



Knitter

The Newsletter of the Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters



The Master, Wardens, Clerk, Principal Guests and Consorts – complete with two Pikemen – at our Banquet on Friday 25th October 2019.

Just What The Doctor Ordered



Above is the headline we had originally intended to use to introduce an article on the Installation of our new Master at Apothecaries' Hall this month.

But, of course, that's now not going to happen for the time being; as instead we really ARE doing what the doctor ordered and staying safely at home wherever possible during the current epidemic.

On Page 3, our still current Master explains what our Company is doing to keep our ancient Livery going under the prevailing circumstances; while on other pages we reflect on our past activities and future aspirations.

Meanwhile, we wish not only every member of our Company but also our many readers elsewhere a safe and healthy life.



THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FRAMEWORK KNITTERS

2019-??

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New ... New... News !!

Martin Traynor joins the Court

Martin has extensive experience in the leisure and hospitality sector, following a successful career in hotel management. After being elected as President of the Leicestershire Chamber of Commerce in 1999, Martin decided to change career and take up the rôle of Group Chief Executive of the Leicestershire Chamber (including CEO of Business Link, Leicestershire).



After leaving the Chamber in 2014 to set up his own consultancy business, Martin also took on a number of Non-Executive rôles, including Chairman of both the King Richard III Visitor Centre Trust and The Forest Experience Ltd., and Deputy Chairman of University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust.

Martin has a long history of working with local, regional and central government on economic development, regulatory reform and procurement, and has recently completed two three-year terms on the Government's Regulatory Policy Committee. He has also served as a Champion for the Government's Red Tape Challenge and is an Advocate for Business Focus on Enforcement. During his time at the Leicestershire Chamber, Martin successfully piloted the *Better Business for All* programme and worked with colleagues from Regulatory Delivery to roll out the programme across the Local Enterprise Partnership network.

In 2007, Martin was awarded an OBE in HM The Queen's New Year's Honours for 'services to business and the community of the East Midlands'. We were delighted that he agreed to join our Court as an Assistant and he was duly installed on Saturday 7th September 2019 at Corah Hall.

Knitting Curiosities

Did you know that the last time you went on a fairly new aeroplane, it probably had knitted wings? The wings of airliners are now often made using carbon fibre instead of lightweight metal alloys. For high strength-to-weight ratio, carbon is much better, airframe weight being critical, as every unnecessary kilogram has to be transported round the world with a fuel penalty. In round engineering terms, to use carbon fibre efficiently, or any other reinforcement for plastics, the reinforcing fibre usually needs to be as straight as possible. In a woven fabric, the fibres have to bend round one another as they cross, so need to be straightened before they can take a full load. Although a knitted fabric is formed from a series of loops, it is possible to lay in straight fibres during the fabric forming process – this is common with the elastic in the tops of socks, for example. Carbon can be laid in straight lines and then held together by knitted loops, and with the machinery used can be laid in several layers thick at angles of 0° and 90° to one another and at 45° or 30°, depending on the engineering requirement. It does not look much like a knitted fabric because the knitting stitches are made from a fine polyester, and the carbon fibres are large and straight. The Shima Seiki website includes pictures of lots of different examples of knitting, from high fashion to technical textiles, including the knitted turbine blade shown opposite, made during a research and development project. Such blades can potentially be used in the front end of a jet engine, for example. One of the leading companies in producing these fabrics, known as Non-Crimp Fabrics, is Hexcel, with a factory in Leicester.

Under Warden Julian Ellis

From The



Master

You may wonder why I am penning a few words, as normally this would be the privilege of the new Master. As you will appreciate, due to prevailing Government restrictions, I was advised by the Past Masters Committee to postpone the April Court Meeting where Upper Warden Tony Jarvis would have been installed as Master. However, although it has been agreed that I should stay on as Master, this is really in name only as there are no functions or other meetings to attend until such time as we can hold a Court Meeting to invest Tony with his Chain of Office. This postponement will be under constant review in order that the Installation can take place as soon as possible. Therefore, I thought that I would reflect on some of my activities over the past few months.

As well as events detailed elsewhere in this Newsletter, we enjoyed a Christmas meal with the Cottage Homes residents in Corah Hall, and a number of Framework Knitters gathered in Durham for the Brigantes' Christmas Dinner in one of the Colleges and a Concert in the Cathedral. I have been lucky enough to be invited by a number of Livery Companies to their Lunches or Dinners in London, sometimes with our Clerk – Shaun – and, occasionally, with Julia.

As a Company, we took part in the 16th Annual Pancake Races at Guildhall run by the Worshipful Company of Poulterers (see Page 6). Although it was a cold day, it was dry, which was a great relief to participants and spectators alike! Liveryman Gary Dixon looked resplendent dressed as Mrs. William Lee for the Fancy Dress section of our team.

Julia and I were humbled on our visit to Treloar School and College in February to see how happy, motivated and fulfilled the students are and to learn more about how the College prepares students for life beyond its borders. The

School was set up by Sir William Purdie Treloar – Lord Mayor of London in 1907 – for disabled young people up to the age of 25. It is a charity that is supported by the City of London and Livery Companies, amongst others.

I have been involved with the Committee for the Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch which was to have been held on 2nd April, and once again we were going to have a Framework Knitters stall selling donated items but – like everything else – this was cancelled. Hopefully we will be able to support the event in 2021.

Over the year, Julia has been invited to a number of Consorts' events which have helped to cement friendships made. They have been wide-ranging, from tea at HMP Brixton in its restaurant *The Clink* to a tour around the Chelsea Physic Garden, lunches and afternoon teas in different Halls and Clubs, and a demonstration of wood turning at the Hurlingham Club.

We have both really enjoyed our year in office and have made some close friends with whom we will definitely stay in touch. We have already had our first Past Masters' Association Dinner, but unfortunately have had to postpone the weekend break which was scheduled for May.

My thanks go to our Clerk – Shaun – and his wife Mary for their work and guidance over the last year or so; to our

Beadle – Jamie Wallis – and to all Committee members for their work on behalf of the Company.

I would like to finish by thanking the Wardens, Court and all Liverymen for their support for us both over the year.

Julia and I send you all our best wishes in these trying times. Stay safe and healthy!

Ian Grundy



Knitted Straight Glass Fibre



Knitted CFRP turbine blade for jet engines

Developed jointly by SHIMA SEIKI MFG., LTD., Ryukoku University and I.S.T. Corporation with cooperation from JAXA.

Photo credit: SHIMA SEIKI MFG., Ltd.

A Trip to St. Katharine Docks



Ready for the Tour

of her children and close relations, Queen Matilda asked the Church to assist with the establishment of a religious and charitable foundation. In 1148 the Hospital (in reality Hospice) of St. Katharine was established at the site, and dedicated to the beloved saint who was broken on a wheel for refusing to renounce her Christian faith and whose remains are interred at the Monastery of St. Catherine of Sinai. Ahead of its time, three of the governing priory had to be women; and it soon became a vibrant community of 4,000, providing spiritual and practical care. Formerly known as the Royal Foundation of St. Katharine, the community had its own schools, courts and a meticulous refuse collection system, which meant that the Hospital escaped the worst ravages of the Plague and other diseases.

As maritime trade grew and with it the Thames' importance as a transport artery, ships were often stuck for months, with it taking up to three months to unload cargo at Tower Hill. This also increased the problem of piracy and crime, and the first police in London were the River Police !!

In 1825, Parliament passed an Act allowing a change of use to docks; and the community had to move out and even rebury its dead. Barges transported the soil to the then marshland of Pimlico, and the Royal Foundation moved to Regents Park. Frustrated at its inactivity, the local Anglican clergy in the poor communities of the East End cajoled the charity into moving to Limehouse, where it now provides a multi-faith retreat and is a major community benefactor. The Docks provided a secure working and residential community, with security tight at the entrances / exits but easy-going in the basins. The police maintaining an affable relationship with the locals (not all of whom were by any means saints), so long as they didn't try and take goods that didn't belong to them out of the dock area! Today it is once again a lively community, and indeed has something of the look and feel of a West Country seaside town nestling beneath the bascules of Tower Bridge.



Gloriana

The Master's nautical theme continued with a tour of St. Katharine Docks and HMS President on 18th January. Our guide was local historian and author Christopher West (who wrote *The Story of St. Katharine*). The first stop was the white-tiled arch under the bridge which had served as the morgue where bodies washed up by the Thames were stored. They were in a state of decomposition and so full of gas that they were prone to explode, so post mortems had to be performed on site and quickly, for things were likely to get messy !

The first recorded activity was of the Knighten Guild (the origin of the surname Nightingale) in the 10th century. Distraught at the premature deaths



The famous Dickens Inn

Elephant and rhinoceros tusks were unloaded at St. Katharine Docks. Ivory was an important luxury commodity in the 19th century, being used to manufacture piano keys, billiard balls and ornamental items such as canes. Now, Ivory House has been converted into apartments.

East Basin is the current home of the Royal Barge *Gloriana*, which was gifted back by Her Majesty to the Nation after her Diamond

Then All Aboard HMS President



HMS President

tragic French chanteuse Edith Piaf, but today is a private residence moored nearby.

Our itinerary led us inexorably to *HMS President*, where we were warmly welcomed by Commander James Nesbitt.



Commander James Nesbitt

also the seat of the regional Command of the RN for the SE of England, with a Commodore keeping an eagle eye on the senior service in the Pool of London and ensuring all shipping companies engage fully with the local community.

James stressed the importance of the City Civic and Livery in nurturing Sea Cadet units in deprived areas. They have an outstanding record in teaching life skills and building self-confidence and resilience in young people aged 10 to 18 from often challenging or vulnerable backgrounds.

By this time, appetites had been restored, and we soon found ourselves at Smiths restaurant in Wapping for a hearty lunch. They specialise (as one might expect!) in fish dishes, and the writer can vouch that the battered cod was excellent!

A huge thank you to our Master (Ian Grundy), our Guide (Chris West) and Commander Nesbitt.

Steward Simon McIlwaine

Jubilee celebrations. It is used to host official events from time to time and also to promote the Thames and Pool of London as a transport and trading hub. Also in the East Basin is *Flamant Rose*, a luxury 100-foot classic yacht thought to be the most photographed boat in the marina and the only one of her kind. She was previously owned by the



A Famous Couple



Rolls of Honour



Dining at The Ship

The Annual Inter-Livery Pancake Race

Once again, on Tuesday 25th February 2020 the Framework Knitters bravely put forward a team to take part in the 16th annual Inter-Livery Pancake Race, set in the courtyard of the Guildhall. Last year, we had some notable successes – would we be as lucky this year?

Our team comprised, as Master: Ian Grundy, as Liveryman: Tony Jarvis (Upper Warden), as Lady: Claire Bethel (Assistant), and as Novelty: Gary Dixon (Liveryman), the last appearing resplendent in dress & wig as Mrs. William Lee – the wife of our “founder”. The weather was kind: the rain held off (so the ‘race track’ was dry) and we even had some sun to brighten the day. The scene set, and after an introduction from the Master of Ceremonies, the Chief Commoner welcomed competitors and spectators alike before the first race. Then, the first wave of Masters’ races was started with a bang: indeed, a very loud bang from a cannon. Until the finals, each subsequent race was started with a more modest starting pistol; but we were back to the cannon for the various finals.

Each of the four categories named above ran in various heats, with those with the fastest times from each group competing in the finals. Pancake batter had been provided by *The Clink* catering corps. Rules were simple: run to a marked half-way mark, stop to toss one’s pancake, run around the bollard at the far end, stop at the half-way mark for a second pancake toss, then finish by placing one’s frying pan on one’s table. Interestingly, these rules were followed more in the breach than the observance, with many competitors failing to toss their pancakes at the appointed spot. A few of the more flagrant breaches received penalty time points from the linesmen, but most did not !! However, the Framework Knitters all followed the rules precisely – which is perhaps why we didn’t win this time !!

Nevertheless, everyone had a good time; and once the judging was all over we all repaired to the Guildhall crypt for drinks and an excellent luncheon, again

skilfully prepared by *The Clink*.



Master on the run



Meet the Team



A Ladies Heat

The winners were:

Masters’ Qualifying Race:

Communicators

Masters’ Race:

Gunmakers

Liveryman Race:

Marketors

Ladies’ Race:

Fuellers

Novelty Race:

Insurers

Fancy Dress Costume:

Clockmakers

Victor Ludorum:

Fuellers



The Novelty-Entry Line-Up

The New Framework Knitters Library

The past nine months have seen the development of our new Framework Knitters Library to the rear of Corah Hall at the Cottage Homes in Oadby, Leicestershire. This is a lovely new room created from a former storeroom and garden store, with significant work executed by our wonderful Maintenance Manager – Karl Whatsize.

For the first time, we have a focal point for our Livery records and other artefacts, some of which date back over 360 years to our original incorporation in 1657 – although our oldest and most fragile records will remain in expert care stored at the Guildhall Library in the City of London.

The facilities include an illuminated display case, library shelves and cupboards, plus plenty of wall space to display pictures and photographs from the Livery's fascinating history. A variety of records has already been moved to the Library, and we are indebted to our former Hon. Archivist PM Emeritus Jeremy Ridge for his efforts over many years.

Our growing collection of archive material includes many books, photographs, cups, silver items, dinner menus & seating plans, photographs of Past Masters and a variety of other material. The book collections include sections on the City of London and Livery Companies, the knitting industry and also on the Counties of Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire that were our home territory for a couple of centuries.

The creation of the Library has also freed up the alcove in Corah Hall previously occupied by some of our artefacts, and this has now been converted into a permanent home for our 1618 Master's Chair, given to the Livery by Thomas Cawarden in 1680. The chair has a long and well-travelled history which I will write about in a future article.

Please do consider if you possess any old Livery items that might be donated or loaned to the Library. If you have Livery-related items of family sentimental value, we would welcome the opportunity to record their existence while – of course – they can remain in your family.

Finally, please do take any opportunity to visit the Library and browse through our history. We will ensure it is open for access whenever Livery events are taking place at Corah Hall; and special access can be arranged by prior agreement with either the Cottage Homes Administrator (homesadmin@frameworkknitters.co.uk) or me (simon@semper.org.uk)

Steward Simon Burrows, Hon. Archivist



TOP – Left & Right

Two views of the new Library – showing examples of both the books and other artefacts on permanent display.



And examples of some of the rarer and more delicate items safely stored in the Guildhall Library.



The Consorts' Luncheon



I was delighted to welcome 48 ladies to Painters' Hall for my Ladies Lunch on 19th November 2019. We started with coffee and biscuits in one of the Court Rooms on the ground floor before we split into two groups for a tour of the hall, conducted by the Clerk to the Painter Stainers' – Chris Twyman.



The famous North Window

We started in the Court Rooms, and Chris explained the different aspects of the building and the history of the Company, giving us an insight into some of the artwork on display, including some more modern paintings that were entries in the exhibitions that the Company holds on a regular basis. We then went upstairs to the Painted Chamber where Chris had asked for several pieces of the Company's valuable silver collection to be put out for us to look at and hold – there was a beautiful "salter", two different Loving Cups and a couple of candelabras.

The tour ended in the main Livery Hall in which hung some superb paintings, and Chris pointed out a few of particular significance, including royal portraits and a maritime one that was given to the Company in lieu of the joining fee. It also has beautiful crystal chandeliers and a magnificent stained-glass window showing the arms of the Liverymen who have been Lord Mayors of the City of London and of others who have played a prominent part in the Company's history. We had time for a glass of bubbly back in the Court Room before finding our places for lunch.

We enjoyed a delicious meal; and from the general buzz of chatter in the room, I think everyone had a great afternoon.

Julia Grundy



The Court Dining Room



The Livery Hall



The Pikemen & Musketeers



Doing the honours at our 2019 Banquet



At the Lord Mayor's Show ...

... and the cart-marking ceremony

The Company of Pikemen & Musketeers of the Honourable Artillery Company ("HAC") has been an integral part of the pomp and pageantry of City ceremonial for nearly a century. As well as escorting the State Coach during the Lord Mayor's Show, they provide guards of honour and staircase parties at a large number of State, Civic and Livery Company occasions (including our own Banquets), as well as parading for Royal and military events outside the City. Formed in 1925 to take part in the first Royal Tournament, the Pikemen & Musketeers have been providing prestige, pageantry and adding colour to events in the City of London ever since. In 1955 the Company was granted a Royal Warrant from HM The Queen, authorising it to parade and tasking it to provide a ceremonial bodyguard for the Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor.

Most Liverymen will probably be unaware that our Beadle and Toastmaster – Jamie Wallis – has for many years served as a Fifer and Drumbeater with the Pikemen & Musketeers. This follows a distinguished career with the Active Unit of the HAC, where he rose to become the Regimental Drill Sergeant (WO2), responsible for the planning and execution of all major ceremonial events within the City.

Members of the Company wear uniforms identical to those worn by the HAC during the reign of King Charles I – Venetian-red tunics with knee-breeches and white linen collars and cuffs. The seniority of officers and non-commissioned officers is signified by the amount of lace worn on collars and cuffs: the more lace, the more senior the rank. Members pay their own travel costs plus an annual subscription, and new members are required to make a significant contribution towards the cost of their uniform. All are expected to clean and look after their armour, weapons and other kit and maintain the highest standards of turnout for the prestigious occasions for which they parade.

Wear and tear has taken its toll on uniforms, armour and weaponry since their last major re-equipment programme over 20 years ago. Following an appeal last year, the Framework Knitters agreed to donate the sum of £1,000 towards re-equipping the Company. This money will enable the purchase of four new pikes, which will be delivered shortly and are certain to feature in the Lord Mayor's Show later this year.

Clerk Shaun Mackaness

Brigantes News

The Brigantes Breakfast – the annual Northern luncheon for City of London Liverymen, held in July at The Whitworth Hall, University of Manchester – was a day of Brigantes records and strong Framework Knitter support.

Record 1 : The Lord Mayor and both Sheriffs in attendance – one being our very own Past Master, the Hon. Liz Green.

Record 2 : 28 current Livery Masters in attendance – one being our own Master, Ian Grundy.

Record 3 : The Lord Mayor and two Past Lord Mayors speaking.

Record 4 : 34°C in Manchester, the City's hottest day ever.

Record 5 : Gentlemen permitted to remove their jackets!!

The day started at 10.30am with the popular annual Brigantes Lecture: this year given in the adjoining Museum of Manchester by the Director – Esme Ward – on the subject of 'Heritage Futures'. Topping and tailing the Lecture for Brigantes were Sue Christensen (Upper Warden of the Tax Advisers), and our Immediate Past Master Sheila Turner, who recently joined the Brigantes Committee.

Following the midday Reception, the Lance Guard from the Leicestershire and Derbyshire Yeomanry escorted the Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor – Alderman Peter Estlin – Sheriffs Alderman Vincent Keaveny and the Hon. Liz Green and the current Livery Masters to join a capacity 300 for lunch. The Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester – Mr. Warren Smith – gave the 'Welcome to Manchester' address, to which the Lord Mayor responded. The Bishop of Bolton – Rt. Rev. Mark Ashcroft – was the Brigantes Chaplain for the Day, and said Grace.

Past Lord Mayor Dr. Sir Andrew Parmley played the Whitworth Hall's mighty organ to wonderful effect at intervals during the meal. Four brilliant professional singers took the floor over coffee to perform a selection from West End hit musicals, including a spine-chilling rendition of *Phantom of the Opera*. Past Lord Mayors Sir David Wootton and Dr. Sir Andrew Parmley – proud Yorkshireman and Lancastrian respectively – followed with a highly-entertaining double act by these white and red rose stalwarts. Then, Past Sheriff Adrian Waddingham – the Brigantes Chairman – brought the memorable proceedings to a close, including announcing the Brigantes programme for the next twelve months – see the Diary section on the back page for further details. If you would like to attend any of these functions, or register to receive advance notice of dates and details, please email Fiona Robinson (the Brigantes Administrator), at livery@brigantes.org.uk.

Liveryman Jenny Bentley



PM George & Angela Turner with Michael Wren (PM Bowyers & PM World Traders)



The Magnificent Dining Room



LEFT:
Sheriff Liz
Green

RIGHT:
IPM Sheila
Turner



And there was Golf, too !!

Framework Knitters were on the winners' rostrum at the 2019 Brigantes Golf Day at Lindrick, North Nottinghamshire.

Familiar names in a field of 44 ladies and gentlemen playing this fine championship course – former host to the Ryder Cup and the Curtis Cup – included George Turner, Tony Jarvis, Adrian Keene, Mike Piper and Janey Heaney. Meanwhile, non-golfers Sheila Turner, Duncan King and Jenny Bentley were among a number partaking fully in the après-golf.

Overall victory went to our Upper Warden Tony Jarvis and fellow team-mates Angela Waddingham (Educator), Jeremy Mason (Clockmaker) and Kenny Fraser (Glass Seller), pictured here with Joan Corbett (Lindrick Lady Captain) – except for Kenny, who had to dash back to Scotland!

Mike Gee (Tyler & Bricklayer) won the charity prize of a rare 18 year old whisky from The Master's Cask, generously presented by the Master Distiller, for which Brigantes was delighted to make a donation to Lindrick's chosen charity for 2019 – the Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire Air Ambulance.

Liveryman Jenny Bentley



Upper Warden Tony Jarvis and fellow
team-mates Angela Waddingham
(Educator), Jeremy Mason (Clockmaker)
and Joan Corbett – Lindrick Lady Captain



60 Liverymen and guests attended the
prize-giving dinner – travelling from as
far afield as Rye on the south coast to
Dornoch in the north of Scotland

Our Current & Former Silver Collection

An overview of our Livery's artefacts and heritage, compiled by Hon. Archivist Steward Simon Burrows

Our Archivist has put together a comprehensive catalogue of our more interesting and / or valuable silver, and this is but a small extract of a much larger document freely available from Simon at simon@semper.org.uk.

Over the years, the Company has gained and lost a large array of silver artefacts by various means – not least in the great sale of 1861, when a large number of silver cups, plates and sundry silver items were sold off (see Page 151 of *The History of the Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters* by Sheila A. Mason) – but we still have a reasonable collection, as this article demonstrates.

But there is always room for new additions: any donations to Simon, please !!



A display of two of our cups which we put on show at our 2019 Banquet



1887 Jubilee Loving Cup – late Victorian silver loving cup and cover hallmarked London 1887, donated by the Court, engraved with the Company Arms and an inscription commemorating the Jubilee Year of the reign of Queen Victoria. Maker: SM.
Weight: 78 ounces Height: 10 inches.



1656 Baluster Stem Cup – antique silver engraved with the Company Arms and the inscription 'The Framework Knitters Company London' on one side, the Company Coat of Arms on the other. Maker: Orb & Star, London 1656.
Weight: 28 ounces Height: 10 inches.



1662 Caudle Cup – made by Jackson in 1662 – inscribed “This Cupp and Cover is given for the Wor. Compie of fframework Knitters London by a well wisher to that Society”.
Now in the collection of the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths (purchased 1912).



1900 Woodman Rosewater Dish – a late Victorian silver gilt dish hallmarked Sheffield 1900 engraved with the Arms of the Company and the City of London with an inscription identifying the donor as C.J. Woodman. Maker: Martin Hall & Co.
Weight: 48 ounces Diameter: 16 inches.



ABOVE: 1902 Wilkinson Ramshorn Snuff Box – with silver-plated mounts with engravings identifying the donor as W.H. Whiteway Wilkinson Esq, FRCS.
Height: 7 ½ inches, Length 11 ½ inches.

RIGHT: 1932 Donisthorpe Ellis Silver Ewer – hallmarked London 1932 engraved with inscription commemorating the Silver Jubilee of King George V and Queen Mary and identifying the donors as Frederick Russell Donisthorpe Esq and George Ernest Ellis Esq, JP. Maker: G&S Co. Ltd.
Weight: 124 ounces Height: 17 inches.



A focus on the work of our

The Bursary & Award Scheme



**Emma
Bloomfield**

Recently I travelled to Leeds University to catch up with Emma Bloomfield, a final-year Textile Design student who was awarded a Framework Knitters Bursary this year. She is currently in her 4th year after taking a year out in industry to work for Brodie Cashmere, who have offered her a job after graduation: congratulations Emma!

I asked Emma how she heard about the Company's award scheme and she said it came from her Tutor – Liz Gaston – who received the application information from the Education Committee's Administrator – Assistant Trevor Bowmer. Emma had also heard about the Framework Knitters from her colleagues Emily Johnson and Hannah Robson who went on the Shima training course last year. All were very complimentary about the Company and encouraged Emma to apply for an award.



Leeds University Workshop

All ten students specialising in knitting filled in the application forms, and it was up to Tutor Liz to narrow it down to the three students she felt had the strongest chance.

A date for the interviews was arranged, and the students did some research into the Framework Knitters by looking at our website. Emma enjoyed watching the videos on the site, especially the one filmed at John Smedley. Although Emma did attend an interview for her industry placement, ours was a more formal process with associated nerves and fears. Hopefully the interview panel did its best to put all the students at ease while probing their knitting knowledge and design flair. We do hold technical knowledge high in importance, so as well as swatches and design boards, the panel was keen to see technical data being recorded accurately for each piece.

Emma likes to knit and create structure in her pieces. Her final project will include ten pieces – a mixture of swatches and garments made on Dubied and Shima knitting machines. Emma impressed the three of us – PM George Turner, PM Graham Smith and me – with her knowledge, enthusiasm and confidence. Once we had interviewed everyone, we thanked Liz and the students and moved on to more interviews in Huddersfield. In total, the Committee visited 16 universities and interviewed 51 students over a four-week period, and we waited for the others on the Education Committee to complete all their visits. Then, the Chair of each interview panel met to compare students and decide who to recommend to the Court as recipients of a Bursary or Award. It's always a lively but good-humoured discussion, and the best students are easily identified. There is some flexibility in the number of awards granted each year, and those who just miss out on an Award will receive a *Highly Commended* certificate. It is important to remember that this is a competition, and every student has done extremely well to get to the interview stage. And by being interviewed, they have gained access to the Livery and to the wealth of expertise held by its members: each candidate is offered the opportunity to become a Freeman, with all fees waived for the first three years. Anyone is welcome to contact their interviewer or the Clerk with a query that members will go to great lengths to answer. I was delighted that Emma was awarded a Bursary, and I look forward to following her career.

IPM Sheila Turner

Bursary winner Maddy Oakley was presented with her Bursary Certificate by Admiral Sir Trevor Soar on Friday 17th January 2020 at our Winter Dinner in Trinity House. She had won the *Rolf Noskwith* Bursary in 2018; but a full career had kept her away until then. She hails from Swanwick in Derbyshire; and during her studies she developed skills in a range of design disciplines. However, it was not until her final undergraduate year that she chose to specialise in knitting design. Her design work focuses around the development of traditional machine knitting techniques, experimenting with technical variables to push traditional methods in an innovative and modern direction to create functional products with well-considered aesthetics. She went on to enrol in a Fashion & Textiles Masters course – no wonder she's been busy !!



Some of Emma's Samples

Our Education Committee



Heather Acketts with her Award Certificate

Heather Acketts – a Brighton University student – applied for consideration with an unusual project which looked to explore the western deserts of the USA and investigate how the culture and landscapes can be interpreted successfully into a fashionable knitwear collection. Exploring nomadic lifestyles, as well as the romanticised portrayal of cowboys in classic and ‘spaghetti’ westerns, the project also looked to study social aspects of life in the desert, from costume to architecture. Her project married the juxtaposition of the man-made with the organic forms of the desert to create an original collection of knitted textiles. An analysis of local fibres and processes used in the historic making of textiles in that location inspired the use of knitting techniques with British wool and felting processes to produce her collection. The use of British wool not only supports the British wool industry but also allowed her collection to fit within a definition of sustainability. Her project approached a number of angles to look at the subject from a broad point of view. Exploratory trips including going to Kew

Gardens to study the fauna of the North American deserts, as well as to the Natural History Museum to visit their ‘Restless Surface’ exhibition to see how deserts are created and to the V&A archives to view Western clothing at first hand. As her collection is intended to sell commercially, her knitwear is being designed to position within a high-end market, targeting the premium segment of urban women, as this consumer is said to be sophisticated, but with a playful, experimental sense of style and less trend orientated, so she is more likely to want to buy and wear responsibly-sourced fashion.



Some of Heather's Samples



Her Brighton Workshop

Our National Theatre Trainee Awards



“Pope Joan” from Top Girls ...

We continue to sponsor trainees at The National Theatre; and our recent candidate – Emma Mackenzie – joined the National Theatre’s Textile Studio for a six-month traineeship in 2019, working with their textile artists to gain skills in a large variety of materials and associated tools. She also learned how to dye costumes to specific colours and to create costumes to fit a particular character, including how to manipulate textile surfaces to produce a variety of effects – e.g. a leather look. Our grant helped Emma purchase the necessary tools (such as brushes and protective clothing) and other items such as books on colour theory and textiles, all of which will help her to pursue her chosen career.

Emma worked on costumes for shows in all three NT theatres, including *Top Girls*, *Peter Gynt* and *Mr Gum and the Dancing Bear*. She also made the giant food costumes which featured in the trailer, and undertook short-term placements at a film studio and at the Royal Opera House. When Emma’s traineeship finished, she immediately got a contract with a film studio, and is currently working on the latest Marvel film. Like our own scheme, the NT provides Emma with a mentor to help her with her career as she progresses through the costume industry.

We are now supporting the NT’s latest trainee – Andrea Greenwood – and hope to report on her progress in due course.



... and the Dancing Bear from Mr Gum

An Update on our Shima Seiki Scheme

This year has seen the collaboration between the Framework Knitters, the Drapers Company and Shima Seiki Europe develop further, with twelve Students from six different universities attending training at Shima Seiki Europe's Head Office based in Castle Donington, Derbyshire. Each student received two weeks expert training on both the use of the Apex Design System for the development of stitches/structures/jacquards in 2D and 3D formats as well as training on programming on and the use of the latest Shima Seiki Knitting Machines.

Both training courses – Basic Design and Basic Knit – followed the same criteria and format as delivered to Shima Seiki industrial and retail customers, thus ensuring that each student received the necessary skills to interest any prospective employer. Third-year students from De Montfort, Derby, Heriot-Watt, Huddersfield, Leeds and Nottingham Trent Universities were selected by their course leaders to receive the training.

Richard Webster – Managing Director Shima Seiki Europe – said 'it is a great project for the company to be involved with. The opportunity to enhance student techniques by enabling them to learn and work on the latest Shima Seiki technology helps to provide the industry with more skilled and employment-ready students graduating from university. This project would not have been possible without the support and joint funding from the above three sponsors'.



Joining PM George Turner were Katie Reynolds & Amy Cross from Leeds, Jodine Allum & Echoe Moyers from Huddersfield, and Christina Swift & Luke Orros (not forgetting Harvey, his Guide Dog) from Derby.

Also on the course were Steven Noble & Rachel Gormley from Heriot-Watt, William Hector & Lucia Ingels from De Montfort, and Lottie Plimmer & Abigail Warren from Nottingham Trent.

Liveryman Humphrey Barrett



With James Whitehouse – Shima Seiki Europe, and George Turner & Humphrey Barrett – Framework Knitters – are students Abigail Warren, Lottie Plimmer, William Hector, Rachel Gormley, Lucia Ingels, Steven Noble, Christina Swift, Jodine Allum, Luke Orros, Amy Cross, Katie Reynolds and Echoe Moyers

Another Military Connection: The Framework Knitters team up with the RAF Air Cadets

On Saturday 16th November 2019, Under Warden Julian Ellis was a guest at the Air Cadets dinner, which included a ceremony linking the Framework Knitters with the South & East Midlands Wing of the RAF Air Training Corps. Julian's host was Wing Commander Andy Pass, and a highlight of the evening was the opportunity to make the presentation of our first Award to an outstanding member of the Wing. On this occasion, it was presented to Flight Lieutenant Jackie Lawrence, currently serving her second post with the Rutland Squadron as Officer Commanding. In addition to that very busy rôle, Jackie also undertakes secondary rôles on the Wing Cadet Training Team for both Instructional Technique and First Aid training. Outside the RAF Air Cadet 'world', Jackie also volunteers as a First Responder across the county of Rutland.

Jackie began her career with the Air Training Corps in 1986 at 1015 (Horsham) Squadron as a Civilian Instructor, commissioning into the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve (Training) Branch in 1987. Since her appointment she has served on many squadrons, formerly as a Squadron Officer, following that as Officer Commanding of three units. She has also served as a Wing Staff Officer undertaking the Sports Officer rôle within Sussex Wing. Over the past thirty-one years she has, through her own infectious enthusiasm and drive, instilled a high degree of motivation, self-confidence and belief into thousands of young men and women. During this long and selfless career she has supported and delivered the cadet experience through 31 UK and overseas camps as well as the International Air Cadet Exchange. Jackie has also been a key figure in Air Cadet netball and hockey, being a regional selector for both London & Southeast and North Regions, in addition to being a Corps selector between 1994 and 2002. She was awarded a Licentiate'ship in Youth Leadership and Training through the Cadet Vocational Qualifications and Awards body in 2006; and in 2008 she used her skills and vast experience to support Headquarters Air Cadets with stream analysis, to help shape the organisation for the future. Flight Lieutenant Lawrence's main focus throughout her long and distinguished career has been the delivery of the key cadet experience in citizenship and leadership. She is a keen First Aid Instructor/Assessor and Duke of Edinburgh's Award Assessor. She has provided first-rate First Aid training to over six hundred cadets and numerous staff from both the Air Training Corps and the Combined Cadet Force at Uppingham School. She has also organised and assessed Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions for sixty cadets in the last two years alone. She has also been recognised by the community, receiving a Rutland Radio unsung hero award in 2011, HM Lord Lieutenant's Rutland Certificate of Meritorious Service in July 2012 and a Defence Council Letter of Appreciation in 2017.



**Presentation of
the Shield**

Finally, to cement our mutual relationship, Julian was presented with a copy of the ATC Shield by Wing Commander Andy Pass, with that shield now residing – along with other military regalia – in Corah Hall.



**Under Warden
Julian Ellis with
Flight Lieutenant
Jackie Lawrence**



**The Shield, now in
Corah Hall**

The Silent Ceremony – 8th November 2019



The Silent Ceremony is the occasion upon which the new Lord Mayor of London is sworn into office, and it takes place on the Friday before the second Sunday in November (thus the day before the Lord Mayor's Show). As the name implies, the actions are performed in total silence apart from the swearing of the oath and a short declaration by the incoming Lord Mayor.

Julia and I attended the Silent Ceremony in Guildhall which is where the new Lord Mayor – Alderman William Russell – was sworn in. Apart from a short declaration by the new Lord Mayor, the ceremony is completely silent but full of pageantry witnessed by many of the City of London's dignitaries. The event is always a popular one, and the Hall was filled to capacity.

Master Ian Grundy

A rather noisier Dinner – later that evening

As a precursor to taking part in The Lord Mayor's Show the following day, the future participants (and some camp followers) joined Julia & me for an evening of good food and camaraderie in a private room at the Côte Brasserie near St. Paul's Cathedral.

Perhaps fortunately, no photographs of us are available – but here are some pictures of the restaurant anyway !!

Master Ian Grundy



Outside ...

... and Inside.

At last – The Lord Mayor's Show

On Saturday 9th September, 41 of us convened at what felt like the crack of dawn after an excellent meal arranged by our Master for participants the night before, as reported above. We congregated in Aldersgate Street, and spent some time admiring the other floats as we prepared to march with our own in the parade to welcome the newly-elected Lord Mayor – Alderman William Russell (London's 692nd Lord Mayor) of the Bread Street Ward. In an astonishing – almost unbelievable – break with tradition, it wasn't pouring with rain when we set off, although the umbrellas we were provided with proved useful later on when it did start to rain. We donned our attractive red tabards with wrist warmers (knitted, obviously, courtesy of PM George Turner) and were ready for the off. We were accompanied by two members of our Affiliations – the Leicestershire & Derbyshire Yeomanry and RAF Air Cadets.

Our amazing float, which we have used previously, had been brought down on a trailer the night before by Rob l'Anson and Jonathan Pears. Despite there being a framework knitting machine (borrowed from the Ruddington Museum) on board our float, there was room for "William Lee and his wife", aka Graham and Sharon Smith.



"Mr. & Mrs. William Lee"

William Lee – who is accredited with inventing the first framework-knitting machine – and his wife are depicted on our Coat of Arms. Lee was a curate at Calverton, and we have it on good authority that he developed the machine because a woman whom he was courting showed more interest in knitting than in him. Graham and Sharon both looked very fetching in their traditional garb (and were very stoic, given how cold they must have been).

Two of our very own award winners were also on board: Heather Ward, who received a Bursary from us and studied at Nottingham Trent University, and James Whitehouse, a technician at Shima Seiki, who benefited from a 'Tools Award' from our Education fund.

As we were near the front of the procession, we set off in record time. The atmosphere was very vibrant, with 'high fives' being the order of the day, particularly amongst the younger members lining the streets. We even featured a couple of times on the BBC TV broadcast.

We had a welcome – though some felt rather a lengthy – break halfway round, where we consumed a packed lunch. On the way back, we were delighted to see our very own PM Liz Green in the Lord Mayor's Stand taking part in one of her final duties as Sheriff of the City of London as we paraded past, all waving vigorously. Everyone agreed the three-mile walk had been great fun and had helped to raise the profile of our Company. We were very grateful to Assistant Jonathan Pears for his painstaking organisation of the day, and to Rob for his amazing work on the original conversion of the float (from a Kirby & West milk float, no less), for maintaining it and for driving it all the way down from Leicester on a trailer and back again. We wouldn't have had a float if it wasn't for him.

Assistant Claire Bethel



Our Float sets off in the Parade



The Master & Mistress Are Ready for the Off



Our Full Team & Friends

And after the Lord Mayor's Show?

A Year in the Life of a Sheriff

How does one begin to summarise a year in office? With the first contested election in seven years, time was tight to formulate our plans with seemingly endless 'to do lists' – for Liz this involved organising a Coat of Arms and both of us had to quickly decide on a design for our Shrieval Badge and Chain, as well as completing the many guest lists that were sent to us, both from Guildhall and from the Old Bailey!

Before we took office we were firmly told about the importance of protocol and City expectations. Thankfully (to the best of our knowledge) we avoided any major faux pas! It was daunting at first – particularly when we were told that taking our briefing notes was not allowed. The Mayoral team of first Charles & Samantha Bowman, and then Peter & Lindy Estlin, were very inclusive, sharing many happy personal moments with us. In August we were delighted to have the opportunity to spend a weekend with Peter & Lindy and their children at Dorneywood – a rare exercise of a little-known Mayoral privilege.

The four of us (not forgetting Vincent & Amanda's Labrador – India) lived in the Old Bailey during the week, returning home when we could at weekends. Vincent managed to pop into his office most days, Amanda cooked for the homeless charity Glass Door twice a week, Peter managed to fit work around the key events and Liz resorted to weekend meetings, and emails whenever possible.

With such a varied rôle, to pick a highlight is, as no doubt all Past Sheriffs would agree, almost impossible. While events were largely held within the Square Mile, Vincent accompanied the Lord Mayor to India (returning early on the morning of the Sheriffs' Ball) and both Vincent and Liz joined the Lord Mayor in Manchester and Sheffield. On a dry July day we were delighted to be joined by members of the Light Cavalry, the City of London Mounted Police and a large group of volunteers as we rode around the City visiting as many Livery Halls as possible, raising funds along the way for the Sheriffs' & Recorder's Fund. Our other fundraising involved what we think was the first ever evening of social 'Bridge at the Bailey' which was held in the Judges' Dining Room. In the midst of all the usual Shrieval activity, we took over forty groups of volunteers, Livery Companies and others on tours of the Old Bailey.

We arranged the refurbishment of the downstairs waiting room and lavatory in the Lord Mayor's Entrance and, through the charity *Koestler Arts*, installed five paintings by current offenders on the walls, which have been much admired. A Sheriffs' Chess Challenge for London schools was an innovation, with the finals held in the Old Bailey; and together with *Partnership for Young London* we organised a debate for young people who travelled to Court 1 from across the UK, with HHJ Sarah Munro facilitating. Vincent and Liz both hosted business-focused dinners in the Bailey, with themes including India business engagement, UK-Irish financial services co-operation, Land and Investment, and opportunities for future business with Wales. They hosted the (now annual) receptions for the Central London Magistrates and the High Sheriffs of England & Wales, and facilitated a reception hosted by the Mansion House Scholarship Scheme.

Our visits are too numerous to list but include the Animal Reception Centre at Heathrow, three prisons, a children's hospice and mental health and veterans charities, as well as speaking on two diversity panels and attending the Ahmadiyya Muslim Elders Walk for Peace in Milton Keynes. The fourth Sheriffs' Ball was a great success, with dancing throughout the evening, and a good sum was raised for The Lord Mayor's Appeal.

The Old Bailey saw a complete change of secretarial support and the introduction of an Events Manager to facilitate business and charity events. We were very well looked after by Sean & Nick, Gavin & Bob – the catering and security teams – and the Judges were very welcoming to our guests, and followed up discussions. They helped with events, and we enjoyed a number of social visits with them. Over thirty of our lunch guests came by way of recommendation from the Lord Lieutenant of Greater London: representatives of London communities working to prevent young people joining gangs, tackling drug use and knife crime.

On a lighter note, expecting the Lady Mayoress, Liz and Amanda to both choreograph and perform to ABBA's *Mamma Mia* was beyond the call of duty! They somehow pulled it off, but the video is strictly off-limits. Whilst seemingly 'eating beef and lamb for England' we thought we understood the quirks of individual livery companies – but nothing quite prepared us for the Glasgow in London Dinner. Skipping around Haberdashers' Hall to a Scottish jig, followed by a Shrieval duet: just when you think you have mastered all the City rituals, something comes along to prove you wrong.

It was recently said that being Sheriff is not about you but is about the rôle, and how true that is. At the Installation of the new Sheriffs and the Sheriffs' Breakfast, one quickly realises this. While never easy to say '*au revoir*', particularly to those with whom we lived and worked so closely: c'est la vie. Sheriffs cannot change the world (nor even Brexit!), but can try to make a small difference in this most memorable year. We worked hard and had great fun along the way; ever conscious that we would not have been there in the first place were it not for the unfailing support of our mother Livery Companies.

Liveryman Vincent Keaveny and PM The Hon. Liz Green



1



2



3



4



5

KEY:

1. All at the annual Sheep Drive
2. At home with the Lord Mayor
3. Receiving their Warrants
4. Easy Riders
5. Not-so-easy Riders

Opposite: Receiving the FWK Gift of a Visitors Book



Socks for Glass Door London

During our year as sheriffs, Honorary Liveryman Alderman Vincent Keaveny and I were delighted to represent the Framework Knitters and present over 200 pairs of socks to the charity Glass Door London. The charity was chosen because Vincent's wife Amanda has volunteered for them for over nine years by preparing lunch twice a week. The socks were kindly donated by PM George Turner and Liveryman Nick Turner, and were received by Lucy (Chief Operating Officer), Rosie (a volunteer for over twenty years) and Ian (Fundraising Officer). Between 2018 and 2019, Glass Door has moved 202 guests off the streets and into housing; and since 1999 over 5,000 individuals have stayed in their housing. Accommodation is provided during the winter months, but meals are offered all year round. Guests of Glass Door receive a couple of gifts, and Lucy emphasised how delighted they would be to receive something new rather than secondhand. Partner venues for Glass Door, which are mainly churches of a variety of denominations, provide the free loan of their premises and organise volunteer teams. Others provide financial support and arrange special collections during Homelessness Sunday, Christmas and other times of the year.



PM Liz Green

The Service of Remembrance

On Sunday 10th November 2019, and for the second year running, members of the Livery Companies joined a Service of Remembrance at St. Paul's Cathedral together with the Mayoral Party. The Masters and Clerks all sat together for the service, and we then processed down to the Royal Exchange where, along with other civic dignitaries – including the Lord Mayor, members of the Armed Forces, the Master Fruiterer and Master Cook – we laid wreaths in an act of remembrance. There was then a march-past by the HAC and Old Comrades which we watched from below the Mansion House balcony. Afterwards, a number of us went back to Guildhall for a delicious luncheon provided by *The Cook & The Butler*, where it was good to chat to fellow Masters and Consorts in a relaxed atmosphere after a hectic week in London!

Master Ian Grundy



**Master Ian Grundy
with the Master
Cooper and the
Master Distiller**



**The Lord Mayor
at the Royal
Exchange**



Waiting in line

The Gardens at the Wigston Framework Knitters Museum



The museum is housed in a building dating back to the late 17th century; and inside there are eight hand frames for making various hosiery: mitts, gloves, and so on.

When the last Master Hosier died in 1952, the workshop was locked and left, leaving behind a unique record of working life. The museum opens every Sunday, 2.00pm to 5.00pm, March to December; and is located on Bushloe End, Wigston Magna, LE18 2BA.



My wife and I have visited the Wigston Framework Knitters Museum on a few occasions; and in July 2019, as some free time had become available, we just finished opening our garden in time for the National Garden Scheme. The museum is only a few minutes walk away from us, so we encourage our own visitors to go and visit them, which they do.

We decided to join the gardening group after we heard they were looking for volunteers, so on 22nd July 2019 we arrived and were introduced to the group. I have been gardening for just over 70 years, so have a wealth of knowledge which I can bring to the group.

The large garden has struggled with volunteers in the past but now has a settled group of about eight friendly folk led by Jill; and we meet every Monday afternoon between 2.00pm and 4.00pm. We can always do with more volunteers!

During the summer, we had a visit from a coordinator from the National Garden Scheme to see if we were suitable to open with them. Alas not, as some of the paths are too narrow to get a pushchair through: a challenge to sort out.

The plan now is to improve the garden and to invite the National Garden Scheme back next year for an assessment. If successful, the link-up with them should increase the number of visitors. I have been involved in many projects down the years but this has the potential of being one of the best, and I am really excited by it.

Chris Huscroft, volunteer gardener



Our Summer Dinner, 2019



On a warm summer evening on 26th June, members of the Livery and their guests assembled at Barber-Surgeons' Hall for their Summer Dinner at the invitation of the Master, Ian Grundy. The evening started with drinks outside on the lawn and a photograph of the diners. Dinner was served in the Great Hall – a very impressive room with a large bow window, domed ceiling, extensive panelling and dominated by a magnificent painting by Hans Holbein, dated around 1542, of Henry VIII handing the Charter to the Master of the United Company of Barbers and Surgeons in 1540. The Barber Surgeons have had property in the Monkwell Square area of the City since 1440, but previous buildings were ravaged by the Great Fire in 1666, bombs in 1940 and demolition. The present Great Hall was opened in 1969, its design replicating some of the original features of previous halls.

After the Master and his principal guests processed into the hall, Grace was said by our Clerk and a dinner of Smoked Salmon Mousseline, Medallions of Welsh Lamb and Wimbledon Strawberries was served with suitable accompanying wines. The Master took wine with the new Liverymen Ann Horsfield, John Mawer and Alderman & Sheriff Vincent Keaveny. As a liveryman of the Framework Knitters, the Company is looking forward to supporting Vincent in his bid for the office of Lord Mayor of the City of London in November 2020.

IPM Sheila Turner presented the Master's Trophy (The David Bryars Award) to Liveryman Trevor Bowmer for services to the Company and the Education Committee, and congratulated him on his return to good health. The Company and their guests raised their glasses for the usual Loyal Toast, and then the Master proposed a toast to The Guests. The Master welcomed PM The Hon. Liz Green, Sheriff – accompanied by Mr. Peter Green – and Alderman and Sheriff Vincent Keaveny & Mrs. Amanda Keaveny. He then welcomed the guest speaker – Sir Laurence Howard KCVO OBE – accompanied by his wife Cris. Sir Laurence has had a very varied career as a doctor, a lecturer in physiology at the University of Leicester, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Rutland, Chairman of the Central Council of Magistrates Court Committees, Board of Prison Visitors at Stocken, Honorary Air Commodore at 504 Squadron, Trustee of Oakham and Uppingham Schools. He was also awarded an OBE for services to Justice, and is a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order. Because the Livery has many links with Leicestershire and Rutland, he was particularly welcomed. Also welcomed were Master Glover Rodney Jagelman, Master Water Conservator Simon Catford, Master International Banker Mark Sismey-Durrant and Wing Commander Andy Pass of the South & East Midlands Wing Air Training Corps, together with their consorts.

Next, the Master told us of his programme since his installation in April 2019. He reported a very enjoyable Livery weekend in Bristol, lunch and an informative trip round the Old Bailey at the invitation of PM and Sheriff Liz Green and Peter Green, a trip to Ironbridge with other current Masters and their consorts, a trip to RAF Museum Hendon at the invitation of the Royal Auxiliary Air Force, and a trip to Salisbury Plain at the invitation of the Royal Yeomanry. The most enjoyable music was provided by Becky Thompson and Philip Mountford, who included a piano duet in their repertoire.

Sir Laurence gave some most interesting insights into his experiences in various areas during his career. Following Sir Laurence's response to the Toast to the Company, the



Master thanked him for his excellent speech and presented him with some Framework Knitters' socks and a book on the History of the Framework Knitters by Liveryman Sheila Mason. He thanked the Clerk to the Company and the Beadle for their help with his year of office, and invited those present to join him for a stirrup cup to conclude the evening.



Liveryman Susan Shield **Sir Laurence Howard**

And our Winter One, 2020



The Band Plays On

Our Master – Ian Grundy – held his Winter Dinner on 17th January at the magnificent Trinity House at Tower Hill. The Corporation of Trinity House deserves particular mention as it is a charity dedicated to safeguarding shipping and seafarers. Originally a Fraternity, it was incorporated by Royal Charter by Henry VIII in 1514. Its headquarters were moved to the current site in the 1790s. Having been almost destroyed by bombing in 1940, the house was reconstructed and opened in 1953. HRH The Duke of Edinburgh was Master for 42 years.

After a splendid champagne reception we awaited our Master and his guests in the Library. Our Clerk said Grace, and the company toasted Natalie and Richard Grundy (Ian and Julia's children) who had been made Freeman of the Company. During dinner, the quintet *Elysium Brass* played a selection of nautical music, including the rousing "*What shall we do with the drunken sailor?*", to which we all sang along !!

PM George Turner – Chairman of the Education Committee – presented a Bursary Certificate to Maddy Oakley who gained a First in her MA from Derby Lonsdale University. Colonel Robert Boyle then announced the winners of the Master's Affiliation Award from E (Leicestershire and Derbyshire Yeomanry) Squadron of the Royal Yeomanry – Corporals Mathew Mensak and Susan Joyce.

Our Master awarded the David Bryars Trophy to Jonathan Pears, who serves on the Education Committee, ran a stall at The Big Curry Lunch at the Guildhall and went to great lengths to transport the Master's chair to the October Banquet. He was also responsible for organising our participation in last year's Lord Mayor's Show.

Sheila Turner – our Immediate Past Master – then proposed a Toast to The Master. She praised him for attending so many events during his year, having visited 39 Livery Halls and taken a vintage bus to The Tower to be *Jailed & Bailed*. The Bristol weekend was a great success, as was his visit to Salisbury Plain. The Master and Julia took the Cottage Homes residents to Normanton Park and hosted the Christmas lunch in Corah Hall. Sheila finished by mentioning that her father – PM Brian Smith – had attended the dinners during her and Ian's year, despite his ill health, although very sadly passing away last December.

The Principal Guest – Admiral Sir Trevor Soar – proposed the Toast to The Company. He thanked Trinity House staff and the caterers for the excellent dinner and *Elysium Brass* for the entertainment. After giving a brief outline of Trinity House's history, he recounted coincidences between his and Ian's lives. Both were members of The City Livery Yacht Club, and had attended the same school in Long Eaton. Sir Trevor finished by stressing the importance of the maritime industry, given that 95% of our imports arrive by sea, and emphasised the need for continued investment in our Royal Navy.



Sir Trevor Soar

Our Master thanked Sir Trevor, presenting him with the Framework Knitters' History book and the customary socks. He also acknowledged his work with the British Maritime Security Vessel Protection Services. Ian also thanked Sheila, and paid tribute to Brian Smith, who will be very sadly missed by the Company.

Ian praised our Clerk – Shaun Mackaness and Mary – for their invaluable organisation of the dinner and throughout the year, also congratulating our Beadle – Jamie Wallis – for ensuring the smooth running of every evening.

In conclusion, Ian thanked us all for our support during the year and then presented a bouquet to Julia in appreciation of her wonderful help; but before inviting us to join them in a stirrup cup, Ian wished the Master-Elect – Tony Jarvis – and his wife Mary every success for their forthcoming year, adding congratulations to Julian Ellis on his election to Upper Warden and Liz Fox on her promotion to Under Warden – appointments to be implemented when we can next meet as a Court.



... while the Clerk conducts our singing

Liveryman Helen Woolfe

The David Bryars Awards

Each year, the Master has the opportunity to bestow the prestigious David Bryars Award to a Liveryman who has given outstanding service to our Company. Below, we celebrate the winners in 2019 & 2020.

Trevor Bowmer – 2019



When I was asked who I would like to receive the David Bryars award in my year as Master, one name came immediately to mind – Trevor Bowmer. Trevor worked tirelessly for the Education Committee as the administrator, and I think not many in the Livery understand how much work that entailed. He organised the meetings, sent out the Agenda and took the Minutes. Then, each year his workload spiked as the Bursary Award process began. Trevor had to contact over 20 universities and colleges to invite them to nominate candidates for one of our awards. This was challenging because the tutors at those institutions move around, meaning there is detective work to be done at the outset. It is interesting to see one tutor move and pop up at a different college. Trevor then sent each college an application pack and waited for the applications to roll in: often a prompt was needed! He checked the applications and prepared a memory stick with all the applications on for each member of the Education Committee. Then came the really fun part! At the committee meeting in October, members let Trevor know their availability to attend interviews. There are approximately 20 members of the Committee and 17 institutions to visit in groups of 3-5. His naval background helped with this planning part, and within a week Trevor would have a calendar of visits ready and arranged. And he did it all with a smile and a twinkle in his eye. In the New Year, Trevor then had the wonderful job of sending out letters and cheques to the winners of our awards. I know he received a number of emails in return from the grateful students. The Education Committee is lucky to have had him as administrator, and his friendship with Chairman PM George Turner has even survived this working arrangement. I was delighted to present Trevor with the Award last year, and wish him all the best in his retirement now that he has passed the rôle over.

IPM Sheila Turner

Jonathan Pears – 2020



This year's recipient of The David Bryars Award is Assistant Jonathan Pears.

Jonathan is a valued member of the Education Committee and is very active both interviewing Bursary & Award candidates and mentoring winners in their career development. In addition, he has been a key player in designing and shaping our 'Dream Machine' electric float entry in the Lord Mayor's Show over the past few years which, of course, is being repeated this year with Jonathan once again taking the helm with the organisation!

The Company's participation with a stall at the Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch at Guildhall in recent years has been hugely successful, culminating with a presentation of baby cashmere clothes to Prince Harry (courtesy of Johnston's of Elgin) in 2019. Year on year, Jonathan has sourced goods to sell and organised our presence on the day, resulting in a steady increase in takings for donating to the various Big Curry Lunch charities.

Last, but by no means least, I was very appreciative when Jonathan volunteered his time and muscle power to transport the 'Master's Chair' from Oadby to Guildhall for our banquet last October. Given its size and weight, Jonathan designed and built a bespoke wheeled trolley to facilitate ease of movement to and from the transportation vehicle – clearly influenced by our much larger 'Dream Machine'.

Coupled with his infectious flair and conscientious contributions to the Court, Jonathan is a very worthy winner of the 2020 Award.

Master Ian Grundy

Brian Smith, OBE, DL 30th June 1935 to 5th December 2019

Brian was born in Oadby, Leicester to Harold and Kathleen: he had an elder sister – Suzanne, and a younger brother – John. He was educated at Oakham School from 1943 to 1954, where he excelled at all sports and was captain of the cricket, rugby and hockey teams and oversaw undefeated teams in all sports in his final year. He maintained a deep affection for Oakham School and, along with his brother helped to fund the refurbishment of the school chapel and then recently, after the school cricket pavilion was destroyed by fire, Brian funded a new modern pavilion that bears his name and which was opened in June 2014 by former England captain Mike Gatting.

Attending Cambridge University to read Natural Sciences between 1954 and 1957, he maintained his love of sport, captaining the Cambridge 2nd XV to a then record win over Oxford. His love of sport continued after university, and he played centre for Leicester Tigers from 1954 to 1960, scoring 19 tries. His rugby continued at Stoneygate, where he was Club captain for three seasons between 1962 and 1965. He also helped off the field, working to move Stoneygate to a new home in Scraptoft in 1966. He retired from rugby in 1967, but continued to referee games and also served as Club President in 1985. On the cricket front, he played for the Leicestershire County Cricket Club 2nd XI and for the Leicestershire Gentlemen, the Free Foresters and Leicester Ivanhoe. He was President of Leicestershire from 1993 to 2003, following the tradition of his grandfather – Frank – who was Chairman of the Club. Brian was appointed an Honorary Life Patron of the club. He was also a member of the MCC.

After university, Brian went on a tour of the dairy industry in the United States before coming home and joining the family firm of Kirby & West in 1957. Along with his sister and brother they ran it for many years, at different times supplying other dairies in Kettering and Northampton, purchasing other businesses in Peterborough and Walsall, as well as consolidating the Leicester company by the addition of smaller organisations and then bringing in the Leicester Co-op business. The culmination of this was the design and build of a brand new dairy at Richard III Road, Leicester, which opened in 1980. He undertook work for the national dairy industry and was President of the National Dairymen's Association between 1984 and 1986. He then moved up to be President of the Dairy Trade Federation of England and Wales between 1991 and 1992, a particularly challenging time as the Milk Marketing Board was being disbanded and new milk purchasing regimes were introduced.

He married Jill Osborne, daughter of PM Sir Cyril Osborne, in 1960 in the Crypt at the House of Commons, and went on to have three children – Julia, Sheila and Graham.

It was Sir Cyril who introduced him to the Framework Knitters, and he joined in 1973, moving on to join the Court and eventually to be Master in 2001. During his time he drew up the first set of Ordinances for the Company. After his Master's year he joined his Master's group – New Millennium Masters – where he was an active member. During his time on the Court he also worked alongside PM Michael Turnbull in the rebuilding of ten cottages at the front of the Oadby site, and generously funded the new gates for the site. The redevelopment was ceremonially opened by HRH The Duke of Gloucester on 26th July 2006. Brian was delighted to be able to see his next generation (PM Graham Smith – 2012, PM Sheila Turner – 2018 and PM Ian Grundy – 2019, as well as his niece – PM Liz Green – 2016) take their places as Master of the Company, and he attended all their

events, with his final dinner being at the Guildhall in October last year. He was equally delighted that many of his grandchildren attended the events with him.

Brian was made a “Paul Harris Fellow” for his 50 years of contribution to Rotary International; he received an Honorary MA in Business Administration from De Montfort University in 1998, was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Leicestershire in 1999, and awarded the OBE in 2006. He passed away after a brief illness on 5th December 2019. As was said of him, he was a “larger than life” character who will be missed by many.



Cottage Homes Gates, Oadby

PM Graham Smith

Dates for your diary

Please note that under the current circumstances, all diary items below may be subject to deferment or cancellation.

2020

12th May	Festival of Clergy Support Trust (Sons of the Clergy), St. Paul's Cathedral	The Clerk
17th May	LDY Frezenburg Service & Lunch, Newtown Linford and Welbeck College	The Clerk
13th June	Inter-Livery Golf & Croquet, Southwick	The Clerk
17th June	Brigantes Breakfast at the National Railway Museum, York	See Below
24th June	Election of Sheriffs & Armed Forces Flag-Raising Day, Guildhall	The Clerk
26th June	Summer Dinner, Salters' Hall	The Clerk
27th June	Post-dinner outing to Apsley House & the Wellington Arch	The Social Committee
29th June/1st July	Livery Schools Link Showcase, Guildhall	The Clerk
2nd July	City Beerfest, Guildhall	The Clerk
15th July	Cart Marking Ceremony, Guildhall	The Clerk
9th September	Inter-Livery Tennis, The Queen's Club	The Clerk

11th to 13th September – The Leicester Weekend

11th September	Golf Match & Golf Dinner, Leicestershire Golf Club	Liveryman Adrian Keene
12th September	Morning: Ceremony of the Socks, Wigston Framework Knitters Museum	The Clerk
12th September	Evening: Livery Dinner in St. Martin's House, Leicester	The Clerk
13th September	Annual Church Service, followed by luncheon at the Cottage Homes	The Clerk
18th September	Sheriffs' Ball, Guildhall	The Clerk
27th September	Sheep Drive across Southwark Bridge (London Bridge closed for repairs)	The Clerk
29th September	Election of Lord Mayor	The Clerk
7th October	Musicians' Company Evensong, St. Paul's Cathedral	The Clerk
23rd October	Livery Banquet, Plaisterers' Hall	The Clerk
24th October	Post-banquet outing to The Postal Museum	The Social Committee
13th November	Silent Ceremony for Swearing-in of Lord Mayor	The Clerk
14th November	Lord Mayor's Show	The Clerk
14th December	Brigantes Winter Gathering & AGM at Durham Cathedral	See Below

2021

20th January	Morning: Winter Court & Lunch, Farmers' & Fletchers' Hall	The Clerk
20th January	Evening: Possible outing within London – details to follow	The Social Committee
16th February	Inter-Livery Pancake Races, Guildhall Yard	The Clerk
19th March	United Guilds Service, St. Paul's Cathedral	The Clerk
23rd April	Installation Court & Dinner – venue to be decided	The Clerk
24th April	Post-Installation Outing – venue to be decided	The Social Committee

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.