Annual Review of Charitable Giving 2025-2026

The Company makes a number of donations every year from the charitable contributions of Liverymen to the Education and Almshouse Charities, as well as some from the General Charity Account, gifts in kind and fundraising. Highlights from this year include:

Student training at Shima Seiki and Stoll: This year we were able to offer two week training courses to selected 2nd year knitwear students from universities and colleges where they have access to these machines. Three groups of 4 students attended courses at Shima and three groups of 3 students attended Stoll. Both the students and their tutors were incredibly positive about the value of the courses. Costs for training and accommodation amounted to **£49,239** We are extremely grateful to the Worshipful Company of Drapers who donated **£20,000** towards the cost of the training.
In addition **£1378** covered the cost of two tool kits for Shima.

Education Charity bursaries and awards: Almost 50 students were interviewed this year from 21 universities and colleges. One bursary and one award to the value of **£4500** were made and most of the remaining students were awarded Highly Commended Certificates. Building on previous success rather than give more bursaries and awards this year it has been decided to focus more on training courses for 20 students at Shima Seiki, Stoll and new Albion London.







This year has seen some of our most recent bursary and award winners achieving wider recognition. Byford Bursary winner *Zoe Sammons* designed a beautiful evening dress and was commissioned to made one for the Mistress Claire Corah to wear at the banquet. Following a work placement at Barrie Knitwear in Scotland in the summer within two weeks she was offered a job there.
Award winner *Chloe Hodgkinson* was invited to exhibit at the prestigious New Designers exhibition in London and we supported her with **£250** towards her costs. Her exquisite, beaded garments attracted a lot of attention and she has been invited to return in 2026. Several other award-winning students also took part in the exhibition. Talking to them it was very clear that the support given by the Company had made a big impact on their work and several of them are now Associate members of the Framework Knitters. An additional **£1331** covered costs for Bursary winners attending the banquet and new Associates installation ceremonies.

The **Knit for Community** project started by Past Master Liz Green during lockdown, continues. The total number of blankets made to date now stands at **2769 i**ncluding **1122** full sized and **1647** lap blankets.

Over the last year **139** full size and **293** lap blankets have been distributed to 6 charities including several Little Village charities. The costs of wool and distribution are covered from our general charity funds and amounted to **£675.**

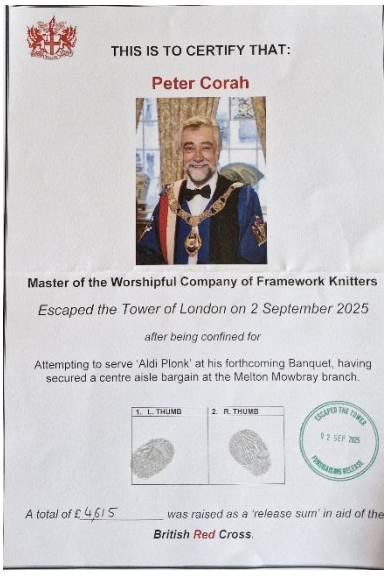




In an interesting departure from knitting squares over 1000 poppies were knitted or crocheted, including by our own supporters and some from other livery companies, to form part of an 85th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain display at Bentley Priory Museum, the home of RAF Fighter Command. The cascade of poppies was attached to their Spitfire gate guardian commemorating the 1,339 Battle of Britain aircrew who died during the second world war.



The Almshouse Charity: The Almshouse Charity donations fund provided **£2283** to support the Cottage Homes residents' social activities. These included a pub lunch, visits to the Grange garden centre with lunch, the Gates garden centre to see the Christmas decorations and lunch and a fish and chip lunch with coach transport provides as required. No wonder lunches are popular if all the desserts are as good as the one on the left!



"Escape from the Tower": This is an annual event undertaken by Livery Masters to raise funds for the British Red Cross. Our Master took part in the event at the Tower of London and raised a staggering total of **£4615** (the largest contribution - possibly reflecting his crimes!) was raised to secure his release. The total raised by the event was **£31,694**.

The Red Cross Christmas Market: The British Red Cross Market is held in Guildhall in London every other year and we took part for the second time. Selling Christmas jumpers, socks and LED flashing hats we took **£4211** on the stall putting us in 5th position overall. Together the voluntary stalls raised **£62,000** and overall, the event took **£190,000** for the Red Cross.

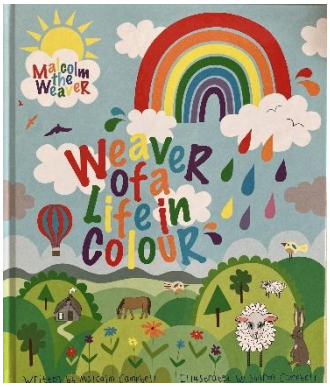




Sock donations acknowledged: For many years Past Master George Turner, of Turner and Sons Hosiers, has supplied socks to the Queen Mother's Clothing Guild who distribute them to those in need. The Company received a special letter of thanks from the Chair of Trustees.

Museum support: Donations totalling £**3000** were made to Wigston, Hinckley and Ruddington Framework Knitting museums in support of their outreach work.

Malcolm the Weaver project in conjunction with the Society of Dyers and Colourists (SDC):



This appeal aims to inspire 4-8 yr old primary school children towards a career in textiles whether dyeing, weaving, knitting, craft, tailoring or fashion. Sets of three books written by Malcolm Campbell, a former weaver in Lewis, Scotland, have been provided to schools at a cost of £25 each. Our sponsorship enabled 20 schools with connections to, or near, the Framework Knitting Museums in Ruddington and Hinckley, together with one in Holbrook, Derbyshire, to take part in a pilot project at a cost of **£500.** The project has worked particularly well in Hinckley where Ann Crabtree from the museum has been able to use the books in museum events and establish stronger links with the local schools.



The Livery Food Initiative:

CITY HARVEST
LIVERY FOOD INITIATIVE
2025
THE FRAMEWORK KNITTERS
WITH THANKS FOR HELPING NOURISH LONDON & REDUCE WASTE IN TIMES OF CRISIS.

We are one of the 72 Livery Companies and Guilds who have supported this three-year pan-Livery project that has raised **£600.000** in total. By funding the van, truck and the new City Harvest depot at New Covent Garden Market, City Harvest have rescued and transported 1.6 tonnes of food to provide 3.7 million meals to communities across London. At a thank you event in October Karen Sankey was presented with a plaque acknowledging our second donation of **£250** made last year.

Mapping London on the eve of the Great Fire: As one of the 59 Livery Companies who were in existence in 1666 we have contributed **£250** towards the Historic Towns Trust's project to publish an Atlas of London as a bound volume in 2027. This will be the earliest map of London - the first complete map of London, created by William Morgan in 1682, was financed by subscription by Livery companies. Although we have no evidence of a hall before the fire there were Framework Knitters meeting in the City area.

THE HISTORIC TOWNS TRUST

Justice! Trial and Error: Back for 2026, this is a satirical review performed in Court no 1 in the Old Bailey. All proceeds support the *Sheriffs' & Recorder's Fund* which raises much needed funds for the rehabilitation of prison-leavers, the *MamaSuze* Community Interest Company which uses the creative arts to support women survivors of displacement and abuse, and the *Schools Consent Project* which provides legal education about the meaning of consent to workshops of 6th formers. We have given a donation of **£250** in sponsorship.

Inter Livery Pancake races:



This annual event takes place in Guildhall yard on Shrove Tuesday. The Master and his team took part in a series of races with Assistant Gary Dixon winning the Liverymen's race. Once again Upper Warden Jonthan Pears competed in the fancy dress category dressed head to toe in a variety of knitted garments to promote the industry. While he didn't win this year he did feature in the Times online. The event raised money for the Lord Mayor's Appeal and the Poulters Charity.

Livery schools Link: We contributed **£125** towards the costs of this annual Guildhall event for primary and secondary schools. As usual the Griswold machine attracted a lot of attention.



We also contributed **£125** to the Livery Companies Skills Council who work to promote vocational and educational training and work in conjunction with Livery Schools Link.



The Big Curry Lunch 2026: This annual event raised **£400,200** for the Army Benevolent Fund, The Royal Navy Charity and the RAF Benevolent Fund. Unmissable in our red tabards we manned our customary stall selling donated socks, knitwear and some of our blankets and raised an impressive **£3900.** The novelty socks, including special Lord Mayor's Show Spitfire socks, were a big hit.





Our annual donation of **£1500** to the **Lord Mayor's Appeal** (or rather this year the **Lady Mayor's**) was presented to Sheriff Keith Bottomley at the banquet and received with great enthusiasm.

Other donations totalling **£460** included the annual Garden of Remembrance Ceremony and the United Guilds Service.



The Textile Livery Group: **£500** was donated to support he annual UKFT Sustainability Conference. This year's topic was Tackling Textile Waste.

None of these donations would be possible without the generous charitable contributions made over the years from members of our Livery Company and we would like to record our thanks to them.

This year money from the Almshouse Charity helped to rebuild two of the cottages and this will be featured separately on our website.



Annual Summary:		
The Education Charity:	Total expenditure	**£60,198**
The Almshouse Charity		
Donations fund:	Total expenditure	**£2283**
The General Charity Account:	Total donations	**£3885**
Fundraising for charities:	Total	**£12,726**
	TOTAL	**£79,092**