	The Clerk
6th November	Festival of Remembrance, St. Paul's Cathedral	The Clerk
6th November	City of London Briefing, Guildhall	The Clerk
10th November	Silent Ceremony to install The Lord Mayor, Guildhall	The Clerk
11th November	The Lord Mayor's Show	The Social Committee

Come and join us on Saturday 12th November 2016 at The Lord Mayor's Show – we have Grandstand Seats by St. Paul's Cathedral, or you can join in,



walking behind along with other Freemen, Liverymen and Guests: either way, you'll be able to see this float in all its glory in this super parade.

Please remember that further details of most of the above events – and more – can be found in the Members section of our website.

And more importantly, most can (and should, if possible) be booked through the website too: this not only ensures that your booking is recorded but will also give you an emailed confirmation of your booking for your records.

Do you know of an event that's not shown above that you think might interest your fellow Liverymen? Or are you thinking of organising an event yourself? Perhaps there's an event that you'd like to see in the future?

If any of the above applies to you, do get in touch with the Social Committee, who are always delighted to receive suggestions for the diary.