



Knitter

The Newsletter of the Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters

A Dapper Installation in Drapers' Hall



With formality, yet lightness and decorous style, on the evening of 8th April 2016 we celebrated the installation of The Hon Elizabeth Green (who likes to be known simply as Liz) as our Master in Drapers' Hall – an awesome and most fitting venue. She had family support aplenty for the occasion, being accompanied by her husband, her mother and her two children: Liz is the third generation of her family to hold the office of Master of our Livery Company – an achievement indeed. We were honoured to have with us as speakers Alderman & Sheriff Charles Bowman and the Master Draper (John Giffard, CBE, QPM, DL), together with their consorts, and a lance

guard from our affiliated Leicestershire & Derbyshire Yeomanry. Drapers' Hall has a history which is common to a number of the older buildings in the City of London, in that the original hall burned down in the Great Fire of 1666, was rebuilt, and a second fire saw a further re-building. The result is an amalgam of the architecture of several people, so that what we see today has no one definitive style; and in his speech, John Giffard included a description of the magnificent Shakespearean scenes on the ceiling. The 80 Liverymen were joined by over 110 guests, and the occasion was skilfully supervised and orchestrated by our Gallant Clerk, Shaun Mackaness, and our Beadle & Toastmaster, Jamie Wallis – men of tact and discretion, among other qualities, and much valued by the Company.

With everyone greeted by the new Master, Wardens and their Consorts, the Beadle called for us to move into the hall for dinner. Grace was said by the Master's chaplain, and is most appropriately called 'Grace before Meat'. Dinner was a most delicious feast accompanied by some very fine wines; the atmosphere relaxed and jolly. The Ceremony of The Loving Cup appears to excite emotions of both humour and embarrassment – in fairly equal parts! Those familiar with it, mainly Liverymen of long standing, set about the ceremony with the air of assurance, while some guests wore worried expressions: suffice it to say that all was completed in a good-hearted way. The ceremony affords a real connection with one's neighbours at table.

Music is an integral part of our Livery Dinners; and on this occasion we experienced the pleasure of being entertained by musicians of talent and quality: an ensemble from The Guildhall School of Music who sang and played items from opera, West Side Story and Les Misérables – something to be savoured.

Under Warden Nick Turner welcomed and proposed the toast to the guests, responded to by John Giffard. The toast to The Company was proposed by Charles Bowman; and in her response, the Master began by thanking the Immediate Past Master, her Wardens, and everyone else involved in the organisation of the evening, and many others for their work and goodwill, and set out her theme for the year: **Friendship, Fellowship & Fun.**

She echoed and endorsed the sentiments of Charles Bowman, emphasising the importance and value of education and employability and the good work of our Education Committee. Her message was very simple but meaningful: all Liverymen are a part of a community, and our purpose as such is to enjoy the fellowship that community brings with it, to be a friend one to the other, in the true meaning of friendship in good times and bad and to celebrate together with joy and laughter. Livery companies were originally formed to offer group support in very uncertain times – has it changed so much? The Master calls on us all to play an active part in our Company to support its activities and traditions, and in so doing we support other Companies which together bind to form the structure of this great city of ours.





**THE WORSHIPFUL
COMPANY OF
FRAMEWORK
KNITTERS**

2016-17

The Master

Elizabeth Green
master@frameworkknitters.co.uk

Upper Warden

Peter White

Under Warden

Nicholas Turner

The Clerk

Shaun Mackaness
The Grange, Kimcote
Lutterworth LE17 5RU
01455 - 203152
clerk@frameworkknitters.co.uk

**This Newsletter is produced by the
Editorial Team with the guidance
of the Social Committee.**

Editor

Paul Bethel
020 - 8660 4252
editor@frameworkknitters.co.uk

Editorial Team

Claire Bethel
Diana de Froment
Shaun Mackaness

The Social Committee

Chairman

Paul Bethel
020 - 8660 4252
social@frameworkknitters.co.uk

Members

Elizabeth Fox
Janie Martin – Secretary
Simon McIlwaine
Susan Shield
Linda Smith
Helen Woolfe

Ex Officio The Master & Wardens

Editorial & Advertising

All contributions welcome – please
contact the Editor.

www.frameworkknitters.co.uk

Web Master – Philip Tranter
0118 - 948 2713
webmaster@frameworkknitters.co.uk

New ... New... News !!

New Liverymen

We were delighted to welcome six new Liverymen at our Winter Court on Friday 15th January 2016. Here's who they are.



Sharon Beardsworth has a degree in English Literature & Drama from the University of Leicester and, with husband Roger, ran the kidswear-brand Hickory for almost 15 years. Since the mid-1990s she has worked as a consultant for many kidswear companies in the UK, Europe and Asia; setting up the very successful *Emile et Rose* brand in 2001. Although based in Leicestershire, Sharon spends 50% in Devon at the E&R Head Office, and is working on bringing back production to the UK. A member of the National Childrenswear Association, Sharon served as Chairman from 2012 – 2015 and is still a member of the Council.



Jennifer Freestone was born in Bournemouth and now lives in Greenwich. She has a BSc in Biology and Chemistry from the University of London, a Postgraduate Certificate of Education, a Diploma in the Practice of Science Education and is a Chartered Biologist. She has been a teacher throughout her working life, eventually becoming Head of Sixth Form at James Allen's Girls' School. She has a Diploma in Botanical Painting and is a painting member of the Florilegium Society of the Chelsea Physic Garden. Jennifer is also a Liveryman of the Educators, and is married to John, who was Master of the Mariners Livery in 2012-2013 and is also a Liveryman of the Gunmakers.



Liz Gilder joined Marks and Spencer on the commercial and human-resources sides to help run both small and large stores and manage the diversity of staff employed. Later, she moved to Elbeo Tights and Stockings as Personnel Manager, where she became involved in the Ruddington Framework Knitters Museum and was Chairman of the North Nottingham Textile Group. A professional trainer, she now runs a recruitment business for the Textile and Clothing Industry – *People Marketing* – based in Nottingham and still thriving after 20 years, and has been President of the Nottingham Branch of Business Professional Women.



Susan Jagelman graduated from University of Leicester in Biological Sciences and moved to London, where she worked as a medical research scientist at St. Thomas's Hospital for the Multiple Sclerosis Society. Since having three children, she has worked in the voluntary sector, primarily with *Save the Children*, with 5 years as the UK volunteer representative on the Board of Trustees. She played a leading rôle in setting up *Speaking Out*, and is a trustee for *United Response*. She is Chair of Governors at the primary school in Barley, now the family home; and husband Rodney is a Warden of the Glovers and on the Court of the Actuaries.



Adam Mansell started work in the textile industry 20 years ago and has been involved with all aspects from manufacturing through to retail. He has worked in various trade bodies representing all facets of the supply chain. In January 2016, Adam became the CEO of the UK Fashion & Textiles Association (UKFT) – the most inclusive network for fashion and textile companies in the UK, bringing together designers, manufacturers, agents and retailers. Adam is a great supporter of UK manufacturing, visiting mills and factories whenever he can. He is also a great believer in attracting young people in to the industry.



Colin Wilson lives in London and has a degree in Modern History, Politics and Economics. His working life has been in the clothing industry as a key director of a number of prestigious British companies; and he has promoted clothing exports, winning many Queen's Awards to Industry and a number of Royal Warrants. He travelled extensively, principally in the USA, Europe, & the Far East, and has also served on the councils of several United Kingdom trade organisations. His wife Barbara, who he met at Aquascutum, has also had a career in the clothing industry, and in 2010 she was awarded an MBE for Services to Export.

From The Master



Our evening at Drapers' Hall was one that Peter and I will always remember, and I thank everyone who was there, and especially our Clerk for his calm arrangements and advice both in advance and 'on the night'. On behalf of the Company, we thank David and Diane Miller for a very busy year representing our Company, which they have undertaken with good humour and a smile. A recent email from David said that he had to remember to take four suits and six shirts for a number of functions over five days, and that they had a white board and box files for train tickets and invitations to ensure they were fully organised. David attended over 100 events on behalf of the Company, and was able to impart his extensive knowledge of the knitting industry to fellow Masters and Liverymen.



The Master & Peter Green

I was delighted to join the Framework Knitters' Company in 1992, following in the footsteps of my late father and grandfathers. When our two children were younger I was not a very active Liveryman, but in recent years I have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in Inter-Livery golf and swimming events, the Lord Mayor's Show in 2013 and as Secretary of our Social Committee. I attended three Livery briefings at Guildhall, which were a great opportunity to learn more about the City and meet fellow Liverymen. Last year I chaired the Cottage Homes Committee and visited six universities and art colleges, interviewing potential bursary award winners for our Education Committee. I have learnt a huge amount and have a much better understanding of the extensive activities that are undertaken by the Company and the considerable time that Liverymen put in.

My theme for the year is 'friendship, fellowship and fun', and I hope that as many Liverymen as possible will embrace this theme. There has always been a genuine friendship among our members, and I encourage this friendship to be extended by taking part in events which are either listed on our website or sent out by

our Clerk. A great starting point is to attend a Livery briefing at Guildhall, where you will learn more about the history and the important rôle that the City plays. Guildhall is a fabulous setting, and enables Liverymen from different companies to meet. The election of the Sheriffs on 24th June and the Lord Mayor on 29th September are very important events for the City, and are each followed by a very sociable lunch. One of the highlights of the year will be our entry for The Lord Mayor's Show (which has taken place for over 800 years) on Saturday 12th November, and details for Liverymen to walk with us or sit in the stands will be sent out nearer the time. If anyone has particular skills with social media please drop me an email, as there are many opportunities with regard to the Show.

Members of our Education Committee visited 15 different colleges last autumn, stretching from Falmouth to Scotland to ensure that we chose the best candidates for our bursary awards. Our Cottage Homes Committee meets once a month to ensure the welfare of the residents and to see that the cottages are maintained to a high standard. The Social Committee has been busy planning outings, and I am very grateful to Sarah Dallas (senior lecturer) at the Royal College of Art for agreeing to allow us to meet some of the students in May. I am delighted that we are visiting the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, on Saturday 2nd July, as they do not normally offer tours on a Saturday – I encourage as many Liverymen as possible to join us in these wonderful opportunities. Peter has organised his 'Ladies outing' and has booked a talk at the Bank of England Museum on Tuesday 6th December, followed by lunch at The Don restaurant in St Swithin's Lane – this is open to all liverymen/consorts and friends.

Our Wardens, Peter and Nick, together with Peter and I are hugely looking forward to representing the Framework Knitters' Company and to seeing you all over the next twelve months.

Winter Dinner in a Safe Location

The Armourers' splendid Hall was the venue chosen by the Master, David Miller, for the Winter Dinner. His guests were welcomed in the drawing room by relaxing harp music played by Erin Samuel of The Guildhall School of Music and Drama. This was rather a contrast to the display of somewhat fearsome 16th- and 17th-century weapons and armour produced by the Armourers, whose Hall has been there since 1346.

The Very Reverend Dr. Derek Hole, the Master's Chaplain, said grace in his customary rhyming-g-couplet style, after which almost ninety Framework Knitters and their guests enjoyed a delicious dinner of Jerusalem Artichoke



Velouté, Beef Tenderloin, and Mixed Berry Fool with shortbread biscuits. The wines were well chosen to complement the meal. After the meal, the guests were entertained by Jonathan Morris, a pianist, also by kind permission of The Guildhall School, who stylishly performed three Improvisations.

Then the Toastmaster, Mr Jamie Wallis, introduced Mr Lars Tharp, FSA as our Speaker. Lars, a stalwart of the BBC's Antiques Road Show, became a highly-acclaimed ceramics specialist at Sotheby's. Now, he lectures worldwide on his subject whilst running a successful ceramics consultancy business. He is a Court member of The Worshipful Company of Weavers, the City's oldest recorded Guild. Lars thanked the Master and proposed a toast to the Company in his native Danish, and proceeded to entertain us with his customary wit and wisdom. He gave us some accounts of his experiences as a valuer. One such was finding that a rare and valuable dish had been regularly used as a dog's drinking bowl, also discovering an early Ming bowl that was used as an outdoor geranium container; and finally, meeting the owner of some "gravy boats" which were in fact ladies chamber pots!

The Master rose and thanked Lars for his speech, and then presented The David Bryars Award to Liveryman Susan Shield for her great contribution over the years to the Livery Company whilst working on the Social Committee.

The Immediate Past Master, Linda Smith, thanked the Master for organising the wonderful dinner and

proceeded to welcome Lars and Gillian Tharp in fluent Danish! Linda then welcomed the six new Liverymen who had been elected at the court meeting and thanked the Master for his enthusiastic work on our behalf during his year of office. Linda reminded us that David is a "proper pukka" Framework Knitter, as he worked commercially with garment and fabric designers and spent 42 years as a senior lecturer in textiles at Leicester's De Montfort University.

It was also revealed that the residents of the Cottage Homes presented him with a batch of home-made Eccles Cakes as a mark of their affection for him. Our Immediate Past Master also praised the Master's Consort, Diane, for the support she has given David and for her splendid Ladies Luncheon held at the National Portrait Gallery. Linda thanked him for his year "in the driving seat", and reminded him that there were another three months of enjoyable events in the City. Finally, Linda offered the Company's congratulations to our Master Elect – The Honourable Elizabeth Green, to our Upper

Warden Elect – Mr Peter White, and to our Under Warden Elect – Lt Colonel Nick Turner. The Company and guests then toasted the health of the Master and Diane.

The Master responded by thanking Linda for her invaluable support during his time as Master and also expressed his gratitude to Shaun Mackaness,

our Clerk, for guiding him through the year's various functions and events in the City. He emphasised the importance of the work that The Framework Knitters Company undertakes in supporting the training of the workforce for the knitting industry. David also offered his thanks to his wife, Diane, for her help in organising the events of the year. Saying how much he has enjoyed the year, the Master affirmed his belief that the Company would be left in excellent and capable hands when Liz Green takes over in April. Finally, in time-honoured tradition, he gave two pairs of Company socks, knitted by Past Master George Turner, to Lars and Gillian Tharp. The guests then took a stirrup cup with the Master in the Drawing Room.



A Trip Back in Time



Drawing Room

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On a sunny Saturday in January, the morning after the Winter Dinner, 27 Liverymen and their spouses arrived outside a house which looked as if it had hardly changed over many years. All around was Spitalfields and much modern development; however, in Folgate Street, time had stood still. We gathered outside Number 18 and wondered what the Social Committee had in store for us all



Dickens Room

© Roelof Bakker

this time. On the dot the door opened, and we were ushered inside into a building which had been preserved as a living museum. We were split into two groups and were firmly told that we had to explore the house in silence and to use our senses for both sound and smells. Expecting 27 Liverymen to keep silent was an impossible task and, despite everyone's best endeavours, whispers could be heard at various times.

Dennis Severs was an artist who had lived in the house until he died in 1999. He liked to use peoples' imagination as his canvas. On



The Kitchen

© Roelof Bakker

entering the house, the effect he created is that of walking into one of his paintings. In his painting, you interrupt a family of Huguenot silk weavers who have just popped out of the house. Food is on the table, fires lit, candles twinkling in the dark, clocks chime, floorboards creak and sounds drift around the house. At any minute you feel that someone might walk back in through the door. On the top floor



Master Bedroom

© Roelof Bakker

in two rooms, an entire family of weavers lived. Here the poverty is all around you. Very cramped conditions, with washing drying across the stairs, one can only imagine what the smell must have been like.

Downstairs lived the Jervis family. Mr. Jervis's wig is in its place, and the table looks as if a party has just broken up with glasses half empty. In the sitting room, Mrs. Jervis has just stepped out for a minute, as her glasses are on the table, her book is open and, down in the kitchen, food is waiting to be prepared. The beds have yet to be made, and somewhere a cat meows.

At the end of the visit, reactions were very mixed. The house's motto is "you either see it, or you don't". Some had found the whole experience very realistic; and in one or two instances it had made the hairs stand on the back of their necks. Others found it very creepy, and some found it distinctly unsettling. It was a strange feeling finally walking out of such a time warp to modern noises and development all around you.



Woodins Shades

We all then went to the Woodins Shades pub for an excellent lunch and much discussion on what we had just visited. Yet again a challenging visit, as it really tested the senses and gave a brief insight into a snapshot of life in 18th-century London.



Outside the house

Liveryman Janie Martin

Our Livery and Education

The National Theatre



David Olaniyi

With our support, in September 2015 The National Theatre was able to recruit David Olaniyi as a Mens Tailoring Apprentice within its Costume Department. David is 28 years old, from Barnet, and before starting his apprenticeship, David was holding down two part-time jobs, one in a shoe shop and the other in a fabric shop. He has a keen interest in fashion and style, and taught himself to sew to a remarkably high standard. It was clear from the start that David had a real talent in this area and a focused determination to succeed; but as he is over 24, very few other apprenticeships would be open to him.

Consequently, our award was a one-off opportunity for him to realise his dream of becoming fully qualified in the textile industry.

Cockpit Arts



Carlo Volpi

For aspiring but perhaps impoverished artists and craftsmen, Cockpit Arts – two groups of studios based in Holborn & Deptford – provides shared workshop facilities to, as they say, create a ‘business incubator’ environment where additionally a team of on-site coaches offers advice and commercial support in a creative and learning environment where participants actively help each other. Our Livery has been supporting Cockpit Arts since 2006 when we offered Elizabeth Hamlin funds to help purchase her own knitting machine; and to date we have offered four scholarships to young knitting entrepreneurs, each hoping to start their own business.

One of our students – Carlo Volpi – who set up his knitwear company after graduating from the Royal College of Art in 2012, says “being at Cockpit Arts and having a studio makes the whole idea of having your own business much more real, in both a scary and exciting way!”. After winning one of our awards and graduating from her 2-year MA ▶

City & Guilds



Grace Maries prepares her Cleopatra costume

Ever since the City & Guilds was founded in 1878, it has been encouraging and developing practical skills in its students, and now has 10,000 Training Centres covering 80 countries. It has also enjoyed royal patronage since 1881, when King Edward VII became its first president; and today the president – HRH The Princess Royal – hands The Prince Philip Medal to outstanding individuals within its bailiwick. These days, the emphasis is on promoting apprenticeships, an initiative encouraged by all the recent Lord Mayors and one which our Livery is keen to promote too.

Once we discovered that City & Guilds would match our financial contribution towards supporting an apprentice, we have – with its help – been searching for a suitable candidate; and last year we were introduced to Grace Maries, a City & Guilds Level 3 Certificate student studying design and craft-fashion. Despite suffering from a debilitating illness, Grace had already completed several small fashion courses and projects, alongside her GCSEs; and is now well under way to finishing her current course. On completing Level 3, Grace plans to do a ‘top up’ year which will convert her foundation degree to a BA honours, enabling Grace to move closer towards her dream of a life of independent living as a freelance theatre costume maker.

She speaks about how our award has really raised her self-confidence and self-belief. In Grace’s words, “It was the push I needed to believe I could do this course. I thought if they believe in me and want to back me, that must mean something really good”.

Supporting Excellence for the Future

▶ Fashion Design course at the RCA, Caitlin Charles-Jones also secured – with our help – a place at Cockpit Arts, where she is now developing her design and manufacturing skills. And when Genevieve Sweeney approached us to help her grow her business – developing her own brand of ladies and some mens knitwear – we helped her find her studio space there too.

The Social Committee is planning a visit to the Holborn studios as part of one of their outings – watch this space.



Catriona Pringle & mentor Liveryman Jan Leaf



Gillian Murphy meets The Queen

the full facilities of the Livery to aid them not only to complete their degree but also to help them get established in their future career.

Our College Awards Scheme

The Education Committee is the body responsible for planning and executing the Livery's contribution to support knitting and other textile students and also for educating other livery companies and the general public in the work of our Livery. Led by Past Master George Turner, the committee comprises many senior liverymen with a wide



The 2015 Bursary-Award Winners, with Sheriff Christine Rigden, The Master and George Turner

range of experiences in the textile industry, ranging from teaching through design & knitting-machine technology to full-scale industrial manufacturing, while others contribute a wider knowledge of commerce, education and industry.

Formerly known as The Bursary & Awards Committee, its original remit was to seek out and support outstanding knitting students in UK universities and art colleges. Starting from a relatively few number of colleges visited, last year we invited eighteen colleges in England and Scotland to submit their two best knitting students: fifteen replied, and between them the committee visited all fifteen and interviewed 36 candidates (some colleges proposed more than two – but they all appeared good enough to meet !!). In order to maintain standards across the board, one committee member is designated to visit every college. For the last few years, this onerous task has fallen to Liveryman Humphrey Barrett (winning The David Bryars Award in 2012 for his services); and next year we're planning to add Wales to the list, too.

Candidates – both final-year undergraduates and those undertaking a further degree – are invited to submit a proposal outlining their ideas, and during the interview present samples of their work on that project to date. They are then tested on their knowledge of basic knitting techniques, machines, yarns and fabric make-up. Successful candidates are granted a Bursary (£2,500) or an Award (£1,000), with those nearing the Award Standard receiving a Highly Commended certificate. Sadly, our limited resources require us to reward only the very best students: nearly everyone that we see would get at least an Award if we had more money.

Bursary winners are invited to join us at our October Banquet, where they receive their Certificate from the visiting guest speaker. But every winner is appointed a mentor, drawn from the committee, who visits 'their' winners both to keep in touch with their progress and to offer



Bethan Jones with her samples

The Lord Mayor's Show



Waiting for the show

Cakes were collected from nearby Paul's, who were doing a roaring trade; and Martin and his wife Ros had the boardroom all set up ready to welcome us with steaming tea and coffee at the ready. The Master and Wardens were present, and about 35 liverymen and friends watched the procession, occasionally retiring to the board room to escape the rain and warm up! There were 155 entries in the Show, and we enjoyed listening to the many military bands. The new Lord Mayor, Lord Mountevans, has been a member of the Shipwrights' Company for more than 30 years and is the first maritime Lord Mayor for nearly 40 years. His chosen charities this year are JDRF (formerly the Juvenile Diabetes Research

Foundation) to research cures for Type 1 diabetes, and The Sea Cadets, helping to give young people a valuable sea-based learning experience to inspire them for life. We raised funds for this appeal at the Swimathon in February. As ever, the atmosphere of the show was fantastic, with enthusiastic crowds cheering on the floats and enjoying the music of the bands. From the balcony we had an excellent view, although the noise of the bells before the arrival of the Lord Mayor did rather smother some of our Clerk's favourite bands! After the show we walked a short way and enjoyed a lovely lunch at Ye Olde Watling, where very friendly staff ensured a happy meal with lots more chat and excitement about our taking part ourselves on 12th November 2016. We'll soon be inviting Freemen and Liverymen to join us – but everyone: make sure you keep the date !!



Full steam ahead



Warm & dry at last !!

The Master

The David Bryars Award

The David Bryars Award is presented by the Master to a Liveryman to acknowledge a special service to the Livery.

Each committee has many who contribute in their own way but, of course, I cannot divide the award amongst so many worthy people. This Liveryman represents the enthusiasm and commitment of those committee members.

She has been a Liveryman for six years, and during that time has regularly attended our dinners and events. She has also made a considerable contribution to the Social Committee, which plans and organises events for the Master and all other members of the Company – and, of course, their friends.

Moreover, she was a great help to me in several ways in the year before I became Master – for example, by reassuring me that although the Master was welcome to make a contribution to the choice of social events, the committee would deal with all the arrangements.

I therefore had great pleasure in awarding **Susan Shield** the David Bryars Award.



Immediate Past Master David Miller

Fabric and Vision – The Mistress’ Ladies Luncheon

On 19th November 2015, the Master’s Consort – Mrs Diane Miller – welcomed 24 ladies to *Fabric and Vision* at the National Gallery in Trafalgar Square for a tour by Gayna Pelham, an expert in textiles and painting. Our tour was centred around several different artists and paintings, starting with *Battle of San Romano* by Paolo Uccello – thought to have been painted around 1438 to 1440; next, a painting by Jan Van Eyck – *Portrait of Giovanni Arnolfini and his Wife*, 1434. We were then led to a painting by Paola Veronese called *The family of Darius before Alexander*, 1565 to 1570; and finally a collection of paintings by Rembrandt, notably *Belshazzar’s Feast*, 1636 to 1638 and *Portrait of Hendrickje Stoffels*, 1654 – 1656.

We also learned how the understanding of perspective and recession had developed and how the use of paints was able to achieve the effects of light and shade. We were also told a lot of little interesting snippets: for example, how in some European societies, colours were worn according to rank – which was depicted in the paintings. Did you know that it took 12,600 snails to be milked to make 1 ounce of the purple pigment used for painting the ermine cloaks? Today, mounds of these snail shells are still found. It soon transpired that this

was a huge subject with room for a lot of discussion: needless to say, we ran out of time and had to end the tour to get us to our next stop. Diane thanked Gayna for a very interesting tour, then expertly herded us all up and led us to our restaurant. We joined a further five ladies at the National Portrait Gallery’s Rooftop Restaurant for luncheon. We were greeted by a bubbly

aperitif and lovely views over the historic rooftops of London. Diane welcomed us all: we were then treated to a delicious meal cooked to perfection and washed down with Picpoul de Pinet, Jourdan, Languedoc, France 2014 (the white wine) and Pinot Noir, Carmen Reserve, Leyda Valley, Chile 2014 (the red). However, before the pudding we were gathered together

for the customary photo, after which we were served coffee or tea. Afterwards, Immediate Past Master Linda Smith gave a speech of thanks to Diane for organising the occasion, who then presented us all with a gift of a memento of the lunch – a pull-out panoramic picture of the view from the restaurant window with explanations of what each rooftop was, all in a beautiful hardback cover. We departed at around 3.00pm to catch trains, buses or taxis to take us home after a very special day.

Claire Corah

Return of The Livery Swimathon



The Inter-Livery Swimathon returned after an absence of two years. The event is organised by the Chartered Surveyors’ Company, and this was the 22nd running of the Swimathon. The venue for the event is the beautiful Royal Automobile Club in Epsom, Surrey. The format is a relay swim of 5,000 metres per team, starting at 5.00pm and followed by dinner. The Framework Knitters’ team was captained once again by Assistant Jonathan Pears, with Upper Warden Liz Green, Past Master Graham Smith and Assistant Ian Grundy. The team agreed a strategy of swimming six lengths in turn, which meant no swimmer should end up too tired, and which also allowed time for socialising on the poolside.

The team was delighted to be joined and supported by Past Master Paul Bethel, Julia Grundy, Liveryman Diana de Froment and her husband Guy. With the team plan in place, captain Jonathan led the team off at 5.00pm, followed by Graham, then Ian and finally “Tumble Turn”

Liz. The lengths were eaten away and, compared to previous years, it was initially felt unnecessary to put two swimmers in together. However, the team completed the swim by everyone swimming their last two lengths together in procession. The swim was completed by about 7.15pm. After a quick drink in the bar, dinner was called; and the team and supporters enjoyed a delightful meal in the Club’s private dining room, joined by Under Warden Peter White. Sadly, the event was supported by only twelve Livery Companies: there is a danger that if Liveries and Liverymen do not support these types of events, then they will not be put on. This would be such a shame, as not only are they great fun but they also raise sponsorship for charity. In conclusion, the team enjoyed the swimming and dining in the wonderful location while raising over £700 for the Lord Mayor’s Appeal. Thanks go to the supporters for turning out and encouraging the team.

Past Master Graham Smith



Museum of The Order of Saint John

On Saturday 9th April 2016, 27 Liverymen and their guests joined the Master and her Consort for a visit to the Museum of the Order of St. John in Clerkenwell. The Knights Hospitallers, with their mottoes of 'To honour Our Lords the Sick' and 'The blessed sick poor', was funded by donations from supporters in Europe; and the Priory in Clerkenwell was set up as the English headquarters. Other establishments of the Order have been set up in Australia, Canada, the USA and many other countries.

The original Priory was burnt down in the 14th century, refurbished in the 16th century and dissolved by Henry VIII in 1540 with the dissolution of the monasteries. It became a storage site for hunting and war paraphernalia, a palace for Queen Mary I, and the Office of the Master of the Revels, who issued licences for court entertainment and plays. The modern Order of St. John was granted a Royal Charter by HM Queen Victoria in 1888, and HM Queen Elizabeth II is The Sovereign Head, while The Grand Prior is HRH Richard, Duke of Gloucester. The Order continues to run the St. John's Eye Hospital, founded in East Jerusalem in 1882.

St. John's Ambulance was founded in the late 1800s following great social changes when volunteers trained the public in home nursing and first aid. The volunteering corps later evolved into medical orderlies in the South African war and the two world wars, and they now provide medical assistance at public events.



Inside the Chapter Hall

– dating from 1504 with its Whitefriars Glass windows – and the Old Chancery with its eccentric Elizabethan fireplace. St. John's Gate – the arched entrance to the original Priory which was destroyed long ago – had various rôles and was visited by Hogarth the painter's father, Dr. Samuel Johnson, Charles Dickens and Garrick. The room above St. John's Gate became the printing works of *The Gentlemen's Magazine* in 1731, which employed a young Dr. Samuel Johnson to write parliamentary reports. It also became a public house in 1760 called "The Old Gate".

After an extensive and informative visit to the museum itself, we crossed over the square to the Priory Church, rebuilt in the 1960s following WW2 damage, and the 12th-century crypt with Romanesque and Gothic arches, tomb effigies and sculptures.

Returning to the museum, we saw the interesting collection of manuscripts, armour, coins, ceramics and textiles, plus the history of the St. John's Ambulance since its inception in 1877.

An excellent lunch was served at Attilio, a nearby Italian trattoria, which had reserved the restaurant for our sole use, giving us all an opportunity to discuss and reflect on what we had seen: everyone agreed what wonderful guides we had had.



Outside the Gatehouse



Lunch at Attilio

Valete et Salvete

Once again we've had to say "Farewell" to one of our key staff – this time our Assistant Clerk – but have the pleasure of welcoming her successor.

Anne Brown

Last December, Anne left her position as Assistant Clerk with responsibility for the day-to-day running of our 26 Cottage Homes in Oadby. Anne held this post for over twenty years; and during that time her very varied rôle included ensuring the well-being of the residents, working with Karl



(our handyman and gardener), liaising with suppliers both in times of emergency and during planned renovations/repairs, and also arranging various functions throughout the year, including the ever popular Christmas lunch! Before Anne left,

she held a Bollywood party for the residents which was much appreciated by them all. We thank Anne and wish her well for the future.

Helen Meek

Helen joined in January as our Cottage Homes Administrator. She has settled into her new rôle quickly; and she and Karl Whatsize are working well to ensure the welfare of the residents and on-going maintenance of the cottages. Prior to joining us, Helen was a Finance Administrator at a local school; and she has also worked as a Property Administrator and Customer Service Advisor. Helen completed the London Marathon for Loros Hospice – but whether she will undertake that challenge again for us remains to be seen!



Helen is normally in the office from 9.00am to 1.00pm on 0116 - 271 2171, or contact by email on fwkoadby@aol.com

A Consortium of Consorts

On 18th February 2016, I organised an event for Mistresses/Consorts of other Livery Companies. I was delighted by the response, and after only two weeks, 20 of my maximum number of 27 guests were confirmed. The other seven places were soon full – and I even had a waiting list of ten! And – as has now become almost a tradition – we had one gentleman consort in the group. Liveries from Apothecaries to Wax Chandlers were represented, including, of course, our allies in the Drapers and Needlemakers.

Taking once again my theme of 'Fashion in Vision', I returned to the National Gallery where Belinda, our guide, chose seven paintings on which to base her talk on fabric and the historical context of each.

After ninety minutes of feeling very aware, with our observational skills enhanced and with a vow to look at art with a more critical eye, we left for lunch at the National Portrait Gallery's restaurant. Welcomed

with a glass of Prosecco, there were exclamations of surprise from those who had not eaten there before – the rooftop view (including Nelson looking you in the eye) is outstanding! We enjoyed yet again an absolutely delicious meal with excellent service. All concerned felt that the opportunity to come together and discuss mutual experiences and their rôle within their own livery company was extremely valuable and, of course, also very enjoyable.



Dining in a room with a view

I organised the event for all of the above reasons but also to further promote our Livery Company and bring the Framework Knitters Company to the attention of the other Livery Companies.

The letters of appreciation from everybody have been most gratifying, with numerous requests for a repeat of the day. Very pleasing!

Diane Miller, Immediate Past Mistress

Dates for your diary

2016

4th March to 31st July

	“Unseen City” – view the City of London through the lens of acclaimed Magnum photographer Martin Parr	Guildhall Art Gallery, London EC2V 5AE
18th May	Inter-Livery Shoot at Holland & Holland	The Clerk
20th May	Brigantes Breakfast, Cutlers’ Hall, Sheffield	The Clerk
3rd June	Inter-Livery Rifle Competition at the Bisley Range	The Clerk
24th June	Common Hall for the election of Sheriffs, Guildhall	The Clerk
24th June	Post-Election Luncheon, Stationers’ Hall	The Clerk
1st July	Summer Court & Dinner, Skinners’ Hall	The Clerk
2nd July	Royal Hospital, Chelsea (the Pensioners’ Home)	The Social Committee
2nd to 5th Sept	Great Fire of London – City celebrations	The Clerk

The Leicester Weekend: 9th to 11th September

9th September	Golf Match & Golf Dinner	Liveryman Adrian Keene
10th September	Tour of Richard III Exhibition and Leicester Cathedral	The Social Committee
	Ceremony of the Socks, September Court and Livery Dinner	The Clerk
11th September	Annual Church Service, followed by Barbecue at the Cottage Homes	The Clerk
25th September	Sheep Drive over London Bridge	The Clerk
29th September	Common Hall for the election of the Lord Mayor, Guildhall	The Clerk
29th September	Post-Election Luncheon, Stationers’ Hall	The Clerk
14th October	Livery Banquet, Mansion House	The Clerk
15th October	The Tower of London	The Social Committee
7th November	Festival of Remembrance, St. Paul’s Churchyard	The Clerk
12th November	The Lord Mayor’s Show	The Social Committee
6th December	Ladies Outing at The Bank of England, with lunch at The Don	The Clerk

2017

20th January	Winter Court & Dinner, Cutlers’ Hall	The Clerk
21st January	The Foundling Museum	The Social Committee
28th February	Inter-Livery Pancake Race, Guildhall Yard	The Clerk
31st March	United Guilds Service, St Paul’s Cathedral	The Clerk
7th April	Installation Court & Dinner, Vintners’ Hall	The Clerk
8th April	Post-Installation Outing – venue to be decided	The Social Committee
23rd June	Summer Court & Dinner, Stationers’ Hall	The Clerk

Booking Events

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.

And Your Events

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.