



# Knitter

The Newsletter of the Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters

## A Virtual Installation & Dinner

Extraordinary circumstances call for extraordinary measures; and installing our new Master and his Wardens capitalised on those measures to the full.

We held our Installation Ceremony in the gardens of the Ruddington Framework Knitting Museum (of which our new Master is Chairman of the Trustees) on Tuesday 20th April 2021. The whole process was videoed by a young recent student from De Montfort University Leicester – Natasha James – who also provided us with the picture below and those on Page 3. The Gallant Clerk dragooned the current Master and the Master and Wardens elect to ensure that as far as possible, the full protocol and solemnity of the ceremony were observed to the full. In particular, after the oaths were taken,



each participant signed their name in the Record Book, but left it undated. Then, at the Court Meeting that Friday, the video of the ceremony was played to the Court, the Court unanimously approved the installations, and after confirming the signatures, the Clerk duly entered 23rd April 2021 against each.

### The Under Warden, Master & Upper Warden

The next day, the Company joined the Master for another 'dinner at home'. Breakout rooms enabled guests and members to converse with each other during dinner, with everyone coming together to hear the speeches from the Master, the Toast to the Company – eloquently proposed by Martin Muirhead (the Master Horner) and the reply, beautifully executed by Assistant Jonathan Pears.

But for some, perhaps the highlight of the evening was a first: we played to the Company the aforementioned Installation Video. Never before have our members been able to witness the charming and ancient procedures involved in admitting a Master and the Wardens; and thus the ill wind of Covid-19 at least gained us one benefit.

Nevertheless, we're all looking forward to meeting up face-to-face at our June 2021 summer dinner in Innholders' Hall.



## THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FRAMEWORK KNITTERS

### 2021-22

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

Pandemic notwithstanding, thanks to the wonders of modern technology we were able to admit at the Court meeting, in addition to two new Freemen (about whom more, hopefully, when they become fully-fledged Liverymen), three new Assistants and a new Steward.

Here's a bit more about them.



**Assistant Catherine Fuller** studied Womenswear at London College of Fashion (LCF) during the 1970s then worked in both the UK and abroad for companies such as Wallis Fashion Group, Macy's & Victoria's Secrets. She also had her own brand – *Outrageous Fortunes* – a luxury lingerie with a specialist focus on mastectomy and the plus-size markets. She has been involved in teaching fashion for the last 30 years.



**Assistant Helen Woolfe** joined the Company in April 2013, being admitted by her husband – Stephen – who was about to become Master. She thoroughly enjoyed supporting him in that rôle. She is actively involved in the Cottage Homes Committee and helps in interviewing any potential new residents. Later, she was asked to join the Social Committee, and she particularly enjoys writing reviews of events for the Company newsletter.



**Assistant Susan Jagelman** has had a career in the voluntary sector, primarily with *Save the Children*, culminating with five years as the UK volunteer representative on the Board of Trustees. She also played a leading rôle in setting up *Speaking Out*. Currently she is a trustee for *United Response*, which provides a range of services for individuals to enable them to move towards more independent and fulfilling lives in the community.



**Steward Jill Journeaux** was born in Jersey and studied in Coventry, Hull and London. She worked at the Open University and several art schools in the UK and Ireland from 1982 until 1989, when she moved to Leicester to teach Fine Art at the then Leicester Polytechnic. She is Professor of Fine Art Education at Coventry University, where she has worked since 1997 in a variety of rôles including Dean of Coventry School of Art & Design.



# From The



# Master

I am very honoured to have been elected as Master of this great company. I became a Liveryman in 2009 having been recommended by the late David Elson who was keen for me to join the Education Committee: I certainly never expected to be elevated to my new post.

Many previous Masters have come from some of the great knitting companies. I may have spent my whole career in textiles but I have no ancestral link to the industry, apart perhaps from my great great great grandfather – Edward Ziegler – a tailor, who was born in Berlin in 1809. The only other, but tenuous, link is through my more recent family who came from Edmonton, in north London, where it is thought that warp knitting was invented. We have no evidence they were ever involved. So no FWK in my DNA!

My textile career started when I joined Courtaulds Research Division in 1967, where I was mainly involved in the development of new nylon yarns for their Celon brand.

After serving as a schoolteacher in Uganda for two years on VSO with the support of the company, I was shortly after my return sent on an intensive technical-knitting course at Leicester Polytechnic. I moved from Coventry to Clusom Penn in Long Eaton – part of Courtaulds Group – where they made corsetry lace fabrics. After some years I joined Jones Stroud – narrow elastic manufacturers – where I became interested in how elastics actually worked. I studied in my spare time for the degree of Master of Philosophy, writing a thesis – *Some Characteristics of Narrow Woven Elastic Fabrics* – which was actually about bra straps.

I set up my own business in 1981 designing and developing woven and embroidered textile surgical implants and all sorts of bits and pieces

for aerospace and automotive applications, as well as working as a technical consultant and Expert Witness in Textiles, which work continued until I retired a few years ago.

I have had a strange year as an Upper Warden, and have never even worn the Upper Warden's robes. However, I am very much looking forward to a wide range of activities that the Master of any

livery company enjoys, often to be accompanied by my Consort – my sister, Diana Thompson. I particularly look forward to attending Common Hall as Master, an event which I would urge any Liveryman to attend as it is so extraordinary and full of ancient tradition. Under normal circumstances, my predecessor as Upper Warden – Tony Jarvis – would have followed Ian Grundy as Master; but he was unable to serve for this 12-month period so I have stepped into his shoes and he will be following me next April. Tony and I are combining forces to run a Masters Weekend next spring in Nottinghamshire. Meanwhile, Elizabeth Fox will serve as Upper Warden for two years and Matthew Ellis as



Under Warden for a similar period.

As Upper Warden I was Chairman of the Cottage Homes Management Committee. It has been very disappointing that, because of Covid restrictions, I have been unable to meet the residents of our almshouses during my year of office and get to know them better. I am looking forward to being able to rectify the matter as soon as I can, starting with a social event yet to be planned.

I must pay tribute to IPM Ian Grundy for a very successful term as Master in a historic two-year service during these unprecedented times. He became well known across the Livery movement as a friendly and outgoing man, and he brought great credit to this Company.

# BLANKETS – An Update on the “Knit for the Community” initiative



**A pile of blankets ready to go out**

When parcels of squares arrive there is great excitement as to what may be inside – on the whole they are beautifully knitted squares in the correct size, but occasionally PM Liz Green has received squares varying in size from 4” to over a foot long, and it’s not easy producing blankets/lap blankets with these. One other problem to be dealt with is that sometimes the squares need a ‘quick wash’ as animals seem to have walked or slept on them – thank goodness for machine-washable wool: when popped and tied



**Sheila hands over a stack of blankets to Jonathan for delivery**

into a few pillowcases they come out smelling far more fragrant! A good number of our volunteers remain happy to keep knitting: recent parcels included two completed lap blankets and three lots of squares. A radiographer from Leicester Royal Infirmary (LRI) and her team have been knitting for us, which is fantastic. Their time is limited but it’s great that they offered to help us. One of our volunteer knitters has produced a number of baby blankets which are currently a waiting delivery to the radiographer, together with a few knitted baby hats that we have been donated, which

we are going to deliver once they have been quarantined. We try to send a photo of a finished blanket or lap blanket to the volunteers who have donated the squares for that blanket. The spreadsheet is quite complicated and it doesn’t always work, but our volunteers do appreciate seeing their squares become part of a stunning blanket. After we sent out a number of photos of the finished blankets, many said that they were happy to keep going; and we are using Sheila’s home address for deliveries after Easter. We also have lap

We’re pleased to think that the blankets will be with families who need them. This year to date, Assistant Jonathan Pears has made three deliveries of ten blankets from PM Sheila Turner’s knitting team to James Riviere at *Action Homeless* in Leicester and also dropped into *The Meadows Food Bank* at Hope Nottingham to deliver blankets, hats, gloves and scarves that were donated to us.

We’ve also been delighted to have helped *Meltham Food Bank* in Holmfirth, where one person who received a blanket said he had had the best night’s sleep in ages, and also a number of charities in the City of London. Cottage Homes residents are still knitting; and the first blanket that they produced will be kept in our archive room at Corah Hall.

One of our volunteer knitters has produced a number of baby blankets which are currently a waiting delivery to the radiographer, together with a few knitted baby hats that we have been donated, which



**One of our LRI Knitters**





**James Riviere**



### **A selection of the knitted articles**

The Immediate Past Master & Mistress have joined Jonathan in delivering wool and collecting squares, and Liz continues to try and find new volunteers to knit but is handing over receiving squares to Sheila, who has been involved from the start and who already has a good group of volunteers to sew up the blankets and knit squares. We hope to continue helping our charities throughout this year.

But it's not just volunteer knitters who are contributing: PM George Turner donated 700 pairs of socks to *Glass Door* in London whom we have supported in the past. Clients of *Glass Door* were delighted to receive something new (not to mention good quality). Moreover, having had historical family links to the City of London, George donated 1,000 pairs of socks to a number of hostels and charities in the City. The Chairman of the City of London Homeless & Rough Sleeping Committee – Marianne Fredericks – arranged for the socks to be distributed to their clients at St. Paul's Hostel (where clients were moving into permanent accommodation), The Lodge at St. Ursula's (Lodge I) and The City Lodge (Lodge II) – Thames Reach (the City's Outreach provider) – to distribute to City clients staying in temporary hotel accommodation and those still out on the streets and the Square Mile Hygiene Bank.

If you'd like to get involved, do contact either:

Liz (lizzyb@bellosborne.com) or Sheila (sheila\_turner1@sky.com) for more information on how you can help.

How long will this project continue? Who knows – but hopefully to the end of this year at least.

blankets for *Small Acts of Kindness* and we bag up squares for full blankets to add to the squares we already have. Hopefully after Easter it will be warmer and further drops won't be needed until the Autumn, but we can of course help if there is a need. Liz was asked to talk about the knitting project to members of *Leicester Ageing Together* via Zoom – one member is a past Mayor of Oadby who, during her Mayoralty, was presented with a framed sock at our September Ceremony of the Socks (but she was disappointed she couldn't take it home!). There were about 40 screens for the talk with a long and fun Q&A session afterwards: Liz hopes to have gained some new knitters as a result.

It's great to know that the blankets are being used. At the time of writing:

- we have produced 300 blankets and 251 lap blankets – a year ago we thought we might make 20-30 blankets!
- there are 558 volunteers from across the UK (and one Liveryman in America!) including members or friends of 35 Livery companies.
- A blanket of 6" squares uses 108 squares and an 8" square blanket uses 70 squares – a lot of knitting has been done, and they're still arriving.



**Volunteer Mary Bailey  
knitting a square**

**Assistant Jonathan Pears & PM Liz Green**

# There's Magic in the Air!!

On a cold January evening during the Covid-19 pandemic, 54 liverymen and their guests from all over the country, from Somerset to Yorkshire and Norfolk, zoomed into a Virtual Magic Show, kindly arranged for us by the then Master.



## Alan reveals the Master's 'PIN'

our magician for the evening. Alan has appeared on numerous television programmes, not least on *Britain's Got Talent*, ITV's *The Next Magician* and – perhaps most impressive – *Penn & Teller: 'Fool Us'*. He is a member of the Inner Magic Circle with Gold Star, of which there are fewer than 250 in the world. He has performed all over the United Kingdom and abroad. Alan had chosen a number of tricks especially suited to the virtual screen, with close-ups and clear visibility of his hands and arms.

Several of the audience were invited to participate – some completely randomly – and £20 notes, Rubic cubes and playing cards were some of the things that went through miraculous changes: he even included a very speedily cut paper silhouette of Tom Cruise. The Master assisted with a trick with a bank pin number, and we felt sure he would rush off and change his own pin after the Show.

The final flourish was for Alan to open a sealed envelope, which had been in our full view untouched on the stage for the whole of the performance, and show us the results of all his tricks during the evening written down correctly.

It was all quite incredible and so expertly and professionally carried out, it was impossible to work out how it was all done. Perhaps it was really magic.

The Master welcomed us, and we were moved into breakout rooms of five to seven people for conversational chatting until the appointed start time of the Show. The breakout rooms were very successful and replicated a small group at a normal cocktail party, but virtually. We are very grateful to our IT experts for making it possible for us to enjoy the intimate groups to meet friends old and new.

We returned to the main screen and were introduced to Alan Hudson –



**Steward Susan Shield**

**A round of well-deserved applause**



# Farewell to the Master



## Eager Anticipation

But luckily for us all, Ian decided to go out with a bang rather than a whimper; and wisely decided to build on the success of the aforementioned Virtual Magic Show to bring back Alan Hudson for some more mind-blowing tricks as the highlight of a zoom-based Farewell Drinks party: we each had a glass or two ready.

The evening began with a chance to get together in small breakout rooms for half an hour, after which Ian introduced Alan and handed over the evening to him. Alan started by showing us a few very quick tricks “that weren’t in tonight’s show !!” – each impressive in its own right, whetting our appetite for ‘the real thing’.

After some general chit-chat between Alan and the Master – the significance of which would be revealed at the end of the show – Alan asked the Master to come up with four random numbers which Alan multiplied together to produce



## The 7 of Clubs !!

Duncan thought of a card (the 7 of Clubs) then Alan revealed his own card: the Queen of Hearts. Not the same – except that the Queen was holding a 7 of Clubs in her hand !!

More amazing tricks followed, sometimes involving members of the audience, sometimes alone. But for the *Grand Finale*, the Master nominated Honorary Liveryman and Past Sheriff Vincent Keaveny to assist Alan. Despite the Master’s assertion that Vincent couldn’t be influenced, somehow Alan managed to get Vincent to complete the picture behind Alan that contained Alan’s favourite place – Paris, his favourite drink – white wine, and the Master’s favourite singer – Billy Joel, that he had revealed in the initial chit-chat !!

To wrap up the evening, we all had the opportunity to visit a few more breakout rooms to discuss that most wonderful spectacle.

For more about Alan – see

<https://www.alanhudson.net>

All good things come to an end; and after two years in the Chair, even our Master conceded that it was time to move on !! Not that he had wanted to hold the record for our longest-serving Master, of course – but with our Livery, as with most others, the unprecedented events of 2020 took over much of our usual workings.



## A Magic Number

512,771,471. Seeing that the Master was unimpressed, he produced from behind him that very same number on a piece of card which – when inverted – spelt the word ‘Knitters’ !!

Then, PM Sheila Turner volunteered to use her own pack of cards (in the event, a good advertisement for *Kirby & West* !) for the next trick, ably assisted by her partner – Duncan King.



## Vincent Keaveny and the Final Reveal

# Securing Future Prosperity

Securing Future Prosperity (SFP) is a City of London Livery Companies' project designed to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic, facilitated by the Worshipful Company of Management Consultants (WCoMC). The objective is to support the creation of a platform/project office through which small- and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) impacted by the pandemic can access guidance from Liverymen across the movement. Guidance is defined as answering the question 'Who do you know can help with this?' and involves opening up our address books, making introductions, providing a listening ear and pointing out trusted sources. There are 110 Livery Companies serving the City of London, and Liverymen are well-placed to provide SFP's guidance service. Liverymen wishing to participate either as a Guide (open to all liverymen) or Recipient (open to SMEs impacted by changes due to Covid-19) should complete one or other of the registration forms: for more information, see the WCoMC website:–

<https://www.wcomc.org/education/securing-future-prosperity>

Members of the Framework Knitters have been actively engaged in the SFP project. Master Julian Ellis and Liverymen Michael Condon and Martin Traynor have been participating as Guides to millennials who lead impacted SMEs. Guides provide structured, impactful, and quick guidance to the Recipients.

They have found participation equally rewarding and have said:

"It is good to be able to help a younger business by letting them know some of the problems you, yourself, have encountered in the past." – **Master Julian Ellis**

"I think that it is important for small business owners, especially today with the new Covid-19 challenges, to have an opportunity to bounce ideas off a person outside the business. I remember how tough it was when we started out and I valued all the guidance I could get." – **Liveryman Michael Condon**

Additionally, one of the case studies coming out of the initiative was from Martin Traynor's guidance. An architect who had not previously worked on Government-run capital projects was shown where to find the application process. It is the Government's aim to assign a third of contracts to SMEs. The architect was also introduced to colleagues involved in major builds. That relationship has grown over the months and the two remain in touch.

The SFP programme – facilitated by the Management Consultants Company – continues its drive for more Recipients and Guides. To get involved in this important project, register your interest by contacting Rhonda Best at [rhonda.best@cmce.org.uk](mailto:rhonda.best@cmce.org.uk)

With thanks to PM Linda Smith

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## National Theatre Latest

Readers will not be surprised to learn that very little has happened during the last few months vis-à-vis our sponsored trainees at The National Theatre.

Our most recent trainee – Andrea Greenwood – has moved on to pastures new; and at the time of going to press we are still awaiting further news from her as to how she's progressing.

However, the theatre will be continuing its trainee recruitment programme as soon as it can; and they have one or two candidates for our sponsorship already lined up.

Meanwhile, you may be interested to learn that during the lockdown the theatre continued to pay its trainees and that those in the Costume Department (the one where 'our' trainees work) were very gainfully employed making scrubs for hospital workers to help provide PPE for staff in the forefront of the battle against Covid-19.



# The Sea Cadets



Unsurprisingly, we haven't been able to admit any new Liverymen. But we HAVE managed to secure a new affiliation – in this case, to the Croydon Unit of the Sea Cadet Corps – TS Terra Nova. ('TS' stands for 'Training Ship', and is actually land-locked at Croydon TA Centre, 1 Mitcham Road, Croydon

CRO 3RU) The name comes from the late Admiral Lord Mountevans, who was captain of the expedition ship *Terra Nova* 1910–1913 and who visited the Unit in the 1940s.

The Sea Cadets aim is to give young people the best possible head start in life, through nautical adventure and fun, based on the customs and traditions of the Royal Navy. To this end, there are about 400 Sea Cadet units around the UK. Each is a charity in its own right but working under the guidance of the parent national charity. The Croydon Unit – like all other units – is manned by volunteers and attracts young people aged 10 to 18 from across the local area. Typically they have around 50 young people engaged in activities, mainly put on by unit volunteers, but also participating in district, area and national adventurous activities with a nautical flavour throughout the year.

Sea Cadet activity is community-based and not school-based, and aims to give young people a broad range of life skills and values that help them achieve their full potential.

Above all, it provides young people with friends and a sense of belonging and purpose. Our Company and the Sea Cadets share the common purpose of education and the development of young people so that they may maximise their potential and life chances.

Our broad objectives in securing this affiliation are for cadets to learn about our Company, its history and current activities, and also to learn about other Livery Companies, their work in supporting the City of London Corporation, and their charitable works, particularly in the education of young people. We also hope that the cadets will gain some experience of formal occasions by providing a carpet guard or assisting the Company in some other way, such as participating in the Lord Mayor's Show.



Accompanying pictures illustrate some of their activities – taken from Facebook

# Framework Knitting Students Do Well

## Some ‘Good News’ stories about former Award Winners

### Number 1:

### Rosalba Fucci wins the Shima Seiki Student Competition 2021

In 2020, Rosalba Fucci – an undergraduate of the Royal College of Art – was selected to receive one of our Awards. She also recently won a course of Apex Design training as one of the winners of the Shima Seiki Student Competition 2021, having successfully demonstrated how the Apex system could be used for virtual sample development through her creative designs. She cleverly works with stitch structure variations that relate to different areas and movement of the body, as well as exploring possibilities of how knit garments may adapt with time.

Rosalba will graduate from the RCA this summer although – as with many other students – her studies were disrupted through having less access to equipment over the past year, making the relevance of her win and digital visual communication even more apt. Shima Seiki’s enhanced Apex Design system includes many yarn, colour, stitch structure and 3D garment simulations that will enable designers to work at a distance, even when unable to source yarns.

Information can be input to give a realistic visual image on a screen that can be adapted and animated until the design is perfected.

This information can then be sent directly through to a suitable automated knitting machine for manufacture. It will significantly speed up the production process, alleviating the need for multiple sampling. Access and understanding of Apex Design systems is of such great importance for all designers. We look forward to following Rosalba’s career progression.

*“Receiving the Apex System training will incredibly benefit the future of my work by allowing much of the development process of my upcoming designs to be done virtually, saving time, money and resources. I believe that, in a world that is becoming more and more digitalised, and where access to machinery is sometimes limited, being able to test ideas and effectively communicate creative intentions in the digital space becomes essential for every designer.”*

**Rosalba Fucci – March 2021**





## Number 2:

### Beth Ranson helps launch Shima Seiki's new Apex Fiz software



As a student at The London College of Fashion in 2015, Beth Ranson gained one of our Awards, and went on as an RCA post-graduate student to apply for another one. In her application, she wrote *“Receiving a Company Award in 2015/16 was very significant – without the confidence this gave me, and the funding for my graduate collection, I could not have afforded to continue into Post Graduate Education. My mentor – [PM] Paul Bethel – connected me with [PM] George Turner who showed me around his sock factory. This visit inspired me to invest time in developing my ideas on the Shima Seiki [machine] at the RCA, in a bid to stay connected with industrial practices. The narrative elements that were so crucial within my BA work have remained integral*

*to my MA practice. My work has since matured and grown in complexity and quality, which is a constant progression. Although my work is craft based in its methods and scale, I am very aware that its potential for adaptability to an industrial scale is crucial. Further along in my career, I would appreciate the advice and constructive guidance of the mentor scheme in realising my designs in 3D.”*

Well, that certainly paid off: in 2017 she won the *David Bethel* Bursary and went on to join Shima Seiki, where she now helps promote its latest software – *Apex Fiz*. As a skilled knitter, she designs and produces fabrics for a variety of design contexts. Motivated by problem-solving in those contexts, Beth occupies the space between knitted textile design and sustainability theory: an interesting space to be. With a strong focus on the preservation of creativity in design, Beth believes that sustainability need not be perceived as a limitation in design. Inspired by her on-going research into what ‘sustainable practice’ can mean, Beth takes note of academic theories within the realms of aspirational goals and applies this to the actual making process, working from ‘the bottom up’. She intervenes in current systems for textile product life cycles and seeks to inspire and facilitate educated and responsible change.

## Number 3: Douglas Stuart wins the 2020 Booker Prize

Admit it – when you read about Douglas Stuart winning the 2020 Booker prize for his first novel *Shuggie Bain*, you had no idea that he was a former winner of one of our Company Awards !! But Liveryman Toni Hicks taught him as a student at the RCA, and he went on to win his Award in 1997/98 when he was studying at Galashiels/Heriot Watt prior to his MA.

Douglas was born in Sighthill – a housing estate in Glasgow – the youngest of three siblings. His father left him and his family when he was young, and he was raised by a single mother battling alcoholism and addiction. His mother died from alcoholism-related health issues when he was 16. Subsequently, when he went on to write his first novel, the book would be inspired by his own struggles, his mother’s struggles as she battled alcoholism and his relationship with his mother. Speaking about his mother, he says: *“My mother died very quietly of addiction one day”*. After his mother’s death, he lived with his older brother before moving into a boarding house when he was 17.

He had no formal education in literature, and notes that while he wanted to study English literature in college, he was discouraged from choosing the subject by a teacher who mentioned that it would “not suit someone from his background”, resulting in his subsequently studying textiles instead. Stuart moved to New York City at 24 to begin a career in fashion design. He worked for many brands, including Calvin Klein, Ralph Lauren, Banana Republic and Jack Spade, for more than 20 years. Stuart balanced his writing with his design job. He started writing his first novel when he was working 12-hour shifts as a senior director of design at Banana Republic. Prior to his first novel being published, his works were featured in *The New Yorker* and on *LitHub*.

And maybe one day we will be able to enrol him as a Liveryman.



# Plague, Fire & Revolution: A Virtual Tour of Samuel Pepys' London

The evening of Friday 27th November 2020 saw 53 Liverymen, partners and guests assembled, not on a cold street corner in the City but in the comfort of their homes behind Zoom webcams for a 'virtual' tour of Samuel Pepys' London conducted by *Blue Badge* guide Simon Whitehouse.

Following a welcome from the Master, Simon conducted us on an entertaining and informative virtual tour with the aid of a Zoom slideshow, beginning in the 17th century 'Ye Olde Cheshire Cheese' tavern on Fleet Street and tracing Pepys' life from his birth in Salisbury Court (just off Fleet Street) to his rise through the ranks of the Navy Board, to his office and home in Seething Lane in the City, and to his eventual burial at St. Olave's church (on the junction of Seething Lane and Hart Street) where Pepys and his wife Elisabeth had regularly worshipped. As the son of a tailor, Pepys was a Liveryman and eventually a Master of the Clothworkers' Company.



**A Portrait of Samuel Pepys  
by John Hayls**

Not surprisingly, the fascinating content of Simon's tour was informed by Pepys' own diaries. Written over nearly 10 years beginning shortly before the Restoration of King Charles II in 1660 through to 1669 in a mix of shorthand and a code of his own devising, Pepys' diaries are one of the most important primary sources for the English Restoration period. Present as a teenager in 1649 at the execution of King Charles I and intimately involved in the events leading to the restoration of King Charles II, he gave us through his diaries a first-hand account of life and times in Restoration London as well as providing us with a candid account of Pepys' own private life – not least his many extra-marital dalliances.

His diaries are possibly best known for their vivid description of the destruction of much of the City by the Great Fire of 1666 – not least the reduction of old St. Paul's cathedral to a smouldering shell – and London's subsequent reconstruction led by Sir Christopher Wren, who was principally responsible for the great cathedral we see today as well as for many smaller churches and the Monument to the Fire erected near Pudding Lane. Simon described how, starting from embers in an oven in a bakery in Pudding Lane, the Fire quickly grew into a fearful conflagration which destroyed a large part of the City of London. Having dispatched his wife and his stash of gold to Woolwich, Pepys took the precaution of burying his parmesan





## Some of the many participants

cheese – an exotic and valuable item – in his garden. After wreaking destruction over several days, the Great Fire was eventually brought to a halt by a combination of a change of wind and the use of gunpowder to destroy houses and buildings in its path in order to create a firebreak. Fortunately, Seething Lane and his own house narrowly escaped the Fire; and Simon told us that Pepys was able to return home to recover his parmesan cheese.

In informal discussions following the conclusion of the tour, Past Master Baker – David Bentley (husband of our Liveryman Jenny Bentley) – told us that the Worshipful Company of Bakers, whilst expressing regret, had – on the advice of their insurers – never admitted responsibility for the Fire ....

During the tour, Simon gave us a vivid impression of how hard life was at that time, with painful deaths resulting not only from regular outbreaks of bubonic plague and in particular the Great Plague in 1665, but from a wide variety of other causes (such as dental disease) which were not then susceptible to treatment. Not for the faint-hearted was Simon's graphic account of Pepys' own operation – without anaesthetic – to remove a bladder stone from his urinary tract.

The events in Pepys' diary took place during the early years of our own Framework Knitters Company, first chartered by the Lord Protector Oliver Cromwell during his short-lived Commonwealth, and re-chartered by King Charles II in 1663 following the restoration – perhaps a surprising omission from Pepys' narrative.

Thanks go to the Master and Clerk for arranging such an informative and fascinating social event, and to Simon Whitehouse for his illustrated virtual tour which really brought Pepys' life and times alive.

**Assistant Philip Tranter**

# Brigantes News & Events

Brigantes has 250 subscribing members and 500 non-subscribing supporters. The Tribal Lands are similar to those of the Brigantes in Northern England in Pre-Roman times, with suitable modern-day latitude to embrace all Liverymen. Accordingly, Membership of Brigantes is open to all Liverymen of the City of London (and Members of the Company of Parish Clerks and the Company of Watermen and Lightermen) who are in good standing with their Company. The Lord Mayor and the two Sheriffs are ex-officio Members of the Brigantes during their period in office.

The Framework Knitters has the largest number of Brigantes Members, closely followed in order by the Bakers, Engineers, Marketors, Accountants, Fuellers, Carmen, Tax Advisers and Actuaries. Past Master Framework Knitter Sheila Turner is a Member of the Brigantes Committee and is chairing the Organising Committee for this year's Brigantes Breakfast.

## 2020 Brigantes AGM

On the grounds of 'events, dear boy, events', Tribal Chieftain Adrian Waddingham CBE (Past Sheriff, PM Actuary, Haberdasher) secured the Warriors' approval to delay the 2020 AGM from December 2020 as intended and to hold the AGM virtually on Friday 29th January 2021. Also in attendance (\*denotes Past Master) were the Tribal Elders (aka the Committee) – David Bentley\* (Baker, Yorkshire), Neville Chamberlain CBE\* (Fueller, Cheshire), Sue Christensen (Master Tax Adviser, Greater Manchester), Nick Gale\* (Plumber, Lancashire), Sheila Turner\* (Framework Knitter, Yorkshire), Dr. Mike Howse CBE (Engineer, Yorkshire) and Keith Houliston (Baker, Yorkshire) and over 40 Subscribing Brigantians. A number of apologies were received.

Sadly, as for most Livery activity, we were unable to hold any events in 2020, but better times are surely on the horizon. Reports were received, including the reassuring news from Ian Somerville (Tax Adviser and Independent Examiner of the Accounts for the year ended 30th June 2020) that the Tribal finances are in good shape. Two Committee Members – David Bentley and Sue Christensen – stood down in accordance with rotation and offered themselves for re-election. There being no other nominations, the Elders were re-elected. In concluding, Chieftain Waddingham recorded his particular thanks to Fiona Robinson – our part-time administrator – for managing the Tribe's affairs so well in this difficult year, and went on to outline thoughts for Brigantes Events in 2021: see more later.

On behalf of the Warriors, Suzan Woods (Framework Knitter, Past Mistress Fueller) thanked the Tribal Chieftain and Elders for positioning Brigantes well for the future and looked forward to meeting with everyone again when circumstances improve. 'There are Good Times just Around the Corner' – well, hopefully anyway!

The Brigantes Committee has been keeping in close contact with potential northern venues for this year's programme calendar. The safety and wellbeing of Members has been the overriding priority. With restrictions continuing until at least June, we have had to be flexible on timing too. Following cancellation last year, we had hoped to hold a re-arranged Brigantes Breakfast amongst the Royal Carriages at the National Railway Museum, York, but social distancing constraints mean we will have to delay that visit for another year. However, a most exciting alternative has become available. The result is that we have two Brigantes events firmly in the diary for the summer. The agreements with both venues are that (i) we are not committed to minimum numbers and (ii) we can cancel at short notice, at no cost, if the virus flares up again. To both venues, we express our considerable appreciation.

## 2021 Brigantes Golf Summer Meeting, Ganton

**9.30 am Wednesday 4th August**

The Brigantes Golf Day returns to Ganton – another top Championship course, having staged the Ryder Cup, Walker Cup and Curtis Cup, Ganton ranks among the very best of Britain's inland links. Two weeks before we visit, Ganton will host the R&A's British Seniors Amateur; and two weeks later, it will be the venue for the Brabazon Trophy – the English Open Amateur Strokeplay Championship. The course – notorious for its slick greens and cavernous bunkers – should be in





superb condition. Details will be circulated in late April and will include the opportunity for non-golfers to join for the après-golf reception, dinner and prize-giving. For those staying overnight on 3rd August, we shall be dining in the Clubhouse.

## **2021 Brigantes Breakfast, The Garden Rooms, Tennants Auctioneers, Leyburn, North Yorkshire**

**12.00 for 12.30 pm Tuesday 24th August**

By kind permission of Liveryman Rodney Tennant (Pattenmaker) – Chairman of Tennants – this year's Brigantes Breakfast will take place in the stunning surroundings of one of the UK's largest Auction Houses. Sheila Turner is chairing the Organising Committee. Established for four generations and very much a family business, Tennants has 28 specialist departments. The Garden Rooms (Tennants' latest development) were visited recently by HRH The Princess Royal, shown here with Rodney Tennant (photo: Page 14 opposite). The normal fine-dining capacity is 450, with adjacent galleries for our Reception. Of necessity, we shall be restricting numbers; but with those generous facilities we should be able to satisfy requirements for social distancing.

For early Brigantian risers, the 'Opening Lot' for the day will be the annual Brigantes Lecture which, unsurprisingly, will delve into the rarefied world of antiques, presented by leading experts.



## **Tennants Hall**



## **Inside Tennants Hall**

Details of the 2021 Brigantes Breakfast will be circulated in May. For Liverymen wishing to incorporate the occasion into a short holiday break, Leyburn is 15 minutes from the A1 and is the gateway to the Yorkshire Dales.

## **2021 Brigantes Winter Gathering**

Arrangements are progressing for the December AGM and Winter Gathering, and will be announced in the summer.



**A Pair of Ormolu-Mounted Blue John Campana Shaped Pedestal Urns, 19th century, the mounts in the manner of Pierre-Philippe Thomire. Sold by Tennants for £120,000.**

## **Membership**

Annual subscriptions remain at £40. To become a Subscribing Member, please email Fiona Robinson at [livery@brigantes.org.uk](mailto:livery@brigantes.org.uk).



**Liveryman Jenny Bentley**

# There's more to Knitting than Socks & Cardigans

## ARE MY SHOES TELLING ME TO SEE THE DOCTOR ?



### NEW BALANCE Knitted Trainers

In February 2012 – only nine years ago – Nike launched its Flyknit range of sports shoes. Adidas followed closely behind with its Primeknit range. Others have followed since.

Traditionally, sports shoes were assembled from a multitude of different components, many of which had to be cut out from larger pieces of leather and composite materials. These components were then stitched, bonded, melted and glued together in a very skilled, labour-intensive process, usually in the Far East, and always 6-12 months ahead

of the launch of a new shoe to the general public.

This extensive cycle from design, through prototyping to mass production and delivery to the major mass markets was slow, expensive and environmentally unfriendly. Can you imagine how much spare space is taken up by loading a shipping container with boxes of shoes and then shipping it across the world?

Knitted uppers gave the sport shoe manufacturers the possibility to dramatically reduce the number of components that go into making a pair of sport shoes. By clever design, the knitting machine could speed up the manufacture time and decrease the time to market. In this way, ranges could be launched and rapidly re-supplied to meet demand. Shoe factories needed fewer people, and Adidas even looked at moving manufacture closer to their major markets, thereby reducing shipping costs.

Both Nike and Adidas have enabled their customers to design their ideal shoe online, and have it delivered to them in only a few days. This was possible before with traditional shoes but prohibitively expensive and not mass marketable at all.

## SHOES with an IQ?

Knitting machine manufacturers have actively backed this new use of their knitting machines to make shoes, spending huge amounts on innovation to give the shoe brands more colours, greater flexibility in design, and more recently advanced technology.

A Nottingham-based smart textiles innovator – Footfalls & Heartbeats – is using its 'the textile is the sensor' technology to get our knitted shoes to talk to us. One such



### Footfalls & Heartbeats' Intelligent Shoe



concept that is already on its way to the mass market soon harnesses intarsia knitting on a Santoni X modified sock knitting machine. (Santoni is a world leader in circular knitting machine manufacture, and during the development of this intarsia machine, they called on the help and assistance of our own ‘Intarsia Guru’ – Past Master George Turner.)

These sensors that F&H place into the shoe are not additional plastic-electronic parts, but utilise the inherent 3D structure of the textile and yarns used, then amplify the ‘signals’ that are produced during wear to be able to collect data not only on the number of steps and GPS position, but also gait analysis, heartbeat and blood pressure and other physiological conditions. All of this while providing comfortable, lightweight shoes, with the latest designs. Maybe, even your name and favourite colours could be added to your individualised shoes. In a few years’ time we may well be offering *Framework Knitters* shoes with your name knitted into the uppers.

Footfalls & Heartbeats has recently received European funding through the SMART X (Smart Textile Accelerator Programme) for a new development: a motion-tracking knee sleeve called KiTT. This pioneering technology – where the textile is the sensor – enables data to be collected about how the wearer’s knee joint is functioning, all in a comfortable knee sleeve, allowing sophisticated movement data to be picked up and recorded by the textile sleeve. This information is invaluable for physiotherapists to help patients with injury rehabilitation as well as monitoring athletes’ performance during training. Eventually, this technology will filter down to the wellbeing markets, so if someone has a twinge from their knee, wearing the KiTT sleeve for a few days will send valuable data to their physio on which to base a diagnosis and a plan for a programme of rehabilitation.

Initially developed on a Santoni X intarsia knitting machine, F&H made the working prototype on a Stoll flatbed knitting machine. The key to this technology is a mathematically-based knitted structure that uses electrically-conductive yarns to form a repeatable and robust sensor network within the garment. This 3D complexity of the knitted structure – where the fibres in the yarn interact – allows subtle changes in the electrical resistance within the garment to be filtered, amplified and interpreted. F&H states ‘this heralds the emergence of the next generation of smart textiles, where sensor functionality is integrated

into the fabric structure for real-time monitoring whilst ensuring comfort, personal privacy, wearability and durability’.

As well as the physiotherapist receiving information, it could very well be a reality in the near future that when you are in your GP’s consulting room and are asked you why you are there, you can justifiably say “my shoes told me to visit you” and you will have the data collected by your shoes to tell your GP why!



## The KiTT knee sleeve



**And the KiTT sleeve in action**

**Assistant Jonathan Pears**

# Welcome to our new Master's Chaplain

I am The Rev'd Phil White and am very pleased to be Julian Ellis's Chaplain as the newly installed Master of the Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters. I am currently vicar of a seven-parish benefice in south Nottinghamshire and, having worked in Yorkshire for many years (Middlesbrough, Scarborough & York), am pleased to have returned near to my East Midlands roots. I grew up in Loughborough, went to school at Loughborough Grammar School, and lived on the University campus where my father was a warden and lecturer. When I was a geography teacher I was always glad to locate the textile industry in the East Midlands, albeit not as currently glorious as once was! I love sports and walking, am a trustee of a charity working with people in rural western Kenya, have two grown-up children from my first marriage and have parental responsibility for identical and very autistic twins from my second. My wife Veronica has an MA in Special Needs, which she says works well with my MA in Theology.

I am very pleased to be joining you, and look forward to learning more about your activities.

**Rev'd Phil White**



## How to brighten the daily commute

Some enterprising people have set up this knitting machine in a Dutch railway station to enable commuters to knit their own scarf while waiting for their train. It's a pedal-powered version of the well-known Griswold, as featured in the Ruddington Framework Knitting Museum and as used by us to educate schoolchildren at the annual Livery Schools Link exhibition.

The video was spotted by PM Sheila Turner, but we cannot comment on rumours that PM George Turner is planning to build one himself to increase his factory output.

The Master has also spotted a number of knitting-related videos, including:- <https://youtu.be/M6ZjMWLqJvM> (an amusing cartoon),

[https://youtu.be/\\_akC2ajnNpU](https://youtu.be/_akC2ajnNpU) (knitting for hens),

<https://youtu.be/Ad3cGfLC5v8> (knitting meets Heavy Metal – not for the faint-hearted), and

<https://youtu.be/Lktwro-ERXE> (knitting with huge needles).

In some, you'll need to skip the advertisements – but they're all quite fun to while away your lockdown.



Taken from <https://www.facebook.com/urbancyclinginstitute/videos/1038952776530210>



# Alan Richards

19th January 1932 to 1st March 2021

Alan Richards died peacefully at home in his 90th year on 1st March – St. David's day – which was a fitting day for a man who loved his garden which was filled with daffodils, the emblem of St. David. He was proud of his Welsh heritage.

He was introduced to the Company by his father-in-law – Clive Henderson – in 1972, so he was senior in the Company to Sara (Master 2003) as the Company did not admit women to the Livery until 1977. He was a staunch supporter of Sara's rôle in the Company and gracefully gave way so that she could be the first Lady Master. He was a gracious and helpful Consort and went on to attend the Past Masters' Consorts' lunches and functions which he greatly enjoyed, being the only man and pampered by the other Past Mistresses until Covid-19 prevented attendance.

Alan and Sara were, I think, the first married couple to be Liverymen together in the FWK and the first to be on the Court together.

He was Honorary Treasurer from 1994-5 and took a great interest in the Cottage Homes, enjoying getting to know the Residents in Sara's year and providing entertainment for them: the big hit that year being the fish-&-chips supper and magician. He always said that the highlight of his year as Consort (apart from the dinners) was being taken round Mansion House by the Lady Mayoress and being shown the Lord Mayor Sir Gavyn Arthur's bedroom with all his impressive regalia laid out on the bed ready for his next function – including his underclothes!



as a true gentleman and a true friend. He was courteous and kind, and his main aim in life was to make sure that his family were well provided for. His retirement was much enriched by his grandchildren, and he took a keen interest in their progress: we will all greatly miss him.

He did his National Service, mainly in Eritrea, before reading Law at Oxford, doing his Articles in Brecon (his home town) and then beginning work with ICI in the legal department. He was swiftly moved to ICI's Alkali Division in Northwich, Cheshire (where my brother Nick and I were born) eventually being appointed as Division Secretary for ICI Mond Division (an amalgamation of Alkali and General Chemicals Divisions) until he was moved south where he joined the Secretary's department at Millbank, ICI HQ. He left ICI in 1982 but then was immediately appointed Secretary for Lee Cooper plc. He retired in 1999 from there but continued to work for Hamptons as Company Secretary, eventually retiring in 2004.

He introduced me to the Company in 1990 and encouraged me to produce the first printed editions of the FWK Newsletter, using my journalist training. His legal training had made him a stickler for using correct English, and he enjoyed subbing the editions before they went to print.

Many of the letters and cards we have had following his death have described him



**Liveryman Mike Richards**

# Dates for your diary

2021

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

23rd April	Virtual Installation Court	The Clerk
24th April	Virtual Installation Dinner	The Clerk
11th May	<i>Sons of the Clergy</i> virtual festival	The Clerk
24th June	Election of the Sheriffs, Guildhall	The Clerk
25th June	Summer Court & Dinner, Innholders' Hall	The Clerk
26th June	Post-Dinner Outing to Handel's (& Jimi Hendrix') House, W1K 4HB	The Social Committee
1st July	City Beerfest, Guildhall Yard	The Clerk
5th July	Marketors' Ryder Cup Inter-Livery Golf, St. Albans	The Clerk
4th August	Brigantes Golf Day, Ganton	See below
24th August	Brigantes Breakfast, Tennants Hall, Leyburn, North Yorkshire	See below

## 10th to 12th September – The Leicester Weekend

10th September	Golf Match & Golf Dinner, Leicestershire Golf Club	Liveryman Adrian Keene
11th September	Morning: Ceremony of the Socks, Wigston Framework Knitters Museum	The Clerk
11th September	Evening: Livery Dinner in St. Martin's House, Leicester	The Clerk
12th September	Annual Church Service, followed by luncheon at the Cottage Homes	The Clerk
21st September	Sheriffs' Ball, Guildhall	The Clerk
26th September	Sheep Drive over London Bridge	The Clerk
29th September	Election of the Lord Mayor, Guildhall	The Clerk
22nd October	Livery Banquet, Carpenters' Hall	The Clerk
23rd October	Post-dinner outing to The Postal Museum	The Social Committee
13th November	Lord Mayor's Show	The Clerk
24th November	Help Musicians Annual Festival Service (formerly Festival of St. Cecilia)	The Clerk

December      Brigantes AGM – details to follow      See below

## Brigantes Events:

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

## Booking Events

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

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

## And Your Events

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

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