



Knitter

The Newsletter of the Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters

Our Return to Mansion House



The Royal Yeomanry Band

by a carpet guard of the Croydon Sea Cadets, and then 188 Liverymen and guests gathered for drinks before moving into the Egyptian Hall for dinner.

Following Grace, said by the Master's Chaplain – the Reverend Eleanor McMahon – we settled down to a meal of trout, duck and pannacotta accompanied by a plentiful supply of both red and white wine and port. The band of The Royal Yeomanry (Inns of Court & City Yeomanry) played a selection of music throughout dinner, culminating in a marvellous and rousing rendition of the Post Horn Gallop, reminding the Leicestershire contingent of home.

After the Master had proposed the toasts to the Royal Family and to the City, PM Sheila Turner and the Lord Mayor presented the *David Bethel* Bursary to Elise Miller. Elise had gained a first-class degree at Leeds University in Textile Design specialising in Knitted Textiles. She is presently working for COW, which turns out to be a second-hand vintage clothing company. Before making the presentation, Sheila took the opportunity to thank PM George Turner for all his hard work

On Friday 27th October – The Rugby World Cup semi-final day – The Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters gathered at the Mansion House for their Livery Banquet. Our Gallant Clerk was a little nervous, as this was his first major event: however, he need not have worried – it was a wonderful evening. We were greatly honoured to have The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress as the Master's principal guests, along with both Sheriffs and several Masters of Livery Companies associated with the FWKs.

On arrival at Mansion House we were greeted



(continued on Page 4)

And the Croydon Sea Cadets



**THE WORSHIPFUL
COMPANY OF
FRAMEWORK
KNITTERS**

2023-24

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New ... New... News !!

**No new Liverymen this time; so instead
we thought we'd bring you news of a
new book that might be of interest to
our members.**



THE
CROWOOD
PRESS

New Book



- Step-by-step photos guide those new to knitting gloves through the key points of glove construction and making your first pair.
- Five further glove patterns then give a choice of styles to knit, from a plain pair through to colour worked gloves of varied complexity.
- Historical examples taken from rarely accessed museums and collections are shown in full colour
- Guides to online resources for both knitting and accessing collections promote further exploration.
- Bespoke illustrations enhance the text throughout.

A Knitter's Guide to Gloves introduces several construction techniques, alongside the possible materials and tools that are suitable for knitting the gloves you want. A chapter on design guides you through adapting and customising your glove knitting before outlining how to go about designing from personal inspiration.

Angharad Thomas is a designer, maker and researcher. She has a master's degree in knitwear design and a PhD which examined Welsh textile production, design and sustainability. Angharad has spent much of the last ten years researching, designing and knitting gloves, in tandem with her role as Textile Archivist for the collection of the Knitting & Crochet Guild. Her gloves have been exhibited and her designs and articles published in the consumer press in both the UK and the USA. Angharad also gives talks and workshops on glove knitting.

£16.99 Paperback

ISBN: 9780719841729

144 pages

Available through online retailers and local bookshops

www.crowood.com

And remember, the Editor is always delighted to receive personal news from our members – Liverymen & Freemen alike – with announcements of births and marriages particularly welcome.

It's YOUR Newsletter, so keep those snippets coming !!

From

The



Master

By the time you read this, I shall have completed just over half of my year as Master. So many Past Masters have told me that one's year in office flies by, but that, of course, may be due to advancing years as much as anything else. It has certainly been an action-packed six months, although I would have appreciated a more balanced agenda. It is very much "feast or famine".

As I write, I have just attended two white tie dinners and one black tie one in three days, but now have no formal events to attend for the next six days.

I was asked when I became Master whether I had any particular ambitions, and my reply of "consolidation" might have been viewed as rather "unambitious". I was, however, conscious that we were still coming out of the Covid/lockdown period which had so blighted all our lives and which had had such an impact on all Livery activities. I wanted to "consolidate" the number of Liverymen and Freemen attending our various events, and even tempt some to return to attending. Whilst I am having to battle lack of confidence and increased hotel prices, I am pleased with the numbers that have been achieved and have been struck by the genuine delight shown by those seeing each other in person for the first time in three or more years.

PM Tony Jarvis did such a great job in restructuring our Committees that I also wanted to let those Committees and their Chairmen get on with their jobs, which I am delighted to report they have done with alacrity. Indeed, one of the unforeseen benefits of lockdown has been our new-found ability to hold virtual meetings, which has helped with this.

I have striven in my first six months to attend all those events which are regular fixtures in the Master's calendar: principally, invitations to lunch or dinner from other companies, but also – for example – joining celebratory events at St. Paul's Cathedral and supporting the Office of the Lord Mayor by attending Common Hall. The latter is a good way to meet the

Masters of companies near to us in seniority, as we all have to file in order (my sympathies are with the poor staff, who must think it is like herding sheep to get us all in the right place).

What I had not anticipated was that many of the Masters I have met have now completed their term of office and there are new names and faces to learn.



With Alderman Vince Keaveny and my Consort

I have, therefore, already had to bid adieu to many of the Masters I met at the Livery Masters' Weekend in Glasgow in June. This event used to take place in Ironbridge, but in 2022 moved to Sheffield and this year went North of the Border. Glasgow is a city I know reasonably well, but it was very good to revisit the Burrell (which had been closed for many years) and to enjoy dinner in the Glasgow City Chambers.

I imagine that every Master has the opportunity to attend an event which is a "one-off", or at least something new to the Master's Diary. In May I attended a service at St. Paul's Cathedral to mark the 900th Anniversary of the Founding of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, followed by a reception at Guildhall. In a hundred years' time there will no doubt be a similar, but larger celebration.

I have in addition just had the honour and privilege of attending a dinner at Mansion House on 18th October in the presence of Their Majesties The King and Queen 'to Mark the Contributions of the City of London to the Coronation of Their Majesties'. The Anointing Screen created for the Coronation of Their Majesties was also on display, and I was struck by the vibrancy and depth of the colours in this beautiful work of art: an example of the finest British craftsmanship and where all the raw materials had been sourced from the UK and the Commonwealth. Our own Framework Knitters' Company had contributed toward the costs of this project, as had many other Companies, so it was doubly pleasing to be able to attend this event.

Here is to the next six months.

[The Banquet, continued]

and leadership within the Education Committee over many years.

Assistant Jonathan Pears then rose to propose the toast to the Guests. He welcomed all our guests and thanked the Lord Mayor for the use of the Hall. He did add that in case we were wondering why we had had no beetroot with the duck, it was because the Lord Mayor hated it so none was served! He went on to thank everyone who had contributed to the smooth running of the dinner, and made special mention of our two guests from Johnstons of Elgin who have helped boost our charitable donations by contributing to our stall at the Big Curry Lunch in the Guildhall every year.

The Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor Alderman Nicholas Lyons responded on behalf of the guests. He started by welcoming us all to Mansion House and then thanked the Master in advance for her generous cheque to the Lord Mayor's Appeal! He went on to say what an eventful week they had had, welcoming the King and Queen to a banquet earlier in the week. He felt that that

night the King had made the most significant speech of his reign so far. (Many of the Masters present tonight had been there and said what an amazing evening it was.) The Lord Mayor continued by thanking the Livery for all its help and support over the years at the Big Curry lunch and for its continued support for other charitable causes. He mentioned that The Lady Mayoress had helped knit squares for our blankets. He concluded by presenting a fountain pen to the Master and a mayoral spoon to the Gallant Clerk, rounding off with a much-appreciated joke about a taxi driver and a nun!

The Master – Liz Fox – presented a cheque to the Lord Mayor towards his charities and two pairs of socks from Pantherella for both the Lord Mayor and his wife. The Lady Mayoress was also presented with a knee blanket made from knitted squares.

The Master thanked everyone for coming, and reiterated her thanks to the Lord Mayor for the use of Mansion House. To an enormous round of applause, she introduced Liveryman Len Whittaker who had just had his 100th birthday and decided to come to the banquet to celebrate.

To close, she asked everyone to join her for a Stirrup Cup; and so an enjoyable evening drew to a close.



The Lord Mayor



Dining in the Egyptian Hall

Assistant Janie Martin

All About The Court



The Court sitting in Watermens' Hall in June

In this Newsletter and elsewhere, we often make reference to 'The Court' – but what exactly IS 'The Court', who's in it, and what do they do? Our longer-serving members will know all about it, of course; but for the benefit of our newer readers we're delighted to present this brief summary of its workings.

Every Livery Company has a Court, because it is the Court that's the governing body that oversees the running of each livery: in essence, it's similar to the Board of Directors in a limited company.

A typical Court will comprise Assistants, one or more Wardens, the Master, Past Masters and, sometimes, one or more Stewards. Looking specifically at the Framework Knitters:

- Assistants are Liverymen who have been asked to join the Court; and it is envisaged that they will go through the journey of being Wardens and then Master.
- The Under and Upper Warden are the steps preceding the position of Master, and may well attend Livery events for or with the Master. The Upper Warden is normally the Chair of our Cottage Homes Committee. The position of Under & Upper Warden and Master is normally held for one year, and changes every April.
- The Master is the "figurehead" of the Company and represents the Company at many events throughout the year, chairs the Court meetings and hosts the dinners.
- Past Masters are those who have had their year as Master of the Company: eventually they retire from the Court and may receive the status of Past Master Emeritus.
- Stewards are on the Court to learn more about the workings of the Court as well as taking part in various functions, notably receiving and helping to look after guests at dinners and similar occasions.
- The Clerk: think of the clerk as the company's executive who manages the Livery on a day-to-day basis and who distributes the documents for meetings, takes the Minutes of each Court meeting and ensures that proceedings follow according to both plan and protocol. The Clerk is the continuity in the Company, as the Master and Wardens change each year.
- The Beadle is responsible for leading in the Master, Wardens & Clerk at the beginning of each Court meeting, and leading them out again afterwards. He or she also introduces potential Freeman & Liverymen to the Court. Finally, he is instrumental in ensuring the smooth progress of our many dinners.

Full details of the Court and its current membership can be found on the website.

The Court runs as a democracy, and each Court Member has an equal vote on the various decisions that arise during each Court meeting. There are four Court meetings per year, three in London and one in Leicester. The early part of a Court meeting may include admitting new Freeman and Liverymen with a short formal ceremony. Then reports from Committees are reviewed along with accounts and financial information. Finally, the Court will discuss various projects ongoing within the Company, the Livery movement and anything else that might impact on the Company. Minutes of the meetings (with sensitive information removed) can be found on the website.

The Court is supported by a number of committees that look at specific areas, and membership of these is drawn from Freeman, Liverymen and Court members. Full details can be found on the website.

The future success of any livery company depends ultimately on having an active and informed Court: if YOU would like to be considered as a potential Assistant, any member of the Past Masters Committee would be delighted to hear from you. PM Graham Smith currently chairs that committee: he can be contacted for an informal chat by telephone on 01455 888704 or by email on gafsmith@gmail.com.

All Aboard in Watermens' Hall



Watermens' Hall

and Wherryman, and thus the Company progressed and grew. Watermen provide ferries to carry people. In 1700, the Watermen were joined by the Lightermen, who provided ferries to carry goods and cargo, to continue this venture.

On Friday 30th June, we dined in The Freeman's Room – a wonderful seemingly-traditional dining room; but actually this room was created in 1983 by opening up the first floors of No. 16 and No. 17.

Those of us living in the East Midlands were a little starstruck as our Master – Liz Fox – introduced our Guest of Honour Ms. Anne Davies DL – the BBC TV presenter of East Midlands

Watermen's Hall is the home of The Company of Watermen and Lightermen of the River Thames, and is a Grade II listed building and a scheduled ancient monument. A lovely combination of buildings, they originally moved into No. 18 St Mary at the Hill in 1780, and expanded by acquiring the neighbouring Nos. 16 and 17 buildings in the 1980s.

First regulated by Act of Parliament during the reign of Henry VIII in 1514, this City Company is without a Grant of Livery, for historic reasons.

What is the difference between a Waterman and a Lighterman?

The River Thames has always been extremely important for trade in London, the Thames Estuary and abroad. In a study by historian John Stow in his 1598 publication 'A Survey of London', he noted that 40,000 men earned a living on or about the River Thames. A Parliamentary Act in 1555 gave them the control of all Watermen



In the Dining Room

Today, which occupies the half-hour slot after the National Six O'Clock News from 6:30 to 7.00pm. In fact, I informed Anne before the dinner that the Pears family have their 'tea' (Midlands speak for evening meal) with Anne most days. She teased and said everyone says that.

Anne is a vastly experienced TV journalist, working on Panorama, Question Time, and a founding presenter of Breakfast TV. Then, via local radio news and ITN, Anne established herself as the 'anchor' for BBC East Midlands Today. She demonstrated her sense of timing and professionalism by explaining how the newsroom used to be full of smokers: a low-lying smog being a permanent resident. She showed us how all the presenters would take their positions just before going live: as the countdown of 3-2-1 began, they would take a last drag on their cigarette, stub it out, blow the smoke out of the camera shot, and – to the room of diners as well as the live TV audience – transformed into a wonderfully professional and radiant presenter bang on her mark.



Anne Davies

For those outside the East Midlands, watch the BBC's Children in Need programme; and when they 'throw to the East Midlands', it will be Anne, accompanied by Pudsey Bear, who will be presenting.

For the musical interlude we were greatly entertained by Emily and Katie from All Aboard Opera! Their website says that 'with a can-do spirit and a bit of gaffer tape, anything is possible!' They needed no gaffer tape and produced a most polished and professional performance of arias from the operas. The Freeman's Room is not a small venue, but the power of their voices going through one's body was a wonderfully immersive and uplifting experience. The



Emily and Katie from All Aboard Opera!

usual cosy Stirrup Cup before we all reluctantly exited Watermen's Hall, suitably glowing from a great event.

Flower Duet from Lakmé, Act 1 (better recognised to us all as the British Airways advert theme) was so delightfully powerful that we were all holding on to our wine glasses.

A wonderful evening, including excellent and amusing toasts by The Master and Upper Warden Matthew Ellis, came to a close with the

“Many waters cannot quench love”

Following our Summer Dinner, on Saturday 1st July we were treated to a guided tour of Southwark Cathedral.

Southwark Cathedral was once known as the priory church of St. Mary Overie. This unusual name derives from ‘over the rie’, meaning it was ‘over the river’ from Saxon London. However, it became an Augustinian Priory in 1106 and, with Westminster Abbey and St. Bartholomew the Great in Smithfield, is one of the three great monastic churches that have survived in London. Augustine of Hippo – their founder – taught that “Nothing conquers except truth and the victory of truth is love” (Victoria veritatis est caritas). Early modern Southwark was a Rabelaisian outpost of the City, home to raucous coaching inns, prostitution, bear-baiting, bustling markets, a thriving dock and, of course, the theatre. The



Our Guide explains some details

martyred at Canterbury in 1170. Perhaps the most famous resident of the priory was the court poet John Gower, who lived there at the start of the 15th century. He was a friend of Chaucer, who was famous for *The Canterbury Tales* which begins in Southwark. Gower died at the priory and left a large part of his money to St. Mary Overie. He was a quietly generous, kind and humble man, and his beautiful tomb can be found in the nave of the Cathedral.

In 1469, the roof of the nave fell in and was rebuilt in oak.

At the Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1539, the last six canons were pensioned off, although they continued to live in buildings north of the church. The church itself became the property of King Henry VIII, who rented it to the congregation. It was re-named St. Saviour's, though the old name remained in popular usage for many years.

cathedral therefore had a rather ambiguous relationship with the borough. The Parish leaders wanted to set a moral example, yet they profited from licensing a large number of brothels!

At the Priory of St. Mary Overie, the Canons would have welcomed the pilgrims on their way to Canterbury, would have served the poor and most particularly, through their founding of St. Thomas' Hospital, would have brought healing to the sick. St. Thomas' Hospital stands opposite the Houses of Parliament and was originally named in honour of St. Thomas Becket, who was



The Marchioness Memorial stone

Tired of renting from the King, a group of merchants from the congregation, known as ‘the Bargainers’, bought the church from King James I in 1611 for £800.

In 1703, the Great Screen was concealed by a painted wooden screen on which were inscribed the Lord’s Prayer, Creed, the Ten Commandments, and a dove descending with a group of cherubs heads topped with flaming urns. This wooden screen was removed in 1830, and the niches restored and three rows of carved angels added. A Victorian restoration and extension were so sensitively undertaken with similarly textured stone and oak, that the join is almost seamless and hard to discern. St. Saviour’s Church became Southwark Cathedral in 1905. The diocese which it serves stretches from Kingston-upon-Thames in the west to Thamesmead in the east and Gatwick Airport in the south.



The magnificent screen

In 1930, the lower portion of the screen was gilded and a new panel showing the Greek and Latin Fathers of the Church was added. This was inspired by a panel in St. Mark’s, Venice. The central figures of Christ in Majesty (St. Saviour) and the Virgin Mary with the Christ Child (St. Mary Overie) were gilded in the 1970s.

There is a Marchioness Memorial stone, commemorating the disaster in 1989, when the pleasure boat The Marchioness collided with another vessel and sank with the loss of 51 young lives. Many of us remember the sight of police officers, fire service and ambulance personnel peering over the Thames bridges scouring the dark waters for the casualties of that awful night when the Bow Belle flipped the pleasure boat over. The octagonal memorial stone, dedicated in 1991, has a ship’s wheel engraved around the outer edge. A plaque with the names of those lost is located at the head of the memorial. The Cathedral remembered them with a special 30th anniversary service in 2019, saying “Many waters cannot quench

love, neither can the floods drown it.” [Song of Solomon 8:7]



Lunch at the Bunch of Grapes

Our guide – Linda – led us on a very informative and entertaining tour of this wonderful place of worship. Liverymen and their guests – who included the Grand Prior of the Order of St. George – adjourned to the Bunch of Grapes for a convivial lunch.

Liveryman Simon McIlwaine

Brigantes News

2023 Brigantes Breakfast

The Royal Hall, Harrogate



On Friday 7th July, a large contingent of FWKs travelled to join other Brigantians and their guests in The Royal Hall, Harrogate for the 2023 Brigantes Breakfast: the annual Northern lunch for City of London Liverymen.

The Principal Guests were Alderman Vincent Keaveny CBE – Immediate Past Lord Mayor and, of course, a Framework Knitter, Simon Theakston DL – Past Master Brewer and Honorary Alderman of Harrogate and the Rev. Charles Cowling – PM Actuary. Adrian Waddingham CBE – Past

Sheriff, PM Actuary, staunch Lancastrian and Tribal Chieftain of Brigantes – was in the Chair. Also present from the FWKs, with respective partners, were PMs Linda Bentata and Sheila Turner (a Brigantes Committee member), Julian Ellis OBE, Assistants Janie Martin DL and Susan Jagelman, Liverymen Ann Horsfield, Suzan Woods, Karen Sankey, Jenny Bentley, Sonja Clasby and Chri Muir, and Shaun and Mary Mackaness.

At 10.30, to an early-arrivals record audience of over 200, this year's Brigantes Lecture *What Am I Bid?* was given in hugely entertaining style by Philip Serrell - author, auctioneer, TV presenter from Antiques Road Show and Member of the Clothiers Company of Worcester.



Following the Reception at 12 noon in the Royal Hall's Ambulatory Galleries, lunch was served on the floor of the spectacular Royal Hall Theatre. Simon Theakston DL, preceded the serving of lunch with



an enthusiastic 'Welcome to Harrogate'. Next, Rev. Charles Cowling – one of the four founders of Brigantes – said Grace, and later received warm congratulations on his Ordination six days previously. Principal Guests and Livery Masters had lined up behind the Stage Curtain and, after a 'surprise reveal', processed from the stage to the fanfare of *Ilkley Moor Baht 'at* played by the Harrogate Band and escorted by The Royal Lancers (Queens' Own) who also provided the Carpet Guard. After lunch, a troupe of opera singers from the West End performed a rousing selection from 'Les Miserables',

ahead of speeches from Vincent Keaveny and Adrian Waddingham. For everyone attending, Bakers' Liveryman Lesley Wild had kindly arranged generous table gifts from the world-famous *Bettys of Harrogate Tea Rooms*: a box of Yorkshire Tea and the splendid book *From the Alps to the Dales – 100 years of Bettys*. The proceedings closed at 4.30pm, allowing just enough time for those returning south to catch the 5.05pm train, while others extended their stay to take in more of Harrogate and the Yorkshire Dales.

Liveryman Jenny Bentley

FWKs In The Money – Again

The FWK golfers were in fine form for the 2023 Brigantes golf day in late April at Lindrick near Sheffield – the championship course that has played host to the Ryder Cup, the Curtis Cup and is a regional qualifying course for the Open.

Lindrick is proud to have three local golfing greats as Members – Lee Westwood – former World No1, Danny Willett – 2016 US Masters Champion, and Matthew Fitzpatrick – 2022 US Open Champion.

Following an excellent dinner in the Clubhouse with Lindrick's Vice Captain – Lady Vice Captain – and Members, ten Brigantes teams of four set out on the Wednesday morning to compete over 18 holes, with one Lindrick Member and one lady in each team.

As the photograph below from the 18th tee looking towards the Clubhouse shows – and with Past Master George Turner about to play – the weather was superb and the course in fine condition.



At Brodsworth Hall and Gardens

While the golfers were in action, those not taking to the course had an equally splendid day at English Heritage's nearby Brodsworth Hall and Gardens.

FWKs were represented in the Winners Enclosure, with third place through the team of Baroness Hazel Byford (PM Farmer), George Turner (PM Framework Knitter), Clinton Field (Lindrick Vice Captain) and David Bentley (PM Baker).

Adrian Keene won 'Nearest the Pin'. Mike Piper won the Draw for the bottle of rare 18 year old 49% proof Knockando malt whisky from The Masters Cask, generously donated for charity fund-raising purposes by the Master of the Worshipful Company of Distillers.

The proceeds of the Draw were presented to the Lindrick Captain's Charity, which this year is the Sheffield Parents' Association of Children with Tumours and Leukaemia.

Next year the Brigantes Golf Day is on Wednesday 24 April, at Ganton near Scarborough.



**Adrian Keene
receives his prize**



PM George Turner about to tee off



Dinner in the Clubhouse

David Bentley

A Feature on our various Charitable Activities

A General Overview

The Company makes a number of donations every year from the charitable contributions of Liverymen to the Education and Almshouse Charities, as well as some from the Corporate Fund, various gifts in kind and fundraising. Many of these have been reported in past editions of this Newsletter; but to summarise, here are some highlights from this year:

Education bursaries and awards to the value of £30,000 were made to 17 students from 15 universities and colleges across the country. A further 22 were Highly commended and received certificates. All are invited to become Freeman of the Company, and Bursary winners are invited to the banquet. A total of 41 students were interviewed this year.

Training Grants to the value of £2,400 were awarded to two apprentices at Shima Seiki.

A donation of £2,000 to the Framework Knitting Museum at Ruddington to assist them in employing Matthew Hamilton, now a Freeman of the Company, to demonstrate and teach on the use of its historical frames.

A grant of £810 to enable children from Holbrook Primary School to visit the Ruddington Museum as part of the Holbrook's Hidden Heritage project. In the 19th Century, the village had a thriving stocking-frame knitting community.

Two new cabinets for the Hinckley Museum display of Framework Knitting: £1,794 The cabinets have plaques acknowledging the donation by the Framework Knitters, and they will be used to display items associated with the birth of the industry and hosiery manufacturing in Hinckley. The museum is housed in three former Framework Knitter cottages originally owned by one of the oldest hosiery companies in the world – Atkins Bros Ltd. In 1722 Robert Atkins obtained his freedom from the Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters enabling him to start his stocking manufacturing business.

The *Knit for Community* project started by Past Master Liz Green during lockdown continues – 706 full blankets (44,500 squares) and 657 lap blankets (26,000 squares) and counting! PM Sheila Turner has an impressive system to log and track all the donated squares from delivery through to completion. The blankets are then photographed and labelled before delivery to a wide range of charities in West Yorkshire, Leicester, Nottingham, Loughborough, Watford and London. Last but not least, knitters are thanked by being sent a photo of the completed blanket containing their squares.

With many of the older, traditional Livery Companies we took part in the Becket Pageant Livery Crafts Fair in Guildhall Yard. A great opportunity to talk about Framework Knitting and demonstrate the Victorian Griswold knitting machine. Sales of socks and knitwear raised £879 for our charitable funds.

We ran our usual stall at The Big Curry Lunch selling donated knitted goods from several very generous UK manufacturers. The enthusiastic sales team, led by Jonathan Pears, raised a record breaking £2,324 for the Armed Forces charities. Gifts were also presented to the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester, including Johnstons of Elgin cashmere scarves and socks and some Corgi Coronation socks featuring the golden coach in front of Westminster Abbey.

Our team of the Master and Assistants Janie Martin, Jonathan Pears and Simon Burrows took part in the 19th Inter-Livery Pancake races supporting the Lord Mayor's Appeal. All made their mark, and the Master won the Masters' race! So Framework Knitters will feature again on the engraved copper frying-pan.

The Almshouse Charity funded the planting of a cherry tree at the Cottage Homes as part of the late Queen Elizabeth II's Green Canopy Appeal. A commemorative plaque was unveiled by Vincent Keaveny, Honorary Liveryman and Lord Mayor of London 2021-22. The Almshouse Charity donations fund provided funding of £5,415 to support residents' social activities.

A donation of £360 to our affiliated regiment, the Leicestershire and Derbyshire (Prince Albert's Own) Yeomanry, for the laying up of their historic Guidon (a Light Cavalry standard embroidered with battle honours) at All Saints Church, Newtown Linford.

A donation of £1,000 towards the Livery Companies Coronation Anointing Screen project. A donation of £1,000 to the Turkey and Syria Earthquake DEC Appeal. Donations to the Lord Mayor's Appeal, including £1,000 at the banquet, and through a variety of Livery associated events including the annual United Guilds Service and Garden of Remembrance.

The Coronation

Like many other City Livery Companies, we were delighted to be invited to make a contribution to the Anointing Screen. This screen is supported by a wooden pole framework, designed and created by Nick Gutfreund of the Worshipful Company of Carpenters. The oak wooden poles are made from a windblown tree from the Windsor Estate, which was originally planted by The Duke of Northumberland in 1765. The wooden poles have been limed and waxed, combining traditional craft skills with a contemporary finish.

At the top of the wooden poles are mounted two eagles, cast in bronze and gilded in gold leaf, giving the screen a total height of 2.6 metres and width of 2.2 metres. The form of an eagle has longstanding associations with Coronations. Eagles have appeared on previous Coronation Canopies, including the canopy used by Queen Elizabeth II in 1953. Equally, the Ampulla, which carries the Chrism oil used for anointing, is cast in the shape of an eagle.



The screen had been gifted for the Coronation by the City of London Corporation and participating Livery Companies, the City's ancient and modern trade guilds. HM The King is a keen advocate and supporter of the preservation of heritage craft skills, and the Anointing Screen project has been a collaboration of these specialists in traditional crafts, from those early in their careers to artisans with many years of experience. The individual leaves have been embroidered by staff and students from the Royal School of Needlework, as well as members of the Worshipful Companies of Broderers, Drapers and Weavers. The threads used by the Royal School of Needlework are from their famous 'Wall of Wool' and existing supplies that have been collated over the years through past projects and donations. The materials used to create the Anointing Screen have also been sourced sustainably from across the UK and other Commonwealth nations. The cloth is made of wool from Australia and New Zealand, woven and finished in UK mills.

Walk of Hope



On Saturday 30th September, seven Framework Knitters and friends (and dogs) joined the national Walk of Hope to help build a network of experts in sustainable brain tumour research and to influence the Government and larger cancer charities to invest more nationally.

Our team, comprising PM Tony and Mary Jarvis, Upper Warden Matthew and Nettie Ellis, Under Warden Peter and Claire Corah, Steward Jill Journeaux, and their three dogs, completed the walk and were awarded their medals. Thank you to everyone who so generously supported them. At the time of writing, the current total raised stands at £6,467 including Gift Aid – a truly fantastic result – and

donations are still coming in via the Just Giving page. See <https://tinyurl.com/Hope-Walk> for further details.

Assistant and Chairman FWK Charity Committee Susan Jagelman

And a note about two of our Sporting Events

Croquet



On Saturday 10th June, the Worshipful Company of Glovers held their two annual croquet competitions at Sussex County Croquet Club in Southwick, near Brighton – it is where the World Championships are held sometimes.

Teams competed for one of two cups: first, – the Glovers' Cup – intended for serious players only; and the second, – the Inter-Livery cup – for everyone else !!

Modestly, the Framework Knitters entered only for the latter, fielding two teams: Team 'A', comprising PM Julian Ellis and friend Alan Hooper; and Team 'B' comprising PM Sheila Turner and Liveryman Beth Parry. In the event, Team 'B' came 6th and Team 'A' came 12th out of a field of 16 teams: reasonable results; and it was reported that overall, it was a fun day held in wonderful sunshine.

Beth & Sheila, with two Pavors

Congratulations once more to the Leathersellers for retaining the Glovers' Cup and to the Girdlers for walking away with the Inter-Livery Challenge Cup.

PM Julian Ellis

Pétanque

On another beautiful balmy summer's evening in leafy Vauxhall, we entered the second year of the Inter Livery Pétanque, and having had 17 teams contesting last year there were now 28 teams taking part.

Our team consisted of PM Tony Jarvis, Upper Warden Matthew Ellis and Cottage Homes Manager Nettie Ellis.

This year in the preliminary rounds we were drawn against the Guild of Young Liverymen and The Stationers Teams 2 and 3. After three close-fought matches, we were fortunate to progress to the Quarter-Finals, where we beat the Distillers.

Sadly, like last year, we were beaten in the Semi-Final by the eventual tournament winners – this time it was the Architects.

I am glad to report that we were nevertheless represented in the Final, as the runners-up contained a Framework Knitter in his disguise as Master Entrepreneur – our very own Gary Dixon.

A great evening was had by all; and if anybody is interested in entering in a team next year, please do get in touch with me.



Tony, Matthew & Nettie

Upper Warden Matthew Ellis

Followed by some more Student News

Supporting Students at Shima Seiki & Stoll



Jennifer Read, Holly Denby Dobson,
Olivia Walster, Laura Sillitoe

We continue to support knitting students by sending them – at our expense – to Shima Seiki's training centre at Castle Donnington. Pictured left are students from Leeds and Derby Universities, while shown below are students from De Montfort and Nottingham Trent Universities. In both pictures, **Tutors Anna Thorn & Sam Avery** are to the left and right respectively.

In addition, this year we have also been able to send 3 students – Bursary and Award winners – who have just finished their University courses to go on a two-week course to learn more about yarns, designing their garment on a computer and then sending it from there to a knitting machine to make it. Stoll GB has a small make-up factory as well, so if the garment is not a whole garment one can link on neckbands, put on buttons or a zip, pockets or a belt etc. Stoll has a factory in Germany where they produce a large range of machines, and was set up in

1873. Recently the Company has been bought by Karl Mayer who have machines for woven fabrics but now have knitting machines. It is looked after by Stoll GB for the UK and further countries ever since John Williams set up the business in 1983 which is now run by David Williams – his son. Most of the factories and universities in this country have Stoll machines, so our course will be extremely important for our students. We normally interview 50 students put forward by 23 universities, and we mentor them until they have a career. Last year one of our students bought an industrial Stoll machine to start her new Company from home. Stoll already works with a number of our students who work closely with them whilst starting out with their own companies. And we heard from both Stoll and our students some very exciting reports. Stoll even offered a job to one of our students. This year we hope to be sending more students to Stoll as it has turned out to be extremely useful to the students.

Liveryman Humphrey Barrett



Bridget Calthrop, Olivia Squires,
Humairah Patel, May Hawkins

Hemisha Patel

Hemisha Patel was a worthy winner of the FWK Company Award and prize money of £2,000 in 2021. She used her prize money wisely to buy beautiful natural yarns of a high quality for her final collection of knitted fabrics. Hemisha graduated in 2022 with a first-class honours degree in Textile Design from the University of Derby.

After winning the award, she was proud to become a Freeman of the Company at a ceremony at the Ruddington Framework Knitters Museum. Alongside her award, Hemisha was also offered two weeks training at Shima Seiki headquarters in



Castleton Donnington, where she learned new software and how to design using those systems. This training was also generously funded by the Company.

As well as having sound knowledge and understanding of digital knit processes, Hemisha is also a skilled hand flatbed and domestic machine knitter, great with colour, stitch detail and yarn quality appreciation.

Earlier on this year, the University of Derby had a vacancy for a technical post in its knit studio. This rôle was difficult to fill, as the job requires skills and understanding in all of its knit processes. Hemisha came to mind as someone who could fulfil all that the job description required and had value added assets in her recent Shima Seiki training. We are really gratified to see the circularity of Hemisha's journey, all made possible by the support and generosity of the Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters. Hemisha loves her new rôle and she excels in imparting her knowledge to students and future employees and innovators of the knitwear and its related industries.

A very big **Thank You** to the Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters from the University of Derby!

Freeman Kay Bolderson

The Leicester Weekend

Golf – on the Friday



PM Tony Jarvis wins the Howard Ellis salver

The annual golf competition and dinner were held at The Leicestershire Golf Club on Friday 8th September 2023. Although we had a small field of eight Liverymen and nine guests, it was a worthwhile event. Once again, the weather played its part in the day. This year it was unseasonably hot, and this clearly had an effect on the scores. The winner of the Howard Ellis salver for Liverymen was IPM Tony Jarvis, with Liveryman Nick Turner in second place.

The winner of the Byford trophy for our guests was a long-time supporter of the event – Sue Barrett – with Marion Keene as runner up.

We were delighted that Upper Warden Matthew Ellis has returned to golf following an operation on his wrist. He had an excellent round for his first game back but could not win a trophy as he doesn't have an active handicap. Similarly, Liveryman Gary Dixon is taking up golf again after a long absence from the game and did well to get round in the oppressive conditions. They were each presented with a small prize to acknowledge those achievements.

After the golf, we were joined by a number of other Liverymen and their guests for a convivial informal evening of fellowship. I have booked the Leicestershire Golf Club again for our event in its new date of July 2024.



And Sue Barrett wins the Byford Trophy

Liveryman Adrian Keene Golf Organiser

Saturday Activities



At the Ceremony of the Socks

The first event in the Calendar for Saturday was the Ceremony of the Socks – a unique event in Leicester life, where the Framework Knitters Museum in Wigston pays the rent to the local council for its buildings. The rent is, unsurprisingly perhaps, a pair of socks! The Master, Wardens and Clerk represented the Company at this event, and witnessed a very smart pair of socks being handed over to the Consort of the Mayor by the Deputy

Lord Lieutenant of Leicestershire. Once the rent was paid, everyone was treated to a tour of the museum and a cup of tea. The Clerk continued his education with a demonstration of the Framework Knitting machine in action – happily for all he was not offered a chance to have a go!

Following a sandwich lunch at Corah House, the Court met in Corah Hall where the Master was delighted to admit Liveryman Edward Strange to the Court as an Assistant and then to welcome Richard Grant into the livery as a Freeman. You will recall that the UK was experiencing something of an 'Indian Summer' in early September; and as such, once formal proceedings of admission were completed, the Master graciously allowed the Court to remove jackets and ties – a relief to us all!



Henrietta Chubb JP

After the Court meeting was closed, everyone took a few hours to cool down before we met at St. Martin's Place, next to the Cathedral, for the Livery Dinner. Happily, the venue had the most wonderful air conditioning, which ensured everyone was cool! We were joined by a total of 11 residents from the Cottage Homes, including one of our very active 100-year-old ladies. Everyone enjoyed a very nice three-course meal, with convivial company making the most of dining on round tables for a change. Our guest the High Sheriff of Leicester – Mrs Henrietta Chubb JP – gave the main speech, highlighting the work she was championing in her year in office. During her speech, the Master presented the High Sheriff with a check to support her chosen charity along with a wonderful pair of Company socks made by Turner and Sons.

Russ Gleeson, Clerk

And on to Sunday

Sunday morning saw the Livery assembled at the Parish Church of Oadby for our annual church service and rededication. The Clerk assembled the Court and 'marched' them over the road to the Church in good time – although the Master commented that his 'traffic control' skills could do with some development! Point duly noted!! Once seated in Church, the Master's Chaplain – Rev. Eleanor McMahon – lead the service and treated the Court to a number of Church of Free Scotland traditions including a psalm to the tune of Highland Cathedral – "just give it a go" was her few words of wisdom as the organist struck up! 10/10 for effort from the Court – I will allow others to score the artistic prowess – or otherwise.

Russ Gleeson, Clerk

And then, the traditional Barbecue

Following the church service at St. Peter's Oadby attended by a number of Liverymen and some ten residents, it was then back to the Cottage Homes for the traditional annual barbecue. There was some discussion as to where the charcoal barbecues would be placed this year, because rain was forecast. We decided to chance it, and tables and chairs were brought outside and placed under the Oak Tree. The barbecues were fired up, and Chairman & Upper Warden Matthew Ellis, Under Warden Peter Corah, and joined this year for the first time by Assistant Jonathan Pears and our Clerk Russ Gleeson, set to work. What an awesome foursome they proved to be! As usual, the residents had pre-selected their food: chicken, sausages or burgers (or all three), kindly provided by the Livery, together with salads, bread and new potatoes. Liverymen and guests brought their own selections.

Then just as the delicious food was being enjoyed, sitting in the beautiful grounds of the Cottage Homes, the heavens opened, and the rain came down. It was then a dash to the cover of the hall, everyone grabbing what they could on the way. This, of course, did not stop the chefs continuing with their cooking, and the food kept on coming.

Despite the rain, everyone enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere, and it was a wonderful ending to the weekend.



The 'Fab Four' Chefs



Nettie Ellis, Cottage Homes Manager

Enjoying the grounds before the rain !!

A Visit to The National Theatre



An Introduction by our Guide

Theatre coincided with a march supporting Palestine through the roads around the Theatre: congestion and disruption again.

Approaching the theatre and walking around it to the front door, we were all amazed at this vast, iconic and unusual concrete brutalistic building soaring into the sky with its varied levels and projections.

Our visit for 20 Liverymen and guests consisted of being divided into two groups, each having a guided tour of the building.

Our guides were very well-informed of every aspect and all the details of the theatre, and we learnt of the amazing amount of fine detail and minutiae involved in staging productions.

The building was designed by Sir Denys Lasdun, strongly supported by Sir Laurence Olivier, and completed in 1963 on its fourth proposed site – the others having eventually been deemed unsuitable – on the South Bank in an area for improvement. There is a considerable amount of symbolism in the design and the frontage – with a fabulous view overlooking the River Thames – has an apex pointing towards the West End to link with other theatres and the opposite way to the centre of the largest stage. The plain concrete walls are protected by conservation rules, and no nails nor sticky blobs are allowed. It is one of the few theatres where all aspects of productions are dealt with on the same site. There is another site in Kennington, London, to store 100,000 costumes, which are also made available for hire to raise revenue.

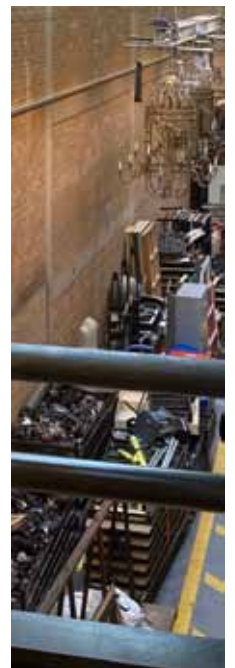
The building contains three theatres of varying sizes: the Olivier theatre (c 1,150 seats), the Lyttelton theatre (c 890), and the Dorfman theatre (c 450 seats), the last being the one for current political plays, along with various studios and learning centres. The eyeline of the audience in the theatres is meticulously measured to give a view of the whole stage without moving one's head. The Dorfman theatre is a quite amazing space: rectangular and mainly black. The stage can be front or in the centre, surrounded by two, three or four banks of seats. There can be two or three tiers, and the ground floor seats can fold into the floor. The ceiling is crammed with a battery of lighting equipment.

The National Theatre sees itself as being the representative for the theatres in the country on a global stage. By keeping ticket prices low and also sponsored, it tries to be accessible to the people who normally could not afford West End prices. Special sessions are held for disabled and disadvantaged people, including ones held for one hour before a performance for people with special needs to enable them to adjust to the sound, lighting and stage settings. Work experience is offered to about 25

First, a sincere thank you to PME Eur. Ing. Paul Bethel, who has retired as Chairman of the Social Committee after a very successful tenure.

In his place we welcome Liveryman Simon McIlwaine, who is experienced with committee work and has a thorough knowledge of London. Many thanks to him for organising the National Theatre trip.

Our last Social Committee-organised outing was in July 2023, when we visited the Wellington Arch and Apsley house. It transpired that a large Gay Pride march through London was beginning there at the same time, with nearby underground stations and roads closed. Our visit to the National



Props

people annually, on the basis of life disadvantages and the enthusiasm of the applicant, rather than exam results or training on the stage elsewhere.

The National Theatre building is open from 9.30 am to 11.00pm Mondays to Saturdays, and on Sundays between 12 noon and 6.00pm, to serve the people in its food outlets and retail bookshop, also raising income and designed to be open to the public who fund it.

When a production is agreed, a 1:25 model is made of the set to circulate to managers for approval. This is then built in the vast, well-equipped metalwork and carpentry areas. Production costs can be up to £1,000,000.

They do send productions to the West End and vice versa. The main production it is currently working on is *The Witches*, agreed after about ten years discussion with Roald Dahl's representatives. Digital records of some productions are made and sold to raise income.

The costume department makes the costumes – with apprentices supported by the FWK's Education Committee – 'distressing' fabrics to age them if required. At present they are using avocado skins to make a pinkish dye for clothing. Replica chain mail is made by loosely knitting a piece of fabric and spraying it with metallic paint: much lighter to wear than the original. Some items of furniture may be bought in and re-furnished, if cost effective.

There is an armoury department staffed by fully-trained gun officers which is triple locked. Guns are real, so that they are the correct weight for an actor, but deactivated by the police. This department also deals with fire and water requirements on the stage.

Full technical rehearsals are held to check every minute detail of light bulbs, scenery and sound etc. There are also duplicate theatre spaces for rehearsals.

The theatre takes a keen interest in manipulating emotions according to each production and creating a feeling of total concentration on the action on the stage. Our principal guide emphasised that the theatre was apolitical, and she told us that some of the past productions in the Dorfman theatre were about a refugee family from Afghanistan travelling via Russia and Europe to Wales for medical treatment,



And lunch in the Lasdun restaurant



A galaxy of lights

the Grenfell tower fire and the (alleged) errors by the Royal Borough of Kensington (pointed out by one of our members that the formal enquiry had not yet given a conclusion or blamed anyone), and at present – a play entitled *Death of England: Closing Time*.

We completed our visit with a delicious lunch in the theatre's Lasdun restaurant.

Night on the Knit

The Knitting and Crochet Guild started in 1978, and their key aim is the preservation of knitted and crocheted items. It has a collection of over 100 items and has open days when the public can browse the collection at Britannia Mills, Slaithwaite, near Huddersfield. The oldest item in the collection is a night cap belonging to Captain Tweedie dated 1826.

Thus it was on Wednesday 14th June I went to the Night on the Knit 3, organised by Woven and sponsored by the Framework Knitters. Woven in Kirklees had organised a five-week celebration of textile heritage in the Huddersfield area covering knitting, spinning, sewing, weaving and much more. The event was held in Huddersfield Art Gallery on the Piazza in Huddersfield.



Knitting Lessons

their final-year projects.

After that came Amy Chen, who lectures at Huddersfield University and runs machine-knitting courses. She talked about and then demonstrated three Brother hand-knitting machines. We were allowed to have a go! Then it was the turn of two ladies – Kate & Emma – who founded and organise YarnDale: a festival of everything wool in Skipton in September every year.

Finally, Julia Halliwell of the Knitting & Crochet Guild showed and talked about a few items from their archive. There were both knitted and crocheted stockings and a beautiful knitted shirt from a Vogue pattern from 1951: they even had the pattern book as well.

About 25 ladies attended the evening, and everyone enjoyed themselves.



Amy & her machines

I was asked to speak briefly about the Framework Knitters and the Bursary Award scheme before introducing two students to talk about their careers in the knitting industry so far. Both had been awarded bursaries from the Company while on their knitting courses.

First to speak, via Zoom, was Kathryn Lund. She studied at Huddersfield University and has since worked for Shima and is now Apex Team Lead at Johnston's of Elgin.

Next, Florian Eisele – also via Zoom – talked about his journey in knit from studying at the London College of Fashion to working at Burberry and setting up his own studio. Both mentioned the Framework Knitters awards they received and how that helped in



PM Sheila Turner

Sheila, Kate, Emma & Amy

Holbrook's Hidden Heritage Project



Holbrook is a village in Derbyshire that sits just outside the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. In 1845 there were 54 stocking-frame workshops in the village with 152 stocking frames operated by 146 workers, who had the materials for their livelihood supplied by the nearby cotton mills at Milford and Belper. Today there are only two listed stocking-frame knitters workshops in the village, but evidence for more exists in the fabric of the other historic buildings in the area. We were approached by MSDS Heritage, which is running the project with the Holbrook Community Society and Holbrook Primary School to research the history of Framework Knitting in the village.

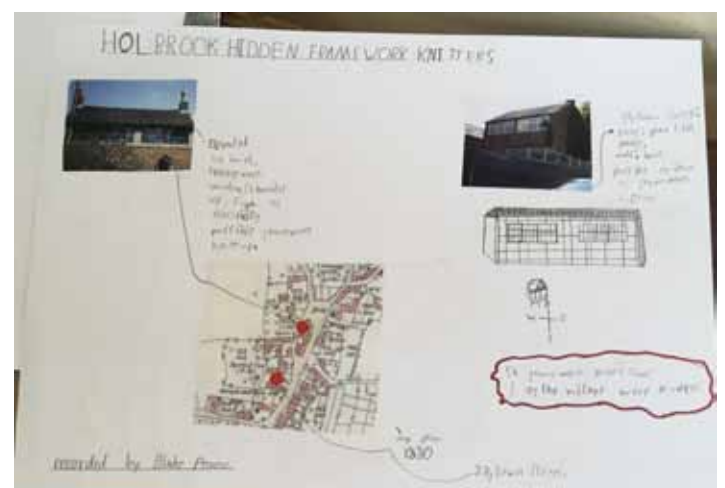
As part of the Company's charitable giving, we made a grant of £810 to enable 62 Key Stage 2 children to visit the Framework Knitting Museum in Ruddington. On completion of the project, the school held an open afternoon to showcase their work; and I was able to attend to meet the MSDS staff, teachers, and the children. It was clear that the project has been a big success and the children had produced all sorts of work inspired by their visit to Ruddington and what they had done in the village – everything from French knitting to village maps and moving framework knitters with their looms!



The children were very enthusiastic, as were parents and grandparents, and had clearly discovered a lot about Framework Knitting in the village. As one of the children said, "it was the best school trip ever" and one of the parents said her son spends all his time making longer and longer strings of knitting rather than video gaming! Several of the families had also found out about the Framework Knitting history of their own homes and ancestors. MSDS

Heritage is hoping to publish its findings in due course.

**Assistant Susan Jagelman
Chair, Charity Committee**



Henry Hurt

15th August 1935 – 2nd August 2023



Ten years ago the eyes of the world were on Prince William and his wife Catherine as they emerged from St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, with their first-born son, Prince George. Yet in one corner of Nottingham all eyes were on the infant's white knitted lace shawl, which had been made by GH Henry & Son, a company that could trace its roots back more than a century. Princess Charlotte and Prince Louis would also be swaddled in one of the shawls after their births in May 2015 and April 2018.

Henry was 18 when he joined the family business in 1953. He was taught to use a traditional hand frame by Jeff Oxley, who himself had learnt at his grandfather's knee. He took over the business in 1956 after the death of his father, when the industry was going through a difficult time. Ten years later he adapted an electric-powered knitting machine to create lace shawls, finding a way to migrate their fine knitting on to the powered

machines and enabling the company's exquisite designs to reach a wider market. Despite such progress, Henry remained determined to maintain the traditional methods. "It seemed to me sacrilege to destroy a unique craft," he said. "We were fortunate to have good frame knitters; and when a frame goes wrong, we have the expertise to put it right."

Henry Edward George Hurt was born in 1935, the son of Leslie Hurt and his wife Nina (née Stevens). His grandfather – George – who had been manager at the Midland Shawl & Hosiery Co, started the business in 1912 in a former seed mill that dates from 1781 and still houses the company's workshop. An early customer was the fashion house Jaeger, and by the 1940s GH Henry & Son's reputation for exquisite fine lacy knitting was such that Harrods was stocking its shawls.

In 1937 Henry's father had bought a large supply of wool from a company that went bankrupt, enabling him to keep going when yarn was rationed during the war. "My dad did all the packing and invoicing. So, in those early years, I helped him with this too," Henry said. The royal family's interest dated from the post-war years. "Harrods in 1948 phoned my dad and said that the Queen had just bought two dozen shawls for Prince Charles being born," he added.

These were different times, and he recalled a cigarette-smoking worker whose pilot light remained ablaze so that he could light his cigarettes without removing his hands from the machine.

At school Henry showed artistic promise, but at age 18 he formally became an apprentice framework knitter, working alongside men who had been knitting in the same room for 30 years. Because his father was referred to as "Lad", he became known as "Lad's lad". The older workers told him how in the 1920s the wives would congregate outside the factory on Saturday lunchtime to meet their husbands on pay day. But the knitters often eluded them, climbing out of the back window and nipping into the local pub, the Hop Pole, before they could be caught. After six months he was called up for two years of National Service with the Sherwood Foresters. He resumed what was meant to be a seven-year apprenticeship in 1955; but his father died the following year, leaving the 21-year-old "Lad's lad" to take the lead. The trade was going through a thin time, but the company held its own, and by the 1990s Laura Ashley was stocking its lace-knitted squares.

Meanwhile, in 1960 Henry married Patricia Walker, who also worked for GH Henry & Son. She died in 2017 and he is survived by their daughter Gillian, who is the fourth generation to run the business, and their son, Robert, who works in IT. Two years ago Henry received the Queen's award for enterprise in international trade.

In his later years, Henry continued to work the hand frames, which are still housed in the original building, and enjoyed showing visitors the original craft. Like his father and grandfather before him, he followed closely the mixed fortunes of Nottingham Forest FC. He also returned to his art and was a member of the Nottingham Society of Artists. Today, hand-frame knitting at GH Henry & Son continues alongside modern machine knitting, with many of the finishing touches still done by hand. "There are faster and cheaper methods," Henry reflected during an interview in 1979, "but you can't beat quality."

Henry Hurt MBE died of complications from Parkinson's disease aged 87.

Reproduced, with permission, from *The Times*, 27th September 2023

Howard Ellis

29th August 1934 – 2nd July 2023

Howard William Hancock Ellis died on 2nd July after a long period of ill health which he bore with great fortitude and patience. His family supported him throughout this very trying period, especially during the time he was admitted to a Nursing Home because of his acute physical weakness.

He was born in Abridge, Essex, in 1934 where he lived with his parents and brother Richard. His father was the local GP and his mother ran the surgery, patients, and home. Both boys attended Chigwell School, Howard as a boarder. On leaving school he continued his studies, being Articled to Carnaby, Harrower & Barham in the City on 10 shillings a week. In 1958 he met Val with whom he enjoyed a lifelong loving partnership. They married in 1961 and were blessed with 3 children – Julia, Penny and Jonathan – all of whom brought him great joy with their many accomplishments, and their five delightful and much-loved grand-daughters.



He served as a National Serviceman, joining the Royal Artillery, training firstly on a field gun, later on an anti-aircraft gun and finally posted to the Thunder Bird 36 Guided Weapon Regiment. He completed an extended period of 2½ years as a full Lieutenant, owing to extra service required following the erection of the Berlin Wall in 1961. During a lot of this time he and Val lived in Duisburg, Germany. On leaving the Army he joined Chartered Accountants Spicer & Pegler in the City for two years, and qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1960. He moved to Coubro and Scrutton – Lifting Gear experts in Barking. In 1974 he worked briefly in the secondary banking sector and then moved to join Harris Carpets in Orpington, having been interviewed in the dark owing to electricity blackouts during the three-day week period. He held various positions within Harris Carpets, Harris Queensway, Carpet Right, and Harris Ventures, where he stayed with Lord Harris until he retired in the 1990s to concentrate on his Livery work.

In 1969 Howard became a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Farriers, and following an offer 'to help stick on the stamps' he was appointed to the part-time job of Clerk to the Company in 1982, retiring in 1997. He was also made Registrar to the Examinations Board, from which he retired in 1999, then in 1995 Howard also became **our** Clerk. Both Howard and Val thoroughly enjoyed their time with the FWKs. They were pleased to help the eight Masters and their wives during that time and were most grateful for the kindness and consideration shown to them. The Leicester involvement with the City of London was unusual, and Howard considered it an honour to also be involved with the running of the Charitable and Educational Trusts. The many visits to the Homes in Oadby for meetings and celebrations were also a delight.

On retirement in 2003 both he and Val were made Honorary Liverymen of that Company. During his time undertaking City work he joined two Ward Clubs as well as The City Livery Club. In downtime and in retirement he spent many hours mending and fixing anything from electrical items to repairing antique furniture and carpentry, driving his narrow boat, collecting his stamps, visiting France to taste the wine, visiting Switzerland to see his first two grand-daughters, watching and scoring cricket matches or watching documentaries or comedy on the TV. Val and the whole family have been overwhelmed by the kindness and support given to them by friends and work colleagues, and also the enduring respect shown to Howard for his unassuming but very precise work ethic. They would thank all those who have written, called in or phoned, sent wonderful flowers and/or attended his funeral. This has lifted them and helped them to remember Howard with love and happiness.

Hon. Liveryman Val Ellis

Dates for your diary

2023

15th December Brigantes Winter Gathering in Frarty Hall, Carlisle Cathedral [See Below](#)

2024

19th January	Winter Court and Dinner in Pewterers' Hall	The Clerk
15th March	United Guilds Service, St. Paul's Cathedral	The Clerk
12th April	Installation Court and Dinner at Ironmongers' Hall	The Clerk
18th April	The Big Curry Luncheon, Guildhall	The Clerk
23rd April	Annual Brigantes Golf Dinner, Ganton Golf Club Clubhouse	See Below
24th April	Brigantes Golf on the Championship course at Ganton, near Scarborough	See Below
31st May	Inter-Livery Padel Competition	The Clerk
15th June	Inter-Livery Golf Croquet Competition, hosted by the Glovers' Company	The Clerk
20th June	Brigantes Breakfast at St George's Hall, Liverpool	See Below

5th to 7th July **The Leicester Weekend**
This is expected to follow the traditional format, but further details will appear in the next Newsletter

11th October Court Meeting and Livery Civic Banquet at Fishmongers' Hall [The Clerk](#)

Clerk's Corner

It's hard to believe I am already penning my second Clerk's Corner. Now that I have done it twice, it must be a tradition! I am writing this while sat in Armoury House, having had a White Tie Dinner with the Woolmen last night and a Black Tie Dinner this evening with the Guild of Young Freeman, and having conducted a reconnaissance of Pewterers' Hall for our Winter Court this morning – nothing but a varied life!

Owing to production timelines, I am writing this a week before our banquet at Mansion House; so depending on how that went, the Editor might be holding the front page to announce the sacking of the Clerk! I sincerely hope not, as both Liz and I have had great fun getting to know so many of you all and we are looking forward to that continuing for a long time to come.

I continue to share City events via the *Around the City* page in the Members area of the website – please do keep checking there as it is a useful way for me to keep you informed without filling your inbox.

This coming year will see a significant change to when we hold meetings and events. In summary: April will remain the Installation Court followed by Dinner. The Leicester Weekend will move to early July, October will see a Court meeting followed by the Banquet, and January 2025 will see Court followed by Lunch or Dinner. I am also determined that we will give you all more notice of dates of both the Court, the Dinners/Lunches and the socials to allow early booking of accommodation and travel where required: see the Diary above.

Wing Commander Russ Gleeson, 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.