

January 2025 Newsletter

In this Edition :

2024 Winter Gathering – Sheffield
2025 Brigantes Golf – Royal Liverpool, Hoylake
2025 Brigantes Breakfast – Scarborough

2024 Winter Gathering – Sheffield

This year's Winter Gathering and AGM was held on Friday 13 December in Cutlers Hall, home of the Company of Cutlers in Hallamshire, and Sheffield Cathedral.

- **Talk – The History of the Humble Fork**

At 2.30, in perfect harmony with our venue Cutlers Hall, local cutlery expert Paul Iseard delved into the origins and development of that most mundane item of tableware – the fork.

From no forks used at all until around 1688 – 'that's what fingers were made for' – to the two prong fork until the late 1700s helped by Samuel Pepys being an early adopter, to the three prong fork from 1780 to 1880 and the four prong fork thereafter, Paul drew back the curtain on the design and considerable influence of the 'perhaps not so humble' fork at all levels in society.



Paul's subsequent narrative on the development of differing carving sets for fish, fowl, meat and so on was no less intriguing, with his straw poll of 'who still carves at the table' revealing Liverymen to be among the nation's leaders in maintaining this venerated skill.

- **Annual General Meeting**

Immediately following the talk, Adrian Waddingham CBE, Tribal Chieftain, chaired the 2024 Brigantes AGM.

Under his Chairman's Report, Adrian reviewed the past year which included the 2023 Winter Gathering in Carlisle Cathedral, the Golf Day at Ganton this April and the Brigantes Breakfast at St Georges Hall Liverpool in June.

The Association's new Treasurer Richard Geldard, currently Master Tax Adviser, presented the accounts and took questions. The accounts were passed unanimously, as was increasing the annual subscription in February 2025 from £40 to £50, the first change since 2019.

Consistent with similar procedures across many Livery Companies, the new Brigantes Code of Conduct was tabled and explained. A copy can be found in the Governance section of the Brigantes website – www.brigantes.org.uk.

Adrian then expressed the Association's heartfelt appreciation to two founding members of Brigantes, David Bentley, Past Master Baker and Vice Chairman East, and Nick Gale, Past Master Plumber and Vice Chairman West, on their retirement from the Tribal Council after ten years.



David, Nick, Adrian and Charles Cowling, Past Master Actuary, who retired in 2019, started Brigantes from scratch in 2014 when Adrian was Sheriff and the other three were Masters of their Livery Companies. The Association now has over 700 subscribing and supporting Livery members and a thriving annual programme.

The successors to David and Nick were elected. Past Master Actuary Peter Thompson is the new Vice Chairman East and Past Master Clockmaker Mark Levy is the new Vice Chairman West.

The other members of the Tribal Council are Adrian Waddingham CBE, Past Master Actuary, Chairman and Tribal Leader; Richard Geldard, Master Tax Adviser, Treasurer; Sir David Wootton, Master Bowyer and Past Lord Mayor; Past Master Engineer Richard Groome; Lynn Webster, Environmental Cleaner. Martin Horsfield, Gunmaker, is the new Brigantes webmaster.

Looking ahead to 2025, brief summaries were given by Keith Houlston (Baker), David Boyne (Chartered Surveyor) and Richard Groome of progress with the Golf Day, Brigantes Breakfast and Winter Gathering respectively.

- **Conducted Tour of Cutlers Hall**

For those ineligible to vote at the AGM, Dame Julie Kenny DBE DL, Past Master Cutler and Chair of Trustees of the Wentworth Woodhouse Preservation Trust, gave a splendid tour of Cutlers Hall and its exquisite silverware.



Framework Knitters and their guests with Matthew Ellis, Master

• Reception and Supper

Our Reception this year was generously hosted by the Master Cutler following which, at 5.00, 220 Liverymen and guests, a record for a Winter Gathering, moved into the wonderfully festive Great Hall for a superb two course supper.



The Rt Revd Dr Peter Wilcox, Bishop of Sheffield, gave the formal welcome and said Grace. Richard Groome proposed the Loyal Toasts. Mark Levy, the new Vice Chairman West, proposed the Toast to the Guests. Mrs Jane Marshall DL, Vice Lord Lieutenant of South Yorkshire, responded.

Adrian Waddingham presented the Brigantes Charity Donation to the Bishop. Over coffee, we were entertained by the University of Sheffield Student Appalachian Musicians.

• Christmas Concert

At 7.00 we crossed the road to Sheffield Cathedral and joined the audience for the Christmas Concert given by the Cathedral Choir and the string quintet Ensemble 360.

Tom Daggett, the Conductor and Director of Music, is a familiar face to many Liverymen, having served for nine years at St Pauls Cathedral until his move North in 2023.



The evening's programme included delights such as Frank Bridge's 'Sir Roger de Coverley' Christmas Dance, the 'Sussex Carol' arranged by David Willcocks and Benjamin Britten's 'A Boy Was Born', all interspersed with traditional carols that saw and heard the audience in fine voice.

The evening closed with a nightcap or three at the Leopold Hotel, Brigantes HQ for the Gathering.

2025 Dates for Your Diary

Brigantes Golf - Wednesday 30th April

Brigantes Golfers will be out in force at the end of April, playing over the British Open Championship Links of Royal Liverpool at Hoylake.

A Fine Dining dinner in the Clubhouse on the Tuesday evening, to which non-golfing Brigantians are most welcome, will be followed by golf on the Wednesday and an early evening dinner and prizegiving. Details will be circulated in early February.



Brigantes Breakfast - Thursday 24th July

In July we are off to the historic seaside resort of Scarborough and its famous Spa Pavilion overlooking the South Bay, shown below. Full details and booking forms will be sent next March.



Brigantes Winter Gathering – December

Details in the next newsletter

To recommend Liverymen for inclusion on the circulation for events, please email Fiona Robinson, Brigantes Administrator, at livery@brigantes.org.uk or let us know through our website at www.brigantes.org.uk