



Knitter

The Newsletter of the Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters

A Literary Guildhall Banquet



In the Old Library



From Our Archives



A Talk From The Master

From the moment we entered Guildhall Yard we knew this was a special evening, as the Pikemen and Musketeers stood ready to welcome us. Then up the stairs, where we were able to admire paintings by Rossetti and others before being welcomed by our Master, the Wardens and their consorts. Moving to the Print Room for drinks, many of us saw for the first time the two Charters granted to us as a Guild, the first by Oliver Cromwell, the second by Charles II. Also, Hon. Archivist Simon Burrows had set out some of our treasures that he is busy organising and archiving. The paintings on the walls were also of historical significance, and what fun it was marvelling at the fashions and trying to identify all the people in the pictures.

Once over 200 of us had moved to the Old Library, The Lord Mayor (Alderman Peter Estlin) and The Lady Mayoress (Mrs. Lindy Estlin) together with the two new Sheriffs processed with our Master and Wardens to the top table, where our Master ensconced himself in the Master Framework Knitters' Chair. This had been given to the Framework Knitters' Company around 1680 by PM Thomas Carwarden, although it is thought that much of the chair dates back to Elizabethan times. The last time it was used by a Master of our Livery was at least in 1958, and it is hoped that another 61 years will not elapse before it is used again, despite the practical difficulties in transporting it from Leicester where it now resides.

The Old Library was the Guildhall Library from 1873-1974, with the stained-glass window illustrating the introduction of printing to England.

Over the breem, venison and soufflé, accompanied by Viognier, Rioja and Port, we were able to admire our surroundings and marvel at the expertise displayed in the Post Horn Gallop before struggling over the niceties of the Loving Cup. After the toasts, winners of some of the Company's Bursary Awards were honoured to be presented to the Lord Mayor. Assistant Janie Martin then proposed the toast to the Guests, drawing attention to the charitable work of The Lord Mayor and the remarkable achievements of the two Sheriffs. The Lord Mayor responded by asking us all to sing "Happy Birthday" to Past Sheriff & PM Liz Green, then the two of them embarked on an Oscar-winning repartee. Judging by his response, the Master had enjoyed the evening, despite the age of his chair. A fine evening for our Company had been had by all.



A Post-Horn Gallop



The Bursary Winners



Assistant Elizabeth Fox Our Chair & Treasures



THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FRAMEWORK KNITTERS

2019-20

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New ... New... News !!

We welcomed two new Liverymen at our April Court – here's a bit about them.



Marilyn Wedgwood-Johnson is currently a practising artist who completed her Art & Design course in 2012 after her retirement in 2007 as Pro-Vice Chancellor at Manchester Metropolitan University. Exploring, making and reflecting on paintings has become her passion, leading to expressive colourful and vibrant pictures. She has always enjoyed fabrics and fashion, but her career started as a Zoologist, followed by a PhD in brain research at Birmingham University, then lectureships and



Elizabeth (Tiz) Tiffin was born and brought up in Shenfield, Essex, from where she spent the first six years of her working life with Buckmaster & Moore – a well-known company of stockbrokers in the City. On getting married, she moved to Norfolk and soon became PA to the Deputy Chairman, then Chairman, of the Jeyes Group.

Enjoying the commercial side of life, she took over the running of a factory, being responsible for the forty employees and the day-to-day life and the organisation

And were delighted to welcome three more at our June Court – read on !!



Ann Horsfield was born in Monmouthshire but brought up and went to school in Wolverhampton. She studied at Manchester University where she joined the OTC and met her husband Roger whom she married after graduating. Her first job after gaining her PGCE was teaching History at a grammar school in Manchester where they then lived. She was commissioned into the WRAC (TA) and joined a 42 Signals Regiment (TA) in Manchester. They moved to the Potteries, and she taught there until her daughter was



John Mawer was born in Oadby, Leicester, just around the corner from the Framework Knitters Almshouses, although he was unaware of their existence during his formative years. He is the youngest of four children born to his parents, all of whom schooled in Oadby and still live in Leicester. After graduating with a degree in Economics from Hull University, he worked and qualified as a chartered accountant with Ernst & Young for 6 years, including a rather agreeable 18-month secondment to



Vincent Keaveny was born in Dublin. After degrees from University College Dublin and Trinity College, Dublin, Vincent moved to London. He was admitted as a Solicitor in 1992. He has been a banking and finance lawyer in private practice and is now a partner in DLA Piper. He was a member of the Committee of the City of London Law Society from 2006 to 2013 and served as President of the City of London Law Society in 2014-15.

Elected as Alderman for the Ward of Farringdon Within

All Biographies are continued on Page 4

From The Master



It seems only five minutes since I put pen to paper to write my message for the May Newsletter – how time has flown! PM Liz Green and Liveryman Vincent Keaveny have now finished their very successful year in office as Sheriffs. At Common Hall in October, it was my privilege as Master to second the Vote of Thanks to the Sheriffs for all their work in the City and beyond over the last 12 months.

When reviewing my diary in preparation for this page, I found it quite extraordinary to reflect on so many wonderful and enjoyable events that I have attended over the past six months. What a splendid occasion we all enjoyed recently in the Old Library at Guildhall for our October Banquet. To host the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, together with the two new Sheriffs (Aldermen Michael Mainelli and Chris Hayward) and their consorts was very special. As I explained in my speech, I was particularly pleased to be able to join together at Guildhall, The Master's Chair, Mace and Plate – possibly the only Company possessions we still hold that once adorned our former Hall in Red Cross Street before it was rented out in 1720. Also, the display of our two Charters from Oliver Cromwell and Charles II certainly added to the historical significance of the occasion. It was a delight to have The Pikemen & Musketeers to form a Guard of Honour and be splendidly entertained by a woodwind quintet; and the performance of the *Post Horn Gallop* added to the occasion. On behalf of Julia and myself, I would like to say how delighted we were to welcome so many Liverymen and Guests to Guildhall and hope you enjoyed the evening as much as we did.

Going back to the start of my year as Master, other highlights include attending the Frezenberg Ceremony at the War Memorial in Bradgate Park, Leicestershire in May – a very sombre and moving experience. (An article explaining the history was in the May Newsletter.) Also in May, a number of us ventured to Bristol for my Master's Weekend and enjoyed exploring this wonderful city in good company. It was a privilege for me to host a dinner on the *SS Great Britain* and share the coincidence of Sir Marc Isambard Brunel (father of Isambard Kingdom Brunel) having invented the Circular Loop Wheel Knitting Machine back in 1816. Julia and I attended a Buckingham Palace Garden Party later in May, hosted by HRH The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall, and were

lucky enough to enjoy good weather for the occasion.

June took Julia and me to Ironbridge for the Annual Masters' Weekend, hosted by the Lord Mayor, Sheriffs and Ironbridge Trust. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet fellow masters & consorts in an environment of discovery and learning! We also hosted a tea at a hotel near Rutland Water for the Residents of the Cottage Homes. The Summer

Dinner held at Barber Surgeons' Hall led me to investigate the history of our former hall. As a Company, it is now our intention to apply to the City of London Corporation for a Blue Plaque to acknowledge its former location in the Barbican.

In July, I was sent to the Tower of London from the Old Bailey for an event organised by the British Red Cross to raise funds; and would now like to thank all fellow Liverymen who supported my release! 30 Masters took part, and over £40,000 was raised for the charity. Julia and I hosted other masters, consorts and

clerks at the Palace of Westminster, by kind permission of Baroness Byford. Nearly £3,000 was raised at the event, and I was delighted during lunch to present to Sheriff Liz Green a cheque payable to the Sheriffs' & Recorder's Fund. It really was an excellent day, and enjoyed by all those who were there. Also in July, we attended the Brigantes Breakfast in Manchester; while more recently, we had a super time at the Leicester Weekend. I relished seeing many of the Livery Halls on an interesting walk around the City of London, and we also took part in the Lord Mayor's Show – with particular thanks to Assistant Jonathan Pears and his Committee for the organisation of the latter. This is just a small number of the events I have been lucky enough to attend, but do keep an eye on the website page "The Master's Diary" for a more complete idea of what I have been up to!

I am very grateful to all Committee Chairmen, Committee members and members of the Court for steering our Company ship with such enthusiasm and diligence. I very much hope that the events programme for the year is living up to our continued theme of "Friendship, Fellowship and Fun", while still always maintaining our charitable responsibility and commitment. Therefore, on behalf of Julia and me, together with the Wardens – Tony and Julian – let me thank you for your continued support: I very much look forward to seeing you at future events. (Please take a look at the "Dates for your Diary" page of this Newsletter.) My thanks also for giving me this opportunity to represent The Framework Knitters' Company as Master.



Our new Liverymen, continued

Marilyn Wedgwood-Johnson directorships of programmes in higher education followed, then University senior management. In her career she was closely involved with national policy development on 'links between universities, business and the community', and worked with a number of government departments. In the DTI she was part of the Innovation Unit. For the DCMS she chaired a Task Group which reported on 'Graduate Entrepreneurship for the Creative industries'. For the DfES she produced a national report on 'Higher Education for the Workforce', and she was a Specialist Advisor to the Lords Select Committee on Science and Technology. Married to David (Johnson) – a railway engineer - she became Mistress Engineer when he became installed as Master Engineer for 2018-19. Between them they have 4 children and 7 grandchildren who keep them busy and well-travelled - three live in Australia! She loves to walk on the hills, potter in the garden and meet up with family and friends. Always interested in fabrics, fashion and creativity, and thoroughly enjoying the Livery and the people, Marilyn is absolutely delighted to join the Framework Knitters.

Elizabeth (Tiz) Tiffin involved in a manufacturing company. Two lovely children gave Tiz a career break (!), after which she became a Director of Ashtons' Development Co. Ltd (a property company in Essex), and in 2002 she became Chairman – the position she continues to hold today. The company has a mixed portfolio of commercial and residential properties. The work has become far more challenging with the ever-increasing amount of bureaucracy involved with licensing, EPCs and so on.

Tiz has always been involved in the Conservative Party on a voluntary basis, from being an Association Chairman for the Rt. Hon. Gillian Shephard MP (now Baroness), then Area and Regional Chairman for the East of England.

Tiz was awarded the MBE for political services and invited to join the Board of the Party in CCHQ – as she says, "An honour and a privilege".

Ann Horsfield born and she then resigned from her job and from the TA. After ten years in the Potteries, they moved to Cheshire; and when their son (her second child) was five, she obtained a post after gaining further qualifications as a part-time lecturer at a Further Education College teaching special-needs adults. Since retiring, she has developed her interest in sewing (church banners and patchwork and quilting) and charity work. Ann has been involved in fundraising for *Christian Aid* and *Action for Children* as well as supporting other charities. She was involved in setting up their local food bank, and is on its management committee. Ann has been interested in the Livery since her husband joined the Gunmakers' Company some years ago, followed by her son, and she has attended many of their Livery functions as a guest. She was delighted to join the Livery, and looks forward to the future and to bringing her husband to functions as her guest.

John Mawer Bermuda! On his return to the UK, he worked predominantly in the financial services industry in London, where his interest in Livery companies was born, primarily through his rôle as the independent examiner to a leather charity closely associated with the Leathersellers' Company.

Current Upper Warden – Tony Jarvis – introduced him to the Framework Knitters. Tony is a first cousin once removed – in other words, he is John's mother's cousin !!

John is married to Jacqueline, and they have one child who is currently in his final year at University studying Computer Science.

In his leisure time, John pursues a keen interest in most sports, with golf being his favourite. He has been a member of The Leicestershire Golf Club for many years and, when not playing, he enjoys a walk across the course and the surrounding countryside with his wife before retiring for a nice glass of wine.

Vincent Keaveny in 2013, Vincent is Senior Patron of the Farringdon Ward Club. He currently serves as a member of the Freedom Applications Committee, and is a member of the Court of The Honourable The Irish Society, a Governor of the City of London School and Chairman of the Samuel Wilson's Loan Trust – a City charity that supports young people starting out in business through low-cost loans. Vincent is also the Court of Aldermen's representative Trustee on the board of the Sir John Soane's Museum.

Vincent served as Master of the City of London Solicitors' Company in 2014-15 and is a Liveryman of the Woolmen's, Distillers', Spectacle Makers' and Stationers' Companies – and now an honorary Liveryman of the Framework Knitters' too!! He is also a member of the City Livery Club.

Vincent is married to Amanda. She worked as an intensive care/high dependency nursing sister and now volunteers with the homelessness charity *Glass Door*. She is a member of the Fletchers' Company and the Guild of Nurses.

Vincent has a wide range of interests, including the theatre, opera and music, tennis and riding. He chairs the board of a contemporary vocal ensemble and is a director of the Actors Touring Company.

Vincent took office as one of the two Sheriffs of the City of London on 28th September 2018, serving as Sheriff alongside Sheriff Liz Green.

The Big Curry Lunch 2019



Our Team, ready for Action

The lunch was hosted by The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor – Alderman Peter Estlin. He was accompanied by his two Sheriffs – Liz Green and Vincent Keaveny – and their consorts; and his principal guest was HRH The Duke of Sussex. The Duke was welcomed by a Guard of Honour of the Light Calvary, Honourable Artillery Company, and given a tour of the event.

Co-Chairman with the Lord Mayor was Michael Hockney, who gave all the helpers an encouraging talk before the event began, so as to urge them to raise as much money as they could. We were very grateful for Mrs. Estlin's and Mrs. Hockney's support for our stall.

Outside the entrance to the Guildhall was a special garden designed by the Worshipful Company of Gardeners, this year on the theme of the difficulties of veterans suffering physical and psychological pain.

The event comprised a reception followed by lunch – in three sittings – of a delicious selection of curries, accompaniments and drinks served at self-service stations in the Great Hall and eaten at long trestle tables with benches: this resulted in a very convivial atmosphere and quite a lot of noise.

In the Old Library, the South Ambulatory and the Print Room, various service organisations and livery companies had set up stands to tempt those attending into buying their wares to raise money for the good causes. There were ten livery companies with stands, including those run by the Gardeners with flowers, bread and pastries run by the Bakers, and fruit baskets run by the Fruiterers. Many other liveries, individuals and companies also supported the event.

A silent auction was held with most attractive prizes of holidays, meals, artworks, sporting events and cultural outings. A draw was also held with similar prizes. There were opportunities to win, from a handmade watch by Harold Pinchbeck for buying a cocktail, to a diamond pendant for buying a glass of champagne. There was also a book stall with authors signing copies. The armed forces had stands represented by the ABF The Soldiers' Charity, Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund and the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity, all selling various wares.

On behalf of John Smedley (knitwear manufacturers), the Framework Knitters held a raffle for a prize of £500 of their knitwear. It was won by our Liveryman Helen Woolfe, who was delighted with her prize. The Framework Knitters' stall was in the South Ambulatory, and was filled with wool and cashmere items, outdoor, leisure and business socks, men's and women's knitwear, scarves and hats, all made in the UK and very kindly donated by nationwide manufacturers.

Assistant Jonathan Pears was in charge of the stall, and worked tirelessly to make everything run smoothly, including unloading our stock early in the morning. He was helped by Assistant Janie Martin and me, but many others also joined in, including the Master and her consort, "our" Sheriff and her consort,

The Lord Mayor's Big Curry lunch has been held since 2008 at the Guildhall in London in aid of all members of Her Majesty's Armed Forces, including those who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, and their families. For the next three years, the Lunch will provide financial support so that veterans can take part in the Pain Management Programme in the new Centre for Veterans' Health at the King Edward VII's Hospital in Chelsea, London.

This year, on Thursday 4th April, the lunch was hosted by The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor – Alderman Peter Estlin. He was accompanied by his two Sheriffs – Liz Green and Vincent Keaveny – and their consorts; and his principal guest was HRH The Duke of Sussex. The Duke was welcomed by a Guard of Honour of the Light Calvary, Honourable Artillery Company, and given a tour of the event.

Co-Chairman with the Lord Mayor was Michael Hockney, who gave all the helpers an encouraging talk before the event began, so as to urge them to raise as much money as they could. We were very grateful for Mrs. Estlin's and Mrs. Hockney's support for our stall.



The Luncheon in full swing

the Upper Warden and his consort, the Immediate Past Master and our Clerk and his wife.

After some discussion with the Duke's representatives, it was agreed that Master Sheila Turner would be allowed to present HRH The Duke of Sussex with some gifts when he visited our stall. The major items were a box of white cashmere baby items, a shawl, bonnet etc. donated by Johnsons of Elgin; and in addition, a pair of the latest design of ABF The Soldiers' Charity socks (launched at the Big Curry Lunch and made by Turner and Sons) and a pair of brightly-coloured leisure socks for the Duke, along with a pair of cream cashmere socks for the Duchess. HRH, who showed great interest in all the gifts, thanked the Master accordingly.

During the day, Air Commodore Dawn McCaffery of the RAF introduced herself to the Framework Knitters, as she had heard from her colleague Wing Commander Andrew Pass that we had become the 100th Livery Company to support the Air Training Corps, and she thanked us for our support. (A ceremony had been held with Andy Pass in Leicester in September 2018 to mark the new joint affiliation – see Page 18 of *The Framework Knitter*, November 2018.)

Although some stands had packed up by 3.00pm, when our three helpers went for their lunch at 3.15pm leaving the stand in the care of other helpers, there was a big rush of sales, and we made about another £600 in the last hour. In the end, we had a very successful day and sold about £2,000 worth of stock (an increase on 2018), all proceeds going to the nominated charities.

Liveryman Susan Shield



Prince Harry meets the Team

The Glorious Leicester Weekend

Our Regular Friday Golf Event



David Evans with The Master

The annual Company golf competition for the Howard Ellis Salver for Liverymen and the Byford Cup for guests was held at the Leicestershire golf club on 6th September 2019. Past Master Peter White won the Company trophy with a score of thirty-nine Stableford points; I was second trailing by seven points. The guest trophy was won by Janey Heaney with a score of thirty-six points, who beat David Evans by four points. It was particularly appropriate that David won a prize because he was the first resident of the Cottage Homes who has played in our competition.

The prize for the Front Nine was won by Michael Piper and that for the Back Nine by Beverley Osborne. The Organiser's prize this year reverted to the scores on the Par 3 holes, won by Hugh Stevenson and Julia White.

The golf was followed by dinner, where we were joined by a number of Liverymen and their guests. We had a record number (54) attending this year. Once again, the catering staff at the Club produced an excellent three-course meal. The event for next year will be held at the Leicestershire Golf Club on Friday 11th September 2020; and all Liverymen and their guests are most welcome to both the dinner and the golf.

Liveryman Adrian Keene

The Saturday-Night Dinner

This year's Leicester dinner was held in St. Martin's House, adjacent to the city's cathedral,



but we were very blessed to enjoy our reception in the cathedral itself – a happy introduction to the city

for those who had not been before, especially as we had access to the tomb of Richard III, whose bones were interred here in 2015.

It was then but a short step to the light and airy Grand Hall in St. Martin's House, where we were joined by a goodly number of our Cottage Homes residents to swell our group to over one hundred, including "our" Sheriff, the Master Glover and other distinguished guests including the County's Lord Lieutenant – Mike Kapur – and the Cathedral's Choirmaster. Here we enjoyed our usual convivial evening, distinguished by delicious food and fine wine, tuneful entertainment and entertaining speeches.

Our musical entertainment was provided by half of the Cathedral's choir – a beautiful mix of female

and male voices who sang three delightful pieces: an *Evening Song* by Rheinberger, a joyous piece by Duke Ellington called *Come Sunday* (which had been sung by the choir in July of this year during an event to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the first moon landing, as its lyrics included the words "I believe that God put the sun and moon up in the sky..."), and finally, a catchy little number called *Earworm*. Its words included the phrase "I can't get the melody out of my mind" – and once we had heard it, neither could we!

This was followed by a presentation to Captain Nick Barron of the Leicestershire & Derbyshire Yeomanry – one of this year's recipients of the Master's Award. After an introduction from the

Master, we had an interesting speech from the Lord Lieutenant on some aspects of his rôle as the Queen's Representative in Leicestershire – a position that he has held since June of last year and one that he is clearly relishing, with a very 'hands-on' approach. He told us (and I am still not quite sure whether this was a joke or not) that he had misheard when the Master had told him





that his speech should last four to five minutes and had brought a forty-five minute presentation. The insights that he did cover were fascinating, and I suspect that he could easily have continued for another half hour; but after ten minutes or so, he handed over to the Master and was rewarded with a presentation of the much-coveted matching “his” and “her” Framework-Knitter socks and a copy of our history by Sheila Mason: the usual full test will follow when he next joins us!

The Master drew the evening to a close by both welcoming those Residents who had been able to join us and – as she approaches the end of her year of office – by congratulating Sheriff Liz Green on her successful tenure of that rôle. He advised that the process of applying for a Blue Plaque to record the position of our London Hall had begun, then spoke about some of the events that he had attended, and reminded us about some of the Livery delights that were still to follow – both on the second day of the Leicester Weekend and later on over the next month – before drawing our convivial and happy evening to a close.

P.M. Linda Smith

The Ceremony of the Socks

The Master joined members of the public – including several Liverymen – at the Wigston Framework Knitters Museum at 10.30am on the Saturday morning to witness the Ceremony of the Socks. This tradition goes back to 1989, when the land was leased from Oadby & Wigston Borough Council for an annual peppercorn rent of one sock.



Planting the Roses

In 1993, Alderman & Liveryman Michael Griffiths, in his capacity as Mayor that year, suggested doubling the rent to a PAIR of socks; and it's those socks – kindly knitted by Bill Boulter – that were handed by Mike Kapur (Lord-Lieutenant of Leicestershire) to Oadby & Wigston's Mayor Lynda Eaton.

Afterwards, and as part of the museum's 30th anniversary celebrations and to prepare for entry into the National Garden scheme, gardener Chris Huscroft oversaw the planting of four rose bushes by Tim Hercock, the High Sheriff of Leicestershire.



Chris Huscroft

Sunday Lunch at Corah Hall



After many members of our Company had accompanied the Master to enjoy the usual annual service at St. Peter's, Oadby, everyone met up at Corah Hall to join the Residents for Sunday Luncheon. This could have been a disaster: the booked caterers had announced on Thursday that they were no longer in business !! But the wonderful caterers at St. Martin's House – who had provided us with the previous night's dinner – came to our rescue, serving up hams, salmon, quiches, a variety of salads and some delicious puddings. And their staff had given up their own Sunday lunchtimes to help serve us too. So, all in all, a very good end to another splendid weekend.

Ship-Shape & Bristol Fashion —

An Educational Evening to Kick-Start the Adventure



Our Master and Mistress – Ian and Julia Grundy – had arranged a wonderful start to our stay in Bristol on Thursday 9th May 2019. On arrival at Avery's (the famous wine merchants), we were refreshed with their delightful Special Cuvée Champagne, deep in the old atmospheric wine cellars. The Master told us that he would be “our anchor” during our stay, alluding to his naval theme, and the delicious meal was off to a fine start.

A wine tasting accompanied the three-course meal which was tutored by Avery's wine expert, Frank Mason. He told us that Avery's was Bristol's oldest wine merchant, having been founded by John Avery in 1793. Their wines were

originally brought to the cellars straight from the docks, then blended there for sale in the shop above. It is now run by the fifth generation of the Avery family.

Ronald Avery, during the 1920s, achieved better prices, quality and top vintages by negotiating directly with wine châteaux. In the 1940s he bought a bottle of wine from the then unknown Château Petrus to sample – and it would now cost £6,000! Ronald's son – Johnny – having widely claimed that new world wines could not equal those from Europe, was met at the airport in Australia by winemakers who eagerly convinced him otherwise! In the 1980s, Avery's became the first company to import New Zealand wines into the UK.

Frank explained knowledgeably that both red and white wine could accompany the same food, and both our starter and main course were served in this way. The final wine – a Tokaji – had been produced with a percentage of so-called “rotten” grapes. Each grape, covered in mould – the Noble Rot – had been picked by hand individually. The resulting acidity apparently meant that one could drink more of it! Although I am not sure we could accurately detect the acidity, sweetness, bitterness or heat of each wine after Frank's talk, we certainly enjoyed trying to become wine connoisseurs.

The Master concluded the evening by thanking Frank and his assistant – Louise – for a very entertaining and instructive occasion.

Liveryman Helen Woolfe

On Friday morning, a Guided Tour of Bristol Cathedral



Our Friday morning visit to Bristol Cathedral started with our guide showing us the oldest section of the Cathedral – the Chapter House, which was part of the original St. Augustine's Abbey. This is a world-class example of Norman architecture, dating from 1180.

We continued in chronological order from the Elder Lady Chapel to the Eastern Lady Chapel, which had been restored in part to show beautiful burgundy and green wall painting.

Despite this beauty, Henry VIII closed the abbey in 1539; and much of its stone and lead was used for building houses. In 1542, Henry declared

The Stories of our Master's May Excursion

the church to be a cathedral, but the nave was not completed until the 1860s. It was finished in the same style as the original of 1298, with its vaults in the nave, choir and aisles of the same height. Bristol Cathedral is the only English cathedral with the “Hall Church” design, and is noticeably flooded by more light as a consequence.

After bomb damage in 1941, some of the stained glass windows were replaced with ones depicting civilian forces helping in the war effort.

Our guide was thanked by the Master, and we departed a lot more knowledgeable on church architecture and Bristol's magnificent cathedral.

Liveryman Helen Woolfe



Followed by luncheon at the Avon Gorge Hotel



Following that fascinating tour of the cathedral, it was time for lunch. After boarding a very luxurious coach, we did an amazing tour of north Bristol, including good views of the working docks and a very large number of brand-new cars awaiting delivery, before ending



up at the Avon Gorge Hotel, where freshly-poured glasses of Pimms were awaiting us in the sunshine on the magnificent terrace overlooking Clifton Suspension Bridge.

Once our thirsts had been suitably quenched, we made our way inside to a private room in order to help ourselves from a splendid selection of buffet food: every taste seemed to have been catered for, including those with a sweet tooth. To walk off at least some of the calories, many nipped out of the back door to stroll up the hill to the suspension bridge itself, taking the opportunity to walk across at least some of it and admire the hotel from a different perspective.

And A Visit to the Merchants' Hall



Then back on the coach to go to up-market Clifton and the magnificent Merchants' Hall – the home of The Society of Merchant Venturers, an organisation which has played an important part in the history of Bristol for more than 450 years. The Society is very similar in many respects to a Livery Company, being governed by a Master and two Wardens and with the charitable objectives of supporting both the elderly – via some Almshouses – and Education – via two schools. Sounds familiar?

On arrival, we were shown into a beautiful room complete with yet more food (cakes, tea & coffee and so on) and were



split into two groups to take it in turns to be given a guided tour by the Butler – Gary Aldwell. He certainly knew his stuff, and gave us all a most enlightening insight into both the history and the workings of the Merchant Venturers and their hall. Finally, fully fed and fully informed, we



all made our way back to the hotel, most of us by coach but with the more adventurous making use of the fine weather (and the fact that it was nearly all downhill) to walk instead, to rest and prepare ourselves for our next adventure.

Friday Night – and a Tour Highlight



This was probably the most anticipated event of the Master's Weekend. After an entertaining day spent exploring Bristol, everyone met in the hotel lobby having changed into Black Tie. Lead by the Master and his Consort, we all boarded the *Tower Belle* for a harbour tour on our way to the *SS Great Britain* for dinner. Once we had all commented on the Master's anchor cufflinks and bow tie, everyone was given a drink and we set off around the harbour. We passed old 1950s cranes and the replica of John Cabot's sailing ship – the *Matthew*. During our tour, we also passed Brunel's *SS Great Britain*. What a magnificent sight, with her six masts all with pennants flying on the rigging.

There were also stunning views of painted terraced houses on the hill above the harbour. Our tour ended at the ship itself and, after being greeted by Brunel himself clad in top hat and smoking a large cigar, we all embarked and went up to the top deck for drinks and a chance to look around.

Before dinner, "Mr. Brunel" gave a quick insight into how the Great Western Steam Ship Company was started. In 1839 he decided to create a ship of iron. The ship he designed grew in size, and so ended up a third larger than any other ship of the day owing to the fact that it was to have a screw propeller, steam engine and an iron hull. By the 19th July 1843, the ship was ready to be launched by Prince Albert into the floating harbour in Bristol. She remained in Bristol for a year while the final fittings were added and the lock gates were changed so she could get through: despite that, the ship still got stuck!

In 1852, Gibbs, Bright & Co. purchased the *SS Great Britain* to use her to carry hundreds of emigrants and gold seekers to Australia. After 30 years as a passenger ship, she was converted to carry cargo between England and the West Coast of America. In 1886 she was badly damaged off Cape Horn, and took shelter in the Falkland Islands. It proved too expensive to repair her, and she was sold to the Falkland Islands Company where she spent 47 years as a floating warehouse until her working life ended in 1937. She became too unsafe even for this, and was scuttled in the





shallow waters near Port William. There she remained until 1969, when a mission was launched to bring her back to Bristol. Finally, she was refloated by putting her on to a floating pontoon, and then she was towed back to her birthplace in Bristol, arriving exactly 127 years to the day after her launch in 1843.

History lesson over, we all went down to the first-class dining saloon, where dinner was to be served. We were seated at two long tables. Once seated, the Master said Grace and there followed a delicious meal consisting of a warm cheddar and smoked haddock tart followed by thyme & garlic roast chicken and, for those of us with a

sweet tooth, an excellent pudding of warm chocolate brownie, salted caramel, mascarpone cream and an endless supply of wine. We rose to drink the Queen's health; and finally, PM George Turner thanked the Master and his Consort for organising a marvellous weekend which had been much enjoyed by all. Then to wash dinner down, we were served coffee and tea.

After dinner there was a chance to have a conducted tour of the rest of the ship. I can highly recommend this to anyone who has not been. It has been beautifully restored and is very realistic, with many depictions of life on board, including noises off and rats running round the kitchens. There was even the opportunity to go down and view the iron hull. Sadly, time was all too short; and so all too soon it was time to leave for the hotel. All in all a most enjoyable and educational evening was had by all.



Liveryman Susan Shield

Saturday: The Lord Mayor's Chapel



We assembled bright and early to visit this chapel, which is the only remaining building of the 13th-century Hospital of St. Mark with the Blesséd Virgin Mary. The term 'Hospital' refers to a place of hospitality, from which we derive the words Hotel and Hostel, and not to the care of the sick, which would have been known as an 'Infirmaty'.

The Hospital was founded in 1220 as a daughter-house of St. Augustine's Abbey (now Bristol Cathedral) by Maurice de Gaunt, grandson and heir of Robert FitzHarding, first Lord de Berkeley, who founded the

Abbey on a portion of land in his manor of Billeswick by Bristol.



The interesting exterior features a 13th-century Corbel Tables supporting the roof of both the nave and the chancel on either side. The original west window of the nave was replaced in 1822 and rebuilt as part of a mock ruin at Henbury Hill House.



Once inside, we were treated to an amusing and informative lecture by the Chaplain – Harold Clarke – who showed us the key features such as the Nave, the Chancel & Sanctuary, St. Andrew's Chapel, Jesus Chapel, the North Transept, Vestry & Cloister and the South Aisle. Sadly, we were unable to ascend the tower in the South Transept; but in view of the guided tour to follow, that was perhaps a good thing!

And to end – A Walking Tour of Bristol



After leaving The Lord Mayor's Chapel, we wandered back across the road to the cathedral green, where we were met by Luke Sargeant to go on a walking tour of Bristol, taking in such sights as the variety of street art, starting off with the Banksy in College Green before moving on to The Hatchet Inn, built by French prisoners of war and getting its name from cutting down trees from Clifton. Then into Orchard Avenue (used as a site for filming *Upstairs, Downstairs* and many others) where our guide demonstrated a most unusual echo if one stood in the right place by a brick wall, and on past the well-named Cat Café. The area used to be

known as Sugar Loaf City in view of the vast amounts of money flowing into the area (although it also came from tobacco and the slave trade, with Clare Street's figure of a native Indian the only remaining Bristol reference to slavery). Then on to the Centre Space Art Gallery, where a narrow passage – Leonard Lane – has the smallest street paintings in Bristol, done by Ben Wilson, who used a crème brûlée torch to melt the paint into the pavement. This lane also still retains the infamous pair of double-yellow no-parking lines at its six-foot-wide entrance, painted to use up a surplus of yellow paint a few years ago!

Then on to the largest street painting, by the Polish artist M City – although the ones in Bristol are amongst his smallest world-wide. More street art near St. John's Gate – one of the oldest buildings in Bristol – much of it referencing the social history of the city. Next, Broad Street, to see the William Morris wallpaper inside the wonderfully-named Strawberry Thief Café, opposite the magnificent Edward Everard's Printing Works, then on to the Harbour Hotel, by St. Nicholas Market, which was featured in Charles Dickens' *Pickwick Papers*. Outside the covered market itself are some very large "nails" where money was placed in exchange for goods – the origin of the expression "cash on the nail" – while the Corn Exchange features a wall clock with TWO Minute Hands – one for GMT, and one for Bristol time, some ten minutes later!



Next – Bristol Bridge, built by the Saxons about 1,100 years ago as the first bridge across the Avon, which they named Brig Stow: naturally, it quickly became a centre for trade, while over the years the name got corrupted to Bristol. Next-door Welsh Back street was also where captured Welshmen were sold into slavery until the practice was banned in 1163 by St. Leonard. Slaves ended up in places as far away as the then Constantinople; and today, some DNA tests from Turks reveal Welsh descendents. Clearly, slavery was becoming a bit of a tradition in Bristol !! Further along we came across the Jacobean Llandoger Trow, the pub where some believe Daniel Defoe met Alexander Selkirk, inspiring his book *Robinson Crusoe*.



Finally, we returned to our hotel via Queen Square – the largest Georgian Square outside London – where we saw the first-ever American Embassy, created in 1793 as a unilateral recognition of America's independence and to thwart the rival trade with Liverpool. We also saw the famous Hole-In-The-Wall pub, which got its name from the spy hole used to watch out for press-gangs looking to recruit drunkards and which featured in *Treasure Island*.

And so to lunch at our hotel, and then home after a wonderful trip.

The Annual United Guilds Service

This service, the largest annual gathering of the Livery and other City institutions in London, has been held annually since 1943 and was a coordinated response to the challenges faced by the City of London following the Blitz of 1940-41.

The Service held at St. Paul's Cathedral on 29th March 2019 had a special interest for the Framework Knitters, as Sheriff Liz Green, wearing her Sheriff's uniform with her chain of office, and consort Peter Green (Liveryman International Bankers), would be processing into and out of the Cathedral.

Also processing would be Liveryman Dr. Richard Fynes, resplendent in a gold-trimmed gown, ornate tricorne hat and carrying a mace, as the Lord Mayor's Ward Beadle. The masters of the Great 12 Livery Companies process each year, together with the masters of twelve others on a rotating basis, owing to space limitations. The service requires meticulous planning and organisation for such a large number of dignitaries and guests, and the result was a magnificent and colourful ceremony.



Inside the Cathedral

A service of hymns, prayers and readings was held, and the Sermon was given by The Rt. Rev. and Rt. Hon. Dame Sarah Mullally DBE, Bishop of London. The choir was directed by Andrew Carwood and the organist for the service was Simon Johnson, while the trumpeters of the London Military Band were led by Allan Shellard.

Following the service, a number of Framework Knitters and other liveries were guests for a drinks reception and an excellent luncheon at Stationers' Hall, a place becoming increasingly popular as a post-City event venue after such occasions as the election of the Sheriffs and the Lord Mayor. We hope to be returning soon !!



Arrival of the Sheriffs

The Framework Knitters were allocated seating in a dedicated pew in the nave with other livery companies (Consorts were seated elsewhere), and our Master – Sheila Turner, resplendent in her gown and chain of office – sat at the end of our pew nearest the aisle, as did other masters on their pews, making a superb view of gowned officers of the liveries down either side of the aisle for the processions.



Liveryman Susan Shield The Magnificent Choir Stalls

A Visit to Greenwich & The Cutty Sark ...



Up on the Top Deck

Our enthusiastic guide Sandy recounted how Greenwich itself had changed beyond recognition over the last 50 years as more and more visitors used improved transport connections to explore the borough's rich maritime heritage.

The *Cutty Sark* was built on the Clyde for £16,150, and first set sail in January 1870. The tea trade was exceptionally lucrative, and the first crops were particularly profitable. The quicker they were brought to market the better, and great trouble was taken with the packing and storage of the cargo. This meant that whoever could ship the tea fastest would lead the market.

Very wisely, and in complete contradiction to today's governments with their controversial sugar taxes, the then government encouraged the nation to drink plenty of tea with milk and two sugars – being the drink that “bringeth cheer but doth not inebriate” and which fuelled the British army on its arduous campaign trail in the Anglo-Zulu war.



The End of the Tour

On a glorious sunny day in June the Master and his lady led a group to Greenwich by riverbus for an exciting tour of the *Cutty Sark*.



The Famous Figureheads

Cutty Sark – the name was taken from a Robbie Burns' verse – was so well designed that it would sail from China to England

round the Cape of Good Hope in 89 to 109 days. Initially, the ship was crewed by the Master and 27 crew, reducing to 19 crewmen by 1878. As steamships took over more and more shipping work, the *Cutty Sark* reoriented towards delivering Merino wool from Australia to the UK, and continued her career as a “wool cutter”.

The last British captain was Richard Woodget in 1885. The *Cutty Sark* was then under the

Portuguese flag when, with the assistance of the Courtauld family, it was repurchased for the nation as a cadet training ship. It survived both World Wars, and in 1957 was opened by HM The Queen to the general public. Today it is a much-loved tourist attraction, and there is a public gallery and reception area under the stunning hull. The *pièce de résistance* is the wonderful collection of ships' figureheads, which were treated as objects of reverence by the ever-superstitious sailors.

And after our enthralling and educational tour we repaired – appropriately – to the Trafalgar Tavern for lunch, where our pre-booked food came a little later than expected, but was worth the wait: a great end to a great outing. A huge “Thank You” to our guide – Sandy – and PM Paul Bethel.

**Steward
Simon
McIlwaine**



At Home in Greenwich



The Trafalgar Tavern

... and back on the River at the RNLI Station

The Thames was at high tide and the wind blowing as we boarded the Tower Lifeboat Station on Saturday morning, 26th October. Whilst the Victorian pontoon on which the station is situated was creaking and banging with the constant movement of the waves the Master, his wife – Julia – and sixteen other liverymen and their guests were treated to a fascinating presentation by Jill Waite about the history and work of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

The RNLI was founded in 1824 and has 238 stations around the UK and Ireland as well as eight inland. The Tower Station is one of four on the tidal Thames and, as the busiest in the country, it answers a really important need. It was opened in January 2002, and since then the dedicated team of Helmsmen and Volunteers has responded to 7,964 “Shouts” (emergency calls): 625 last year alone.

As well as our excellent guide, we were privileged to have Helmsman Chris, and two Volunteers – Giles (a relative of members of the FWK Company) and Mark – also present to add their first-hand knowledge and experiences to the presentation. We were also shown some live footage of actual rescues in which they had been involved.

We were then asked to exit carefully onto the deck, as Giles was going to board the E-Class Mark II Lifeboat moored next to the pontoon and tell us about how it handles the dangerous river conditions and outline its unique specifications. Despite the continuing waves, he proceeded to move around the boat and give us a detailed explanation of the jet-propelled engine and the



With the RNLI team



Giles explaining the lifeboat

boat's exceptional speed and manoeuvrability, in addition to pointing out special features such as the heated blanket locker, always ready for use so that no time is wasted in an emergency.

Tower Lifeboat Station was recently the first to receive the new high-tech all-weather kit designed especially for the Volunteer RNLI crews by Helly Hansen; and following Giles' talk, our last stop was to see the Kit Room with its impressive rows of yellow jackets and boots all ready for action.

Lunch afterwards was in the beautiful Victorian dining room of the Wellington pub, and its convivial atmosphere and tasty pies and salads were much enjoyed. As well as being an incredibly worthwhile visit in itself, the tour had also continued the Master's theme of maritime topics during his year, and he ended the day by thanking all concerned.



Lunch at the Wellington

Liveryman Diana de Froment

Dates for your diary

2019

4th November	Dedication of Garden of Remembrance, St. Paul's Churchyard	N/A
8th November	Silent Ceremony for the Installation of The Lord Mayor	The Clerk
9th November	The Lord Mayor's Show	The Clerk
19th November	Livery Ladies Luncheon, Painters' Hall	Julia Grundy
20th November	Festival of St. Cecilia, Westminster Abbey	The Clerk
25th November	Guildhall Christmas Market Grand Opening, 5.30pm to 9.00pm	N/A
26th November	Guildhall Christmas Market – 10.30am to 8.00pm	N/A
7th December	Residents' Christmas Luncheon, Corah Hall	The Clerk
12th December	Carol Service, St. Martin within Ludgate	The Clerk
12th December	Post carol-service Luncheon, Stationers' Hall	The Clerk
14th December	Brigantes Winter Gathering, Durham: AGM, Dinner, Christmas Concert	See Below

2020

17th January	Winter Dinner, Trinity House, Trinity Square, EC3N 4DH	The Clerk
18th January	Post-dinner outing – HMS President, 72 St. Katharine's Way, E1W 1UQ	The Social Committee
25th February	Inter-Livery Pancake Race, Guildhall Yard	The Clerk
27th March	United Guilds' Service, St. Paul's Cathedral	The Clerk
17th April	Installation Dinner, Apothecaries' Hall	The Clerk
18th April	Post-dinner outing – Handel's (& Jimi Hendrix's) House, W1K 4HB	The Social Committee
21/22 April	Brigantes Golf Spring Meeting, Ganton	See Below
17th June	Brigantes Breakfast in the Railway Museum, York	See Below
24th June	Election of the Sheriffs, Guildhall	The Clerk
26th June	Summer Dinner, Salters' Hall	The Clerk
27th June	Post-dinner outing – Apsley House & the Wellington Arch	The Social Committee

11th to 13th September – The Leicester Weekend

This is expected to follow the traditional format, but further details will appear in the next Newsletter.

27th September	Sheep Drive across London Bridge	The Clerk
29th September	Election of the Lord Mayor	The Clerk
23rd October	Livery Banquet, Plaisterers' Hall	The Clerk
24th October	Post-banquet outing – The Postal Museum	The Social Committee
2nd November	Dedication of Garden of Remembrance, St. Paul's Churchyard	N/A
14th November	The Lord Mayor's Show	The Clerk

Brigantes Events:

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

Booking Events

Please remember that further details of most of the above events – and more – can be found in the Members' section of our website.

And more importantly, most can (and should, if possible) be booked through the website too: this not only ensures that your booking is recorded but will also give you an emailed confirmation of your booking for your records.

And Your Events

Do you know of an event that's not shown above that you think might interest your fellow Liverymen? Or are you thinking of organising an event yourself? Perhaps there's an event that you'd like to see in the future?

If any of the above applies to you, do get in touch with the Social Committee, who are always delighted to receive suggestions for the diary.