



Knitter

The Newsletter of the Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters

Grape Expectations at Vintners' Hall

Vintners' Hall was the splendid setting on Friday 21st April as we gathered to thank Immediate Past Master Tony Jarvis and his wife Mary for an action-packed year and to welcome Elizabeth (Liz) Fox as our new Master.

The Vintner's company received its royal Charter in 1363 and was placed eleventh out of the Twelve Great Livery Companies in the order of precedence of 1515. The wine trade was of immense importance to the medieval economy: between 1446 and 1448, wine made up nearly one-third of England's entire import trade. The Vintners Company was bequeathed the current site in 1446. The original hall burnt down in the Great Fire of London, but a new hall was built and in use by 1671. Grace before dinner was given by the Reverend Eleanor McMahon from the Church of Scotland. Our principal guest – Hugh Pym – later explained that he has known our Master for several years, as they both worship at the Church of Scotland.



Dining in style

During dinner musical entertainment was provided by students from Guildhall School of Music and Drama, with Soprano – Louisa Stirland and Tenor – Mark Christian Bautista, accompanied by pianist Riho Akagi. The entertainment included a solo of O Sole Mio and the Balcony Scene Duet (Tonight) from West Side Story.

Colonel Robert Boyle DL then read the citation for Lance Corporal Jason Olin of the Leicestershire and Derbyshire Yeomanry and presented him with a Company award.

The Master proposed the loyal toasts and then took wine with new liveryman Mrs. Catherine Grimley, after which PM Julian Ellis OBE proposed the toast to our guests, including Master Glover – Mr Clive Hawkins – and Upper Bailiff Weaver – Mr Peter Baxendell.

The Master's principal guests were Hugh Pym and his wife Susan. Hugh is the BBC's Health Editor. He has been reporting politics, economics, public spending and NHS finance for more than two decades. Previously, he was a correspondent for ITN and has co-authored several books including Inside The Banking Crisis. Hugh comes from a medical family – his father was a doctor, his brother has pursued a career in research, and his mother was a vet. The family joke was that the dog got

more sympathy than anyone else who was feeling unwell. In his response to the Company, Hugh delivered an entertaining speech drawing on his varied career in journalism but also explained that he has links to the Cordwainers Livery as his mother is a member of the Clarks shoe family – and he also managed to include several amusing shoe-related quips during his speech.

In her own speech, the Master reflected on her many years of service within the Clothing and Textile Industry. Her guests included Paul Alger MBE – Director of International Affairs at the UK Fashion and Textile Association – with whom she has worked for many years. She then thanked our newly retired Gallant Clerk – Captain Shaun Mackaness – for his ten years as our Clerk, and presented him with a gift of appreciation from the Company. She also thanked his wife Mary for her many years supporting Shaun at all our dinners, welcomed our new Clerk – Wing Commander Russ Gleeson – and presented Mary Mackaness with a bouquet of flowers.

Mary and Shaun became Freeman of the Company earlier in the day, and the Master also urged Shaun to become a Liveryman as soon as possible so that he and Mary can enjoy attending future events in their own right. Toastmaster Jamie Wallace then drew the formal proceedings to a close and a Stirrup Cup was enjoyed by all!



Hugh Pym

Assistant Catherine Fuller



THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FRAMEWORK KNITTERS

2023-24

The Master

Liz Fox
master@frameworkknitters.co.uk

Upper Warden

Matthew Ellis

Under Warden

Peter Corah

The Clerk

Russ Gleeson
White House Farm
Mill Lane
SCAMBLESBY
Lincolnshire
LN11 9XP
020 - 7871 7966
clerk@frameworkknitters.co.uk

Editor

Paul Bethel
020 - 8878 2268
editor@frameworkknitters.co.uk

Editorial Committee

Claire Bethel
Diana de Froment
Russ Gleeson

Editorial & Advertising

All contributions welcome – please contact the Editor.

www.frameworkknitters.co.uk

Web Master – Philip Tranter
0118 - 948 2713
webmaster@frameworkknitters.co.uk

New ... New... News !!

At the Installation Court we were delighted to welcome the following two new Liverymen.



Susanne Grantham is following in her family footsteps to become a Liveryman, after her father and grandfather who were both in the knitwear industry. She was born and lives in Leicestershire with her husband Ben, daughter Kitty and son Bertie. Following school in Loughborough, she went on after her first degree to complete a Postgraduate in Marketing with the Chartered Institute of Marketing and had a career across several industries, including a family bar and restaurant. Once married,

Susanne joined a global aggregate company and developed through the infrastructure industry to work on large tenders for projects including the Thames Tideway Tunnel, HS2 and more recently Lower Thames Crossing. In 2022, she started her own bid management

Catherine Grimley was born in London but spent her childhood in Birmingham. Upon graduating in Geography, she went on to do a Post Graduate Certificate of Education at Reading University, before she took her first post at Reading School, being the only female on the academic staff. She then moved to St. Peter's School in Christchurch, during which time she met her husband – Clive. Subsequently they moved to Sussex, with Catherine working first at a Brighton school and then spending 18 years at Burgess Hill School, rising to the position of Head of the Humanities Faculty. One of her claims to fame here was that she taught Holly Willoughby GCSE Geography! Catherine retired in 2004 after 30 years of teaching, allowing her time to pursue her interests.



Biographies of our new Liverymen continue overleaf on Pages 4 & 5

From The Master



It seems extraordinary to me that I became Master on 21st April – extraordinary because when I joined the Livery in 2001, nothing could have been further from my thoughts and extraordinary because largely as a result of the pandemic, the date of achieving that honour had to be put back. It was the late Jimmie Lewis (a former Master) who came into my office one morning (he was a Vice Chairman of the British Clothing Industry Association (BCIA) for which I worked) and asked me whether I would be interested in joining the Framework Knitters' Company. By this time the Knitting Industries' Federation (KIF) and BCIA were working together on a whole range of issues and I was "looking after" trade policy issues for both woven and knitted clothing, as well as knitted fabric and hosiery.

I am a Bristolian by birth, but left the West Country to study law at the University of Leeds and then moved to London where I was called to the Bar. An unexpected job offer then took me to France for five years, followed by a spell in Brussels where I completed a five-month training period at the EU Commission and then worked for the MEP for Northamptonshire.

On returning to the UK, I became Assistant Director of BCIA, travelling regularly to meetings of the European Clothing Industry Association, where all meetings were then held in French. The Multi Fibre Arrangement (MFA), with its system of quotas on low cost imports, governed much of world trade at the time. Although regularly renewed, the system became more liberal, with quotas gradually increased and then abolished.

One other area I became much involved in was that of Standards, both British and European. I have been the Chairman of the BSI Committee on clothing and interior textiles for some thirty years and have represented BSI on various European (CEN) Committees. Latterly, I have done a lot of work on childrenswear, including on cords and drawstrings and mechanical safety.

When I joined the industry, there were 495,000 people employed in the UK in clothing, knitting and textiles, and almost every Parliamentary constituency had at least one company involved in one branch or

other of the industry. That has obviously changed dramatically, but the industry is still an important one, even if much of manufacturing moved overseas when the MFA came to an end and 'globalisation' was the mantra of so many. Environmental concerns and the move towards sustainability has encouraged some

production to move back to the UK – or at least to be nearer the UK. The formation of the Textile Livery Group is something I have much welcomed, not least because it has reconnected some Livery Companies with the industry sectors from which they were formed many centuries ago and allows all Livery Companies with a textile interest to get involved in areas of concern to the whole industry, as well as

demonstrating to industry that the Livery movement still has relevance today.

I have just completed two years as Chairman of the Management Committee of the Cottage Homes in Oadby – double the length of office normally expected – because of the pandemic. Not having been directly involved in our Almshouses before, I welcomed that extension to my term of office, which has allowed me to acquire a far better understanding of what we offer to our beneficiaries.

My consort for the year is my nephew – Michael Skeates – who will be known to many as he has acted as my consort whilst I have been Upper Warden. I am also very pleased that his mother – my younger sister Alison Fox – was at the Installation Dinner. My chaplain is Rev. Eleanor McMahon, whom I met when she spent two years in London in the 1990s completing her training to be a Minister of the Church of Scotland. The introduction of virtual dinners during lockdown allowed Eleanor to attend a Livery function for the first time from her home in Renfrew, but the Installation Dinner will be the first physical event she has attended.

Finally, I know I shall be asked what I like to do in my 'spare time', so I have to admit that a day spent at Lords would probably be top of my list, not least because I played cricket at school and university, and watching Bristol City play at Ashton Gate would probably be my second.



The Master & Consort

New Liverymen, continued

Susanne Grantham

and marketing consultancy, working primarily for civil engineering and construction companies and is working on local and national projects and is enjoying growing the team. She is a trustee of the Hind Sisters Almshouse in Cropston and is looking forward to getting involved in the Framework Knitters and knowing more about the industry. With a new business and young family, there's not much time for hobbies but Susanne enjoys keeping fit with pilates, walking and boxing and enjoys interior design.

Catherine Grimley

She has always been an avid knitter (Clive being a recipient of many jumpers, worn dutifully in the early days of their marriage). Once retired, her knitting output increased, mainly with the production of cat blankets for the RSPCA, of which she has now made hundreds. Additionally, she has knitted numerous baby items for her three nieces' and her nephew's increasing families, which is ongoing.

Catherine enjoys gardening and spends many hours pottering or redeveloping various parts of the garden. She is a regular member of a local country club where she attends classes and the gym. Being a lifetime member of the National Trust, and a member of Historic Royal Palaces, RHS and English Heritage has enabled her to visit many interesting properties throughout the country. She also enjoys country walking, mainly on the South Downs near to their home.

Catherine became involved in the world of Livery Companies in 2008. Subject to election, Clive is destined to become Master Glover in November 2023. Over this period, Catherine has participated in many Livery events and has got to know several members of the Framework Knitters. Susan Jagelman formally introduced her to the Framework Knitters, and she was delighted to be invited to make application to join the Company by the then Master Tony Jarvis.

And we also installed a new Liveryman at our Winter Court

Karen Sankey was born in Cheshire. She studied languages at Salford College of Technology and began work in London with the Courtaulds company Furzebrook Overseas, which produced knitted synthetic fabrics. She later joined a City firm – an agent for German engineering companies – then moving to AEG-Telefunken. After spending an academic year at the University of Athens, she returned to rejoin AEG in their department supplying spare parts for ships. There followed further moves abroad with her husband to France, New Zealand and the US, with attendant different occupations, including teaching classical ballet to children and raising a family. On returning to the UK, she took a degree in biology with analytical science and then a post-graduate teaching certificate, embarking on a new career as a college tutor, specialising in medical biology.

She has supported and attended Livery events for some years and is a Past Mistress of the Worshipful Company of Management Consultants. Since 2014, she has been a committee member of One4All – the Past Masters' and Consorts' Association. She became a Freeman of the City in 2015 and is a Juror at the Guildable Manor.



In recent years, she has rekindled her enthusiasm for knitting and crocheting, contributing to various projects through the church sewing group and the WI. She is a founder member of the Flit Vale branch of the Wildlife Trust which raises funds for managing sites of special scientific interest in Bedfordshire. She enjoys walking, quizzes and maintains an interest in modern and classical languages.

Our Education Winners join as Freemen

Also at our April Installation Court meeting we were delighted to welcome eight knitting-student winners as Freemen of our Company. While we've had similar mass initiations before, both by zoom and at Ruddington Museum (see November 2022, page 18) this is the first such occasion in a London Livery Hall during a Court meeting. It gave us great pleasure to see so many of the excellent candidates the Education Committee met on their travels take up the offer of joining our Company as Freemen.



Minnie Reed, Florence Mehdi, Kate McElduff, Martha Little, Cassie Henderson, William Hector, Saffron Gilbert and Silvia Acien

A New Addition to our Livery Family

We are delighted to announce that Liveryman Angela Moore – who was admitted to the Livery at our July 2022 Court meeting (see the November 2022 edition of this Newsletter) – gave birth to a baby girl on 6th March 2023.



Baby Violet-Elizabeth was 7lb 6oz.

Her big brother Rupert (2 years) is very happy to have a new sister.

Naturally, Angela is delighted by the latest addition to her family, and tells us that little baby Violet-Elizabeth is both a miracle and a joy for all.

Angela Moore & Violet-Elizabeth

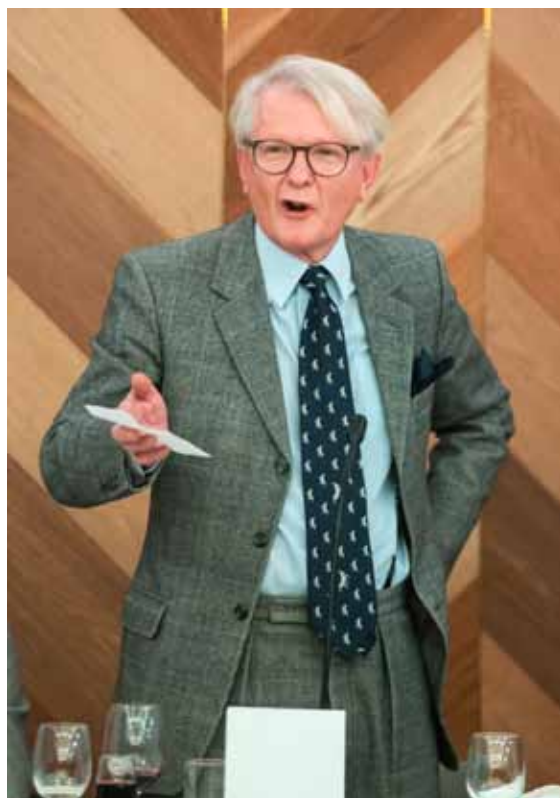
Arable & Archers



Shaun Mackaness, Mary Jarvis, Tony Jarvis, Murray Craig, Liz Fox & Matthew Ellis

By way of a change, Master Tony Jarvis elected to have as his last formal Livery event a mid-week luncheon: clearly a popular decision as we had over 80 liverymen and their guests attending a splendid event on Wednesday 18th January at Farmers' & Fletchers' Hall. We were delighted to welcome many Liverymen who are normally unable to attend evening events; and everyone managed to get there notwithstanding the sudden and unexpected closure of the east-bound platform at Barbican Station: apparently the result of an unstable roof over that platform! After the usual convivial reception, affording great opportunities to catch up with friends over a glass or two of prosecco, we repaired to the dining room – see opposite – with its modern and stylish decoration. Luncheon comprised Ham Hock Terrine followed by Roast Venison Fillet, with a delightful Braeburn Apple Tarte Tatin and Ice Cream to complete the repast – naturally all washed down with a splendid choice of matching wines.

But the best was yet to come, for after the Loyal Toasts – our first to our new King – and toasts to our guests, we were treated to a witty talk by Murray Craig. Murray was until recently the Clerk to the City of London's Chamberlain Court and, my goodness, what a lot of tales he had to tell! Occasionally having to pause to avoid being drowned out by laughter, Murray entertained us royally, ensuring that our Master's last event ended on a high note.



Murray Craig



The David Bryars Award

When presenting the above, Master Tony Jarvis announced ‘I now have a very pleasant duty to perform; that is to present the Master’s (David Bryars) Award which I believe means that I have “Carte Blanche” to decide which Liveryman has carried out their duties beyond those normally expected.

‘In dispatches, I must mention Assistants Catherine Fuller and Susan Jagelman, who have both taken on the Chairmanship of our two new committees – *Membership & Marketing* and *Charities* respectively – and each has done an absolutely splendid job over the last 12 months, although they still have a lot more work to do, of course.

‘Past Master George Turner also deserves special recognition for all the work he has carried out until recently as Chairman of the Past Masters and the Education Committees, where he has been the Chairman of both and a member for an incredible 30 years but is finally standing down at the end of our year. However, this year I am giving the award to another member of the Education Committee who is also retiring in April after over 14 years service. He has, like George, travelled literally thousands of miles around the country to numerous universities, not only interviewing but giving valuable advice, both technical and from a business perspective, to students to enhance their careers. I know he has kept in touch with many of them as mentor, with many long phone calls in the evening to boot. And, like everyone on the Education Committee, I don’t think he has ever charged a penny in travelling expenses! Having said all that, I also know he has absolutely enjoyed every minute of it. I would like to present the David Bryars Award this year – and he becomes the first person to win this twice – to Liveryman Humphrey Barrett’.



IPM Tony Jarvis

A Distinguished Visitor to Corah Hall



PM Tony Jarvis & Vincent Keaveny ready to unveil the plaque



The plaque in detail

We were honoured that our Honorary Liveryman, Vincent Keaveny – until recently the Lord Mayor of London – together with his wife Amanda, came to officially unveil the planting of our Green Canopy cherry tree at the Cottage Homes in Oadby. The Queen's Green Canopy was a tree planting initiative to mark our late majesty's Platinum Jubilee celebration, and literally thousands of new trees have been planted around the country to date.

After short speeches of introduction from myself and the Upper Warden, Vincent explained to the Court, Management Committee members and residents present how the Green Canopy initiative came about.

He then took up his place before cutting the ribbon to uncover the plaque which states 'The Queen's Green Canopy-The Platinum Jubilee 2022-This plaque was unveiled by Vincent Keaveny on the 9th January 2023-Lord Mayor of London 2021'.

Vincent and Amanda were then shown around one of the residents' cottages: David and Elaine Evans had very kindly volunteered to have the honour to show theirs.

This was followed by an excellent lunch for our guests, Liverymen and residents in Corah Hall. The former Lord Mayor was then shown around our archive museum room.

Finally, Vincent was able to view at close hand his famous 'knitted textile Vincent' and also see



Visiting our museum

his personal entry on our board showing Framework Knitter Lord Mayors going back to 1775.

IPM Tony Jarvis



By our History Board



The two Vincents

Leicester Tigers



Michael Griffiths & Statue

The Livery was asked to support the monument, and our name now appears on the plaque. Our donation was also rewarded by a 'crown', which is on view in our library at Corah Hall.

We were represented at the official opening ceremony on 11th November 2022 by Liveryman Michael Griffiths, himself a keen Tigers supporter.

Leicester Tigers is a professional rugby union club based, of course, in Leicester. They play in Premiership Rugby – England's top division of rugby. The club was founded in 1880, and since 1892 plays its home matches at Mattioli Woods, Welford Road, in the south of the city.

Leicester Tigers Rugby Club has recently unveiled a monument outside the Welford Road stadium to all former players who served their country and to include those who died as a result of War.

It transpires that one of those remembered was a Framework Knitter – Captain Robert John Barr MC Unit 44th AA Bn 579th LAA Regt.

Captain Barr was educated at Stamford School, played rugby for the Tigers 241 times between 1928 and 1938 and was Captain from 1936-38. He played for the Barbarians and three times for England. He also played cricket for Leicestershire County 2nd XI.

After the war he founded the hosiery brand label manufacturing company of Barr Ratcliffe and Co. at Sileb, and became a member of the Framework Knitters Company.



Upper Warden Matthew Ellis

Brigantes News

Committee

Under the Association's Constitution, and having served their four year terms, Nick Gale and Neville Chamberlain stood down from the committee.

Invitations to stand for the committee at the AGM had been issued in November. Nick and Neville had offered themselves once more and, there being no other candidates, were re-elected.

The 2023 committee is Adrian Waddingham CBE*, Chairman (Actuary Lancashire), David Bentley* (Baker Yorkshire), Neville Chamberlain CBE* (Fueller Cheshire), Sue Christensen* (Tax Adviser, Gtr Manchester), Nick Gale* (Plumber Lancashire), Sheila Turner* (Framework Knitter Yorkshire), Richard Groome* (Engineer Shropshire) and Keith Houliston (Baker Yorkshire)

* = Past Master.

2022 Winter Gathering, Bradford

At 12.30, ahead of the AGM, a number of Liverymen and guests visited the renowned National Science and Media Museum in Bradford's City Centre, kindly arranged by Judith Donovan CBE, Marketor and Woolman, and a Trustee of the Museum's parent, the Science Museum Group. Bradford proved extremely popular and was another Brigantes sell-out, with Liverymen from within and beyond the Brigantes borders, the latter including the South West, Wales, Scotland, London and the South East.

Following the AGM, Ed Anderson CBE – Lord Lieutenant for West Yorkshire, The Very Revd Andrew Bowerman – Dean of Bradford Cathedral, Sheriff Andrew Marsden – PM Marketor, Andrew Dawson – Club President and PM Woolman – Richard Groome – PM Engineer and Adrian Waddingham CBE – Brigantes Chairman – were speakers at the Brigantes Reception and Supper attended by 140 Liverymen and guests.



In Bradford Cathedral

2023 Brigantes Breakfast, The Royal Hall, Harrogate – Friday 7th July

The 2023 Brigantes Breakfast will be held in the historic surroundings of the Grade II Royal Hall in the centre of the spa town of Harrogate, North Yorkshire.

Details were circulated in March and included the annual Brigantes Lecture in the morning followed by a reception and lunch. Based on past experience, early booking is recommended.

2023 Brigantes Winter Gathering

Arrangements are progressing and will be announced in the summer.



Liveryman Jenny Bentley

Some familiar attendees

The 19th Inter-Livery Pancake Race

21st February 2023

Our crack team of Framework Knitters – Master Tony Jarvis, Janie Martin, Jonathan Pears and Simon Burrows – gathered in Guildhall Yard for this year's hotly contested pancake races. Spectators lined the course as gowned, gloved, hatted, and aproned participants ran the length of Guildhall yard and back, tossing their pancake once on each run. There were four categories of races: Masters, Ladies, Liverymen, and Fancy Dress. The four categories were each over two lengths of the yard, where competitors had to be dressed in gown, badges, gloves and chefs hat (which should not fall off, otherwise a two-second penalty would be applied). A frying pan containing a pancake also had to be tossed in the designated area, both on the first lap and again on the second, without being dropped.



That BuzzFeed Photograph

For the Ladies category, Janie ran an impressive race, hanging on to her hat; and although she didn't make it into the finals, her picture featured in the Daily Mail online! For the Fancy Dress category, contestants had to dress either to reflect their Company or as something connected to the pancake race or the City.

Not to be outdone, Jonathan – splendidly dressed as William Lee – lined up alongside an impressive variety of contestants dressed as everything from St. Paul's to a pineapple, and was in the image of the day on *BuzzFeed News*, making it to *The Times* the next day.

After the heats, both the Master and Simon made it into their respective finals.

Simon was just pushed



Ready for the off

into third place, but the Master won in great style and was awarded the copper pancake pan to be engraved with his name and Company. A second win for the Framework Knitters, who last won in 2019.

After the races, both participants and their supporters enjoyed a hot lunch in the Guildhall crypt with soup in this year's souvenir commemorative mug, drinks, a main dish and, of course, pancakes!



Liveryman Susan Jagelman

Our Team

In this edition, we have to say ‘Farewell’ to our retiring Clerk – Shaun Mackaness, and ‘Welcome’ to our new Clerk – Russ Gleeson



I feel immensely privileged to have served as Clerk to the Company for the past ten years and thoroughly enjoyed (nearly!) every minute of it. It's definitely been the best job I could have asked for as my 'final fling' before retirement. The Framework Knitters rightly have a reputation for being an extremely friendly company and in addition, I believe we also punch well above our weight in the very many things we do both in supporting the City, our charities and the wider community.

I am incredibly grateful to everyone who has helped make my job so fulfilling and such fun. Although there are a number of members I have not had the pleasure of meeting in person, I feel I know nearly everyone, and you have all been brilliant people to interact with.

I'm particularly grateful to the Court and especially the nine Masters who had to put up with me as their Clerk. One, who shall of course remain nameless, remarked early on in their year, "Shaun, I sometimes find it very difficult to tell whether or not you are being serious", to which I was tempted to reply, "So do I", but instead reassured them that if in doubt, the answer is almost certainly "No"!

As the (admittedly rather non-PC) saying goes 'behind every successful man...' and there's no doubt that I couldn't have done it all without Mary's help and support. Much of this has taken place behind the scenes from checking 'tricky' letters and emails to stuffing envelopes and then of course at the many events in London, Leicestershire and elsewhere.

The past few weeks have been filled with a mixture of sadness and anticipation. But also a large degree of optimism as Russ and I have worked through our handover period. The term 'safe pair of hands' has become a bit of a cliché in the Clerking world, but this is only one of Russ' many attributes, along with his 'can do' attitude and large helping of dry wit – future Masters beware!

Under his guidance, I'm confident that the Company will continue its (gentle!) journey into the 21st century as we embrace 'novel' concepts such as social media, diversity and maybe even artificial intelligence!

I wish Russ every success and will of course continue to help and support him and everyone else from the wings in my next 'incarnation' as a proud and grateful Honorary Liveryman!

Shaun (above) & Russ (opposite)

t Salvete

It was a great pleasure to have taken over as Clerk from Shaun on the 21st of April at Vintners Hall. Rightly, plenty of compliments have been paid to Shaun for his dedication and service to the Company but I feel I must also add one further. Being faced with a four-month handover was a little daunting to say the least – happily, conducting it with Shaun has been an utter pleasure; and not only have I learned a great deal but we have also had a great deal of fun along the way. I thought I would use this first opportunity of the new ‘Clerks Corner’ of the Newsletter to try to introduce myself and the family a little. I was born and raised in Cardiff and from an early age had a love of ‘mucking about’ with ponies and a menagerie of animals at home. However, a chance visit to a local Air Cadet Squadron set me on a very different course; and at the age of 19 I packed my bags and headed to RAF College Cranwell to undertake Officer Training, commissioning as an Operations Officer in 1999. To answer the most asked question I seem to get – no, I didn’t fly in the RAF – although I did eventually gain a Private Pilots Licence and flew Air Cadets in motor gliders for a time. Early in my career I did numerous tasking and planning rôles and worked closely with the UK Search and Rescue Force, Support Helicopters, airborne command and control aircraft and fighters. Later on in my career I moved into Programme Management and various rôles in our headquarters before going to work in NATO as a Defence Planner for 3 years.

I left the regular Air Force in 2019 and took a rôle managing the stand-up and introduction of a new UK/Qatari Typhoon Squadron before planning their deployment out to Qatar in 2022 to provide air policing for the World Cup. I still support the RAF as a reservist, leading a small team who are delivering transformation to the Combat Air Force. I met Liz while we both served at RAF Benson and we married 15 years ago: she left the Regular RAF as a Squadron Leader in 2016. She now runs a successful dog-grooming business and works a few days a week as a Reservist Air Traffic Controller at RAF Coningsby. We have 2 girls, Harriet (11) and Jessica (9) and I have a son Tom (19) from a previous marriage who lives near Crewe.

We live on a smallholding in the Lincolnshire Wolds and are all a ‘bit’ horse mad – current count is seven or eight! We spend all winter trail hunting, and as a family regularly five or six hours covering 20 miles or more. We also have a flock of around 60 sheep, and breed Oxford and Sandy Black pigs – both of which we sell direct to customers at markets and via Facebook pages. Liz is a keen ‘Knitter’ who likes to spin the wool from our sheep and use it to make blankets and the like: however, my involvement starts at the lambing and stops at the shearing part! I hope that has given you a small insight into my background, I have really enjoyed meeting the Liverymen and Freeman I have already met so far and look forward to meeting many more of you over the coming months.



The Big Curry Luncheon



Our Team ready in place for “the off”

recuperation courses (a specialist Pain Management course at King Edward VII Hospital), and,

- LifeWorks programs, which are ‘back to work’ courses to aid service people enter ‘civvy street’ and find full time employment.

The target this year set by the Lord Mayor was £325,000.

1,650 diners, over four sittings in the Great Hall, are served wonderful curries and copious amounts of wine and beer – then on exit they pass by our stall !! This is when our wonderful sales team, in front of a tremendous display of colourful knitwear and socks, entice these diners over.

Our fantastic team this year comprised:

Susan Jagelman (super sales lady); Catherine Fuller (our expert merchandiser); Janie Martin (raffle ticket queen); Peter Corah (card machine guru); Russ Gleeson (our Clerk, still new to



The Lady Mayoress receives her Coronation Socks

The Framework Knitters again provided a stall at the Lord Mayor’s BCL charity event at the Guildhall on Thursday 30th March, displaying various knitted products, nearly everything made in the UK (more than 95%). We have been ever present since 2018, missing only the two Covid years – 2020 and 2021. We certainly add to the colour in our spot in the South Ambulatory alongside the Gardeners and Fruiterers Companies.

The BCL raises funds for the three main armed forces charities – it is the City’s way of giving back. The BCL funds 2 key programs:

- PTSD and mental health treatment and



Selling our wares

the FWK and not really knowing what he was letting himself in for!) ‘up-selling’ socks like the best of them), and me.

The Royal VIPs supporting this event were TRH Duke and Duchess of Gloucester. We were allowed by the organisers to present TRH with some gifts.

Our suave Master Tony Jarvis, wonderfully assisted by his glamorous wife Mary, presented TRHs with cashmere scarves courtesy of Johnston’s Cashmere (Hawick, Scotland), and socks. To HRH Richard – who we found out prior to the event is a motorbike fan, and has

several bikes in his collection – we presented some Scott-Nichol socks with motorbikes on, courtesy of Pantherella (Leicester); while to HRH Birgitte we presented with Pantherella cashmere socks.

Even though we greatly missed our BCL ‘stalwarts’ – Susan Shield (who was unwell) and Liz Green (owing to work commitments in her new rôle as High Sheriff of Hertfordshire) – we were still able to break all records, taking over £2,300 on the day. We nearly sold out. At the end, we were struggling to find the right sizes and colours for people, such was our success.

The atmosphere was great, and the Framework Knitters again showed what a colourful, fun, and productive bunch of people we are, and who we represent.

Many thanks to Past Master George Turner for the loan of the two sock carousels we used to create a great display. Also, tremendous thanks to our wonderful suppliers, who donated all of our stock free of charge and without whom we simply could not participate. The raffle prize donated by John Smedley (see below) was won by Sandra Franklin, who wore it with pride at Tower Bridge when it was minus 3°C!



Sandra Franklin in her coat



Jonathan Pears and his team proudly displaying to Royalty

Interestingly, from all the four nations comprising the UK, we had:

Johnstons Cashmere – cashmere and wool knitwear, scarves and hats – from Hawick, Scotland.

Corgi Socks – socks, and the now-famous ‘Coronation Socks’, from Ammanford, near Swansea, South Wales.

Bridgedale Outdoor – walking and trail-run socks – from Newtonards, Northern Ireland.

Pantherella – socks, including HRH’s ‘Scott-Nichol Motorcycle Socks’, from Leicester, England.

Roy’s Boys – ‘odd-ball’ and character socks – from Sutton-In-Ashfield, near Mansfield, England.

Glenbrae – wool knitwear, scarves and hats – from Slathwaite, near Huddersfield, England.

John Smedley Knitwear – £500-worth of their luxury knitwear as a raffle prize, from Lea Mills, near Derby, England.

Assistant Jonathan Pears

Framework Knitters honour RAF Air Cadet Volunteer



PM Julian Ellis presenting her award to Janet Greasley

Janet Greasley has been a dedicated servant of the community for her entire life. She is a very active contributor to youth organisations at a regional level, sharing her knowledge, incredible organisation skills and passion for helping others. She currently holds several voluntary rôles within the RAF Air Cadets, and I mention below but three:

1. As Lady Chairman of South & East Midlands Wing Civilian Committees since 2015, Janet supports a total of 30 Squadrons (and soon to be 31) with unwavering dedication. She is always there to support the Squadron committees, and provides any guidance as required.
2. A Committee member of 1936 (Newton) Air Cadet squadron since December 1998, Janet has been a dedicated committee member for over 24 years and was Lady Chairman for almost 20 years.
3. Committee member of the Newton Memorial Committee, which has raised £7,000 for a cast bench, which commemorates the history of RAF Newton as an airbase and dog training facility. Janet also contributed a considerable amount to the fund.

Janet has always given her all to the Wing, and is a true champion and facilitator for all 30 RAFAC Squadrons, and continues to be a part of, and is respected and viewed by all as dedicated, helpful, responsive and generous with her time and energy.

Now approaching her 78th Year, she shows little sign of calming her passion to volunteer with the Wing and local community. She herself has never shied away from developing her skills – IT, Financial, Accounting and Procedural elements – and is keeping up with the pace of change on how things are done within the RAF Air Cadets. This will benefit the organisation, and she always ensures others are able to deliver their best by passing on those skills and knowledge, which she does through training, conferences and writing best practice.

Janet continues to show, drive, determination, commitment, and energy. She regularly goes above and beyond that which is expected of her in the Wing Chairperson rôle – doing everything she can to ensure that every cadet is able to receive a complete, high quality and fulsome cadet experience. It is for this commitment to South & East Midlands Wing that she is highly deserving of formal recognition by this 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 Cadets

Knitting squares to support City Giving Day



City Giving Day is The Lord Mayor's Appeal's annual celebration of philanthropy and giving which provides organisations with an opportunity to reflect on all they do to support their local communities and charity partners.

This year's event is taking place on Tuesday 26th September; and we would love to encourage businesses across the Square Mile (and beyond) to get involved with *The Worshipful Company of*

Framework Knitters' 'Knit for Community' campaign to knit squares in The Lord Mayor's Appeal's pillar colours – yellow, green, blue and red. The idea being that they would encourage their colleagues to knit squares in the run-up to City Giving Day to be knitted together and distributed to deserving causes around the City.

PM Sheila Turner is placing an order for red, yellow, green and blue wool to ensure we have the correct colours, and we would love some help in knitting 8" squares, which we will then sew up into lap blankets. As well as some of our regular knitters, we hope to attract members of other Livery companies to help us support City Giving Day. If you are willing to knit some squares, please email Sheila directly on sheila_turner1@sky.com.

We have recently supported City of London events through the pancake race and the Big Curry Lunch, and in November we are running a stall at the Red Cross Christmas Market. It would be great to support City Giving Day and to be able to present a good number of lap blankets to a City of London charity.

PM Liz Green

While the general 'Knit for the Community' continues



We continue to receive blankets and other knitted squares from very many volunteers. One lovely example is shown here, created by Christine Burrige.

In her lovely accompanying letter, Christine wrote: "Please find knitted squares to make up a blanket. I have always loved knitting but unfortunately I am almost 90 years old and have difficulty with my eyesight. I am writing because I would like to make some more, but only if these are suitable. Perhaps you could let me know if I can do more."

The squares were made up into a blanket by Denise Skelton, who has been involved with the blanket project from the start. Denise has made up over 20 blankets for the project and also taught me how to crochet a blanket together - she did that over Zoom in lockdown which was interesting!

The photograph below right was taken in Holmfirth Library at a *Knit & Natter* group.



More examples of some of the blankets produced



Denise Skelton with PM Sheila Turner

PM Sheila Turner

Centenarians Celebrate at our Cottage Homes



Hazel and her Royal Card

On Friday 3rd February, **Hazel Littlewood** turned 100, having lived at the Cottage Homes for 40 years! To celebrate this, there was a special birthday coffee morning in Corah Hall on Tuesday 31st January from 10.30 a.m. onwards to which all residents, Court and members of the Management Committee were invited.



Hazel and friends at her 100th Birthday Party

Then, on Thursday 20th April, **Gladys Walker** had an early celebration of *her* 100th birthday on Sunday 23rd April: Gladys is in very good company, celebrating as she does with William Shakespeare and on St. George's day !!

Hazel and Gladys were each presented with a bouquet of flowers, a Marks and Spencer voucher and a beautiful cake. The residents bought them each a Camellia shrub and planter.



Gladys gets one too !!



**Nettie
Ellis
Cottage
Homes
Manager**

A 'Two Hundred Years' Event

And a little more Leicester History

A Wharf Street story: Today, Leicester's Wharf Street area is a pale shadow of its former bustling self; but at one time it was a hive of small businesses, some of which became big names in Leicester's industrial heyday. There were many houses that had small workshops at the back; and a glance at an 1880s directory will show there were builders, hosiery manufacturers, boot and shoe manufacturers, bakers, millwrights, box makers, cabinet makers and many others all living close by each other and all, presumably, making a decent living. One business situated in Gladstone Street, was Thomas Chamberlain and Son, who were framesmiths. A framesmith was a skilled hosiery engineer who 'was able to repair, refurbish, cannibalise and completely rebuild frames'. Often, he owned frames in the same complex that housed his forge and workshop and these were rented out to framework knitters and maintained by the framesmith. Including the living accommodation, the set-up formed a self-contained unit in what has been described as a 'knitting commune'. We are grateful to Mrs Vivien Addey (née Chamberlain) of Leicester for posting information on *Facebook* about her family and its business, along with an article on the Chamberlains written by her father – Rev. Alan Chamberlain – to *Knitting International* magazine in 1978, when Leicester was still a very big hosiery manufacturing city. Chamberlains was the only framesmiths in the Humberstone Road area: the firm had its roots in the Kibworth and Oadby areas, but by the early 1860s, was established in Gladstone Street. Alan Chamberlain, who was born in 1906 and went to nearby St Luke's School, recalled the area from his childhood and it gives a flavour of what it was like in those days. He said:



Thomas, John and a young Alan Chamberlain

"Beyond the entry to the Chamberlain domain was a small public house. A busker often played, standing in the vestibule, a double bass. Six small houses separated the public house from a sweet shop. The currency in use there was the farthing and the halfpenny, so both adults' and children's refreshment needs were met. In the length of the street were a number of premises still associated with the crafts and trades mentioned in the 1888 directory. There was at least one firm of tailors and Inspector Richards of the town police lived just below the Chamberlain unit and later moved to the Wharf Street end of the road where he had more room for his prize covies (guinea pigs). At Brougham Street corner, Gus had his pure-bred bloodhounds; a stockinger and his wife lived just below the school and when they went out together, she always walked two paces behind him. St. Luke's Church, at the corner of Bell Lane and Humberstone Road (demolished), Zion Baptist Chapel (closed but restored and used as offices) and a Methodist Chapel near Wharf Street (demolished) ministered to the area. The doctor lived in a large house 200 yards beyond the parish church and there was a dentist in Clyde Street, where the largest houses were. On the Wharf Street/Street corner, a small variety theatre had been built but, it had been converted to a 'picture house' by the time I remember it from the outside."



St. Luke's Church, in Humberstone Road, Leicester, being demolished in May 1950. It was built in 1867-68

All that survives now of this once thriving area are the Zion Chapel and the old St Luke's School, both standing on the edge of the vast St. George's roundabout.

Swanning around at The Globe

The 'Ladies Lunch' had become something of a highlight during the Livery's calendar, so it was with great disappointment that we found ourselves unable to hold such an event during the last two years owing to the pandemic.

I think it's fair to say that we made up for it this year with a very lively lunch in a stunning setting – The Swan (by The Globe Theatre) overlooking the River Thames. Forty-two of us met there for lunch on Tuesday 8th November 2022 along with the Master, who put in a brief appearance to welcome us all before disappearing to find a bite to eat in – or so he assured us – rather less salubrious surroundings.

Drinks were served in the restaurant and on the terrace with its splendid view over the river and the City, with plenty of opportunities to mingle and catch up with friends. The lunch was delicious, consisting of beetroot and Ragstone goat's cheese followed by Kentish chicken and finished off with a Tonka bean crème brûlée matched with excellent wines. The enjoyment of all those present was evident from the noise level, but nobody was complaining (or, if they did, we didn't hear them). We had a great deal of catching up to do.



A few words from The Master

It is fair to say that she is a great ambassador for women's sport and has promoted equality in sports funding and provision – a real rôle model who continues to be very active.

It was a really enjoyable occasion and we were all sorry to leave; but hopefully we won't have quite such a long wait until the next Ladies' luncheon.

Liveryman Claire Bethel



The Globe Theatre

After lunch we enjoyed an inspiring talk by Gaynor Nash about her involvement in women's sport. Her many achievements include playing football for Wales, hockey at the University of Leicester and later captain of the ladies' team of the top side Leicester City Hockey Club. She then secured a rôle at the Leicester Mercury, writing about sport from a woman's perspective.



Settling down to the lunch

A Visit to Yardley Chase Cadet Centre



The Cadets getting ready to patrol

On October 23rd I spent a very interesting morning at the flagship Yardley Chase Cadet Centre as a guest of Major Ian Flamson and Major Ross Goodman observing F Squadron, the unit affiliated to the Framework Knitters.

The cadets were undertaking a firing serial for assessment. This set piece involved one- two- and three-star cadets, and focussed upon a patrol walking into an ambush which resulted in that patrol engaging with, and then applying break contact drills.

Despite appalling weather conditions and torrential rain throughout, the cadets thoroughly enjoyed the challenges set for them by their supervisors. It was an excellent example of young people abandoning their iPhones and the draw of social media to take part in a weekend of exciting and stimulating events, learning new skills, creating team bonds and new friendships, and testing themselves in a wide range of different ways. All in all, a wonderful example of resilience training that equips young people to face uncertainties with confidence.

It was heartening to learn that following the return to activities post-Covid, recruitment numbers to the Cadets have increased significantly indicating the desire for the outdoor, away from home, physical and mental activities that being part of the Cadets offers.



Steward Jill Journeaux

Jill Journeaux

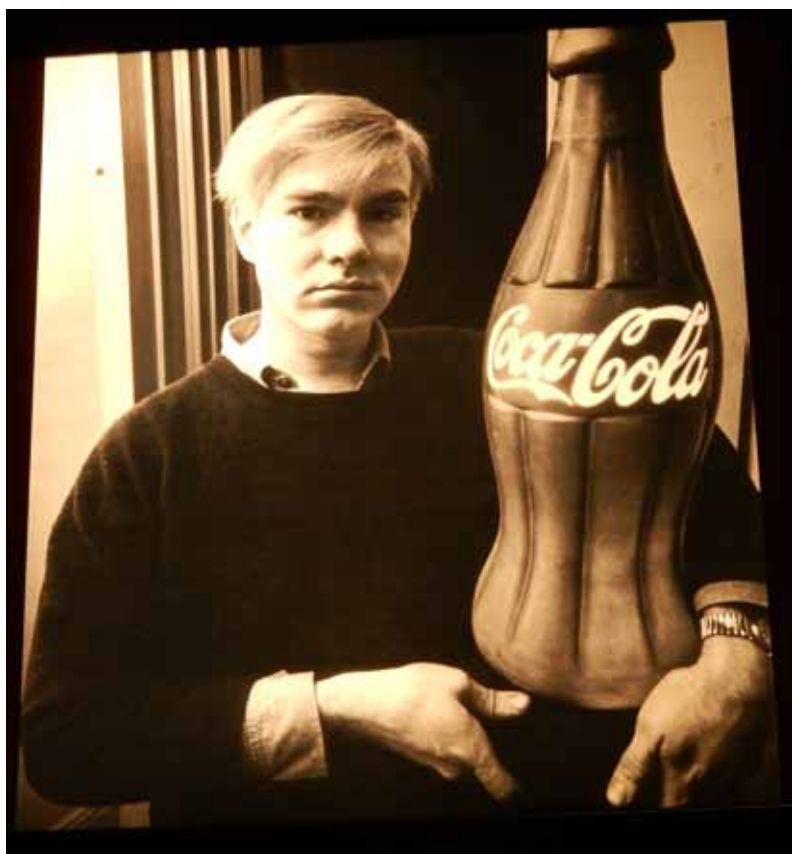
Happy Butterfly Day



Liverymen & Guests outside the museum

The Fashion and Textile Museum is the only museum in the UK dedicated to showcasing contemporary fashion and textile design. It is committed to presenting varied, creative and engaging exhibitions, alongside an exciting selection of educational courses, talks, events and workshops.

On Saturday 2nd April we made our first visit to this hidden gem at 83 Bermondsey Street, designed



by Ricardo Legorreta and opened by Zandra Rhodes in 2003. The museum – which is part of Newham College – celebrates the art of textile designers, whose names are often less well-known than artists working with other media. For example, it is not commonly known that Andy Warhol started his creative career as a commercial textile designer – a medium in which he specialised until the early '60s when he reoriented his talents towards popular art. Warhol, who was of Slovak heritage, was born in 1928 in Pittsburgh, the son of a construction worker who passed his work ethic on to his sickly and sensitive son who later went on to study at the Carnegie Institute and started as a commercial designer, at which he excelled and in which career he prospered, designing everything from fabric to advertisements.

To many people, Warhol seemed Delphic, elliptical and almost unknowable in terms of his inner life and loves beyond his work. In his textile design we see the optimism and joie de vivre in which he harnessed the post war optimism of modern America.

A classic Andy Warhol portrait



Butterflies

His approach to design in some ways matched that of the great Raymond Loewy in his knack of making the prosaic and everyday things of beauty. The bright colours, the whimsical motifs, the incorporation of everyday objects such as brooms, watches, melons and indeed socks in his fabric design made them works of celebration.

His trademark style was to use an ink pen and blotters to produce a broken line effect. To these outlines were added bright colours – he would often invite his friends over for colouring parties – that were later so characteristic of ‘pop art’. Bugs and insects were a particular feature of Warhol’s work, with butterflies in particular being a favourite. Indeed, a striking and vibrant butterfly print immediately captivated us, no less because of its title ‘Happy Butterfly Day’.

Warhol’s designs were highly original and charming, and were suited to a wide variety of fashion, transcending age and class. In addition to hats and shoes, he regularly depicted socks for use in advertisements and editorial magazine commissions. In the textile illustrated, a loose, blot-free broken-line style conjures a world of socks.

The simplicity and purity of form and colour in his designs have stood the test of time well. This is an aspect of Warhol’s artistic canon that rewards further celebration.

In addition to its exhibitions, the museum also has a design studio – the Pauline Caulfield Textile Works, 1968 – 2023 – which is regularly used as a teaching area for emerging design students.



The Studio



‘All-Socks’ [© Turner & Sons !!]

Because of the limited space available, The Textile Museum does not have a permanent collection; its exhibitions changing at regular intervals. For further details, particularly of forthcoming exhibitions, see

<https://fashiontextilemuseum.org/>

Liveryman Simon McIlwaine

Dates for your diary

2023

9th May	Sons of the Clergy Festival, St. Paul's Cathedral	The Clerk
10th May	Barts View Day Service at St. Paul's (reception at Guildhall)	The Clerk
23rd June	Common Hall for the election of Sheriffs, Guildhall	The Clerk
26 June	Shrieval Election (Common Hall)	The Clerk
30th June	Summer Court & Dinner, Watermens' Hall	The Clerk
6th July	City Beerfest, Guildhall Yard	The Clerk
7th July	Brigantes Breakfast, The Royal Hall, Harrogate	See Below
25th to 28th August	Bart's Fair, St. Bartholomew's, Smithfield	The Clerk

8th to 10th September – The Leicester Weekend

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

2nd September	Inter-Livery Cycle Ride at Brands Hatch	The Clerk
24th September	Sheep Drive & Livery Fair, London Bridge	The Clerk
26th September	City Giving Day	The Clerk
27th October	Livery Banquet, Mansion House	The Clerk
28th to 29th November	Guildhall Christmas Market	The Clerk

CLERK'S CORNER

Following on from, and as mentioned in, his introduction (see Page 13), our new Clerk – Russ Gleeson – has devised an initiative to keep us all up-to-date by introducing a “Clerk's Corner”.

We hand over this space to Russ; and he begins by introducing us to some of the techniques that he plans to use.

Russ writes:

Social Media

As you may have seen, we have had a bit of a relaunch of Social Media channels: however, I need your help! If you use any of the channels below please give us a ‘Like’ or follow us – if you don't, please ask your family and friends to find us and help boost our numbers of followers: it is SO helpful in getting all the great work you all do noticed. Our channels are:

LinkedIn: worshipful-company-of-framework-knitters

Twitter: @WCFKnitters

Facebook: The Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters

Instagram: @WCFKNITTERS

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.