



Knitter

The Newsletter of the Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters

‘HOLD FAST – SIT SURE’

Two milestones were achieved at this year’s Installation Dinner. Not since 1990 has there been a Corah as Master, and it is six years since we were last at Saddlers’ Hall, whose motto is above.

The Worshipful Company of Saddlers is one of the very oldest of the City of London Livery Companies, with records dating back to 1160AD. The hall was destroyed in the Great Fire of London and then bombed during the Blitz, and has been rebuilt several times.



Earlier in the day the installation of Peter Corah as the



Master Framework Knitter, Jonathan Pears as Upper Warden and me as Under Warden had taken place. The Company owes a gratitude of debt to the IPM – Matthew Ellis – for his sterling work and dedication to the Company over the last year, a fact widely acknowledged and recognised during the evening.

We welcomed to the evening a number of distinguished guests including Ms. Rebecca Ridley – Upper Bailiff Weaver, Much Hon. Martin Thacker – Master Tin Plate Worker and Mrs. Susan McEniff – CEO of Leicester Charity Link.

The Master showed great delight and pride in taking wine with the newly-inducted Liverymen: Mrs. Claire Corah (now Consort), Mr. Patrick (“Ben”) and Mr. Richard (“Thom”) Corah, and Mr. Philip Woodfield.

After a sumptuous dinner of confit Aylesbury duck followed by pan roasted guineafowl and finished with passion fruit cheesecake with accompanying wines, we were regally entertained by Lucian McCauley, Louis Gascoyne and Natan Kedzierski from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Assistant Edward Strange proposed a toast to the Guests, and Mrs. Susan McEniff responded on their behalf and provided an insight into Leicester Charity Link before proposing a toast to the Company.

The Master responded appropriately and provided a vision of his year ahead, before inviting all to join him for the Stirrup Cup.



Under Warden Paul Bonnett

Susan McEniff



THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FRAMEWORK KNITTERS

2025-26

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New ... New... News !!

We've had five new Liverymen join since our last Newsletter – the first in January, the others in April: read all about them below.



Lis Batteson was born in north London but transplanted while very young south of the river to Crofton Park. She attended Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham Girls' School (good for learning how to use apostrophes). This was followed by Sheffield University from where she graduated with a BSc in Combined Sciences (Pure Maths and Astronomy). While at Sheffield she joined the Officer Training Corps and was commissioned as a second lieutenant.



Claire Corah was born and brought up within a farming family in the smallest county in England – Rutland. Claire met Peter (the current Master) through the Young Farmers Club. They then married in 1979.

They have three children, Thomas, Sam, Ben and six grandchildren. Thomas and Ben also joined the Livery at Peter's Installation, so a great family affair. Before having the boys, Claire worked as a Freelance Farm Secretary



Ben Corah grew up in Rutland and Leicestershire, and has always had an interest in the outdoors growing up, but he never pursued it as a career during school – which didn't amount to a lot! After school, he worked in horticulture for a few years before travelling to Australia and working in Sydney building high-end residential gardens.

Upon his return to the UK he studied horticulture and



Thom Corah was born in Leicester and grew up in Rutland. Following his A-Levels he studied at De Montfort University in Leicester for a BA (Hons) in Music Technology and Innovation, and then an MA. He decided he'd found something of a home at DMU, so he stayed on as a Lecturer where he still works as a Senior Lecturer, teaching around virtual and augmented reality.



Philip Woodfield's business life has been entirely in the Meat Industry except for two years spent in Transport in the late 90s. His family butchery business was in its 92nd year when he decided to finish in the retail trade, sell the large yard he had to the garage next door, and convert the shop and slaughterhouse to takeaway rentals, which still exist today and which he still owns.

stories continued on Page 4

From

The



Master

I joined this fantastic Livery Company in 1989 when my father was Master, never really thinking that one day I would be asked to join the Court and make my way to becoming Master myself: what a privilege and honour it is. I follow a long line of family members being Master, the earliest one in 1905.

After leaving Malvern College, with only the strangest 'O' levels, I attended Agricultural College for three years and stayed in agriculture until 1985. During that time I got married to Claire (engaged after only six weeks of courting), had two sons, and then decided a career change was needed – and a third son! I obviously joined Corah plc based in Leicester and worked in a number of different departments. This lasted until the late 1990s when the company was bought by an Australian – the rest is history!

Leaving Corah, I went back to college and studied accountancy, but at the end of the three-year course decided it would possibly be a bit boring to make it a full-time career and so joined the MOD, advising service leavers on their return to civilian life. This moved to working closely with injured personnel. My last five years were spent as a career manager with the Army and RAF, finally retiring in 2022. I now concentrate on this Livery, the JR Corah Foundation Fund and one smaller charity.

I have always been involved with our Almshouses in Oadby, and over the last few years have also been involved with the Education Charity, The Charity Committee and the Finance & General Purposes Committee. This has given me the knowledge of what our Livery Company is all about.

My thanks go to our Immediate Past Master – Matthew Ellis, my brother in law – as he is married to my sister, Nettie – the Homes Manager.

Having chaired The Cottage Homes Management Committee over the last year, I know that Matthew has put the Livery Company above all else during his Master's year. He deserves a well-earned rest but not for long, as he will be chairing our Membership Committee.



I would also like to thank our gallant Clerk – Russ Gleeson. He has steered me through the preparations with the run-up to this year with calmness, dedication and humour.

It also worth mentioning our brilliant Beadle – Jamie Wallis. The number of times he already has had to dress me correctly is probably nothing compared to what he will have to do during my year.

During my year I am planning to hold a number of events for our Livery both in and outside of the City – keep an eye on the website and incoming emails from our gallant Clerk.

For those golfers among us, I am sorry to say that starting with golf on the Friday of the Leicester weekend (27th to 29th June) is not possible as all courses are booked up; and so instead I have organised Pétanque and a meal at a pub near Melton Mowbray. The golf will now take place at my Masters weekend (12th to 14th September).

Claire and I look forward to seeing you throughout the year at different events, and I sincerely hope I can live up to the trust the Court has placed in me.

I will, of course be totally supported by my two Wardens – Jonathan and Paul – who have already proved to be a dedicated duo.

Let the fun begin!

New Liverymen, continued

Liz Batteson, continued

After University she spent one year working for a firm of chartered accountants with a view to becoming an accountant. Whilst auditing around the country she realised that she would rather be ‘doing’ than auditing, and so took a job with the then Association of Certified Accountants in their continuing education department. This involved administering and marketing a large programme of technical finance related courses for the membership. In 1987, after seven years, she left, along with the head of the department, to set up an independent training company with a focus on training for finance departments in industry and commerce. Quorum Training was the first company to also set up its own training centre rather than using hotels. The company was sold in early 2005, with the management team remaining in place. On 7th July 2005 the bus bomb was detonated in front of the BMA building in Tavistock Square where the training centre was on the 4th and 5th floors. The challenge after the immediate shock was to keep everything running while being out of the premises for two weeks. A side issue was that Lis’s car was trapped inside a cordon for nearly a week.

Following the financial crash in 2008, the bottom fell out of the training market, it being highly susceptible to financial ups and downs. At this point Lis was managing director of Quorum Training. She and the staff were all made redundant by the parent company. After a few years freelancing, Lis decided she needed to get a proper job again and applied for a rôle as Association Executive at the Smithfield Market Tenants’ Association. The SMTA represents the commercial interests of the meat traders at Smithfield Market, which mainly involves ‘negotiating’ with the landlords, the Corporation of the City of London on various matters. As the SMTA’s sole voter for Ward elections, Lis was entitled to apply for the Freedom of the City of London, which she did in 2014. As anyone who follows the news will know, it has been an interesting few years for the City’s markets, Smithfield in particular, so it has been a fascinating time. Lis is now on the verge of retiring from the role.

Lis’s non-work interests include – Austria (owing to having an Austrian mother), Egyptology (because she wanted to learn to read hieroglyphs and acquired a Diploma in Egyptology from Birkbeck along the way), travel, theatre, music, art, reading and handcrafts – including knitting.

Claire Corah, continued

After the boys started their schooling, Claire worked part-time in various small business accountancy departments whilst also taking further accountancy qualifications. Once the children had become teenagers, Claire became a Finance Manager at a local school for many years, leaving to set up a small business with Peter, servicing local small businesses and charities with their accountancy and admin needs.

Claire enjoys gardening, long walks with Molly the Collie and travelling.

Ben Corah, continued

started his own landscaping and design business which he ran with his brother for nine years before they parted ways. He now runs large commercial building sites, working with some great people.

He’s currently overseeing a project involving John Deere and a local distribution company to build a new eco-friendly distribution hub in the vale of Belvoir. A £6,000,000 build over four years that incorporates creation of habitats, rain water harvesting and attenuation, and a planting of plenty of trees at the end to green up the space and offset the carbon footprint of the companies that will operate there.

He has always taken an interest in the family history around the Corah’s factory in Leicester and the history with the framework knitters: it’s been interesting to hear about the rôle that livery companies have nowadays and he looks forward to attending more livery events during his father’s year as Master.

Thom Corah, continued

More recently, Thom successfully completed a PhD which involved the development of a creative audio augmented reality system that plays 3D soundscapes related to paintings hanging in the Victorian Gallery at Leicester Museum and Art Gallery on New Walk. Since completing his studies, Thom continues to focus his research on the use of spatial audio in the cultural heritage sector.

Thom has long been a keen musician since he was gifted a guitar at the age of ten. He moved to trombone at age 11, ending up in a band that his father would likely term ‘interesting’. His tromboning has seen him playing to Margaret Thatcher at Belvoir Castle, audiences across Europe, and at the opening night of a Bridget Riley retrospective at Tate Britain. Beyond music, Thom mostly enjoys spending time with his wife – Laura – and

their family, particularly if it involves getting out and about in their motorhome.

Thom became a Liveryman at the same time as his brother and mother, coinciding with his father – Peter Corah – becoming Master. He is very happy to be part of the Corah's continued involvement in the Livery.

Philip Woodfield, continued

Since the late 90s he has been in the Meat Import Export business, initially working for DBC Foodservice for ten years, being responsible for the management of the meat trade desks in Manchester / Rotherham and Washington. He was invited to join Northgate Foods in 2007 – based in Melton Mowbray – moving to being home-based in 2009 until his retirement. He bought fresh meat and poultry for both DBC and Northgate foods on behalf of the sales team. Philip also had his own client base to manage across the UK, including Scotland and the Isle of Man. In 2018 he set up a contract with the Isle of Man Meat Co., to become their export Manager, to sell all their beef and lamb each week which he sold to UK meat Companies – up to 1,000 lambs per week, many into Smithfield, (a place he knows very well!) and up to 200 sides of beef. He retired in late 2022 at 70 and now works in his family business. He has a motor home and caravan holiday park, rental shops and houses, and offices on his farm, including commercial rental, and Livery stables. He farms a small amount of land, in today's terms, and this is let to families who farm large acreages. He owns approximately 70 acres in all.

Philip's main reason for wanting to join was to assist his dear friend Peter Corah in his charity work, whose work is exemplary. His link to the Framework Knitters is from his aunt – Eva Mason – who was a manager at the Courtaulds factory in Nuneaton, Warwickshire.

He and his wife have three children: Matthew, who is a chartered Surveyor working on renewables with Dalcour McLaren in Yorkshire. Their daughter Anna, again a chartered Surveyor, but in charge of the Estates for the University of Cambridge. Their younger son – Tom – is with Cluttons in the city of London, again a chartered Surveyor! Philip has been married to Rosemary for 39 years, holds a current private pilot's licence, and also flies right-hand seat for a farming neighbour. They have flown in France, Germany, Belgium, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, Ireland and Scotland. He owns a classic Rover 2000 which they have had from new and which he rallies, and a vintage Lanchester two-door sports coupé which he enters into VSCC events.

Clerk's Corner

It has been a busy few months working with IPM Matthew Ellis and The Master to look at both the Committee structure and the membership of each Committee. The Marketing and Membership Committee has now been split up so that each can focus on its key deliverables – all with the aim of increasing our Membership numbers. Marketing will stay under the Chairmanship of Assistant Catherine Fuller, but she has a new team around her which has some strong marketing expertise and a real drive to improve the viability of our Company across different platforms and media. This is vital work to help out the new Membership Committee under the Chairmanship of Matthew Ellis.

Like several Companies, we need to look at varied and new ways to attract members to join the Livery. In order to ensure the current membership is well cared for, the Master has an extensive programme of events planned for this year (please see diary), and the reformed Social Committee under Assistant Janie Martin will be looking to support him in the delivery.

My huge thanks to those long-serving Committee members who have been able to reduce the number of Committees they sit on to allow 'new blood' to serve – this is vital for the future of this great Company. Supporting all this activity and providing a long-term focus is the vital work being undertaken by PM Tony Jarvis and Under Warden Paul Bonnett and the Strategy and Vision Committee – they are working on a Strategic Plan which will be delivered to the Court shortly.

As part of this work, I am leading a review and a refresh of the Company website, and we continue to build our presence on social media – mostly on Facebook and LinkedIn. However, as I said to the Court in April, I think we are a little way off the Clerk doing a 'dance' on Tik Tok!!

Wing Commander Russ Gleeson

A Cottage Homes Anniversary

A Leicestershire couple have opened up on their ‘deep love’ for one another as they mark an incredible 67 years since getting married. Gwen and Alan Dewsbury first met in their teens, but it took several years for the pair to become an item – and they’ve never looked back.

The couple marked the big day on Saturday 29th March, and the 90-year olds have revealed all about reaching the milestone. Speaking to LeicestershireLive, Gwen said: “We got quite a deep love for each other and I don’t mean all lovey dovey all the time: I mean deep love, a real love”.

Gwen and Alan met when they were 13 at a local bus stop, but he didn’t ask her out on a date until they were 16. Unfortunately, Gwen was seeing someone else at the time; but fate wasn’t going to stop there, as the pair met again at the same bus stop five years later.

On that night, Gwen was walking back home after being out with some friends, when she saw Alan at that same bus stop. Mr Dewsbury offered to pay for Gwen’s ticket, which at the time was around 3p and as Gwen rightfully says: “The rest was history”.

The couple’s wedding took place at St. Thomas Church in South Wigston, in 1958. At the time, Alan worked as a knitter whilst Gwen worked in a hosier factory in town. Family is one of the most important things for Gwen, as she and Alan grew theirs with the help of their children: Paul, Carol and Graham, while they also have five grandsons, two great grandsons and three great granddaughters. Gwen said: “They’re all lovely and I feel truly blessed”.

Once they began having children, Alan and Gwen – who had grown up in Leicester – moved to a bigger house in the Red House Gardens area of Glen Parva. Their residency in our Cottage Homes is one they got in connection with Gwen’s work at the hosier factory.

Despite working long hours, the love the two have for each other has always been strong to this day, as Gwen said: “We have a blown-up photo of us cutting our cake on our wedding day to remind us of it, but we don’t even need reminding”.

When asked what the secret to a long and happy marriage is, Gwen said: “We’ve had our upsets, and anyone who says their marriage is perfect from beginning to end I think they are deaf, dumb and blind”. Despite being a similar age, Gwen is slightly older than Alan: as she said: “He’s my toyboy – he’s four months younger than me”.



Alan and Gwen marked their big day with their son Paul at a pub in Blaby, while they have also been treated to a visit by their daughter, Carol. While 67 years married is a big achievement, Gwen is already targeting an even bigger milestone.

She said: “The thing with marriage is you’ve got to work at it. We’ve gone through this for 67 years and I hope we make it to 70”.

More Cottage Homes News

A lot has been happening at our Cottage Homes since the last newsletter: Outings, Birthdays and of course the slow progression of completing all the surveys required before we can get planning permission to demolish Cottages 20 & 21 and rebuild them to modern specifications.

The Residents' Events / Outings

The Tuesday coffee mornings are still going strong, with cakes and treats baked by Christine Kilbourne; and when there is no coffee morning we all get together to play bingo on a Wednesday afternoon. As I have been Chair of the Management Committee for the last year I was allowed to keep my winnings the one time I was lucky enough to call "House". On occasions there is more banter than bingo, but it is great fun.

On the coffee morning of 4th February, two benefits officers from Oadby & Wigston council joined us to discuss benefits and other topics. A number of Residents have since made personal appointments, which will prove worthwhile.



The Coffee Morning

mooch around, and then back home. A lovely day that certainly got me thinking about Christmas, a bit early but forward-thinking is essential with the run up to be Master!

Christmas Lunch – 7th December

What a turn out, it was fantastic to see Corah Hall full, it reminded me of the old days. We had a lovely Christmas lunch cooked and served by brilliant staff from Zeph's in Oadby: they certainly did not disappoint. The highlight for many was the bingo afterwards. Three rounds, with a tin of chocolates for each rounds winner. Great fun, and there were many smiling faces.

The Crown Inn at Tur Langton – 19th March

If anyone is wondering where to go for a super lunch, this is the place. The weather was lovely, the food was amazing and the Residents certainly made the most of it. It happened to coincide with Alma's birthday, but she was in Australia and so we all sang "Happy Birthday" and videoed it which was duly sent: it probably woke her up because of the time difference. Some (not me) even managed a dessert.

MacMillan Coffee Morning – 27th September

Christine and Graham Kilbourne organised their annual MacMillan coffee morning where we had a visit from our local MP – Neil O'Brien – as well as Samia Haq – Leader of Oadby and Wigston Borough Council – and both were made to feel very welcome.

Fish & Chip Lunch – 29th October

This is getting to be an annual event now. The Residents had given Nettie their meal preferences in advance, the fish-&-chip shop was notified, and they were collected on the day and consumed with gusto. Everyone had a great time but the old adage of "eyes bigger than your tummy" applied to a number of participants.

Gates Garden Centre – 13th November

The annual trip to Gates was planned to coincide with the Christmas decorations, and we were not disappointed. The Age UK mini-bus collected the Residents; and after 45 minutes, and the usual banter and jokes, arrived at Cold Overton in time for a leisurely stroll and shop for those who wanted it. This was followed by a lovely lunch, another



At The Crown Inn

The Rebuild

We have finally received planning approval from Oadby & Wigston Council. After what seems an eternity we are nearly at the real starting point. I now understand when I am told a lot of the work happens even before a foundation is dug.

Corporate Architecture, which has been engaged to manage the project, has come up with some superb plans. We have already had a meeting with the preferred construction company, and so are all set for the go.

Peter Corah, when Upper Warden

Lauren Green – Bursary Winner



I studied Fashion Textile Design at De Montfort University. In 2024, I was honoured to receive a company award from The Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters, and the bursary that accompanied it arrived at the perfect moment, giving me a creative boost by allowing me to purchase yarns that had previously been out of reach. These materials became integral to my Final Major Project – Expand and Contract – which explored the relationship between knitwear and the body, drawing deeply from my lifelong passion for dance.

The project delved into the dynamic tension between freedom and restriction – both fundamental elements in movement and textile structure. My research began with the choreography of Wayne McGregor, Matthew Bourne and Martha Graham, and was grounded by the physical movements I personally love to perform. This exploration culminated in a series of large-scale intarsia knits created on Shima Seiki machines, alongside partial knit and lace fabrics developed on Dubied machines.

The bursary also enabled me to take full advantage of the student offer at Shima Seiki, granting me hours of invaluable

one-to-one time with their technicians. This hands-on access played a crucial rôle in the development of my final samples – and ultimately led to a job offer at Shima Seiki's European Headquarters in Castle Donnington, which I was thrilled to accept in November 2024.

My degree closed with a deeply personal collaboration with local dancer Indya Ashburn. Together, we co-choreographed a short film showcasing one of my final garments, set to an original composition

by a close friend. Thanks to the bursary, we were able to hire a theatre space and high-quality camera equipment, including a steady rig to capture the performance's momentum — a visual echo of the dancer's movements. Bringing together textiles, choreography, music, and film was the perfect conclusion to my time at DMU, and a true celebration of the passions that fuel my work.

Following graduation, I held my first solo exhibition at Window 135 in New Cross, London. The show featured a diverse body of work created between 2020 and 2024, including garments, textile samples, and the paintings that helped inspire them. One of my favourite elements was a basement projection space playing a series of collaborative short films — each one highlighting a different garment. Having the time and space to engage with visitors, share my process, and talk about my love for knitting was incredibly rewarding.

Since November, I've been working full-time at Shima Seiki. The rôle is wonderfully varied — I'm being trained in both programming and the mechanical maintenance of the machines, which continues to broaden my understanding of knitwear's possibilities. Alongside this, I plan to continue pursuing collaborative projects and commissions in my own time — they're the artistic fuel that keeps me inspired and evolving.

To watch my short films or see more of my projects, please go to my website or Instagram:

<https://sites.google.com/view/laurengreentextiledesign/home>

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And two other Students



From Leeds University, we have Rob Morris, Helen Rowe, Alex Page (Student), PM Sheila Turner, Kitty Carr-Lake (Student) and Eleanor Scott

Kitty was given an Award (£1,500) and Alex was Highly Commended

Livery Schools Link

As a Company we have supported the Livery Schools Link for a number of years. It was initially set up in 2003 to assist with support for education in schools by Livery Companies and the aim is to support schools in developing young people's employability skills for work and life, making young people aware of the range of employment and training opportunities which are represented by Livery Companies and their members.

Our stall, filled with knitted samples ranging from leggings, socks, hats, shoes, scarves, gloves and much more was manned by Under Warden Jonathan Pears, Liveryman Toni Hicks and me, and we were incredibly lucky to be



Our Team

joined by a 2024 Student Bursary Award winner – Olivia Rushton – from The London College of Fashion, who had brought along much of her coursework to impress the hundreds of schoolchildren that descended on us. A big hit was the Griswold knitting machine that literally “wowed” the children as they could make their own knitted tube. We even had the Lady Mayoress having a go.

My thanks go to Jonathan, Toni and especially Olivia who gave her time willingly to support us.



With the Lady Mayoress

Matthew Ellis, IPM

The Almoner

In April, the Court approved the appointment of the first Almoner of the Company. The rôle will be filled by the Immediate Past Master – Matthew Ellis. The Honorary Almoner's rôle includes appropriate liaison with members of the Company, their spouses and partners, and other members of their families in times of need, and to facilitate sympathetic contact where appropriate by The Master and the Clerk.

In order to be effective, the Almoner will need the members of the Livery generally to inform him of anybody that they feel requires his help. Matthew therefore asks that you contact him on the following email – almoner@frameworkknitters.co.uk – or telephone him on 07860 559488.

Christmas Inter-livery lunch 2024

Service of Lessons and Carols and Lunch at Stationers' Hall



The access to St. Martin-Within-Ludgate is through a small door directly off Ludgate Hill. Surprisingly, you are then led immediately into a beautiful Wren church behind – almost an exact square in plan and decorated with fine wooden carvings. It is here that the Stationers' Company has held its annual Service of Lessons and Carols since 2017 and invited a number of other Livery Companies to join them.

We have been delighted to take part since the beginning, and this year on Wednesday 11th December some 24 Liverymen and their guests joined the Master and Nettie for this special Christmas celebration. The choir was the Stationers' Choir led by Liveryman Ian Ames-White and the organist – Freeman Peter Sandell. The music was superb, starting with a moving solo rendition of Once in Royal David's City by Jenny Higgins. A number of traditional tunes, including What is this Fragrance and Away in a Manger were sung by the choir, and the congregation was invited to

join in a range of well-known carols such as God rest you merry, Gentlemen and O come all ye faithful.

The Reverend Canon Philip Banks – Residentiary Canon of St. Paul's Cathedral – took the service, with the Master of each Company reading the lessons: Stationers', Turners', Framework Knitters', Furniture Makers', Constructors' and the Clerk of the Stationers. It was very interesting to hear Canon Banks' reflection, which referred back to Bernard de Clairvaux (St. Bernard) and his interpretation of the gifts of the three Kings. Far from extravagant, they were deemed to be practical items for a young couple with a new baby, the gold providing funds for housing and clothes, the myrrh giving medicine in case of illness, and the frankincense alleviating the smells of the stable in which the new family was lodged.

After the Service we were all invited to a splendid lunch at Stationers' Hall, which is situated across a small leafy courtyard directly behind the church. The hall also dates back to the seventeenth century and the decades after the Great Fire of London; although parts were damaged by an air raid in 1940: these are now restored. The Main Hall itself survived and is a large, spacious room with a high coved ceiling, magnificent woodwork and some gorgeous stained-glass windows. Each Livery Company had a table laid with fine festive decorations, and our Company occupied two, having the largest number of attendees.

The catering at Stationers' Hall is always a treat, and this was no exception. We started with a tasty mackerel fillet salad, followed by splendid Roast Turkey and all the trimmings, and ended with a delicious rich and indulgent dessert – a white chocolate and cranberry Blondie served with a winter berry compote, almost like a deconstructed Christmas pudding. The pulling of crackers and a glass of smooth Fonseca Port completed the meal.

After a speech by Paul Wilson – Master Stationer – and a warm welcome to each Livery Company, the festivities ended with Season's Greeting to all. Our Master is a regular supporter of this occasion, and encourages all Liverymen to come along next December to this very convivial Inter-Livery event

Our Winter Dinner – Joust A Good Time

The Winter Luncheon was held at the Armourer's Hall on Friday 17th January. This site has been the home of the Worshipful Company of Armourers and Brasiers since 1346 and was completely rebuilt in 1839. This magnificent hall has a plaque to the unknown fireman who saved the hall from burning down during the Blitz, and a fascinating collection of armour and weapons to be admired whilst waiting to be received.



The Liverymen and guests feasted on Beetroot Gravalax, followed by a delicious Ballotine of Chicken with grape and tarragon sauce, then Pear and Rhubarb tart. Following the formal toasts to the King, the Royal Family, Lord Mayor and City of London Corporation, we all toasted and welcomed guests and our newest Liveryman – Elizabeth “Lis” Batteson.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the David Bethel Award to PM George Turner for his contribution to the Livery company, especially for the work on the Education Committee, links with Shima and Stoll to support student training, contacts within industry and above all, donation of

thousands of socks to guests and charities on behalf of the Livery. PM George Turner spoke movingly, paying tribute to PMs Gordon Taylor and Brian Smith, who had advised him to ‘suit your b**y self’ when asked what he should do as Master. He also thanked his mentors – Dr. David Bethel and Humphrey Barrett.

PM Elizabeth Fox introduced the Guest Speaker – Willie Hartley Russell MVO DL, Chair of the National Almshouse Association – which supports and represents 1,700 independent almshouse charities in the United Kingdom. Liverymen also enjoyed her insight into the Master's year with ‘tell all’ anecdotes. Next, Willie Russell spoke of his links to the textile industry, the importance of the almshouses and the support they receive from the liveries, especially the positive impact of the community to the lives of the residents. He then toasted the Company.

The Master thanked the Past Master for her insightful comments on his year, and thanked the Guest Speaker for his invaluable support over the years. The Master – Matthew Ellis – summed up his year, stating how much he had loved every occasion but especially the opportunity to meet all the different people across the year. He warmly welcomed the next Master – Peter Corah – amongst a lot of teasing, and concluded



Willie Hartley Russell



PM George Turner & the Master

that although he enjoyed being part of the Livery, he never wanted to be Clerk as this luncheon may never have been, as the previous Monday an email arrived mistakenly stating there was no record of the booking! Well done to our Clerk for rescuing this situation!

Liveryman Buddy Penfold

The Pancake Race – Tuesday 4th March

Flipping for Glory in the City of London

Once again, our Livery formed a valiant team to enter the Inter-Livery Pancake Race 2025, held – as ever – on Shrove Tuesday.



Our Team: The Under Warden, Liveryman Claire Bethel, The Master & The Upper Warden

various charitable initiatives run by the Livery Companies. This adds an extra layer of significance, making the event not just a celebration of tradition but also a way to give back to the community.

There are many individual races, with competitors running in heats before a grand finale determines the overall champion. The categories are:

- Masters' Race – for the heads of Livery Companies,
- Liverymen Race – for members of the Companies,
- Ladies' Race – showcasing the speed and skill of female competitors,
- Novelty Race – where creativity and costume flair take centre stage, and
- The Grand Finale – the ultimate showdown between heat winners.

Participants must sprint across the course while flipping their pancakes, all while dressed in elaborate costumes that reflect their Livery's historic trades.

But – of course – the big question is: who won? Well, while none of our participants actually won their races (generally each coming a respectable third out of five), the winner of the Novelty Costume – by an acknowledged long way – was none other than Jonathan Pears as 'Sir Knit-A-Lot': a great and well-deserved victory.

After all that excitement, we repaired to the undercroft for a lunch comprising a choice of excellent dishes and – of course – pancakes.

The Inter-Livery Pancake Race, established in 2004, takes place in the Guildhall Yard, with the event organised by the Worshipful Company of Poulterers, whose trade has long been associated with eggs – a key ingredient in pancakes. It brings together representatives from various Livery Companies, each donning their ceremonial gowns, elaborate hats, or themed costumes, all while trying to keep their pancakes in their frying pans.

The race itself is not just about speed but also about flipping skill and, of course, maintaining a sense of decorum (as much as possible when running in fancy dress). Participants compete in a series of heats, flipping pancakes twice in a designated area, before dashing towards the finish line.

While the race is all in good fun, it also serves a charitable purpose. Proceeds from the event support the Lord Mayor's Appeal, as well as



Sir Knit-A-Lot in full flow

Brigantes News



Framework Knitters and their guests were out in force at the Brigantes Winter Gathering in Sheffield on the 13th December. Accompanying Matthew and Annette Ellis – Master and Mistress Framework Knitter – were PM Sheila Turner and her guests Jose Hoy, Julia Brown and Bea Maynard, PM Julian Ellis and his sister Diana Thompson, Janie and Robert Martin, Helen Steel, Susan and Dennis Woods, Jenny and David Bentley. The programme for the 220 Liverymen and guests attending the Winter Gathering included a talk, reception and supper in the magnificent Cutlers' Hall – home of the Company of Cutlers in Hallamshire – before moving across the road to Sheffield Cathedral for a splendid Christmas Concert.

Talk – The History of the Humble Fork

At 14.30, in perfect harmony with the venue being 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.

Brigantes 2024 General Meeting

Immediately following the talk, Adrian Waddingham CBE – Tribal Chieftain, Past Sheriff, Past Master Actuary, Master of the Guild of Freeman – chaired the 2024 Brigantes AGM.

Under his Chairman's Report, Adrian reviewed the past year, which included the Winter Gathering in Carlisle Cathedral, the Golf Day at Ganton in April (in which Matthew Ellis – FWK Master – and Dennis Woods were in the winning team of four), and the Brigantes Breakfast at St. George's Hall Liverpool in June.

Among other business, Adrian expressed the Association's considerable appreciation to two founding members of Brigantes: David Bentley – PM Baker and Vice Chairman East, and Nick Gale – PM Plumber and Vice Chairman West, on their retirement from the Tribal Council after ten years of service.

Their successors were elected: PM Actuary Peter Thompson is the new Vice Chairman East and Past Master Clockmaker Mark Levy is the new Vice Chairman West.

The members of the Tribal Council for 2025 are Adrian Waddingham CBE, Chairman; Richard Geldard, Master Tax Adviser, Treasurer; Sir David Wootton, Master Bowyer and Past Lord Mayor; PM Engineer Richard Groome; Lynn Webster, Environmental Cleaner. Martin Horsfield – Gunmaker – is the new Brigantes webmaster.

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.

Reception and Supper

The Reception this year was generously hosted by the Master Cutler following which, at 17.00, Liverymen and guests enjoyed a superb two course supper in the wonderfully festive Great Hall.

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 A Cappella Singers.

Christmas Concert

At 19.00 we crossed the road to Sheffield Cathedral and joined the audience for the Christmas Concert given by the Cathedral Choir and the Ensemble 360 string quintet.

Tom Daggett – the Concert’s Conductor and Sheffield Cathedral Director of Music – is a familiar face to many Liverymen, having served for nine years at St. Paul’s 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

At the end of April Brigantes, Golfers will be striding down the fairways of the British Open Championship Links of Royal Liverpool at Hoylake.

On Brigantes last visit to Royal Liverpool, in April 2022, our then Master Framework Knitter – Tony Jarvis – was in fine form and part of the winning team. With our current Master winning at Ganton in 2024 and Adrian Keene and Mike Piper with their names up in lights at Lindrick in 2023, it’s fair to say that the FWKs seem to relish these Brigantes golf events!

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 2026.

Brigantes Breakfast - Thursday 24th July

In July, Brigantes is off to Scarborough and its famous Spa Pavilion overlooking the South Bay.

Scarborough, rich in history and with its castle perched high above the North and South Bays, is proud to be Britain’s first seaside resort. In the late Victorian era, Scarborough was so fashionable that it was often considered the Monte Carlo of the British Isles.

The day will start at 10.30 with the Brigantes Lecture, followed at 12 noon by a reception and lunch overlooking the South Bay at 13.00, with post-lunch entertainment concluding at 16.30.

The town is well served by road (A1/M1 and A64) and by rail (just under 3 hours from Kings Cross). There are plenty of hotels within walking distance. The cliff railway adjacent to the Spa opened in 1873 – another first in the UK – and is still in operation.

Brigantes 2025 Winter Gathering – December

Details to be announced soon

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



Reception and Supper

Liveryman Jenny Bentley

FWK's 'Knit for the Community' Project – An Update

Can you believe it – 'Knit for the Community' is five years old! Where has the time gone? The idea was the brainchild of PM Liz Green in lockdown to give people a purpose while stuck at home. Each person knits a square, and then the squares are sewn together to make a blanket. For the past four years, PM Sheila Turner has received well over 800 parcels of squares, has sorted each one and then distributed squares to volunteers for sewing up. Since the beginning, Framework Knitters Liverymen have collected squares from volunteers and dropped off wool for them to knit their next batch – it has truly been a team effort and it's been great to see the difference this has made to those receiving the blankets and the positive impact that this has had on individuals who enjoy knitting to help others. The initial target was to make up 20/30 blankets – thanks to some media coverage and support from Livery companies, that target was met within a few months – to date, 990 full single duvet sized blankets and 1,306 smaller lap blankets have been made up and donated to vulnerable individuals, as well as cot blankets made using special wool for babies at Leicester Royal Infirmary. What an achievement!

Charities donated to by Knit for the Community

Age UK, Huddersfield

Age UK, Leicester

Baby Basics, Leicester

Cardinal Hume, London

Community Action Project, Wakefield

Crossroads Food Bank, Meltham

Denby Dale Community Trust, Yorkshire

Falcon Community Support, Loughborough

Focus 4 Hope, Brighouse

Full Life Church Food Bank, Holmfirth

Happy Days, Halifax

Kids Bank, Chester

Kirklees College, Huddersfield

Leicester Ageing Together

Leicester Royal Infirmary

Little Village, London

Meadow Hope Food Bank, Nottingham

Padley Hub, Derby

Pennine Domestic Abuse, Huddersfield

Samaritans, Leicester

Small Acts of Kindness, Watford.

Ssafa, London

The Arches, Nottingham

The Saviours Trust, Leeds & Pontefract

Treloar School, Hampshire

Liz created a spreadsheet to log squares received and track blankets made. This spreadsheet now has over 700 volunteers listed who at some point have knitted squares and donated them to the project. Each blanket is logged against the person who knitted the squares and a photograph of the completed blanket is sent to the knitter so they can see the finished result. Knitters, and those sewing up the blankets, are based all over the country, from Kent to Scotland, and one parcel arrived from the United States of America!

It would be impossible to name every volunteer/group in this article, but we need to recognise various charities and organisations that have supported it including Leicestershire Inner Wheel, Lubenham Knit & Natter Group, League of Remembrance, Loving Hands, Leicester Mercury, Look North, Let's Knit magazine, Bingham Bells WI, East Midlands Today, Shepley Knit & Natter group, Knitting Today magazine, St. Columba's Church Craft Group, Guildhall Knit & Natter group and, of course, the Livery Companies themselves. We have knitters from over 40 Livery Companies on our spreadsheet, and a special mention to residents of the Framework Knitters Cottage Homes in Oadby, who have been busy knitting since the project began.

Over the years the project has donated to many charities, as listed opposite. We look for charities that support vulnerable people through sheltered accommodation and support groups. It was lovely to receive a photo from the Saviours Trust in Leeds showing a knitted blanket in one of their rooms – it really brightens up the atmosphere and makes it seem a bit more like home.

In autumn 2021 we held an auction of 30 blankets, which raised £4,659. This was split between the

original five charities – Action Homeless, Leicester; Glass Door, London; Small Acts of Kindness, Watford; Meadows Foodbank, Nottingham; and Smart Move, Calderdale. Blankets have also been sold at The Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch and the Red Cross Christmas Market.

The London Livery companies have always given a lot of support, and in both 2023 and 2024 the Lady Mayoress of the day knitted for us! We had special blankets made up in the colours of the Lord Mayor's charity and donated them through City Giving Day to Little Village – a charity with seven hubs in London that support young families.

The project has brought together many people, and friendships have been formed. FWK volunteers collect squares from local knitters, often stopping for a cuppa and chat at the same time.

We can't wait to reach 1,000 full blankets, and will probably be there by the time this article is printed.

Thanks to the FWK Company and other individuals for supporting the project by covering postage and yarn costs. We are 100% run by volunteers, and we couldn't do it without you.

Quick facts :-

Over 100,000 squares knitted.

Would cover 15 tennis courts.

700 knitting volunteers.

50 volunteers who make up the squares into blankets.

Donated to 25 charities.



Lady Mayoress Mrs Felicity Lyons in September 2023 when we did City Giving Day

PMs Liz Green & Sheila Turner, and Upper Warden Jonathan Pears



Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters 'Knit for Community' initiative has helped over 2,000 individuals

In April 2020, at the start of the pandemic, The Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters began 'Knit for Community'. Our initial aim was to produce 20-30 blankets to support charities in Leicestershire. Thanks to fantastic support from over 700 volunteers across the UK, over 2,000 unique and warm blankets/lap blankets have been created. One of our volunteers heard first hand the difference this made to an individual who, with the cost-of-living crisis, had to choose between heating their home or putting food on the table. The project continues to gain new volunteers who knit/crochet/sew up the squares, and a quote from one of our volunteers during lockdown was particularly poignant 'It just reminds me that each of us apart can't do much, but **TOGETHER** we can'. Members and friends of over 40 Livery companies have supported this initiative to date, and we welcome help from new volunteers, or anyone who would like to donate towards purchasing wool or the cost of sending the blankets to charities. For further information please contact Liz Green liz@lfgreen.co.uk.



Martin Price – 10th May 1950 to 19th November 2024



Martin in his garden in Seillans

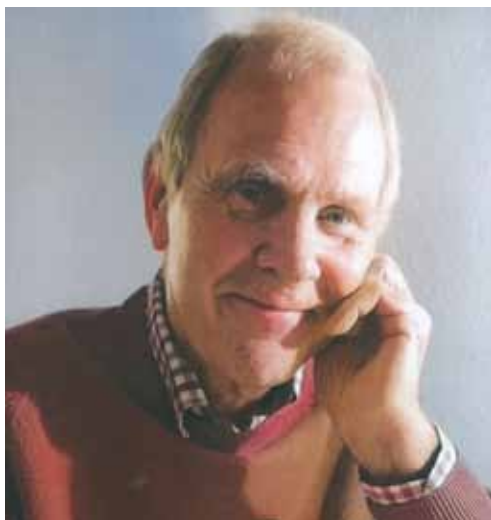
Martin Price served ten years in the military, a career he chose over joining the Halle Orchestra as a musician. He was commissioned into The King's Regiment after training at Sandhurst and served in various rôles, including Platoon Commander in Hong Kong, Intelligence Officer in Belfast, and Adjutant of a TA Battalion in Warrington. His military career was marked by bravery, professionalism and dedication, earning him commendations such as the General Service Medal and a UN Medal for Cyprus. Martin quickly established himself as a calm, thoughtful and highly professional young officer. His quiet demeanour masked a keen sense of humour and a quick dry wit. He was considerate and kind, popular with his peers and well respected and liked by all ranks. He completed several tours with his Company on the Sino-British border, exercised in New Zealand, and participated with his Platoon in a number of high profile community relations projects.

In September 1973, he returned to the UK to marry Rosamund Mary Broadhurst (Ros) whom he had met during their time in the University Officer Training Corps. Martin had been her Senior Under Officer when she joined and she, too, went on to be commissioned. They were married in the Parish Church of Wing in Rutland and honeymooned locally before travelling back to Hong Kong. Their first married accommodation was a small flat

in a tower block situated in a Chinese community. Two days after their wedding, Martin was promoted to Captain.

After leaving the Army in 1981 and following an MBA at Cranfield University, Martin went on to have a very successful career as an Investment Manager in the City of London. He and Ros became two of our Liverymen on 15th July 2011, and took part in many of our events. In particular, as well as walking in The Lord Mayor's show with Ros, in 2014 & 2015 he hosted spectacular views of that show from his offices overlooking St. Paul's cathedral, while his son – Alexander – took part in The Lord Mayor's Appeal Inter-Livery Go Kart Grand Prix on Sunday 22nd July 2018.

More recently, Martin & Ros bought a second home in Seillans, a commune in the Var department of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, southeast France, where they had the



opportunity to enjoy their retirement together.

Liveryman Ros Price



Martin, Ros & Alexander

Ian Grundy – 30th June 1958 to 31st January 2025

Master 2019 & 2020

Ian joined the Livery in 1997 with encouragement from his father in law – PM Brian Smith – where he joined other members of the family.



He was soon invited to join the Cottage Homes Committee, where he served for many years: he took a keen interest in all aspects of the management of the homes and got to know many of the residents.

He was invited to join the Court, and was elected Master in April 2019. Owing to the restrictions of the Covid pandemic, Ian had the honour of being master for two years. During that period, he oversaw Court meetings being held virtually and, in conjunction with the Clerk, devised innovative ways to encourage the Livery to socialise: these consisted of virtual events such as dinners, wine tasting and magic shows.

When restrictions lifted, Ian enjoyed Livery and City life: highlights included dressing up as William Lee, – the inventor of the knitting machine – to leading the Company's float in the Lord Mayor's Show. He held his Master's weekend in Bristol, and arranged wine tasting and a walking tour, with the weekend culminating in a dinner on the SS Great Britain, with guests arriving by boat. He also took the opportunity to drive sheep over London Bridge.

At The Lord Mayor's Show

He was very grateful to Assistant Jonathan Pears, who arranged to transport the not insubstantial Master's chair from the Cottage Homes at Oadby to the Guildhall for Ian's banquet – the first time the chair had been used at a dinner for many years.

Ian enjoyed participating in Inter-Livery events including sailing, golf, swimming, croquet and the pancake race. At the pancake race, Ian gamely dressed up again – this time as a mobile phone!

After his years as Master, both he and Julia joined their respective Past Master groups and became members of their committees.

Ian's other interest was Rotaract (junior Rotary 18 - 28 years of age) and Rotary. He joined Oadby Rotaract at 18 and was still friends with many of the people he met there. It was through Rotaract that he met Julia. Later, he moved on to full Rotary, which shares many of the same vales of friendship and charity as the Livery Companies, so it was a perfect fit.

Ian gave back to the community in many ways. He was a PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) for a few years and helped at Rutland Sailability. He was a passionate sailor and loved being on the water. He sailed his own boat on Rutland Water and then moved up to a sailing boat anchored at Woodbridge. It was full circle when Rutland Sailability was able to give Ian the sailing experience during his illness.

Ian bore his illness with fortitude and grace. He will be missed by his family, the Rotary and Livery families.



PMs Sheila Turner & Graham Smith

Ian & Julia Grundy

Dates for your diary

2025

29th April	Brigantes pre-golf dinner in the Hoylake Clubhouse	See Below
30th April	Brigantes Golf, British Open Champion Links, Hoylake	See Below
10th May	VE 80 Tea Party at Corah Hall	The Clerk
24th June	Common Hall for the election of Sheriffs, Guildhall	The Clerk

27th to 29th June – The Leicester Weekend

27th June	Pétanque at The White Lion, Whissendine, followed by dinner	The Clerk
28th June	Morning: Ceremony of the Socks, Wigston Framework Knitting Museum	The Clerk
28th June	Evening: Livery Dinner at Leicester Race Course	The Clerk
29th June	Morning: Annual Church Service, St. Peter's Church, Oadby	The Clerk
29th June	Lunchtime: Barbecue at The Cottage Homes, Oadby	The Clerk

24th July	Brigantes Breakfast, Scarborough	See Below
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16th & 17th August – The Cambridge Weekend

16th August	City Tour, followed by dinner	The Clerk
17th August	Punting on the River Cam, followed by luncheon	The Clerk

12th to 14th September – The Master's Weekend in Melton Mowbray

12th September	Golf at Melton Mowbray Golf Club, followed by dinner	The Clerk
13th September	Morning: Visit to Equine Squadron at DATR the Belvoir Castle and Gardens	The Clerk
13th September	Evening: Dinner	The Clerk
14th September	Visit to Belvoir Hunt kennels	The Clerk

26th September	Admission of Sheriffs, Guildhall	The Clerk
29th September	Common Hall for the election of The Lord Mayor, Guildhall	The Clerk
7th November	Silent Ceremony for the admission of The Lord Mayor, Guildhall	The Clerk
10th October	Livery Court and Banquet, Merchant Taylors' Hall	The Clerk
11th October	Post-Banquet Brunch	The Clerk
19th November	Festival of St. Cecilia, followed by luncheon	The Clerk
10th December	Christmas Carol Service & Luncheon	The Clerk

2026

23rd January	Winter Court and Luncheon, Butchers' Hall	The Clerk
26th February	Ladies' Luncheon at Armoury House, with Griswold demonstration	The Clerk
February - TBC	Gentlemen's Luncheon: tour round Churchill War Rooms, then lunch at RAF Club	The Clerk
17th April	Installation Court and Dinner, venue TBC	The Clerk
24th June	Common Hall for the election of Sheriffs, Guildhall	The Clerk
28th September	Admission of Sheriffs, Guildhall	The Clerk
29th September	Silent Ceremony for the admission of The Lord Mayor, Guildhall	The Clerk

Brigantes Events:

For further details of Brigantes Events, please email the organisers at livery@brigantes.org.uk, where you can also ask to sign up for their Newsletter.

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.