



Knitter

The Newsletter of the Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters

Our First Virtual Dinner



**Simon Burrows
hard at work**

Who would have thought things could change so much and so quickly? A year ago, we were in the Old Library at the Guildhall enjoying our Annual Banquet, and now – Friday 23rd October – we are all in our own homes keeping to the ‘rule of six’ and having a Virtual Autumn Dinner. We should have been at Plaisterers’ Hall with our new Master, not on Zoom staring at our computer screens and hoping our technology was up to scratch. The Master had decided to hold the dinner with the help of Jimmy Garcia Catering. Their Michelin-trained chefs had successfully provided home-delivered dinners for several other Livery Companies, and it was felt people would be happier just unpacking, heating and serving a delicious three-course meal. Steward Simon Burrows – along with the Clerk – were charged with organising the technical and administrative side of things.

Finally the evening was upon us: 78 people – all in white or black tie, and on a total of 38 screens – had signed up for the evening and were divided into ten virtual tables (Zoom breakout rooms). The plan was for everyone to come together for the formal parts of the evening and then revert to their

‘tables’ for the food courses. During pre-dinner drinks, we saw a video introduced by PM George Turner and made by the Education Committee, mainly at the Ruddington Museum, to show both the working of their knitting machines and to give a taster of British fashion carried out by our Bursary & Award winners. (The video is available for anyone to watch on the company’s website.) The Master who, it was discovered, had temporarily lost his script, thanked everyone involved in the making of the video. Keen to get things moving before the main course was over-cooked, the Clerk called everyone to order and gave us a housekeeping brief on how the dinner would run – then advising people to stay on mute! He introduced the Master, who gave a short welcome and introduced his guests – the PM Mariner, IPM Cooper, PM Fueller, PM Engineer, PM Glover and PM Tyler & Bricklayer. Finally, he thanked both the Clerk and Steward Simon Burrows for all their hard work in making this dinner possible. After the Clerk had said Grace, everyone returned to their breakout rooms for their starter and main course. On returning to the main room, the Master introduced the musical entertainment for the evening.



**Liveryman Peter Lawson
& his wife Sally**

Yet again our gallant Clerk rose to the occasion and gave a brilliant rendition of two Flanders & Swan songs. He was, we felt, ably assisted by his guests (Assistant Janie Martin & Robert Martin, Liveryman David Young, Danny de Lisle and Mary Mackaness) as the backing group. How tuneful we were we have yet to hear! We returned to our tables for dessert and then reunited for the Toasts, after which the Master introduced the speaker for the evening – our very own Upper Warden: Julian Ellis. He had chosen as his subject ‘Life under Lockdown’. I think we were all expecting a talk on his experiences during the Covid-19 lockdown earlier in the year. However, he had a treat in store for us and gave a fascinating talk on his work with the prison service. We started with the Upper Warden aged seven on the Isle of Wight, took in a coup in Uganda, a visit to a Russian prison and numerous stories involving our own

prison service. In all he covered 22 years of his ‘Life under Lockdown’, and concluded by giving a toast to the Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters. The Master rose to his feet – difficult on Zoom – and thanked the Upper Warden for such an entertaining talk. He went on to announce that the Livery had made a donation of £1,000 to the Lord Mayor’s Appeal. The company has received a letter of thanks, and both he and the Clerk had received a small gift. Finally, he reminded everyone that the next event on the 27th November is a Virtual Tour of London in the 1600s as witnessed by Samuel Pepys. After these concluding words he wished everyone good night, and we all returned to our ‘tables’ for coffee and a stirrup cup or two, so concluding our first ever virtual dinner.



Our gallant Clerk, his wife and guests (see text)



**THE WORSHIPFUL
COMPANY OF
FRAMEWORK KNITTERS**

2019-21

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New ... New... News !!

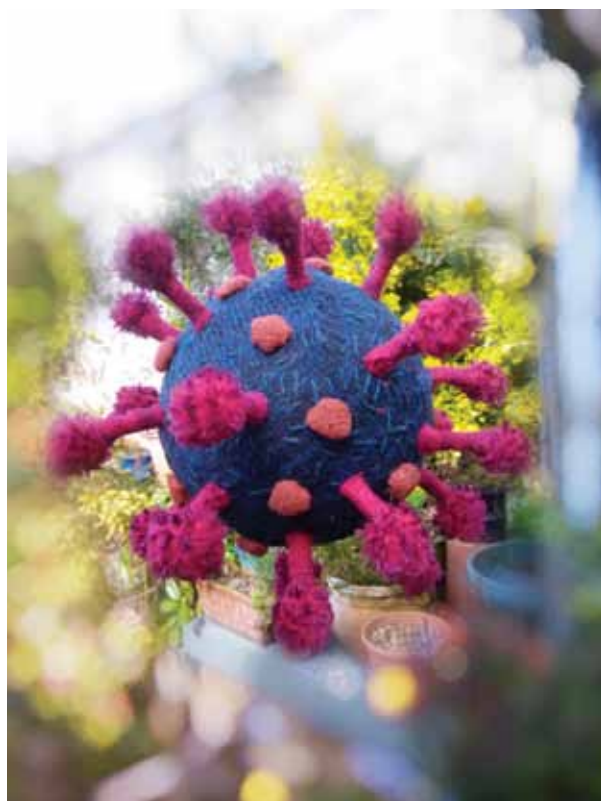
**We have not been able to install any new
Court Members nor new Liverymen since
our last Newsletter, but we HAVE managed
to hold virtual Court Meetings (see below)
and admit one new Freeman (Nandita Shah
– a graduate of Kingston School of Art and a
Company Award winner in 2019) on Saturday
12th September 2020.**



Our Virtual Court Meeting on Friday 26th June

**And this is
the cause of all
our problems
– captured in
wool by Helen
Brownnett of the
Ruddington
Framework
Knitting Museum.**

**If you've not
been, do consider
visiting the
museum: you can
read more about
it on Page 14 of the
May 2019 edition
of this Newsletter.**



From The Master

As you will know, I have been asked to stay on as Master for a 2nd consecutive year following changes in the Company's Ordinances back in June in light of the COVID-19 pandemic – this has not happened in our Company for more than 200 years, when Alderman Sir Charles Flower served as Master between 1801-03. Although physical functions have not taken place, I have enjoyed listening to a number of webinars hosted by different Livery Companies and the City of London on a variety of subjects – from the Emergency Services Day to an interesting talk on the Battle of Britain, and how COVID-19 may alter the way buildings are constructed in the future. Julia and I also attended the Worshipful Company of Horners' Virtual Banquet in October – dressing up for the occasion and enjoying a glass or two of our own fine wine. The Civic team were in attendance, and a good number of Masters and Consorts also joined in. Please see my diary page on the website for full details of my activities as Master.



As a Company we have organised a few virtual events recently including a quiz and a wine-tasting, and with a virtual guided walk scheduled for November. A number of Liverymen and guests also enjoyed a round of golf at The Leicestershire Golf Club in September – the only part of the usual Leicester Weekend that was able to take place this year. I also ventured to London at the end of September for Common Hall to elect the Lord Mayor of London: Alderman William Russell is also serving a second term – the first Lord Mayor to do so since 1860.

The main event this Autumn, however, was a Virtual Dinner which was held instead of our banquet, and I must thank Upper Warden Julian Ellis, Steward Simon Burrows and our Clerk Shaun Mackaness for all their hard work in facilitating this. We enjoyed a meal from Jimmy Garcia Catering which was delivered the day before the dinner, and were entertained during the evening by Julian regaling us with some insights into 'Life Under Lockdown'. There was also a musical interlude from our Gallant Clerk during the evening!

Our *Knit for the Community* initiative, launched back

in the spring when lockdown restrictions were at their height, has been an overwhelming success – please see the articles later on in this Newsletter. Julia and I have covered most parts of Leicestershire collecting squares and donations of wool from various supporters, and it is lovely to hear how knitting squares for us has brought pleasure and purpose to their lives. A few of our



Cottage Homes residents have taken up the mantle too, and to date I believe they have knitted enough squares for at least ten blankets! My thanks for all their hard work on this initiative must go to Past Masters Liz Green and Sheila Turner.

I was involved with the Committee for the Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch, which unfortunately had to be postponed in 2020, but I have been asked to stay on and assist in the planning of the event for 2021 – a date for your diary: 29th April 2021. Once again we are hoping to have a Framework Knitters stall there selling donated items to raise funds for veterans of the Armed Forces.

Our military affiliations with the Leicestershire and Derbyshire Yeomanry, the Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland Cadets and the South and East Midlands Wing Air Training Corps continue to flourish. I know that Liveryman and Honorary Colonel Bertie Boyle was present at a restricted gathering for the Frezenberg Memorial Service this year and was able to give the Company representation. We look forward to better times when there can be greater liaison. I'm particularly excited to learn more about the Croydon Sea Cadets, with whom we are currently in the process of affiliating.

My thanks go to our Clerk (Shaun) and his wife (Mary) for their work and guidance over the last year or so; and to all Committee Chairmen and members for their work on behalf of the Company during these difficult times – I know it has not always been easy.

I would like to finish by thanking the Wardens, Court and all Liverymen for their support for us both over the year.

Julia and I send you all our best wishes in these trying times. Stay safe and healthy!

Knitting for Victory

(or at least Knit for the Community)

As a result of the uncertainty and lockdown in March, Past Masters Liz Green and Sheila Turner came up with a plan both to help charities and to provide a positive focus for volunteers during a very difficult period. The Court agreed to support their 'Knit for the Community' initiative. We had no idea how much support we would receive but, thanks to articles in *The Leicester Mercury* and a short television appearance on *East Midlands Today* we quickly had over 40 volunteers.

We were delighted with an excellent response from Livery Companies, with offers of help from members or friends of 33 companies; and readers of *Knitting Magazine* and *Let's Knit* magazine also responded to the articles. Volunteers contacted us from the charities *League of Remembrance*, *Loving Hands*, *Rotary* and *Inner Wheel*, and from some of our textile students, members of the WI (across the UK), two golf clubs, members of *Knit and Natter* groups, and local residents near Liz and Sheila. One of our main helpers in sewing and crocheting the blankets was a 95-year-old lady who lives near Rothley. A very special mention must go to Carole, May, Mavis, Marjorie and Christine, who are five of our Cottage Homes residents. To date they have knitted enough squares for ten blankets, including our special *Leicester City Football Club* and *Leicester Tigers* blankets. The response has been incredible, and there are currently over 430 volunteers from across the UK who have each knitted from a few to over 100 squares!

Liz's friendly postman, as of early November, has delivered 330 parcels of both knitted squares and full blankets, and that does not include the packages that Sheila is co-ordinating with her group of knitters in Yorkshire. On receipt of the parcels, each square is counted and measured – this is normally fairly straightforward but it does occasionally result in a few groans when there are up to five different sized squares in one package! Each square is recorded on a spreadsheet next to the name of the volunteer. The squares are grouped as closely as possible so that we have, for example, a 'Livery' or 'Leicester Mercury' blanket. Liz and

Sheila hand over the bag of squares to a volunteer who will sew and/or crochet the squares together to make a full blanket, and it's up to that person to create their own design, which they enjoy doing. When the blanket is complete we send a photo of that blanket to the appropriate knitter..... or that is what should happen! Volunteers really appreciate seeing photos of 'their' blankets.



The Master with Action Homeless



The Project is Started

Over 16,000 squares have been donated, which is enough to cover a couple of tennis courts

and is over 90 miles of wool. Liz, Assistant Philip Tranter and Liveryman Graham Hicks have learnt to knit. PM Sheila Turner (already an accomplished knitter) has learnt to crochet, and the Master has apparently learnt to knit as well, but rather than his first attempt – which is apparently ‘kite shaped’ – we have yet to see his latest ‘square’! If anyone would like to learn how to knit, Sheila is happy to show you – it’s easier than I had imagined and, after initially struggling with the increase and decrease part, it’s been very relaxing as well as fun to try different patterns. The Master and Julia, Assistant Jonathan Pears, Upper Warden Julian Ellis, Freeman Ed Green, and Liz’s Mum have travelled around Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire collecting parcels of squares and donations of wool. Jonathan has a great story to tell about one of his collections – but that is classified, and you will have to ask him directly to divulge!



Jonathan & team at Meadows Hope Food Bank

At the start of the project we planned to support three charities – *Action Homeless* in Leicester, *Meadows Hope Food Bank* in Nottingham and *Glass Door* in London. With such a positive response from so many people we are now able to help two more charities, and we’ve chosen *Small Acts of Kindness* in Watford (for whom we’re making lap blankets for their Winter Warmer and Christmas packs) and *Smart Move* in Calderdale.

With the colder months approaching, Sheila handed over 15 blankets to *Smart Move*, the Master presented 20 blankets to *Action Homeless*, Jonathan (with an excellent piece on *East Midlands Today TV*) presented 20 blankets to *Meadows Hope Food Bank* and Liz presented 120 lap blankets to *Small Acts of Kindness*. To date we have produced over 140 blankets and 120 lap blankets. We will continue handing them over and, with many of our volunteers still happy to knit, this will be an ongoing project during these uncertain times.



Jonathan meets *East Midlands Today TV*

We have received many comments about the positive focus this has provided for many, particularly with the latest lockdown, self-isolation and the darker evenings. A few of our favourite comments from messages received are below:

“I’ve really enjoyed knitting them and having a purpose, project and worthy charities to support during shielding and lockdown. A wonderful distraction and very therapeutic too.”

“Thanks for giving me something worthwhile to do and think about during our enforced hibernation!”

“Quite a few squares for you this month as I have been knitting whilst watching ‘*Le Tour de France*’ cycling event. I class that as multi-tasking!”

James from *Action Homeless* commented “I am about to take the blankets I picked up on Friday



Liz with volunteers at *Small Acts of Kindness*

to one of our hostels for people with high support needs. As well as keeping people warm, they will help us to dress rooms and make each one feel more like home for the person in them”.

As a result of being able to make up so many blankets, we have held an online auction of thirty blankets

in aid of our five charities. Two ‘special’ blankets are our *Leicester City Football Club* and *Leicester Tigers Rugby Club* blankets. They were knitted by our Cottage Homes residents and are currently receiving great deal of interest.

Having thought back in April that we may produce 20 or so blankets, it is extremely rewarding to see the fantastic support this initiative has generated from so many different areas. New knitters are welcome – please contact Liz (liz@lizgreen.co.uk) or Sheila (sheila_turner1@sky.com) if you can help by knitting or donating wool. Huge thanks to everyone who has already helped support this project.

To close, here is a very poignant comment from one of our volunteers:

“It just reminds me that each of us apart can’t do much but TOGETHER we can.”



Sheila and volunteers outside *SmartMove*

Past Master Liz Green



**Logos of the Charities we
were able to help**

**SMALL
ACTS OF
KINDNESS**

smallactsofkindness.co.uk

01923 372717

In aid of

GLASSDOOR

Homeless support in London churches



**The Stars of the Auction:
Blankets celebrating
Leicester City Football Club
– (The Foxes) – above, and
Leicester Rugby Union –
(The Tigers) – right**



All About The Cottage Homes



Almshouses providing accommodation for retired workers from the knitting and hosiery trades have been the Company's major charity since 1729. The first Almshouses were built in Hoxton, just to the east of the City of London, and often were maintained with great difficulty. Indeed, the Company sold its silver in 1861 to provide funds to maintain the homes (but we still have some – see Pages 12 & 13 in our April 2020 Newsletter !!). It also became more difficult to find suitable tenants, because framework knitting had long left London.

Consequently, the London Almshouses were sold in 1906 and the proceeds used to build twenty cottages at Oadby in Leicestershire on land gifted in trust to the Company. A further five cottages were subsequently built, thanks to support from the industry; and in 1927 HRH The Prince of Wales visited the Homes and planted a commemorative oak tree. In 1989/90 Corah House, comprising four 'flatlets' and a communal room, was built, mainly due to the generosity of the J.R. Corah Foundation – the Corah family having had a long association with the Company.

The building of the cottages in Oadby was started in the first decade of the twentieth century, and the number of cottages was gradually expanded over the years since, until today there are 26



List of Masters and the Master's Chair

homes usually accommodating up to around 40 residents. The Company was supported in the building costs by a number of generous donors, most notably the Corah family (from which Assistant Peter Corah and Nettie Ellis descend), Donisthorpes (the family business of our Honorary Treasurer – Matthew Ellis) and Bentleys. Two cottages were demolished in 1999 and, again mainly due to the generosity of the J.R. Corah Foundation, were rebuilt to modern almshouse standards. The rebuilding of ten cottages was completed in 2006, and they were formally opened by the Duke of Gloucester on 26th July that year. Several other dwellings have been refurbished, and a rolling programme continues to bring all of the accommodation

up to modern standards. The full support of both the Livery and organisations sympathetic to the almshouse concept has been essential to maintain the estate and to achieve these vital improvements.

The Cottages are managed by a committee of liverymen, with its chair normally being the Upper Warden. There is a part-time administrator (Nettie Ellis) and a groundsman (Karl Whatsize). Karl carries out small repairs and maintenance jobs in the cottages as well as keeping the gardens and grounds in excellent order. Nettie does everything else!



Corah Hall

All residents must be retired, and with limited savings. They are normally eligible for housing benefit. Being Almshouses, the law treats our residents differently from tenants of properties, and they reside under licence instead, paying a maintenance charge in place of rent. The Cottages are neither care homes nor sheltered housing, and we do not, and cannot, offer direct support, but act as “good neighbours” offering help and assistance as any good neighbour would. A simple example is assistance with filling in forms. We need to know when people are away, so we don’t worry when we don’t see them about, and they are provided with emergency call buttons to an external organisation run by the local authority.

The residents naturally form themselves into a friendly community, and organise coffee mornings and bingo sessions, while birthday cards are extensively exchanged. The Entertainment Committee, led by Liveryman Michael Griffiths, organises outings for residents to places of interest and other events. The residents are invited to the Leicester Dinner, the annual church service in Oadby Parish Church and the following lunch at the Homes.

Although we no longer have a hall in London, we do have Corah Hall on the site of the Cottage Homes. This is large enough for a committee meeting of about 30 people, and a new extension holds the Company archives, managed by Steward Simon Burrows. The walls of the main hall carry a number of interesting exhibits and photographs, as well as honours boards listing all the Master Framework Knitters from about 1740, our Clerks, and Liverymen who became Lord Mayor and Sheriffs of the City of London, amongst others. There is our Grant of Arms and items related to our affiliations to military organisations.

When not in use for meetings, Corah Hall is available for use by residents, as is Corah House, across the other side of the central green, which is cosy, and has a television. It is perfect for coffee mornings and informal gatherings.



Residents & Court, 2019

The homes themselves are either one- or two-bedroom cottages, usually semi-detached, and are very pleasant places to live. They are well maintained and kept up-to-date with a regular refurbishment programme in place.

The residents very frequently say what a lovely place the Cottage Homes are to live in. It is a great credit to our Livery that we are able to provide this facility to retired members of our industry.

Upper Warden Julian Ellis

Meet our new Cottage Homes Administrator



Annette (Nettie) Ellis was born and brought up in Leicester, a member of the Corah family. She is married to our very own Honorary Treasurer – Matthew – and they have two children – Max and Sophie – both away at University. Her hobbies include gardening and walking (both achieved with hindrance and help from the family Jack Russell).

Nettie has a background in HR, working both in London and Leicestershire, latterly in a GP healthcare setting, and was a perfect fit for the position of Cottage Homes Administrator. She is very much looking forward to the challenge, although these difficult times add an extra dimension to the rôle.

Nettie started her rôle as Homes Administrator on 1st June 2020, and her responsibilities are varied and extensive in the day-to-day running of our Oadby Almshouses. In the event of any problems or emergencies, Nettie is the first point of contact. She operates an ‘open door’ policy, and the residents know they can call or visit her in her office in Corah House at any time. She maintains regular contact with the 32 residents, and her

primary rôle is to ensure their wellbeing, which she does superbly.

There are 26 Cottages, all of which need regular repairs, and Nettie works closely with Karl Whatsize – our full time groundsman – to ensure that the cottages are kept in good order in line with the rolling maintenance programme.

The Cottage Homes Management Committee meets monthly, and Nettie delivers an update report for its consideration as well as a monthly spreadsheet of expenditure.

Nettie sends out weekly memos to update the residents with any news such as birthday ‘Thank You’ messages, informing them of any maintenance work taking place on site, and welcoming new residents.

Sadly there are no social events taking place at the moment, but during ‘non Covid’ times there are weekly coffee mornings, monthly bingo afternoons, film nights and fish & chip lunches. There will also be regular outings, all of which will be co-ordinated by Nettie.

Nettie feels she has settled in well in her new rôle and is looking forward to the future.

Assistant & Honorary Treasurer Matthew Ellis

The Cottage Homes residents enjoy a VE Day Singalong



Cottage Homes Residents joined in our Blanket-making initiative too !!

Five members of the Cottage Homes (Carole, May, Mavis, Marjorie and Christine) have been an integral part of our knitting initiative and some have been knitting since we began back in April. Each blanket design is unique, from plain to many different variations of stripes.

Some members have donated full blankets and some have knitted squares – it has been a great distraction during lockdown and we will be able to hand over a number of blankets that they have knitted. Below, we show May holding one of the resident's blankets and Mavis holding a blanket she

knitted and sewed herself.

It is especially pleasing that our two 'star blankets' – namely the *Leicester City Football Club* and *Leicester Tigers Rugby Club* blankets – were knitted by our residents. Our new Homes Administrator – Nettie Ellis – has kindly been ordering and collecting wool from Uppingham Yarns, and we are very grateful for all the donations – both financial and in yarn – that we have received from Liverymen and the general public from across the UK to help us make the blankets.

Past Master Liz Green



Mavis, May & the Master



May and Mavis with more blankets



ABOVE: So many unique blankets

RIGHT: one of the blankets in situ

We're still supporting our Students

The pandemic has curtailed many of our activities, but perhaps the saddest to be affected is our annual visits to knitting students in their universities to select winners for our Bursary & Awards schemes. Lockdown has not only put a stop to our visits but has also affected the learning that knitting students can do. However, while we were unable to select new winners this year, we have been able to follow past winners and continue to offer our support.



Jessye with her own Dubied

Jessye Boulton won the Byford Bursary for her work at Winchester School of Art in 2018 and – eschewing a job within commercial knitwear – set up Jessye Boulton Knitwear in her West Cornwall home. She is currently being supported by the creative business support organisation ‘Cultivator Cornwall’. As well as providing training opportunities relating to sales, marketing and management, Cultivator has funded a mentor to help guide her over the next year: Jess Quinton of the knitted accessories brand Quinton Chadwick will be sharing her knowledge with Jessye and giving her guidance and advice as she grows her brand. Her hand-knitted products received great acclaim, although her output was limited by her equipment. She then found a second-hand Dubied machine for sale – but at a price beyond her pocket. However, a passionate and detailed appeal to our Education Committee spurred us to offer £3,000 towards its £4,270 cost. The happy outcome is illustrated here.

Hannah Dolden won an Award while at Brighton University for her project encompassing Art Deco architecture, mainly focusing on Charles Holden’s tube stations and the Memphis Design movement, visiting almost all of Charles Holden tube stations. She sourced most of her yarn from David at Fairfield Yarns, and also Yeoman Yarns, working in cotton and elastic yarns: the use of elastic allowing her to create tactile unpredictable pieces which looked completely different on the machine compared to after.

Since graduating, she has transferred her skills to domestic knitting and is making a variety of products including tops, pouches and cushions.



Some of Hannah’s designs

Her dream is also to own her own Dubied and thus to knit a variety of products. She hasn’t actually spent her bursary prize money yet – it’s going towards buying her own knitting machine !!



Hannah with her Award Certificate

Jessica Game gained a 1st in her BA (Hons) course in Textile Design for Interiors and Fashion, from Bath Spa University, and has gone on to develop a great series of collections, not least from her Children's collection based on vegetable designs Peas Please, inspired by her childhood love of growing vegetables, and wonderfully illustrated in her *Peas Please Look Book*. Filled with bold colours and patterns, this collection is full of character and individual quirky details, and is made up of a range of knitted garments and accessories with individual trims and hand finished details. It explores the idea of tradition and provides a fun and exciting outlook on the humble vegetable.



The front cover of Jessica's 'Peas Please Look Book', and a 'tasty' bobble hat



Eden Hughes won an Award from Chelsea College of Arts and she, like many other of her fellow students, has had a rather curtailed university experience this year, but strove to produce a knit collection despite many difficulties, and graduated successfully this summer.

Initially, she returned home to Yorkshire, but has just relocated back to London and is following up on a couple of possibilities for paid internships. Her particular interest is in the technical side of knitting, and she's also seeking to expand her knowledge further in that direction.

Like many of our Bursary & Award winners, Eden continues to receive mentoring support – in this case from Liveryman Toni Hicks and Past Master Linda Smith. And – despite the current pandemic – Toni and Eden managed to meet up for a chat in the Horniman Museum in October for Toni to personally hand over Eden's Award Certificate.

So, despite the current situation, the Education Committee members can still do valuable work in supporting upcoming skilled knitters, helping to ensure that the industry has a wealth of talent in the years to come.



With thanks to Liveryman Toni Hicks, Assistants Jonathan Pears & Philip Tranter, and Past Masters Liz Green & Linda Smith

The Mansion House, the City & Covid-19:

A Personal Perspective

On Thursday 12th March, the Lord Mayor hosted a dinner at Mansion House attended by HRH The Prince of Wales to support the Australian Bush Fires relief appeal. It was Mansion House at its best: great food, excellent (Australian) wines, speeches that entertained but conveyed the devastation caused by the bush fires, and much money raised for the cause. But as I left that night I was certain that it would be some time before a dinner of that scale would take place again in the Egyptian Hall. The following Monday evening, my firm (DLA Piper) took the decision to ask all of our UK staff to start working from home. It would be mid-July before I returned to the office, and mid-September before I was next in Mansion House. The Lord Mayor & Lady Mayoress moved home to Thriplow shortly after the dinner, not returning regularly until July.



The Lord Mayor, Sheriffs & Consorts

It was clear within days of the lockdown as the extent of the challenge facing the country became apparent that two issues needed to be addressed in the City. First, what could we do to ensure the City had a stable Civic leadership team to take us through the crisis? Second, how does the Lord Mayor operate in a virtual world? As no Lord Mayor had served a second term since the 1880s, the City Remembrancer and City Solicitor got to work to consider the legal issues involved: the office of Lord Mayor is bound up in a fascinating, complex mesh of Westminster and City statutes, Royal Charters and – almost as important – conventions. The City law officers confirmed that a Lord Mayor could still serve a second term but that a re-election would be required. In contrast, the office of Sheriff has a different legal basis, allowing the term to be extended without election. So, in early April the Court of Aldermen decided that the Lord Mayor & Sheriffs would all continue in office for a further year, and also reaffirmed its support for my election to Lord Mayor in 2021; meanwhile I continue as ‘Senior Alderman below the Chair’ for another year – itself unprecedented in modern times.

Meanwhile, Guildhall and Mansion House teams turned the Lord Mayor’s pre-arranged set of meetings, travel, dining and speeches into a programme of virtual engagements. Consequently, he was able to visit Melbourne in the morning, have lunch in Doha and an afternoon meeting in New York, each time holding the customary high-level meetings. At first, those meetings were focused on the impact of lockdown, highlighting the resilience of our financial and professional service sectors. But over the summer, conversations turned to the future, resurrecting the theme of connecting through trade, innovation and culture, recalibrated for the changed environment with a new strapline ‘Global UK – The New Future’. The value of virtual meetings having been established, no doubt they will see continuing use in the years to come: they became particularly useful for the preparation and follow-up that will enhance the impact of the in-person



The Lord Mayor receives a cheque from the Master Distiller on City Giving Day

meetings that take place.

Although uncertainty remains, the autumn has seen the return of some activity, such as small meetings in Mansion House. *City Giving Day* went ahead on Tuesday 22nd September – mainly online, but I was able to join the Lord Mayor at Mansion House to congratulate the Master Distiller and his team of cyclists on their completion of a sponsored ride from Scotland to raise funds for the Lord Mayor’s charity. Later, the re-election of the Lord Mayor was undertaken at a socially-distanced Common Hall in the Guildhall on Tuesday 29th September.

After an unexpectedly relaxed summer, my wife Amanda and I restarted planning in earnest for my (subject to election) Mayoral year. I am reshaping my themes to take account of the changed world while adopting a positive outlook on both events and travel plans. And I certainly hope to see the next Lord Mayor’s Show back on the streets of the City on Saturday 13th November 2021, with the Framework Knitters being in the midst of the celebrations !!

Alderman & Honorary Liveryman Vincent Keaveny

City Giving Day



Our own Gallant Captain Clueless (aka Shaun Mackaness) led an intrepid team of Knit Wits (Julian Ellis, Linda Smith, Stephen and Helen Woolfe, and Philip Tranter) in the 2020 City Giving Day inter-livery quiz, this year held 'virtually' (by Zoom) in aid of the Lord Mayor's Appeal which is supporting four charities: Place2Be, OnSide Youth Zones, Samaritans and The Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

Our team was pitched against no fewer than 142 contestants representing the intellectual cream of the Livery movement; and four gruelling rounds covering topics as diverse as the City, technology, the animal kingdom and sports-programme musical themes combined to tax our collective fading grey cells to the utmost. But we are now much better informed as to matters such as the stations on the Monopoly board, the height of the Monument and the historical origins of Bluetooth, and we will all recognise the Horse of the Year Show theme tune when we hear it again.

The Knit Wits in full swing

A failure of the scoring system enables us to draw a discreet veil over our final position. We know we didn't win; and we know we didn't come last. We suspect we finished in a respectable mid-table position.

All in all, a most enjoyable evening, with thanks to the Company for sponsoring our entry and to our Clerk for organising us and for his maintenance of decorum and good order in our team. Above all, it is comforting to think that our mental efforts were in a good cause

Assistant Philip Tranter

Nothing stops our Golf



The golfers amongst us have been very fortunate this year in that our chosen sport was one of the first to resume after the initial lockdown was relaxed. I was determined if at all possible to continue the tradition of the Company golf day, and it went ahead on 11th September. We couldn't hold the usual dinner afterwards and we had to have our lunch and post round drinks socially distanced outside on the golf club terrace. The weather – although a little cool – was dry, which I appreciated as my plans for inclement weather were sketchy at best.

The Leicestershire Golf Club was very helpful in getting the event played, although the field was much reduced from recent years. In addition to the golf club, a big 'Thank You' to everyone who came. The Howard Ellis Salver was won by Hugh Stevenson on a count back from Tony Jarvis. The Byford Trophy for guests was won by Andy Mackay – a regular attender and a guest of the Master. Mary Jarvis, who had the handicap of playing with the organiser, was second. In some ways the event was secondary to the benefit of Liverymen and guests meeting in person for the first time for quite a while, and we enjoyed good fellowship aided by the use of a little of the surplus golf section funds to provide refreshment.

The date for next year's event will be 10th September 2021; and all being well we will return to the normal format of golf and a dinner.

Liveryman Adrian Keene, Golf Day Organiser

Brigantes News

Tribal Overview

As members of the Framework Knitters know, over 1,800 Liverymen are resident in the North of England, with 41 Companies having ten or more Liverymen in this area, to which should be added the many Liverymen throughout the UK and worldwide who regard the North of England as their spiritual home by adoption, birthright or desire. To enable Liverymen of all Companies to meet together in the North, in 2014, with the blessing of Dame Fiona Woolf DBE and Sir Alan Yarrow, Lord Mayors in that year, Brigantes was born – the name deriving from the Brigantes tribe which occupied a similar geographical area in pre-Roman times. Under the Association's Constitution, Membership of Brigantes is open only to Liverymen of the City of London (and members of the Company of Parish Clerks and the Company of Watermen and Lightermen) who are in good standing with their Company. The Lord Mayor of the City of London and the two Sheriffs are ex-officio Members of the Brigantes during their period in office.

Framework Knitters head the Pack

Brigantes now has over 800 subscribing and non-subscribing members, with nearly all City Livery Companies represented. Leading the field are the Framework Knitters, with the largest number of Brigantes Members, closely followed in order by the Bakers, Engineers, Marketors, Accountants, Fuellers, Carmen, Tax Advisers and Actuaries.

Brigantes Committee

Brigantes is managed by a committee of eight, elected annually at the AGM and supported by Fiona Robinson, the Association's part-time administrator. The current committee members are:

Adrian Waddingham CBE*, Chairman (Actuary, Lancashire), Past Sheriff

Nick Gale*, Vice Chairman West (Plumber, Lancashire)

David Bentley*, Vice Chairman East (Baker, Yorkshire)

Neville Chamberlain CBE* (Fueller, Cheshire)

Sue Christensen (Master Tax Adviser, Greater Manchester)

Sheila Turner* (Framework Knitter, Yorkshire)

Dr. Mike Howse CBE (Engineer, Yorkshire)

Keith Houliston (Baker, Yorkshire)

with *denoting a Past Master.

Confirming the suspicion of healthy tribal rivalry between East and West of the Pennines, the traditional Brigantes table decoration is a long-stem red rose and long-stem white rose in a tall vase. For functions held west of the Pennines, the red rose is higher than the white, while for functions held east of the Pennines ... well, you can guess.

Annual Calendar

Traditionally Brigantes has held three events a year.

The Brigantes Golf Day takes place in April, rotating between three top Championship courses – Royal Liverpool (Cheshire), Lindrick (Nottinghamshire) and Ganton (Yorkshire).

The main function is the Brigantes Breakfast in mid summer, a formal lunch that attracts between 300 and 400. Previous venues have included Cutlers' Hall (Sheffield), St. George's Hall (Liverpool), The Royal Armouries (Leeds) and Whitworth Hall (Manchester)

In December, the Association holds its Winter Gathering: AGM, early-evening dinner and Christmas concert. Last year's Gathering saw 180 at Durham Cathedral, joining a concert audience in the Nave of over 1,000, with similar previous Gatherings at Chester Cathedral, Ripon Cathedral and York Minster.

Staying Safe in 2020; Planning Ahead for 2021

Of course, due to the pandemic, none of the 2020 programme could proceed. However, in anticipation of better times ahead, and while mindful of continuing Government restrictions, plans are being made for 2021.

All being well, the Golf Day will be at Ganton on Wednesday 22nd April, with a dinner the night before. Likewise, a date is in the diary for the Brigantes Breakfast, which is due to take place at the National Railway Museum, York, on Tuesday 29th June.

Brigantes is working closely with both venues to determine the number of guests that can be accommodated safely and the proposed room layouts. As restrictions may still be in place, no firm commitments have been made yet: the arrangements are very much provisional.

Brigantes Subscriptions

As no events have been possible in 2020, Brigantes is rolling forward the £40.00 annual subscription that Subscribing Members have paid in 2020. This will now cover 2021 as well, so for those who have subscribed in 2020 there is nothing to pay in 2021. Subscribing Members receive advance invitations to Brigantes events and a discount on places, and help fund running costs. If you would like to become a Subscribing Member, do email livery@brigantes.org.uk and let Fiona Robinson (the Administrator) know.

Awaiting Brigantes Members at the National Railway Museum in June 2021

Restrictions permitting, the Brigantes Breakfast next June provides a splendid opportunity to meet again in the North with Livery friends – and at the same time immerse yourself in stories from centuries of railway history. Here are just two examples drawn from the thousands of exhibits on display from the world's largest railway collection.

World Steam Record Holder 'Mallard' - No 4468



If Rocket's claim to fame was its exceptional performance in the Rainhill Trials, leading to the success of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway, then Mallard marked steam traction's zenith in attaining its world speed record of 126 mph on 3rd July 1938. Built in March 1938, Mallard is part of the A4 class of locomotive designed by Sir Nigel Gresley when he was Chief Engineer at the LNER. Its innovative streamlined wedge-shaped design bore no resemblance to the preceding A3 class (of which Flying Scotsman was an example) and was very much a product of 1930s Britain. At this time speed was seen as the ultimate symbol of modernity. The A4 class, aesthetically an example of art deco styling, cut the journey time from London King's Cross to Newcastle to just four hours.

Queen Victoria's Royal Carriage

Queen Victoria was the first British monarch to travel by train when she travelled on a Great Western Railway train from Slough to Paddington. After the journey, the Queen indicated that she had enjoyed the new experience. In 1869, Queen Victoria commissioned two railway coaches, which were built at Wolverton Works by the London & North Western Railway and designed by Richard Bore. This elaborate saloon was reputedly Queen Victoria's favourite railway vehicle, having been built jointly at her and the LNWR's expense, and was not replaced until after her death. Most of Queen Victoria's long-distance journeys were over the London & North Western and Caledonian Railways, and the West Coast Route consequently developed an interest in the operation of the Royal Train.



Other Delights

The Museum also houses some famous collections, from railway posters and memorabilia to fine works. All in all, it'll be another great event. We all hope to see you there then.

Liveryman Jenny Bentley

Cockpit Arts

Many readers will be aware of our support of Cockpit Arts, and in particular the sponsorship of some of our students that enables them to take up a place in one of their workshops to help them to develop their own businesses. So, we are delighted to bring some good news of its continuing work and achievements in these difficult times. It plans to open an online market later this month – see cockpitarts.com. Meanwhile, the following is an extract from their 10th March Press Release.

London's independent craft businesses might be tiny, but they pack a mighty economic punch. Makers based at Cockpit Arts make a surprisingly hefty contribution to the capital's thriving creative industries, according to a report published today. The 147 businesses based at London's leading studios for contemporary craft enjoyed increasing profitability in 2019, according to results in this year's Cockpit Effect report. Together these jewellers, ceramicists, weavers and woodturners (some of whom are international leaders in their field) generated £5.9 million in total annual sales. Profits and GVA grew by an average 12% and 20% respectively against an increase in turnover of 7.7%, for those reporting two years' data.

Making Community: The Cockpit Effect 2020 reveals impressive resilience amongst Cockpit businesses in the face of increasing market pressures. In the craft sector, market conditions continue to challenge; and last year, the Mayor of London highlighted the threat to studio space in the capital – with a loss of 17% of affordable spaces and a forecast drop of a further 24%. But Cockpit makers' success is down to how they marry exceptional skill and artistic excellence with savvy business sense cultivated by the in-house enterprise support at Cockpit's Deptford and Holborn studios. This impressive impact has not gone unnoticed. For the second year, Cockpit has been recognised on the NatWest SE100 index of the top 100 UK social enterprises. And this year it was shortlisted for the SE100 Impact Champion Award.



A Virtual Wine Tasting



Chez Assistant Martin Traynor

(rather larger in scale than third vine along, fifteenth row from the top of the hill) and some tasting hints. After we had tasted each wine, we then had to answer a quiz before moving on, at a leisurely pace, to the next one.

My favourite wine was the Hungarian – a Royal Tokaji Dry Furmint Special Reserve 2019. I had drunk Hungarian dessert wine before, but never a dry white. It was delicious. It was also fascinating to hear how wine producers in this part of Hungary, having been liberated from the Communist yoke, had managed to organise themselves, with the help of British wine expert Hugh Johnson, so that they could concentrate again on quality rather than quantity and relaunch themselves on the export market.

The evening was scheduled to last around an hour and a half, but it overran – we were all enjoying ourselves so much and had so many questions for our experts, who were both knowledgeable and willing to share that knowledge with us.

The quiz was won by Past Master Sheila Turner's team (but she did have a larger team than many), although there was no prize beyond the right to look justly proud.

A thoroughly enjoyable and interesting evening was had by all. The only downside was that it left us with the conundrum of what to do with all the leftover wine. I must remember to ask others what they did with theirs.

A 'Virtual Wine Tasting'? I rolled my eyes metaphorically at the thought of someone pontificating about lemon with a hint of melon as he/she sniffed, then swirled wine around their mouth before availing themselves of a spittoon. The Master also expected me to pay for it; and whilst I admired his imagination and persistence, I did not feel tempted.

However, I dutifully read the circular and quickly realised that I had both jumped the gun and underestimated our Master. For a modest charge, I would have four bottles of wine delivered to my doorstep, I would receive suggestions of what cheese and meats to eat with each wine and, via Zoom, I would 'attend' a real wine tasting, albeit spread all over the country.

So, Averys of Bristol provided the wine tasting package for Saturday 12th September. Deep in their cellars, two socially-distanced experts took us through a Hungarian white, a Riesling, a Montepulciano and an Australian Shiraz – and there was not a spittoon in sight. We were introduced to each wine by way of a little history, a map

Under Warden Elizabeth Fox

Jonathan Dean

24th April 1936 to 27th August 2020

‘Ships in the harbour are safe – but that’s not what ships are made for’



It's a well-known saying, and very apt for a man who believed in living life to the full and who filled his life to the brim with love, laughter, friendship and adventures. A man who made a difference in the life of so many people. Jonathan was born in Leicester in April 1936 and was the second eldest of five children with brothers James and Jeff and sisters Wendy and Barbara. The family home was on Letchworth Road, the house that formed the hub of the family for many years. At the age of eleven, Jonathan went to Berkhamsted School as a boarder – a very traditional environment in 1947. He was a team player including rugby, tennis, rowing and boxing. It was at school that he nurtured his love of photography, winning a prize in 1949.



Annual Sheep Drive

Following school, Jonathan completed his National Service in the Navy. He served in Malta for three years, returning home in September 1955. He enjoyed his service, and it was to lead to a lifelong love of sailing. Service leaves a mark on a person, and Jonathan remained an organised, disciplined and punctual gentleman his whole life. On return from Malta, Jonathan started work for Curzona and William Baker in Leicester's thriving textile industry. Textiles were woven deeply into the fabric of his life and, after gaining experience with a number of large textile companies, he went on to set up his own successful business in 1980: Jonathan Dean Textiles Ltd. He developed specialist fabrics and garments for the equestrian and fencing sectors, including a 'sticky bum' fabric that helped riders remain in their saddles!!

Jonathan met Marlene in his early 20s, they courted, and married in September 1961 in the church of St. James the Greater, Leicester. Apparently, it was his ballroom dancing that swept her off her feet. They honeymooned in Paris – very exotic for the time. A lovely match, they were married for 59 years, with most of their life in the Charnwood village of Cropston. The arrival of son Peter in 1963 kept them on their toes but never stopped their work hard and play hard ethos.

Believing in giving something back, Jonathan became involved with the Framework Knitters in 1970 and was elected Master in 2000-01 – and was still involved to the end. Keen to expand the reach of the FWK, he was instrumental in introducing the Inter-Livery Swimathon and Inter-Livery Sailing events to encourage younger members to join. He gave much time and support to all the social events and had a hands-on rôle with the Wigston Framework Knitters Museum and Cottage Homes projects.

Sailing was his passion; and when he passed his Yacht Master's qualifications in 1974 he joined the Jubilee Sailing Trust as Watchleader. The JST enables people from all backgrounds with all sorts of challenges to sail on tall ships, building confidence, inclusion and skills for life. Jonathan loved being at sea and helping people experience the adventure of the high seas – he went on over 20 trips far and wide. One of his favourite evenings was The New York City Pickle Night Dinner at the New York Yacht Club – a prestigious affair. It was only five years ago that he stopped sailing. A highly principled man, Jonathan had a moral compass that was at the centre of his life which he has passed on to his son Peter. Incredibly energetic and productive, he was a man generous with the things that really matter in life: his time, his skills, his humour, his love and his support. He has touched the lives of so many by giving back in so many ways. A loving brother, husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather, he will be very much missed by all those who knew and loved him.



With his Family

Liveryman Peter Dean

Dates for your diary

2020

27th November	Virtual London Tour by a Blue Badge guide ('Samuel Pepys')	The Clerk
TBA December	Virtual Christmas Event	The Clerk

2021

Subject to any future Government restrictions, at the time of going to press, the following events have been planned:

11th January	Virtual Magic Show	The Clerk
20th January	Virtual Winter Court & Lunch	The Clerk
19th February	Virtual Wine Tasting	The Clerk
12th March	Virtual Tour of the Guildhall	The Clerk
15th & 16th March	Trial & Error, Old Bailey	The Clerk
21st April	Brigantes pre-golf Dinner, Ganton	See below
22nd April	Brigantes Golf Day, Ganton	
23rd April	Installation Court & Dinner, Skinners' Hall	The Clerk
24th April	Post-dinner outing to the Wellington Arch & Apsley House	The Social Committee
29th April	Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch, Guildhall	The Clerk
11th May	Clergy Support Trust (Sons of Clergy), St. Paul's Cathedral	The Clerk
24th June	Election of the Sheriffs, Guildhall	The Clerk
25th June	Summer Court & Dinner, Pewterers' Hall	The Clerk
26th June	Post-Dinner Outing to Handel's (& Jimi Hendrix') House, W1K 4HB	The Social Committee
29th June	Brigantes Breakfast, National Railway Museum, York	See below

10th to 12th September – The Leicester Weekend

10th September	Golf Match & Golf Dinner, Leicestershire Golf Club	Liveryman Adrian Keene
11th September	Morning: Ceremony of the Socks, Wigston Framework Knitters Museum	The Clerk
11th September	Evening: Livery Dinner in St. Martin's House, Leicester	The Clerk
12th September	Annual Church Service, followed by luncheon at the Cottage Homes	The Clerk
21st September	Sheriffs' Ball, Guildhall	The Clerk
26th September	Sheep Drive over London Bridge	The Clerk
29th September	Election of the Lord Mayor	The Clerk
22nd October	Livery Banquet, Carpenters' Hall	The Clerk
23rd October	Post-dinner outing to The Postal Museum	The Social Committee

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.