



# Knitter

The Newsletter of the Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters

## Not just Any Old Iron

The date of Friday 12th April 2024 is an auspicious one, being not just the day of the Installation of Matthew Ellis as the Master Framework Knitter, but also marking the return of the Company to the magnificent Ironmongers Hall after a gap of many years. 39 years previously, Matthew was admitted as a Freeman of the Company in the very same hall. Being at that point a sprightly young lad, he was admitted as a Freeman of the Company in the morning, then rushed to Guildhall to be awarded his Freedom of the City of London at lunchtime before hastening back to Ironmongers Hall in the early afternoon to then be clothed in the Framework Knitters' livery. If only the process was so speedy nowadays....



Ironmongers Hall's stunning interior belies the fact that it was built only in 1925, to replace the previous hall which was destroyed by a bomb during the first World War. Full of hardwood panelling and carvings, the hall exudes its own charm as befits the home of one of the Great Twelve livery companies. Liverymen and guests enjoyed lively conversation over a pre-dinner drink in a stylish, tapestry-lined salon before enjoying a sumptuous dinner in the magnificent Livery Hall following a topical, rhyming grace delivered by the Master's Chaplain – the Reverend Jon Tearne.

Earlier in the day, the Company clothed three new Liverymen – Maureen Saminaden, Nicholas Traylen and Alison Marsh – with whom the Master was pleased to take wine during the course of the

dinner. It is always satisfying to see new Liverymen joining our ranks and supporting the future of our Livery.

The Company welcomed several distinguished guests, all of whom were formally introduced to the diners by Assistant Paul Bonnet. We expressed our thanks to the Master Ironmonger – David Liming – for graciously allowing us to dine in his wonderful hall. It is always nice to celebrate our links to other Companies, and it was a pleasure to welcome the Master Glover – Clive Grimley – whose wife Catherine is a Framework Knitter Liveryman.

Further strengthening our textile company links, James Bailey – the Upper Bailiff of the Weavers – was warmly welcomed to our dinner, alongside Guy Brogden – the Master Farmer – who no doubt encourages his Liverymen to ensure that the Weavers never run out of wool.

Our livery is always proud to support the Lord Mayor in his initiatives during his Mayoral year. Lord Mayor Prof Michael Mainelli recently visited India to enhance the already well-established links with the City of London. India as a nation is a major textile producer, and we were delighted as a Company to support the Lord Mayor by hosting the Economic and Parliamentary Liaison Secretaries for the Indian High Commission – Shreeranjani Kanagavel and Ovessa Iqbal – to demonstrate our links to the sector.

The principal guest of the evening – Nigel Lugg OBE – fascinated the diners with the contents of his speech as well as his response on behalf of the guests. Nigel is the Chairman of the UK Fashion and Textile Association, which represents over 2,500 members of the UK manufacturing and textile sector. Nigel's earlier career at brands such as Christian Dior, Valentino, Liberty and House of Fraser provided interesting anecdotes, alongside generating interest in how his present rôle promotes a sector which is at the very heart of both our Company's heritage as well as our aspiration to promote mechanised knitting within the UK and worldwide.



(Continued on Page 6)

Nigel Lugg



## THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FRAMEWORK KNITTERS

**2024-25**

**The Master**  
Matthew Ellis  
[master@frameworkknitters.co.uk](mailto:master@frameworkknitters.co.uk)

**Upper Warden**  
Peter Corah

**Under Warden**  
Jonathan Pears

**The Clerk**  
Russ Gleeson  
White House Farm  
Mill Lane  
SCAMBLESBY  
Lincolnshire  
LN11 9XP  
020 - 7871 7966  
[clerk@frameworkknitters.co.uk](mailto:clerk@frameworkknitters.co.uk)

**This Newsletter is produced under the guidance of the Editorial Team and with input from the Social Committee.**

**Editor**  
Paul Bethel  
020 - 8878 2268  
[editor@frameworkknitters.co.uk](mailto:editor@frameworkknitters.co.uk)

**Editorial Team**  
Claire Bethel  
Diana de Froment

### The Social Committee

**Chairman**  
Simon McIlwaine  
020 - 8878 2268  
[social@frameworkknitters.co.uk](mailto:social@frameworkknitters.co.uk)

**Members**  
Tony Jarvis  
Susan Shield  
Helen Woolfe

**Ex Officio** The Master & Wardens

**Editorial & Advertising**  
All contributions welcome – please contact the Editor.

**[www.frameworkknitters.co.uk](http://www.frameworkknitters.co.uk)**  
Web Master – Philip Tranter  
0118 - 948 2713  
[webmaster@frameworkknitters.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@frameworkknitters.co.uk)

# New ... New... News !!

**We have had SIX new liverymen join us since the last Newsletter – three at our January Court and three at the Installation Court: read all about them here in the order that they were admitted.**



**Gaby Morris** grew up in London and now lives in the concrete heart of the City of London, in the Barbican. Her first full-time work was with John Lewis before she fulfilled her ambition to work in fashion by joining Mansfield, where she worked for over 12 years. The company dressed many people of note, from Joan Collins to Margaret - later Lady - Thatcher, whose distinctive look was from her Mansfield clothes. Gaby went on to develop and lead Mansfield's concessions in department stores across the UK.

Travelling daily through the City of London to her fashion district office from her home then in the newly developing Wapping and by now the mother of two tiny children, the bombing of the Baltic Exchange in Bishopsgate led her to evaluate her working life, which led to a career change and the creation of a training company, based in Tower Hamlets, which thrives to this day. Much of its work moved online over the last 15 years, but practical courses continue to be taught in-person by specialists.

Gaby spent three years in New York, where she worked for Housing Works – one of the city's leading charities addressing the needs of people who are HIV positive or have AIDS combined with homelessness. She also continued, with her founding partner in London, to manage Riverside Training Company, (which teaches first aid / paediatric first aid / early years qualifications) and to develop its online presence.

On returning to London, Gaby became involved in archival research and projects. For the Tower Hamlets Archive she was part of the small group who researched the East London Federation of Suffragettes founded by Sylvia Pankhurst for an exhibition and public programme: the project and subsequent exhibition sought to bring out of the shadows the local activists who surrounded Pankhurst. This led to a further project including conducting a series of oral history interviews which are held today at the Bishopsgate Institute focusing on 'Radical Women' – a carefully researched study of the work of a number of historical and contemporary social and political activists from the East End.

Gaby's father was a refugee from Antwerp, who after serving in the British Army from 1940 until the end of the war, settled here. Gaby, having carried out much research about her father's family in the Belgian archives, worked with the Kazerne Dossin memorial in Mechelen and sponsored a project that Antwerp City Council has supported and produced a walking tour and website.

Buying a house in the Barbican in 1994 fed a growing interest in modernist architecture and design. With her husband Howard, they started posting pictures of, first, the Barbican but quickly after that of other modernist buildings, to an Instagram page. The success of that Instagram page, @barbican\_city\_of\_london, now with over 67,800 followers, led them to found Greyscale.com, a celebration of Modernism, Constructivism and Brutalism, where they write in more depth about the buildings, architects and designers who, from 1919 to the late 1970s, shaped our cities and architectural landscape. It is also a place where the many fans of Modernism can shop in their online store.

Joining the Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters brings together key aspects of Gaby's life, her interest in fashion and textiles and her love of where she lives.

**More Liverymen overleaf on Page 4**

# From The



# Master

It is a great honour and privilege to be installed as the Master of this wonderful ancient Livery company. I joined back in 1985 and was admitted by my father when he was Master. I am delighted to be following not only in his footsteps but also my Grandfather and Great Grandfather as well as a number of uncles and cousins.

Although I have been an Independent Financial Adviser for the last 25 years, like a good stick of rock, if you chop me in half it will say 'textiles' right through the core. I was raised in the family sewing-thread company – Donisthorpes – and it was only after a take-over in the 1990s that I was forced to make a career change.

Since joining the Court in 2010 I have served my time as Honorary Treasurer from 2011 to 2023, which has given me a better insight than most into the internal workings of a Livery Company. I have sat on all of our various committees and therefore seen the sterling work that they do; and I have been particularly privileged to be an active member of the Education Committee and to sit as Chairman of the Cottage Homes Committee. Being married to the Homes Manager has certainly given me a new perspective!

My sincere thanks must go to our Immediate Past Master – Elizabeth Fox – for her leadership over the last twelve months. Her diary shows that she has immersed herself fully in Livery life, and it's now time to take a well-earned rest and get back to her full-time job.

Our gallant Clerk – Russ Gleeson – has settled into his new rôle effortlessly over the last twelve months: it's as if he has been around for years, and his help and guidance have been invaluable.

I believe that the challenge for the year is to ensure

that our membership grows. The Membership Committee has started the good work by recruiting many of our Bursary & Awards students as well as their tutors, and we have already had examples of multiple investitures at our Court, online and at the FWK Ruddington Museum.



Those best placed to introduce new members are our own Liverymen and women. Most were themselves proposed by existing members, and no doubt you all know someone who would embrace our values and treasure the heritage that our company enjoys.

One of my favourite Livery events has always been The Leicester Weekend, and I would like to bring your attention to a change in the diary.

We have moved the Leicester weekend to July 5/6/7, and I would urge any golfers to join us at The Leicestershire Golf Club on Friday 5th July, while all Liverymen are encouraged to book in for our Leicester dinner at the Tigers Rugby ground on Saturday 6th.

Finally, the annual Church Service at St Peters Oadby followed by the traditional Barbecue at the Cottage Homes on Sunday 7th is an ideal opportunity to see the beautifully-maintained grounds and cottages; and our appreciation goes to Karl Whatsize, who is retiring in June after eleven years as our full-time handyman/grounds person. We wish Karl's replacement – Andrew Dennahey – all the best in his new position.

Nettie and I are very much looking forward to the year ahead, and I would like to thank the Court for allowing me this opportunity.

With the support of my Wardens – Peter and Jonathan – we have every intention of throwing ourselves wholeheartedly into our rôles.



# New Liverymen, continued



**Mo Shannon** was born in Scotland and lived there until her father moved to a new job in Leicester when she was nine. She spent her teenage years in Leicester, attending Collegiate Girls Grammar School, fortunately finishing her school years before the school was closed down. She was an undergraduate at Sheffield University, studying for a Combined Science degree in Pure Mathematics and Computing Science. While there, she joined the Officers Training Corps which began a lifelong association with the military – but more of that later. On graduating, she started working for BT and unintentionally ended up spending her whole career in that company. After some years working in general, technical and customer management, she decided that her real interest was in IT after all and transferred to what was then known as the Data Processing department. She held a number of rôles including a few years writing software, but ended up following a career path as a software tester including the infamous Millennium Bug Testing. She has to report that after nearly two years she found only two bugs that were quickly fixed. With her interest in testing confirmed, she became a keen advocate of making the rôle more professional, and was an early adopter of the new professional qualifications in

Software Testing that were eventually to fall under the remit of the British Computer Society. She was heavily involved in their Special Interest Group in Software Testing, and held several positions on their organising committee. In 2017, following a reorganisation in her department at BT, Mo was made aware of an option to take early retirement and decided it was too good an opportunity to be missed. So she took the plunge and was fortunately able to spend more time with her elderly Mum in the last year or so of her life, so it proved to be a very good decision.

Moving back to the military association, Mo was commissioned as an officer in the Territorial Army and joined a Signal Regiment in London where she enjoyed spending her spare time for 10 years. She then moved on to be the Regimental Admin Officer for the London Regiment. This was a bit of a shock to the system as the male / female ratio of the units went from about 60/40 to about 98/2. In the whole battalion there were only about 6 women, so it took some getting used to. During her time with the Londons, Mo was awarded her Territorial Decoration (TD) which was presented to her by a past Lord Mayor of London. After spending 14 years in the TA, Mo decided that it was time to move on to something a little less challenging (or so she thought). She retired from her TA rôle and then joined the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (FANY). This independent, all female, organisation has been around since 1907, and has an amazing history (see [www.fany.org.uk](http://www.fany.org.uk) for more details). They currently have up to 150 active members who are all on call 24/7 to provide emergency support to a number of civilian and military organisations. Probably their main rôle is in supporting the City of London Police, and via them the Police forces nationally. Members are all trained in manning the Casualty Bureau phone lines, taking calls from members of the public about loved ones or colleagues who may be involved in a major incident. Mo has been called out for several incidents in the last few years, including the Manchester Arena Bombing and the attack at Fishmongers Hall.

As well as doing emergency call outs, Mo has been involved in the management of the FANY, holding a number of rôles, including Deputy Corps Commandant, stepping up to the rôle of Commandant for eight months when the Commandant was taken seriously ill, and has also been a Trustee for nine years. Although she has stepped back from a formal rôle, she is still an active volunteer, heavily involved in helping out in the headquarters for a day every week. She can also be seen participating in the Lord Mayors Show and at the Royal Exchange on Remembrance Sunday. Having volunteered for the FANY for nearly 30 years now, Mo was thrilled to be nominated for the award of the Order of the League of Mercy. She received her medal at a presentation at the Mansion House in 2021. Sadly Mo has absolutely no skills as a knitter despite her Mum trying to teach her.



**Helen Steel** grew up in Buckinghamshire before going to medical school at St. Georges Hospital, London. She spent the first ten years of her career in laboratory-based medicine in microbiology and virology before moving to the pharmaceutical industry in 1992 to work on research and development of new drugs for HIV. She retired in 2021 after nearly 30 years with GSK, working on a variety of drugs for infectious diseases including for influenza and COVID, and on clinical drug safety. Retirement has given her the opportunity to focus more on her life-long interest in textiles and needle crafts.

She is doing an online course with the Victoria and Albert Museum on 'Textiles 1600-1800', having completed 'Textiles prehistory - 1600'. She is a yeoman of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries; and her husband – Prof. John Schofield – is immediate Past Master of the Worshipful Company of Tylers and Bricklayers.



**Maureen Saminaden** was born in Northampton and lived in Yorkshire, Kent, and Middlesex before she finally moved to Watford some thirty years ago. After leaving school she joined the London County Council (forerunner of Greater London Council) where she worked in Mortgages, Computer and Accountancy Sections. Maureen then joined the London Borough of Brent, where she concentrated on the Financial Services and began studying for her Accounting Qualification. She worked as an accountant in Local Government for the rest of her career, retiring from Watford Borough Council.

Her interest in knitting and knitwear started at an early age – both her parents were keen knitters as well as her maternal grandfather, who took up the art of knitting during his naval career and became very proficient. All her knitting has been hand knitting, and she is also an avid cross stitcher.

In her spare time she has volunteered with both St. Thomas's Hospital and Northwick Park Hospital, and she has also served as Honorary Treasurer to several organisations.

Maureen has been heavily involved in the life of the City of London for over twenty years, attending many Livery functions as a guest with her husband, and eventually as Mistress of the Worshipful Company of Tylers and Bricklayers. Her interests include reading, crosswords and other puzzles, holidaying abroad and genealogy.



**Nicholas Anthony Radclyffe Traylen** (generally known as 'Nick') was born in Nottingham in 1963, and lived in the County of Rutland for all but one year of his life.

He was educated at Oakham School, then went on to study Textile Technology at Leicester Polytechnic.

He graduated in 1984 and joined the family firm – Uppingham Yarns Ltd. – based in Uppingham, Rutland, and took over the business from his father in 2003.

Uppingham Yarns specialises in supplying sample quantities of a large range of fibre types including technical yarns, to universities, students, knitwear firms, designers, and home crafters.

Nick has always had a real passion for textiles, resulting in his travelling to universities throughout the UK to talk on the subject of yarns and their uses.

Recently he was asked to join the FWK Education Committee, which resulted in his helping to interview Students for the Bursary Award competition. This he enjoyed, as he got to see what they are achieving and – often – what they have turned his yarns into.

He travelled greatly when he was younger to Africa, China, Russia, Australia and America: something to which he may do again when he retires – if textile people ever retire!

His interests include rugby (which he used to play), golf (if time allows) and walking.

As a family he keeps horses (he really only gets involved with the groundworks), sheep (for lambing and wool – too coarse to stock in Uppingham Yarns), chickens (for occasional eggs) and a diabetic sheep dog.

**Concluded overleaf on Page 6**

# New Liverymen, concluded



**Alison Marsh** was born in Croydon, Surrey, and attended Croydon High School GDST before studying German and French at Westfield College, London University where she met her future husband Steve, who was studying Mathematics. Her father was an electrical engineer in the Royal Navy for 30 years, including WW2 – a D-Day and Arctic Convoys veteran – and then joined the Ministry of Defence working on the Harrier Jump Jet and Chinook. Her mother was a deputy head teacher and JP.

Alison joined NatWest as a graduate trainee working for 10 years in both the City and West End of London, and was the manager responsible for launching the Switch debit card system in the late 1980s. After having two daughters she trained as an English teacher and later as a special needs teacher and assessor, teaching in Cambridgeshire for 17 years, retiring in 2020. She lived in Australia for three years, as Steve was Chief Actuary of Australian Mutual Provident Society (AMP), and had the wonderful experience of being in Sydney for the Olympics in 2000 and the 100-year anniversary of Australia's Federation the following year.

On returning to the UK, the family moved to Lincolnshire in 2002. Alison has two daughters and two granddaughters. Her older daughter is Head of History at a school in Nottingham, has two daughters, and her younger daughter is marrying in July and moving to Malaysia for two years with her husband's job. Alison has been a Magistrate since 1997 on the Cambridgeshire Bench and is a Senior Presiding Justice in the adult court. She was a member of Ladies Circle for 12 years and of Tangent for 19 years: she is Treasurer of her local group. She enjoys knitting and handicrafts, since making one lacy four-ply shawl for her elder daughter: she is now on her tenth, as they have proved very popular with family and friends. They take three months minimum to make! She has also knitted a baby blanket for the Framework Knitters appeal. She enjoys singing in a local choir, Pilates, reading and travelling – most recently to Sri Lanka with Steve. Her husband is a retired actuary and will be Master of the Worshipful Company of Glovers of London in 2027, subject to election.

## Master's Installation, continued

In a post-Covid world, the tradition of the Loving Cup has become a little bit neglected within the Livery community. It was therefore wonderful to see it welcomed back wholeheartedly by the Framework Knitters, even though it seemed that there may have been something missing. Was it the polish on the silver? Was it the Château Lafite Rothschild Premier Cru Classé? Was it the Loving Cup lids that were meant to be flourished in a spectacular fashion? Only those who were there will know...

Throughout the dinner, we were all entertained by the relaxing sounds of pianist Charlie Bates. By the time that the Sung Grace had come around, his playing had evolved into a quite unique style and tempo, certainly not in a form ever heard before by this writer. Perhaps not surprisingly for someone with a particular timing to his playing, at the end of the meal when the Master thanked him during his closing remarks, he was already on the bus back to Enfield, having left 20 minutes earlier!



# Salvete & Valete

We say “Farewell” to Karl Whatsize, but welcome Andy Dennahay

The end of an era is nearly upon us here at The Cottage Homes in Oadby, Leicestershire. Our gardener / handyman is retiring to pursue a dream. After endless research and scouring local papers and car forecourts he has found himself a camper van to regain his youth, travel unhindered on the open roads and live a life of freedom, only to be governed by his wife, Elaine.

Karl started working at the Cottage Homes in 2009 and was interviewed for the rôle of gardener. Once he had started and was in situ, it soon became apparent that not only was he able to maintain the grounds to a very high standard but he had a flair for “doing up” bungalows, and – as the saying goes – “the rest is history”. The number of cottages that have received the “Karl Makeover” is a mystery, but when a cottage becomes vacant, Karl moves in and works his magic.

Over the years Karl has become a firm favourite with our residents: quietly and without a fuss he has kept an eye on them ensuring they are safe and well, and is always willing to have a chat with them while on his rounds. Our Homes Manager – Nettie – will especially miss him as Karl has been the solver of many puzzles over the years. This friendly non-judgemental man who will speak the truth even when it is hard to hear will be greatly missed by all. We all wish Karl a very happy retirement while travelling around the UK and Europe in his camper van.



**Karl, mower & camper van**

**Upper Warden Peter Corah**



**Andy, ready to start**

Andrew Dennahay (Andy) started at the Cottage Homes on 8th April and will be working alongside Karl until Karl leaves on 28th June.

Andy has run his own property maintenance business for the past four years and prior to that was a plumbing and heating engineer. He has come to us with vast experience of general building maintenance and working with plumbing and heating systems, electrical systems, health and safety and equipment testing.

Andy has settled in extremely well so far, and is keen to learn the ropes from Karl, get to know the routine, the residents and Nettie – our Homes Manager.

We all wish Andy a happy time working with us at The Cottage Homes.

**Nettie Ellis**

# Our Links with the Services

## The three links between one of the RAF's most famous Squadrons and the Framework Knitters

No. 601 Squadron was formed at RAF Northolt on 14th October 1925 when a group of wealthy aristocratic young men, all of whom were amateur aviators, decided to form themselves into a Reserve Squadron of the RAF after a meeting in White's Club, London. The original officers were picked by the first commanding officer – Lord Edward Grosvenor, youngest son of Hugh Grosvenor, 1st Duke of Westminster. Grosvenor tested potential recruits by plying them with alcohol to see if they would behave inappropriately, as he wanted officers “of sufficient presence not to be overawed by him and of sufficient means not to be excluded from his favourite pastimes: eating, drinking and White's”.

The Squadron became a day fighter unit in 1940 and operated both the Hawker Hurricane and the Supermarine Spitfire. Aircrew attrition and transfers to other units and the war quickly took its toll on the pre-war personnel; and so replacements were drafted in from all walks of life and all parts of the Commonwealth to cover casualties and promotions. This brings us to the first link with the Company. Past Master Linda Bentata's maternal Grandfather was the Squadron's Senior NCO during the Battle of Britain and afterwards, having flown with the RFC and RAF during World War 1.



Reforming on 20th April 2017 at RAF Northolt, 601 Squadron is now a Specialist Support Squadron of the RAuxAF. The three principal rôles of the Squadron are to provide advice to the Chief of the Air Staff and the RAF in order to help address important issues; to provide access to new networks that the RAF has not traditionally been connected with, and to develop advocates for the RAF. The Squadron looks after numerous ‘Captains of Industry’ who have been appointed Honorary Group Captains in the RAF. This brings us to our second link – your Clerk – who serves in his spare time on the Squadron as the Support Officer arranging the functions and engagement events throughout the year.

The Squadron was initially known as *the millionaires' squadron* – a name-tag gained because of a reputation for filling their ranks with the very ‘well-heeled’. Such was their disdain for the rigours of regular service life that they lined their uniforms with red silk to make the point they were a cut above the rest! This soon spread around the wider Auxiliary Air Force as did the habit of wearing red socks (our 3rd link!), a habit our Gallant Clerk is determined to continue – in the finest British-made socks of course!

**Russ Gleeson, Clerk**

## Royal Air Force Cadets (1279) Melton Mowbray Squadron

Royal Air Force Cadets (1279) Melton Mowbray Squadron held their Annual Presentation evening at the Cadet Centre in Melton Mowbray on Thursday 21st March 2024.

The company was invited by Wing Commander Carl Wilson, and we were represented by PM Julian Ellis, Upper Warden Matthew Ellis and the Clerk.

The evening gave us an excellent opportunity to learn about the activities of the cadets and to celebrate their achievements.

It was also the opportunity for the FWK to present our annual award, which this year was awarded to Steven Manning. Steven is a volunteer and became involved in The Royal Air Force Cadets in 2009 where he maintained an unwavering presence, actively engaging in parade nights and numerous weekend events. Steven was a linchpin in the process that led to 1279's attainment of the Queen's Award for voluntary service, showcasing his dedication to the betterment of the unit and the broader RAFAC community.



Following a brief introduction by Julian Ellis, the award was presented by Matthew Ellis.

### **Steven's citation reads:**

Steven Manning's journey with the Royal Air Force Air Cadets (RAFAC) started in 2009 when he became an integral part of 1181 (Syston) Squadron. His dedication and commitment were swiftly recognised, leading to his service extension when 1181 merged with 1279 (Melton Mowbray) Squadron. A reliable and devoted individual, Steve maintained an unwavering presence, actively engaging in parade nights and numerous weekend events. His passion for archery became a cornerstone of his involvement in the Squadron.

Steve embraced archery as an active participant and took proactive measures to organise and lead Archery instructor courses for the Wing. His guidance extended beyond mere instruction, as he generously shared insights on setting up ranges and advised other squadrons on equipment procurement, significantly enhancing the broader ATC community's engagement with this sport. Steve's leadership prowess was evident in his successful orchestration of the archery activities during the 2023 RAFAC Muster at RAF Benson. His exceptional teaching skills were evident in his delivery of the cadet academic syllabus and mentorship toward cadets' achievement of leadership badges, further solidifying his pivotal rôle in their holistic development.



Steve was a linchpin in the process that led to 1279's attainment of the Queen's Award for voluntary service, showcasing his dedication to the betterment of the unit and the broader RAFAC community, and he epitomises dedication, reliability, and a willingness to contribute in any capacity to support the growth of the squadron's cadets, other Squadron CFAV and across the Wing.

Therefore, considering Steve's unwavering commitment and exceptional contributions to 1279 and South & East Midlands Wing instructing Archery and supporting tens of CFAV, it is for his commitment to South & East Midlands Wing, that he is highly deserving of formal recognition by presentation of The Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters Annual Award.

**CS Wilson Wing Commander RAFAC  
Officer Commanding South & East  
Midlands Wing Royal Air Force Air Cadet**



# Updates on some of our Award Winners

**Silvia Acien** stands as a Regenerative Knitwear Designer, serving as the driving force behind ACIEN—a distinguished luxury fashion brand with a commitment to regeneration. A 2023 graduate of Central Saint Martins' BA Knitwear course, Silvia's roots trace back to the rural landscapes of Spain, where her upbringing on her parents' farm profoundly shaped her perspective on the world. Central to Silvia's ethos is a deep respect for nature, seamlessly woven into every garment she meticulously crafts, employing natural and regenerative elements.



In her professional journey, Acien won the prestigious Maison/O LVMH Green Trail Award in 2023 and the Frameworks Knitters Award in 2023. Additionally, she emerged as a finalist for the ITS Contest Award 2023, Swatch Award 2023, and Go!2025 Award. She showcased her creations with her fashion brand ACIEN at renowned platforms, including London

Fashion Week, Dutch Design Week, Paris Fashion Week, The Future Fabric Expo, and Tate Modern. Featured in acclaimed publications like The Wall Street Journal, Talking Textiles, Office, FG\*K, Sick, Malvie, Hunter, Sleek, Experimenta, and Aether, ACIEN also participated in Fundraising catwalks and secured victory in the Central Saint Martins Nike project.

At the heart of ACIEN lies a profound dedication to preserving traditional techniques, notably a weaving art passed down by her grandmother three years prior to her passing. This technique utilises esparto dry branches collected from the Spanish mountains and traditionally crafted baskets to carry eggs and vegetables in the farm of her parents. These materials encapsulate Silvia's heritage; and at ACIEN, she fervently strives to safeguard them for future generations.

ACIEN transcends the realm of fashion, embodying a social purpose. Committed to a regenerative ethos and the conservation of the Earth's resources, the brand champions biodiversity preservation through regenerative fashion practices. All garments and hats are crafted from certified organic yarns, coming from plant-based fibres such as Pineapple, Himalayan Nettle, Tencel and Organic Cotton and dyed by hand with a blend of natural dyes sourced from plants and bacteria. A pivotal facet of ACIEN involves collaborations with scientists and bio designers, employing innovative techniques to contribute to water conservation. This dedication is underscored by a deliberate choice of materials that demand minimal water usage, a testament to ACIEN's core values.



For Silvia, each stitch signifies more than the creation of a garment: it symbolizes a profound connection to her ancestors, community, and the Earth. Through her collections, she aspires to instil a deeper appreciation for the natural world and underscore the urgency of preserving our heritage for future generations.

---

In my final year at De Montfort University I was fortunate enough to win the Howard Ellis Award from The Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters for my knitwear collection. In August 2022 I graduated with a first-class honours degree in Fashion Textile Design specialising in Knitwear.

When I heard about the opportunity to receive a two-week training at Shima Seiki Europe I thought it would be a fantastic opportunity to develop my skills and gain further insight into how the industry was using both Shima Machinery and their Virtual Design Software.

Over the course of the first week I learnt about ApexFiz – Shima's Virtual Design software – and its diverse range of design capabilities to increase communication throughout the design and production process leading to reduced sampling waste and speeding up production. I was in awe of its technical ability and excited to hear how companies I admired had been utilising it within their business.

In the second week we focused on understanding how knit code worked and the technicalities of programming. This was completely new to me, having not come across it at university, and I gained such a respect for the



level of patience, technical understanding of knitwear and understanding of the machinery knit programmers must have. At the end of the week I was able to program a design and knit it off the machine. This furthered my knowledge of the relationship between knit code and the machinery and gave me an appreciation of how knitwear is produced.

Following my enthusiasm from my course I was invited to join Shima as a Virtual Design Operator. Within this rôle I was responsible for providing specialist technical support, training and demonstrations to industry professionals across the UK and Europe. I became a specialist in using the software for 2D and 3D design, pattern making, weave design and 3D socks. Within my time at Shima I got to visit Shima Seiki's head office in



Japan and attend the International Textile Machinery Association (ITMA) exhibition in Milan, all of which deepened my technical knowledge, industry connections and understanding of how the industry operates. After a year with Shima I realised I wanted to focus more on my creative skills and so am now looking for a more design-led rôle. But, as my first job after graduating, it has given me the confidence and knowledge to be a valuable asset to the industry and has only strengthened my passion for knitwear and I am very grateful for the opportunity.

**Anna delivering a demonstration to industry professionals in Paris**

**Anna Thorn**

My name is Tanya Evans-Lawes and I studied Fashion Knitwear and Knitted Textiles at Nottingham Trent University. During my final year I was awarded the opportunity to attend a two-week training course in programming at Shima Seiki Europe at Castle Donnington funded by the Framework Knitters and the Drapers Livery Companies. This was a great experience and I found I really enjoyed learning the technical aspect of machine knitting, which helped me decide on the direction I wanted to take my career after graduating with a first-class degree.



In 2023 a job opportunity opened up for a Studio Assistant at the Knit Design Centre at Stoll GB in Leicester, and I'm sure the fact that I had some experience in programming knitwear helped my application. I have been working there for nearly a year, advancing my programming skills further by attending a Stoll training course and well on my way to becoming a fully-fledged Stoll programmer. I love helping our clients develop their knitwear using the very latest technology, and we have a huge range of different designers come through our doors. This makes for a very interesting work environment and means I'm always learning new things.

**Tanya Evans-Lawes**



# An Update on the Blankets Project

KidsBank was absolutely delighted to receive all these beautiful hand-knitted blankets from Sheila Turner of the Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters.



**KidsBank Blankets**

This project was started in March 2020 at the beginning of lockdown, and we used our network of contacts to ask volunteers to knit squares and send them to us. Then, another team of volunteers made up the squares into blankets by sewing or crocheting them together. We expected to make 20/30 blankets... well, 2½ years later we have made 730 full single blankets and 710 lap blankets.

In addition to KidsBank, the finished blankets have been donated to charities nationwide including Action Homeless, Leicester; Meadowhope Food Bank, Nottingham and The Saviours Trust, Pontefract & Leeds, to name just a few.

**PM Sheila Turner**

And in addition to those sent to KidsBank, there were very many sent to other organisations too, as these pictures illustrate.



**Denby Dale**



**Falcon**





Small Acts of Kindness



Arches



Little Village



Padley

Date	Organisation	Full Blankets	Lap / Cot Blankets
Dec-22	Focus for Hope, Brighouse, West Yorkshire	22	0
May-23	Kidsbank, Chester	23	2
May-23	Little Village, London (7 hubs)	16	22
Oct-23	Ssafa, Women's Refuge, London	20	0
Oct-23	Little Village, London (7 hubs)	0	32
Nov-23	Denby Dale Community Trust, West Yorkshire	10	7
Nov-23	Little Village, London (7 hubs)	0	35
Nov-23	The Arches, Trent Vineyard, Nottingham	4	11
Nov-23	Falcon, Loughborough	20	0
Nov-23	Meadowhope Food Bank, Nottingham	21	0
Dec-23	Pennine Domestic Abuse Charity, Huddersfield	3	1
Dec-23	Padley Hub, Derby	15	5
Dec-23	Little Village, London (7 hubs)	0	43
Jan-24	Treloar School, Hampshire	0	11
<b>Totals as at January 2024</b>		<b>154</b>	<b>169</b>

## Our January Dinner

On Friday 19th January 2024, seventy-seven Liverymen and their guests gathered in Pewterers' Hall for the Winter Dinner. The evening started with a warm welcome from our Master – Liz Fox – and her Consort and an invitation to drinks in the beautiful Court Room. Here we enjoyed a delicious Cremant de Limoux and tasty cheese nibbles, and there was plenty of space to mingle and meet up with fellow Liverymen and friends.

Pewterers' Hall, dating from 1473, is the third Hall on the same site and was built in the 1960s. It has a light and well-proportioned feel due to the classical style and high ceilings as well as the use of Afrosia wood throughout as a replacement for mahogany, which was difficult to source in the years after WWII. Originals or facsimiles of the Company's many royal Charters hang throughout the Hall and make a splendid feature as one walks from one room to another. In the Court Room we admired the seventeenth-century panelling, dated 1690 and inscribed with the names of all the previous Masters. This and the fine Georgian chandeliers were rescued from the fire at the previous Hall and incorporated into the new design. From the Court Room we moved for dinner to the splendid Livery Hall which features spectacular displays of historic pewter, elegant pewter chandeliers designed especially for the modern Hall, and tables laid with candelabra and pewter water jugs along each length.

Grace was said by the Master's Chaplain – the Reverend Eleanor McMahon – before we began dinner. A delicious menu was served: seared salmon, followed by rump of lamb, finished with a perfect tarte tatin, and all complemented by fine wines and port. The Master took wine with the three new Liverymen present: Dr. Helen Steel, Gaby Morris and Mo Shannon TD. The toast to the guests was proposed by IPM Tony Jarvis, introducing us to the principal guests who were Her Honour Wendy Joseph KC and Sir David Natzler KCB. Wendy Joseph has had a long career as a lawyer and was a full-time judge from 2007 to 2022. She was installed as the 586th Master Pewterer in September 2023, and we were especially delighted that she was able to join us as the very next day the celebrations of the 550th anniversary of the first Royal Charter of the Pewterer's Company were going to be held, over which she was presiding.



**Sir David Natzler**



**Master, Consort & Chaplain**

Sir David Natzler proposed the toast to the Company with a very amusing and interesting speech. He is the retired Clerk of the House and Head of the House of Commons Service, as well as fulfilling many other rôles throughout his long career in the Commons. He has a particular interest in the history of the Parliament buildings, and has produced two editions of the official Guide. He told us that the Palace of Westminster is in trouble and in a dilapidated state. Something should be done urgently but renovation would mean that the MPs would have to move out for a period, which they are reluctant to do. The best solution, he feels, is to return the building to the Government to run. He was appointed Assistant Boundary Commissioner in 2021, and has subsequently taken a particular interest in the City, citing what he feels are the four special things about it: the Wards (which date from the 1190s); the Churches



(despite the loss of many due to fire and WWII); the 150 green spaces and gardens; and last but not least, the Livery companies.

The Master replied, thanking the Court for its support during her year and especially the Clerk, who – like her – was new at the start. She also thanked her nephew – Michael – who is her Consort, and the Chaplain, who had travelled all the way from Scotland.

It is the Master's privilege to award the David Bryars' Award each year; and this time with reference to the recipient the Master announced: "There was one whose work and efforts had come to fulfilment during my year as Master, particularly in Coronation Year when a large number of Livery Companies [including our own] worked together on the Anointing Screen. So, the prize goes to the person who has represented us on the Textile Livery Group, and who through his enormous knowledge of and expertise in the clothing and textile industry, but in particular through his knowledge of the knitting industry, has contributed so much to the knitting industry and to our Company. I am therefore delighted to award this year's prize to PM Julian Ellis. The Award, in memory of David Bryars, is normally presented as a surprise to the winner, and this was no exception: Julian was "bowled over", as was later reported, and accepted the magnificent glass trophy from the Master, thanking him for his outstanding contribution to the work of the Company.

After the formal part of our dinner was over, the Master kindly invited us all to join her in the traditional Stirrup Cup, ending a very convivial and enjoyable evening.

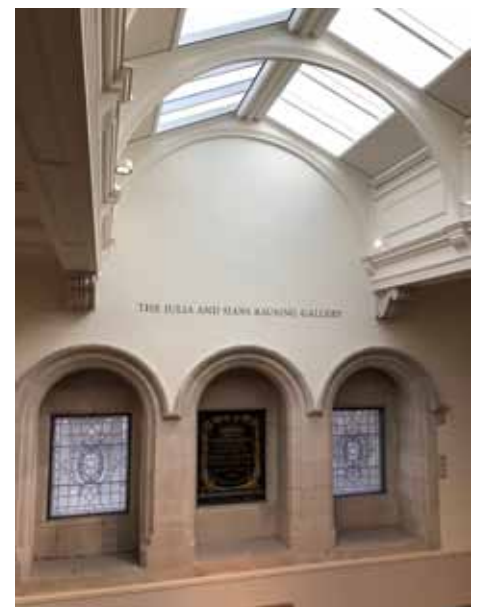


**Liveryman Diana de Froment**

## A visit to the National Portrait Gallery

They say a picture is worth 1,000 words – so here's 2,000 of them !!

After our January Livery Dinner, Steward Simon McIlwaine led a party of Liverymen and guests around the National Portrait Gallery. The general consensus was that a good time was had by all, giving people the chance to mingle and chat in social and interesting surroundings.



**Inside the gallery**

## The Brigantes Section

For 2023, the Brigantes AGM and Winter Gathering headed to the fine Cathedral City of Carlisle, at the heart of a region with more than its fair share of change and conflict over the last two thousand years. Carlisle lies at the northern edge of the Roman Empire from the 1st Century AD, destroyed by the Danes in 875 and subject to Scottish rule for the next two hundred years before becoming part of England in 1092 under William II. A hotbed of unrest for several further centuries as hostilities raged either side of Hadrian's Wall. Thankfully, the Brigantians – representing the City of London Livery Companies – received a far more hospitable reception last December than tribes arriving in the past.

### Lecture, AGM, Reception, Supper and Concert

For the 120 Brigantians, including Framework Knitters, the Winter Gathering opened at lunchtime at the renowned Tullie House Museum and Art Gallery, between the Cathedral and Carlisle Castle. There, for an hour and a half which passed in a flash, art expert and author Chris Wadsworth – a natural storyteller – delved into the fascinating interactions throughout their lifetimes between three northern artistic giants of the second half of the 20th century – L. S. Lowry RA, Sheila Fell RA and Percy Kelly. A delight for all present.



After a short break, we returned to Tullie House for the AGM. Two members of the Brigantes Committee retired – Sue Christensen (PM Tax Adviser) and Sheila Turner (PM Framework Knitter). Both were warmly thanked by Adrian Waddingham CBE, Chairman, for their great service to Brigantes over a number of years.

The main item on the Agenda was a proposed change to the Brigantes Constitution. Brigantes is now in its 10th year since formation and has grown to over 750 Subscribing and Supporting Livery Members. To position Brigantes well for the future, a couple of minor modifications to the governance and operating structure were considered appropriate. Proposals were prepared by the Committee during 2023 and adopted at the AGM without dissent, along with Past Lord Mayor and staunch Yorkshireman Sir David Wootton being elected to the governing body.



The Winter Gathering then moved to the Cathedral for a Reception in the Regimental Chapel followed by supper in the Cathedral's magnificent 14th-century Fraternity Hall. The Very Reverend Jonathan Brewster – Dean of Carlisle – gave the formal Welcome and said Grace. Richard Groome – PM Engineer – proposed the Loyal Toasts, then Rev Charles Cowling – PM Actuary and a Co-Founder of Brigantes – proposed the Toast to the Guests. Lord Inglewood DL – Vice Lord Lieutenant of Cumbria and Third Warden of the Skinners Company – responded.

At 7.30pm we joined the audience in the Nave for the annual Christmas Concert, led by the Cathedral's combined choirs – a wonderfully festive programme of traditional and modern choral works. The communal singing of *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks* to the tune of Ilkla Moor Baht'at was especially appreciated by Brigantians from East of the Pennines. The evening closed with a nightcap or three at the Station Hotel: Brigantes HQ for the Gathering.





## Looking Ahead

### Brigantes Breakfast - Liverpool

On Thursday 20th June we shall be in the magnificent St. George's Hall, Liverpool, which we last visited in 2017.

The annual Brigantes Lecture starts at 10.30am, followed by the Brigantes Reception and Lunch at 11.45am. Among the musical delights, Past Lord Mayor Dr. Sir Andrew Parmley will be taking to the keyboard of the Great Hall's mighty Henry Willis organ – the world's largest when built in 1855 and still the third largest organ in the UK. More details and how to book are available on the new Brigantes website at [www.brigantes.org.uk](http://www.brigantes.org.uk).

### Brigantes Winter Gathering – Sheffield

The 2024 AGM, Winter Gathering and Christmas Concert takes place on Friday 13th December in the City of Sheffield, a mere 90 minutes up the M1 from Leicester.

The AGM, Reception and early evening Dinner will be in the splendid Cutlers' Hall, home of the Cutlers of Hallamshire. We then cross the road to Sheffield Cathedral for our annual Christmas Concert. Again, more details are on the Brigantes website. Booking is available from early September.



Liveryman Jenny Bentley

St. George's Hall, Liverpool

## A Masterly Performance on a day of FWK Successes

Brigantes Golfers were out in force on Wednesday 24th April over the Championship links of Ganton in North Yorkshire, with FWK's Master excelling in the winning team. As well as the many tournaments listed above, Ganton was also the venue for the R&A Boys and Girls Championships, with entries from 27 countries. The opportunity to take on these hallowed fairways and cavernous bunkers in God's Own County tempted long-distance travellers from all points of the compass. They included Matthew



Ellis – just two weeks into his year as Master Framework Knitter – pictured left on the 1st tee with his playing partners. As the later results show, the new Master's efforts were handsomely rewarded.

After a well-attended and highly convivial dinner in the clubhouse on the Tuesday evening with the Ganton Captain Ian Wyatt, Wednesday's golf took place in dry and sunny conditions laced with a 'sporty' northerly breeze. Dinner and prize-giving followed. The winners – shown right – with Sharon Clipperton (Lady Captain of Ganton) were, from Left to Right: Richard Yates (Lauderer), Matthew Ellis (Master Framework Knitter), Dennis Woods

(PM Fueller) and Roger Merchant (Chartered Accountant).

Second were Tony Jarvis (PM Framework Knitter), Gary Eastwood (Weaver), Adrian Maurice (Maker of Playing Cards) and The Ghost – don't ask. Joint third were the team of Janey Heaney (Framework Knitter), Tony Attard (PM Furniture Maker), Nigel Dickson (Ganton Member) and Mike Barton (PM Spectacle Maker), and the team of Angela Waddingham (Educator), Tim Watts (PM Pattenmaker),





### The Winning Team

The draw, conducted by the Lady Captain, was won by Fran Dickson (Ganton Lady Member) who, with husband Nigel, can look forward to regular tastings over the coming months. The funds raised were donated to the Ganton Captains' Charity for the year – Yorkshire Cancer Relief.

Fran is pictured right with Graham Mason (Baker and Ganton Member) who was conducting the Charity draw with the Lady Captain.



Following the two days, appreciations included:

*'A wonderful couple of days of Brigantes hospitality that everyone thoroughly enjoyed.'*

*'I really must thank you and the team on behalf of us Southern Jessies who headed up north for the event. The hospitality of the Brigantes and Ganton GC was superb.'*

*'I can only say once again how wonderful Ganton was over the last two days. It is in excellent condition and a course members must all be very proud of.'*

*'Thank you very much for another most enjoyable day's golf and socialising! Ganton is an excellent course.'*

*'My sincere thanks to you and all of your team at Ganton for such a wonderful day. The*



### Granton

*administration was excellent, the course was in superb condition, the food was delicious and most of all the company was outstanding'.*

### Dates for Your Diaries

Thursday 20th June 2024 : Brigantes Breakfast at St. George's Hall, Liverpool

Friday 13th December 2024 : Brigantes AGM, Supper and Christmas Concert at Cutlers' Hall Sheffield and Sheffield Cathedral

Tuesday/Wednesday 29th/30th April 2025 : Brigantes Golf at Royal Liverpool Golf Club, Hoylake.



Inside Scampston Hall: from Left to Right: Pippa Cope (Barber), Jenny Bentley (Framework Knitter), Ros Gee (Tyler & Bricklayer), Katie Eldred (Fruiterer), Annabel Barton (Spectacle Maker).

### Liveryman Jenny Bentley

# Chamberlain's Court

When people become Liverymen they first have to take up the Freedom of the City of London, sponsored by the Livery Company they plan to join. The Freedom ceremony takes place in the Chamberlain's Court in Guildhall. The Court has a vast amount of Livery memorabilia from the 108 Livery Companies, BUT Assistant Simon Burrows noticed that there was nothing from our Company and asked if I could provide them with a bright City Giving Day blanket.

I contacted the Clerk at the Chamberlain's Court, who explained that a blanket was too big for their display and that a pair of socks would be more suitable.



I was gifted two pairs of socks with the FWK logo on them from PM Graham Smith – he and his wife Sharon commissioned and designed the socks in 2012. They were made at PM George Turner's factory in Derbyshire – Turner & Sons – and they were used as gifts throughout Graham's year as Master.

They are now on display at the Chamberlain's Court and a point of discussion for new Freemen.

**PM Sheila Turner**

## The David Bryars' Award

As Liveryman Diana de Froment wrote on Page 13, PM Julian Ellis was this year's winner of the David Bryars' Award. Julian has promoted our Livery in so many ways, not least by his excellent management of the Ruddington Framework Knitting Museum. Julian was awarded an OBE for services to the Technical Textiles Industry and for services to the welfare of prisoners. A member of the Royal Society of Chemistry, he has been actively employed in the textile industry for more than 50 years, much of it specialising in technical aspects of yarn, fabric and garment manufacture. He carried out research for Courtaulds Group in synthetic fibres, and was later technical manager of a company making knitted fabrics. He is also a member of the Academy of Experts.



**Julian receiving his Award from the Master**



## The Annual Christmas Market

Our enthusiastic sales team were out in force at last year's Red Cross Christmas Market, held in the Guildhall on 28th & 29th November.

They were promoting personalised jumpers made by British Christmas Jumpers – see

<https://www.britishchristmasjumpers.com/>

if you'd like to have one yourself !!

We hope to announce the 2024 dates in the next Newsletter.



# Dates for your diary

## 2024

19 May	Student Freeman Installation, Ruddington Museum	The Clerk
7th June	Inter-Livery Rifle Shoot	The Clerk
20th June	Brigantes Breakfast, St George's Hall, Liverpool	See below
24th June	Election of the Sheriffs, Guildhall	The Clerk
<b>5th to 7th July – The Leicester Weekend</b>		
5th July	Golf Match & Golf Dinner at Leicester Golf Club	Adrian Keene
6th July	Morning: ceremony of the Socks, Wigston Framework Knitters Museum	The Clerk
6th July	Evening: Livery Dinner at Leicester Tigers Rugby Club	The Clerk
7th July	Morning: Annual church service, St. Peter's Church, Oadby	The Clerk
7th July	Lunchtime: Barbecue at The Cottage Homes, Oadby	The Clerk
15th July	Inter-Livery Golf & Croquet Competition, by the Glovers' Company	The Clerk
20th September	Sheriff's Ball, Guildhall	The Clerk
30th September	Election of The Lord Mayor, Guildhall	The Clerk
11th October	Livery Banquet, Fishmongers' Hall	The Clerk
13th December	Brigantes AGM, Dinner and Christmas Concert, Sheffield	See below

## 2025

17th January	Winter Luncheon, Armourers' Hall	The Clerk
--------------	----------------------------------	-----------

**Clerk's Corner** It has now been just over one year since I took the oath of Office as Clerk – confirming the age old saying that ‘time flies when you’re having fun!’ Although in Clerk circles it is said that it takes three years or so to fully understand the job, so I guess I am only a third of the way through! I have had a very enjoyable time getting to know the Company both in terms of Liverymen and our wonderful Residents at the Cottage Homes. My education into the industry continues, and I am grateful for the guidance and support from the (now) Immediate Past Master Liz Fox and Past Masters Julian Ellis and George Turner for the patient guidance on all things textiles and knitting. I am also pleased to report that I have become an ‘out and out’ sock ‘snob’, rarely to be seen in anything but the finest UK made socks these days.

We have been doing a great deal of work to pull together our Social Media Strategy over recent months – hopefully those that ‘Tweet’ or ‘Insta’ will have seen an uptake in our posts and engagements online: this is vital to ensure we keep engaging both with our students but also our potential members. Our Members Area of the website has several new pages that I commend to you – these include inter-livery sports, events around the City, and newsletters from other Companies which include the clothing of HM The Queen as a Liveryman of the Fan Makers.

Finally, you will have noted that all Dinners/Lunch for Master Matthew Ellis’ year are online for booking – we hope this will allow you to plan ahead in order to secure favourable hotel and travel rates. I look forward to seeing you very soon.

## Brigantes Events:

For further details of Brigantes Events, please email the organisers at [livery@brigantes.org.uk](mailto: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.