



Knitter

The Newsletter of the Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters

A Tonic for our new Master



We assembled on Friday 8th April at Apothecaries' Hall to thank PM Julian Ellis for his enjoyable year guiding us back from the Covid pandemic to a more normal way of life and to welcome our new Master and his wife Mary, along with over 100 guests. Grace was said by the Chaplain – the Reverend Jon Tearne – after reminding us of our very fortunate circumstances compared with those of Ukraine. Apothecaries' Hall, rebuilt by 1672, is the oldest in the City and a scheduled Ancient Monument. The Great Hall was magnificent: largely unchanged since the 17th Century, panelled and with large candelabra, where we enjoyed three courses accompanied by appropriate wines. As befits our reputation for being a very friendly Company, there was a high volume of sound during dinner. Our musical entertainment for the evening was provided by pianist Stephanie Mocroft accompanying vocalist Paul Mocroft,

The musical entertainment

who sang three well-known songs, all by Flanders and Swann. *The Slow Train* – mentioning our own Leicestershire town of Kirby Muxloe – *A Song of the Weather*, and *The Hippopotamus Song*, where we lustily joined in the chorus.

Assistant Simon Burrows – Archivist to the Company – proposed the Toast to the Guests and, with the aid of his very extensive knowledge of the Company's past, told us about the history of our Company and its attempts at having and retaining a hall of our own ever since the charter was granted in the 17th century. After several failed attempts thwarted by fire, war and other reasons, we have resorted to visiting other livery companies' halls!! He also pointed out two very old and valuable silver goblets he had brought to the dinner and put on display: the 1656 Baluster Stem Cup (one of only two in existence) and the 1887 Jubilee Loving Cup, both 10 inches high and engraved with Company references.

He then welcomed our official guests. Past Master Baker David Bentley and his wife Jenny (a Framework Knitter liveryman) organise the most enjoyable Brigantes events in the North of England and, notably for a golfer with a previous handicap of two, golf tournaments, which we are sure he will invite our new Master to attend. He also was involved in persuading celebrity Mary Berry to join the Bakers' Livery Company! As a Past Master Baker, the audience would expect to hear about the Great Fire of London in 1666 and its alleged beginnings in a baker's premises, but he confirmed that although the Bakers expressed regret, they would never admit liability. However, as the Bakers' have been dining out on that story for years, he had no reason to disagree. He told us the sad statistics that in that fire, 89 churches were destroyed and 52 livery halls lost, plus many souls left homeless. In 2016 the Bakers, along with a number of other Livery Companies, commemorated the 350th anniversary of the Fire with a series of events including a new organ work and a Dinner Play. In addition to his rôle with the Bakers, David enjoys his involvement with the Brigantes, welcoming many Framework Knitters to the golf tournaments, summer lunches and Christmas events. He also enjoyed his rôle with the Brigantes, welcoming Framework Knitters to the golf tournaments, summer lunches and Christmas events. Other guests included Professor Jane Anderson (Master Apothecary), Mrs. Daphne Cave (Master Glover), Nigel Macdonald (Master Feltmaker), Colonel Charles Richards (Leicestershire and Derbyshire Yeomanry) and Alderman Andrew Marsden – a liveryman of many liveries and the next Non-Aldermanic Sheriff. To conclude, the Master presented socks to David and Jenny, along with a book on the History of our Company. In return, David presented the Master with a loaf of bread in a Baker's bag for his breakfast, cooked that morning in Yorkshire by an artisan bakery.



Steward Susan Shield

A Loaf for our Master



THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FRAMEWORK KNITTERS

2022-23

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New ... New... News !!

We were delighted to admit three student freemen at our April Installation Court, along with another Freeman and new Liveryman Celestine Stafford. Liverymen Stephanie Wright and Susanne Grantham were admitted at our January Court.



Stephanie Wright spent her childhood in Northern Ireland before coming to Cambridge University to study medicine. She became a general practitioner and worked in a practice in Farnborough, Hampshire for 32 years. She became involved with the Livery movement through her late husband – Bill Wright – who was Master Lightmonger in 2013-14. She was attracted to us by reports of the friendly and welcoming nature of the Company. Since retiring, she has volunteered at the local hospice and become a school governor. She is a keen gardener and has completed RHS horticulture courses at Merrist Wood College. She enjoys walking and bird watching. She regrets that she is not a skilled knitter: however, she did return to knitting during the lockdowns, and completed several projects.



Buddy Penfold is Associate Professor at De Montfort University and Subject Lead for Contour and Textiles in the Faculty of Arts, Design and Humanities; specialism in knitwear. After studying Fashion and Textiles at Liverpool Art College, she gained a Royal Society of Arts and Government sponsorship to work at Coats Viyella plc to create innovative and commercially successful knitwear ranges, then became a Buyer for NEXT PLC. Before DMU, Buddy worked as Design Director at Burnley plc, leading the creative development. She has a MEd in diverse teaching methods, worked in DMU's Fashion, Textiles and Knitwear department with both undergraduate and postgraduate groups and has delivered workshops at international institutions to students worldwide. Research interests include achieving diversity within the fashion and design curriculum and teaching practical subjects online.



Celestine Stafford was born in Ripon; and with her father being in the RAF moved around England and also had a spell in the Far East. Trained in hotel management, she began her Human Resources career with Trust House Forte hotels in Rugby where she met her future husband – Nigel – married now for 39 years with two sons – Lawrence and Oliver. She moved into retail HR & Training management with Debenhams PLC, opening a new store in Cambridge before moving to Nottinghamshire, where she joined the NHS and has been Deputy Director of People for a Mental Health Trust in Derbyshire. Semi retired after 20 years NHS service, she has now taken up golf and enjoys cycling, walking and travelling in their touring van and working with Nigel on their allotment. She also supports her local Amateur Dramatics society and will hopefully tread the boards again in the next Christmas panto ... oh yes she will !!



And some Wedding News

After a short Engagement (30+ years!), PM Linda Smith and PM Feltmaker David Bentata tied the knot on 18th January at Hatfield Registry Office. They were allowed 40 guests, so afterwards they had a low-key but rather lovely celebratory lunch with them at a nearby Golf and Country Club.

Congratulations to you both.

From

The



Master

It is a great honour for me to have finally been elected as Master of this wonderful Livery Company. You may remember that two years ago, I was three weeks away from becoming Master, when – as everyone knows – the pandemic hit, causing chaos, suffering and hardship all around.

PM Ian Grundy did a marvellous job in 'holding the fort' for an extra year, and then IPM Julian Ellis took over doing another superb job throughout a difficult period of more lockdowns and uncertainty. I would like to thank them both for their solid support and advice through my unique period as 'Master in Waiting'.

My Installation Dinner, at the atmospheric and historic Apothecaries' Hall, seemed to be enjoyed by all those present; and leading up to the event it was most re-assuring for me to have the calming influence and efficiency of our Gallant Clerk Shaun and his wife Mary to rely on. Shaun is taking a well-earned retirement next year, and he will undoubtedly be a very difficult act to follow.

I joined the Livery in 2007 and was admitted to the Court as an Assistant in 2012. My connection to the Textile industry goes back to my days as a partner in Rowleys, Chartered Accountants, then based in Friar Lane, Leicester. A strong proportion of our clients were linked to the hosiery trade, with the majority situated in the Leicester and Hinckley areas of the county, and I knew several Framework Knitter Liverymen before I was approached to join.

One of the main highlights for me in the year leading up to my becoming Master was attending the Silent Ceremony at Guildhall for the installation of the new Lord Mayor and our own honorary Framework Knitter, Vincent Keaveny. This was followed the next day by walking with Liverymen and guests across the square mile with

our trusty former Kirby and West milk float at the Lord Mayor's Show, and donning our now famous Vincent Keaveny face masks as we passed in front of Mansion House. I do hope Vincent will be able to attend some of our events during the remainder of his year in office, but that will, of course, depend

on how they fit in with his busy work schedule.

One of my main rôles over the last year has been to head up our new Strategic and Vision Committee. This initiative had in a way been forced upon us by the circumstances of Covid-19 and lockdown, but in actual fact this has been a very useful exercise to be involved with. It is hoped that whilst maintaining our cherished traditions, we will continue to be relevant and evolve into a modern, thriving Livery Company over the next ten years.



Master & Mary

This committee will continue under the Chairmanship of IPM Julian Ellis, and you will hopefully be seeing some more useful initiatives over the coming months, backed up by our new website and including more involvement with our Freemen and past Bursary/Award winners.

Our Charitable Foundations – being the Bursary & Awards Scheme and the Oadby Cottage Homes for retired textile workers – have had a particularly tough couple of years owing to all the restrictions due to the pandemic, with both students and residents being in lockdown at potentially defining times of their careers and lives. Nevertheless, we seem to be finally coming out of the gloom and everyone is hoping that things will be fully back to normal in the very near future, despite the horrifying recent events in the Ukraine.

Finally, I would like to thank the Court and our Liverymen for entrusting me to be their Master for the ensuing year. I will certainly try to represent you to the very best of my ability.

Our Bursary & Award Winners continue to flourish

A regular feature to keep you up-to-date with how our winning students are progressing.



A Winning Outfit

MOLLY GREGORY writes: I have always had a deep respect for the craftsmanship and dedication which knitting entails as I would sit for hours when I was young watching my Nan knit. Since starting my undergraduate studies at Kingston University, knitwear has become my specialism with it becoming an integral part of my final collection. I love the heritage aspect of knitwear and the whole process where knit can be used to create your own fabrics, prints and textures. My final collection is inspired by both traditional Welsh dress which is very feminine and the industrial mining heritage of Wales, with knit being used as the medium to explore this. Becoming a recipient of the Framework Knitters Bursary means the world to me as it has allowed me to explore a great variety of yarns from mills across the UK. Additionally, it has allowed for the use of digital printing of fabric alongside the fabric from Melin Tregwynt – a traditional Welsh Mill which produces tapestry.



Molly and some of her samples

When I graduate from University, I plan to work in the British knitwear industry for brands like Pringle of Scotland or Cos, as I love the diversity of outcomes being a knitter allows. The long-term goal is to set up my own small business based in Wales where I will create unique knitwear pieces inspired by my own Welsh heritage. However, in the meantime I would like to gain industry experience before venturing out on my own.

LAUREN ROWELL writes: I'm a student from the University of Brighton, currently in my last year, producing a final collection based on all things happy and joyful, taking inspiration from happy childhood memories and pictures. My samples are fun, colourful, and full of texture and shapes, featuring gingham and the use of elastic to manipulate the structure of the knitting.

After University, I hope to begin my own business and brand, selling happy and joyful clothes! I would also love to work for a knitwear company and really get involved with sampling and the process of making garments, as this is my favourite thing to do.



Lauren with some samples

LISSY HATFIELD, this year's recipient of the Byford Bursary, will graduate from the Royal College of Art in the summer. She is a mixed-media knit designer whose practice subverts knit's traditional traits and application from knitwear.

Collaboration is a core part of Lissy's practice. She believes other disciplines can learn a lot from textiles thinking and 'thinking through making'. She has worked on several interdisciplinary projects, including one with Ertunc Ozcan and MIT embedding light emitting diodes into knitted wearables for medical treatments. Her dissertation, which examined the relationship between knit and architecture, has given her practice a more research focus now. She is exploring if deployable knitted structures can



Some structural ideas

redefine the built environment and give people more autonomy over the spaces they inhabit and proposes knit as a problem-solving tool for architecture. She has created three mini collections: *Trapped*, *Sliced* and *Folded*. All demonstrate pliable structures which could benefit architecture through knitted interchangeable spaces.

She writes: Over the past twenty years, architects have had an increasing interest in the many extraordinary characteristics that knit can offer. From creating tensile structures to enabling curved concrete shells to be created economically using knit as moulds. Many architecture students now learn the fundamentals of knit construction. Against this backdrop, I have recognised how my more sophisticated knit knowledge and innovative skill have a great relevance and are timely for the realm of architecture.



Lissy knitting away

FLORIAN EISELE writes: Coming from Munich, Germany, aged 17, I'm now (3 years later) a highly motivated and enthusiastic Knitwear and Knitted Textiles Designer, graduating from London College of Fashion in June 2022. With my experience of 14 years of ballet – certified by The Royal Academy of Dancing – up to Intermediate, and also playing the Harp, I'm inspired by the body and mind expression connecting to the grandeur and traditional and how we interpret it now – expressing emotions through craft.



Sensual Footwear

After quickly adopting programming skills at a knitwear studio, I then became a knitwear freelancer while continuing my studies, always teaching myself more about the technical details of the future of knitting technology. In addition,

with both ambitions of truly understanding the stitch and how it behaves on the body, I interned at the body-inclusive Brazilian jersey womenswear designer Karoline Vitto to understand more about construction methods and shaping the body, bridging the worlds of knitwear and fashion.

During my Final Major Project I had already collaborated with an MA Menswear 2022 graduate

from Central Saint Martins, together creating six pairs of sensual footwear, demonstrated while walking down the runway show. I now explore clear-mind space through my own perspective, linking it with choreography and collaborating with two dancers from Ballet Rambert.

My ambitions are now to creatively explore more about performance on stage and to become an expert in that aspect of the knitting industry so as to bring my aesthetic perspective to the future of the craft.



Some Examples of Florian's Creative Designs



Florian: a new Freeman

And the latest news from The National Theatre

As most readers will know, the Framework Knitters have been regularly sponsoring trainees – now referred to as apprentices – at The National Theatre since 2014: indeed, we are the only Livery Company currently named as sponsors in each programme !! Apprentices use their grant to, amongst other things, purchase various tools and similar that they will take with them when they finish their apprenticeship and move on to work in their chosen career.

Mickayla Dawes is our current sponsored apprentice. After a two-year tailoring course at Newham College, Mickayla took on a job as an apprentice tailor, making waistcoats. After freelancing for a couple of years, she enrolled with Chelsea College of Art, undertaking a three-year course on textile design.

She gained her apprenticeship with The National Theatre some while ago, but Covid-19 restrictions prevented her from starting until 31st January 2022. Enterprisingly, she took a job with the administration department of Marks & Spencer while waiting to be able to start at the NT !!

She's currently working on costumes for a number of forthcoming shows, including *The Corn is Green*, *The Father* and *The Assassin* and *Jack Absolute Flies Again*. After completing her year-long training assignment, she plans to continue working in the theatre arena, perhaps returning to her freelance career.

We wish her every success.

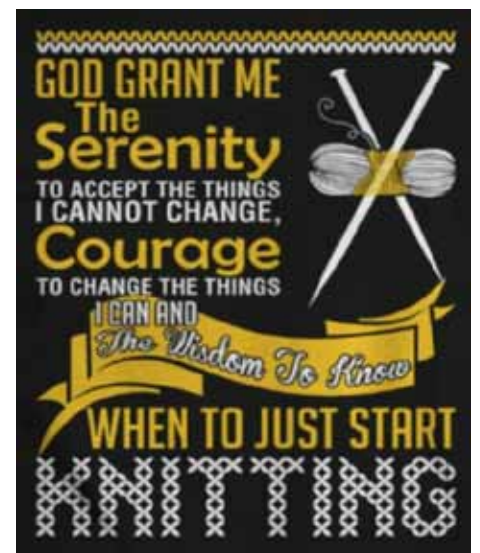


Mickayla at work in the costume department, on a suit for *The Corn is Green*

Odds & Ends

PM Liz Green came across the following homily on Twitter from *UK Hand Knitting*: it made her smile, and we hope it does the same for you .

'The world can feel a difficult place at times, but one thing we knitters and crocheters know is that reaching for our yarn can help us through.'



The Silent Ceremony: A Prelude to The Lord Mayor's Show



Presentation to Vincent

office and – apart from the vow of the incoming Lord Mayor – is held in complete silence.

Following the ceremony we were invited to the Art Gallery at Guildhall to a Presentation of Addresses and Mementos for the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs. In total, 16 presentations were made to the three new incumbents from their assorted Livery Companies and Ward Clubs: these included gifts as diverse as visitors books, sunglasses made from the wool of Herdwick sheep, a velvet upholstered footstool and gold cufflinks. The Framework Knitters presented Vincent and his wife Amanda with scarves emblazoned with their family crest and embroidered socks & stockings for ceremonial use.

It was a truly special occasion that is unlikely to be repeated in our Livery for many years (the last Lord Mayor to come from our ranks was Sir Bracewell Smith in 1948) and one of which I will have very fond memories for a long time. It was a great start to a traditional London weekend, as the following day we took part in the Lord Mayor's Show, as described overleaf.



Our Group

Under Warden Matthew Ellis

And an extract from Vincent's Acceptance Speech

'Almost 33 years ago I arrived in London on a dark and wet Sunday evening as a young Irish law graduate. My plan was to get two or three years of City experience before returning to start my practice in Dublin. As sons often tend to do, I broke my mother's heart a little when it became clear that I would not be returning to Dublin after a spell in London. Today, she is the proudest mother in Ireland! My story is that of countless Londoners down the centuries. I was embraced by this City, given wonderful opportunities and found much personal and professional happiness here. And now my story is stitched in its small way into the wonderful, historic tapestry that is London's great – and continuing – story. I will take office at a moment when this City faces real challenges. Life is returning to our streets and offices but it is not yet clear what the 'new normal' will be. Other financial centres look at the business transacted here with some envy, and with a keen desire to win a share of that from us. We must ensure we retain our global competitiveness. Climate change and social issues can no longer be ignored by company boards as distractions from their corporate objectives and are at the forefront of the business agenda. But the City has faced and overcome challenges in the past, and I have no doubt we will do so again.

My Mayoral theme – 'People and Purpose, Investing in a Better Tomorrow' – will focus on skills, social mobility and deploying finance for social impact. Our City must remain welcoming to talented people from around the world, be that Ireland or India. We cannot, however, ignore the talent here at home: the City must be open to all, irrespective of race, gender, sexual orientation or socio-economic background. We must embrace that talent, as I was embraced, and give them the skills and opportunities to thrive and progress through their careers. ESG – Environmental, Social and Governance – issues now sit at the top of the boardroom agenda. This is not just because that it is the right decision to focus on them, and it is, but investors, employees and customers are driving this change too. Finance will underpin the delivery of much of what the Government wants to achieve at COP26 in Glasgow in November. And finance will increasingly be focused on wider social outcomes too – a theme I will return to in the year ahead. These changes present once in a lifetime opportunities to create and shape new global markets. This was borne out by the issuance of the UK's first Green Gilt last week. London and the UK must be at the centre of these new markets, bringing together all of our skills and experience to make this City the world leader in green and sustainable finance: finance with a positive social impact.

Fellow Liverymen, I would not be here today without the love and support of my wife, Amanda. Amanda has a huge heart, and will be a warm and welcoming hostess in Mansion House in the year ahead. We look forward to sharing the year with our newly minted Shrieval team, Alison and Glen, and Nick and Felicity, working together with our colleagues in Common Council and the Court of Aldermen – and you, ladies and gentlemen, the Livery.'

THE LORD MAYOR'S SHOW

Honorary Liveryman Vincent Keaveny arrives in style



Vincent at St. Paul's Cathedral

Participating in the Lord Mayor's Show is not only a great privilege and enormous fun but we had the added (and dare I use the somewhat overused word?) unprecedented excitement this year of having one of our Livery members being elected as Lord Mayor! Alderman Vincent Keaveny was installed at the Silent Ceremony, attended by some of our very own Livery members, on Friday 12th November as the 693rd Lord Mayor of the City of London – the first Irishman to be elected in recent times. The inevitable cancellation of the Lord Mayor's Show last year owing to the Covid-19 pandemic made the celebrations this year even more special, and there were crowds of people all along

the route this year. In a welcome break with a long-held tradition, and despite (or because of?) our stylish umbrellas being to hand, there was no rain this year and we were delighted to be marching along on a bright November day.

Twenty nine of us met before the procession started and donned our distinctive red tabards and arm sleeves, courtesy of PM George Turner, with the exception of IPM Ian and Julia Grundy who were dressed as William Lee – inventor of the first framework knitting machine – and his wife. They rode in our specially-adapted milk float along with our current Master, taking pride of place at the front, alongside Rob l'Anson – the driver. We were accompanied throughout the day by 11 representatives (officers and cadets) of the Royal Yeomanry, the RAF Air Cadets and Air Training Corps as well as the Croydon Sea Cadets. A knitted version of Vincent Keaveny served as a backdrop to the float. In addition, each of us sported a new feature to mark the occasion: a facemask – nothing to do with pandemic safety for a change, but an image of Vincent to show our support and pride at our links to the incoming Lord Mayor. All the excellent idea of Assistant Jonathan Pears!

As we were near the front of the parade, we set off in good time and marched at what felt like a fair old lick through the City, desperately trying to keep step with the RAF band marching in front of us. The one noticeable difference from the previous event in 2019 was that 'high fives' – the order of the day last time – were banned for obvious reasons, so we contented ourselves with waving at the crowds lining the streets. PM Liz Green was interviewed by the BBC as we



Our Float and Supporters

marched, and was able to explain our connection with the new Lord Mayor, what it had been like to live in the Old Bailey as Non-Aldermanic Sheriff for a year, and to mention our Knit for Community initiative (with a handy sample to illustrate). As we arrived at the Mansion House balcony opposite St. Paul's Cathedral, we donned our Vincent masks as we passed the Lord Mayor, taking him entirely by surprise. He was obviously highly amused to see himself transposed on all of his fellow Framework Knitters – we had a great reaction from all on the balcony!



Our Team

Another new and equally welcome addition this year was Hector – Assistant Simon Burrows' dog – complete with his own knitted scarf, and who evoked many oohs and aahs from the crowd as he marched along and was thought by many to have stolen the show!

We had a fairly long stop for lunch near the Temple Gardens where we were able to refuel and take a breather. Unfortunately, environmental protestors took the opportunity to attempt to disrupt the proceedings by trying to block the procession, which held things up whilst the police intervened. Our lunch break was therefore considerably longer than it should have been and some of us, sadly, had to leave before the procession resumed. But the Show went on and the Lord Mayor was sworn in at the Royal Courts of Justice in the afternoon.

We had a terrific day and were so grateful to Assistant Jonathan Pears for making all the arrangements for the day including the excellent masks and to Rob l'Anson for bringing our specially adapted Kirby & West milk float all the way down from Leicester on a trailer. Sadly, we think that our float has had its last outing and we gather that she is looking forward to her retirement from public life, but we hope that we will find an alternative vehicle for our future participation in the Lord Mayor's Show.



Assistant Claire Bethel

Simon Burrows & Hector

Knitting the Lord Mayor

The knitted version of The Lord Mayor displayed on the float was made for us by the team at STOLL GB Knit Design Centre, in Leicester: Florina, Hannah (Dolden – Buckingham University FWK Award winner) and Jack.

They were given a photo of Vincent that consisted of 256 different colours, then the Stoll knitting software had to interpret these colours and reduce them down to just eight different colours – and hence eight yarns – while still maintaining the image of Vincent's face.

It took over an hour to knit the 6ft x 6ft 'face of Vincent', with each row of knitted loops being produced by two passes of the knit carriage, as the carriage can carry only four yarn feeders at a time.



The Face that launched a Milk Float ??

The Lord Mayor's Platinum Jubilee Big Curry Lunch



‘Vincent’ (aka PM Liz Green) & Amanda Keaveny

to help veterans back into employment.

The ‘tour de force’ behind the FWK stall at the Big Curry Lunch is Court Assistant Jonathan Pears. Jonathan has organised our stall for a number of years, and he fills his car to the brim with a wonderful array of knitted items to sell. We are very grateful to everyone who has kindly donated items, as 100% of the proceeds go to charity. The ‘sales force’ of Susan Shield, Susan Jagleman, Janie Martin and Liz Green, with Master Julian Ellis kindly looking after things when we had a very late lunch! We were ‘instructed’ by Jonathan to be at Guildhall for 9.30am – which was an early start – but as Jonathan had travelled to London the previous evening and had been at Guildhall since 7.00am we couldn’t really complain!



Princess Eugenie admires her gift

Photographs courtesy of Mike Williams

The Lord Mayor’s Big Curry Lunch on Thursday 7th April was initially set up to raise money for veterans via ABF The Soldiers’ Charity, and to date has raised well over £2m. In recent years, charities across the Armed Forces have been included, and funds are raised for the Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund and The Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity as well as ABF The Soldiers’ Charity. A targeted Pain Management Programme via King Edward VII hospital was started a few years ago, and this year another initiative is Life Works – both projects working

Our Master and Clerk were in the Royal receiving line and were introduced to HRH Princess Eugenie who, together with her sister HRH Princess Beatrice, was very happy meeting and chatting to sponsors, Livery representatives, the chefs who had prepared lunch for 1,500 diners, and the various stall holders. We were delighted to be chosen to present gifts to the Princesses, and very grateful to Johnsons of Elgin for donating beautiful blankets for their children as well as scarves for the Princesses. New to me were *Roy's Boys* socks with pictures of 'Bluey' and 'Hey Duggee' – popular characters on CBBC – and they were well received by the Princesses, as well as grandparents buying Easter gifts.



Meet Bluey and Hey Duggee

sorted out some lap blankets for us to display and we sold a couple, with one other person giving our Master a generous donation for our *Knit for Community* project, which will go towards buying wool for some of our knitters.

The final total is not yet known but we should have raised over £1,100. As we wearily headed home around 5.00pm, Jonathan had to drive back to Nottingham before heading back to London the following morning for the Court Meeting and Dinner – what a star!



Our eye-catching stand

The beauty of our stall is the price points: as the diners left the Hall they were 'swept up' by Susan Shield and encouraged towards our stall – and very few were allowed to leave empty handed. We were delighted to have a visit from HM Judges from the Old Bailey, and although they purchased some of the bright socks, whether they will wear them in Court is another matter! PM Sheila Turner had

sorted out some lap blankets for us to display and we sold a couple, with one other person giving our Master a generous donation for our *Knit for Community* project, which will go towards buying wool for some of our knitters.



PM Liz Green

Our Team

The London Canal Museum



The Entrance Hall



And Upstairs



A Diesel Tractor

“Every day’s a schoolday”, as the saying goes.

On a visit to the London Canal Museum on Saturday 9th April, 23 Framework Knitters were surprised and delighted to discover that McVitie’s biscuits and ice cream were brought to our forebears thanks to the network of canals that criss-crossed England, linking Birmingham to London and then the English Channel via the Thames. And even more surprised to find Jaffa Cakes awaiting their arrival along with tea and coffee!



Terrace View

The London Canal Museum sits on ice wells – constructed by Swiss entrepreneur Carlo Gatti – who came to London and established an ice importation and ice cream manufacturing business long before the advent of mechanical refrigeration. Blocks of ice were transported from Norway up the Thames then, via the Limehouse Basin, through the Regent’s Canal to Kings Cross. Gatti made a fortune from selling ice and mass-producing ice cream, hitherto a luxury item previously savoured by only the wealthy – and even then in a somewhat coarser form than the excellent treats which we have come to love. The Grand Union Canal meets the Regent’s Canal at Paddington, thus facilitating transport by water from the English Channel all the way



Learning the history



All types of canal boats

still cool high-voltage cables, thus playing a continuing rôle in power resilience. Although most of the narrowboats sailing the Grand Union and Regent's Canals are now used for leisure or tourism, even today some of the traffic is commercial. Inland Waterways remain an effective means of transporting very fragile goods that would not weather a road or railway journey well; and so even today, Wedgwood still distributes its pottery via the canal system in order to avoid breakages.

The narrowboats were traditionally towed by dray horses until the Second World War. Thereafter, traction was mainly by specially-designed diesel tractors. These vehicles, despite being mechanically simple, took six weeks of tuition to manage before drivers were licensed to drive them. The easy bit was learning how to switch them on and off: the harder bit was mastering the fine art of driving along the narrow tow paths without ending up driving off the edge and getting a soaking – a not completely unknown occurrence!

In the past 20 years there has been renewed interest in our canal system and its restoration, which has been largely led by volunteers. The London Canal Museum is one of the fruits of that endeavour, along with the cleaning of canals and tidying up of towpaths, so that future generations can enjoy exploring a valuable aspect of our industrial heritage.

After we were introduced to the museum by volunteer guide Alette, whose informative 20-minute talk (including answering enthusiastic questions from some of our members), we were free to roam around the two floors of the museum and even wander out on to the terrace overlooking the canal.

To conclude, we strolled five minutes to nearby *The Thornhill Arms*, a traditional pub where host Ricki welcomed us to our tables and provided us with ample supplies of drinks and food.

to the North. This network also enabled huge food factories to be established on its banks, henceforth bringing household favourites such as McVitie's Jaffa Cakes (first produced in 1927) to the nation.

Less well known is that the canals also brought coal to London to fire our great power stations. The waters of the canals



The Thornhill Arms



Liveryman Simon McIlwaine

The Bar

A Post-Court Luncheon

For the first time in many years, the January Court meeting was followed by Lunch, rather than Dinner, with some seventy Liverymen and their guests in attendance at Cutlers' Hall on 21st January.

It was my first visit to the Hall for some years, and I was struck again by the beauty of the ivory on display, but also how we would not countenance now the hunting and slaughter of so many elephants (and other animals) to provide knife handles (not forgetting piano keys).

Lunch was of the usual high standard; and the Master took wine with two new Liverymen – Professor Buddy Penfold and Mrs. Stephanie Wright – and two new Freeman – Mrs. Celestine Stafford and Mrs. Susie Grantham. A Bursary Award was presented to Miss Jessica Game, followed by the Master's Affiliated Award to 'E' (LDY) Sqn Royal Yeomanry, with the citations to Sgt. Oliver Caven and Sgt. Jason Edwards read by Col. Bertie Boyle.

Finally, the Master presented his own Award – the David Bryars' Award – to Past Master Liz Green for all that she had done in the knitting of squares to make blankets, from concept to implementation to continuing project. Already 58,000 squares, knitted by 650 people, have been turned into 503 blankets and 461 lap blankets. The initiative has garnered wide publicity for the Framework Knitters' Company, not least on the BBC: Liz was interviewed on the day of the Lord Mayor's Parade in November last year.

The Guest Speaker at the Lunch was Professor Dame Elizabeth Fradd – a Past Master Needlemaker – who has had a distinguished career in Nursing. In introducing Dame Elizabeth, PM George Turner drew attention to the fact that the Needlemakers' Company and the Framework Knitters' Company are the only remaining City Livery Companies that have Civil Charters granted by Oliver Cromwell. Dame Elizabeth then capped this by reminding us that knitting would not have got as far as it has without the

prowess of the Needlemakers, as indeed would not the medical profession either.

The January Lunch was the last formal meal over which our then Master – Julian Ellis – would preside, and George Turner gave a quick summary of the Master's year, which had not been unaffected by the pandemic. He commended the Master's diary (on our website), which gives details of all the events attended and hosted, some of which were a break with tradition. The January Lunch was one of them; and the Master's 'last meal' was certainly one to remember.



Jessica Game



PM Liz Green



Sgt. Jason Edwards



Sgt. Oliver Caven

Upper Warden Liz Fox

A Fun Evening with The Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards



Matthew receives his prize

WCMPC. The meal served to the 85 diners in the Great Hall was absolutely delicious and accompanied by some equally excellent wines, but it wasn't long before we got down to the main event of the evening – a card competition called 'Swedish Pursuit' – and we were split into groups of five, each group containing a Liveryman from the WCMPC to guide us through the rules.

As a family we often sit down and play cards, and one of our favourites is UNO, Nettie and I realised to our delight that Swedish Pursuit is based very much on UNO. After ten rounds the top ten players were then called up to play out a final three legs.

Just as it does, playing with my children, my competitive streak kicked in and I managed to make it to the last ten and finally finished second overall, losing out to Ian Michel – the Renter Warden of the Curriers. We can almost claim third place too!! Rodney Jagelman – the husband of our very own Court Assistant Susan – came third in his capacity as Junior Warden of the Actuaries.

It was a splendid evening, and I can highly recommend it to anybody lucky enough to be in that position.

On 31st January The Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards (WCMPC) held their annual Dinner and Fun Card Games evening for the Under, Renter & Junior Wardens of all companies – these are people that will be Master of their company sometime during 2024. The evening had been highly recommended by last year's Under Warden as an ideal relaxed opportunity to meet your peers and make new friends on your path up the Livery ladder, so I booked tickets for Nettie and me.



Drapers' Hall

The evening was held in Drapers' Hall – one of the most stunning of London's Livery Halls – and we were immediately made very welcome by the Master and Wardens of the



A Winning Hand ??

Brigantes News and Updates

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. 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.

PM Framework Knitter Sheila Turner is a Member of the Brigantes Committee, and is on the team organising the 2022 Brigantes Breakfast in Blackpool.



In Chester Cathedral



The Last Supper, by Peter Barnes

13th-century Monks' Refectory for an early evening dinner in the presence of Dr. Tim Stratford – Dean of Chester Cathedral – who gave a brief welcome and said Grace.

At 7.30pm, Brigantians joined the audience of around 1,000 in the Nave for the annual Christmas Concert – a magnificent performance of festive music by the Cathedral Choir, interspersed by communal carols.

While visiting the Cathedral we were able to marvel at the modern depiction of Leonardo

2021 Brigantes Winter Gathering – Chester

The 2021 Brigantes Winter Gathering was held on Saturday 11th December 2021 in Chester Cathedral, starting in mid-afternoon.

The proceedings opened with the AGM in the Chapter House, brought to order by Tribal Chieftain Adrian Waddingham CBE (Past Sheriff, PM Actuary, Haberdasher) in the Chair.

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), Keith Houliston (Baker, Yorkshire) and over 40 Brigantians.

Dr. Mike Howse CBE (Engineer, Yorkshire) retired from the Committee and received grateful appreciation for his considerable contributions. Eur. Ing. Richard Groome (Past Master Engineer, Shropshire) was elected to the Committee as Mike's successor.

Following the AGM, and with the number swelled to 140 including several Framework Knitters, Brigantians enjoyed a Reception in the Cathedral Cloisters before moving into the

di Vinci's *The Last Supper* in the form of a sculpture of Jesus and his twelve disciples in mosaic. This fascinating work by Peter Barnes is made from clay covered by over 50,000 black and white computer keyboard keys.

Brigantes Golf – Royal Liverpool

The Framework Knitters, including our Master – Tony Jarvis – will be out in force on Wednesday 27th April 2022, playing over the British Open Championship Links of Royal Liverpool at Hoylake. Last year, at Ganton (near Scarborough), the FWKs performed outstandingly well, winning the lion's share of the prizes.

With dinner in the Clubhouse the night before, the tee reserved at nearby Caldy (an Open Qualifying Course) the day after, and a trip into Liverpool for non-golfers, it will be another fine Brigantian occasion.



An Early Dinner



The Christmas Concert

The day will start with the Brigantes Lecture, given this year by TV presenter, entertainer and Liveryman Johnny Ball – 'A History of Blackpool Comedy'.

Lunch is in the Tower Ballroom, with Livery Masters processing in and musical entertainment that includes dancers from *Strictly Come Dancing*.

For those able to delay their departure, private trips to the top of The Tower have been arranged from 5.00pm.

For more details, including two recommended hotels, please contact Fiona Robinson – the Brigantes Administrator – at livery@brigantes.org.uk

Brigantes Breakfast – The Tower Ballroom, Blackpool

On 30th June 2022, Brigantians are at The Tower Ballroom, Blackpool, for the Brigantes Breakfast – the annual lunch – with upwards of 300 Liverymen and their guests expected.

The Principal Guests will be Alderman and Sheriff Alison Gowman and former Lord Mayor and staunch Lancastrian Sir Andrew Parmley. All City of London Liverymen, wherever they may live and from whichever Company, are most welcome.



Liveryman Jenny Bentley

Forthcoming Entertainment

Blankets Update – The Knitting Continues Unabated

Two years ago, as a result of lockdown, we began our 'Knit for Community' initiative, hoping to produce 20-30 blankets for three charities. Little did we think that in 2022, with Covid continuing to affect so many people, that our project would be continuing. To date over 657 individuals have offered help and as of the end of March we have produced 548 full size blankets and 484 lap blankets, which has enabled us to help over 1,000 individuals. Following Liz's Zoom call last year with members of *Leicester Ageing Together* there was a great community response from residents in Belgrave, Leicester. In September, Liz and her Mum (Hazel Byford, who had sewn up the first few blankets for them) attended a presentation in Victoria Park of a number of blankets to James Riviere from *Action Homeless*. There were members of local charity groups, and it was brilliant to hear Usha talk about the difference the knitting had made to her and, as a new knitter, how she had developed from never having knitted before to now making her own squares, knitted animals and a crochet bag for her needles. Usha said 'I never thought I would learn a new skill and I have learnt to knit and crochet. It is so good to see the finished blankets and enable those in need to have something that has been created with love and care'. For some of those present this was the first time they had left their home since the outbreak of Covid eighteen months ago, and the comment from Bharti Mistry (organiser for LAT) was that it had brought the community together and made a difference to the mental health of some of their members.

Past Master Sheila Turner has received MANY deliveries of parcels, and Assistant Jonathan Pears has been collecting in Nottinghamshire with Past Master Ian Grundy and Julia collecting in Leicestershire. Thanks to Court Assistant Claire Bethel we have sent 50 full blankets and 20 lap blankets to the



PM Liz Green wins a Lord Mayor's Covid-19 Award for her outstanding contribution, seen here at Mansion House with the Master and her son Edward



The Master at Baby Basics

Cardinal Hulme Centre in Westminster. Sheila has made a delivery to two new charities – *CAP Care* and *Saviour Trust* in Yorkshire – and Master Elect Tony Jarvis delivered 30 blankets to *Baby Basics* in Leicester, who help new mothers in need of support. In November Liz and some of her local knitters delivered over 150 lap blankets to *Small*



Leicester 'Ageing Together' presentation last September

Acts of Kindness in Watford for distribution in their Christmas packs, and Jonathan continued delivering to *Meadows Food Bank* in Nottingham.

At the Big Curry Lunch, which was held at Guildhall on 7th April, we sold lap blankets as well as socks and other knitted clothes to raise funds for our armed forces charities.

PM Sheila Turner is happy to continue receiving squares from our volunteers, but if anyone would like to be involved or perhaps take on this rôle please contact Sheila – it's a lot of work but very



Small Acts of Kindness



Saviour Trust

rewarding!

Equally, if you or anyone you know would like to either donate money to enable us to buy wool, or to knit or crochet squares for us please contact Liz or Sheila.

PM Liz Green

Meadows Food Bank

I had to delay my initial planned visit on 5th November 2021 to *Meadows Foodbank* at Hope Nottingham owing to work and Lord Mayor Show commitments, but was finally able to visit on 19th November. They were very welcoming, having run out of our previous donations only a few days before. We were able to present around 15 blankets, 15 lap blankets and 10 knitted hats.

To say they were pleased is an understatement: it was getting cold then and they have many clients who are facing fuel poverty, and our blankets will bring a brightness and warmth of soul to them as well as practical, physical warmth.



Jonathan and volunteers

John Roskalns – who runs this foodbank – tells me that many of his clients are in sheltered and warden-controlled facilities that are functional but very basic. Our blankets bring a little bit of the home comforts and individuality to them that they crave for, not really having anything themselves.

A few of the woolly knitted hats were immediately given out to some clients that they know are living on the streets and who they are supporting with food and clothing in the hope of tempting them into accommodation this winter.

They loved these brightly coloured hats.

Assistant Jonathan Pears

Dates for your diary

2022

27th April	Brigantes Golf, Royal Liverpool, Hoylake	See below
10th May	Sons of the Clergy, St. Paul's Cathedral	The Clerk
11th May	Bart's View Day, St. Bartholomew's Hospital	The Clerk
12th May	Inter-Livery Golf Day, Walton Heath	Under Warden Matthew Ellis
14th May	LDY Frezenberg Service & Laying-Up of Guidon	The Clerk
17th-19th May	Pewter Live Exhibition, Pewterers' Hall	The Clerk
19th May	Prince Arthur Cup, Inter-Livery Golf Tournament	Under Warden Matthew Ellis
17th-18th June	Becket Pageant, Guildhall Yard	The Clerk
24th June	Common Hall for Election of Sheriffs, Guildhall	The Clerk
28th-29th June	London Careers Festival, Guildhall	The Education Committee
30th June	Brigantes Breakfast, The Tower Ballroom, Blackpool	See Below
1st July	Summer Dinner, Salters' Hall	The Clerk
2nd July	Post-Dinner Outing (venue TBA)	The Social Committee
3rd July	Desford Heritage Festival, Leicestershire	The Clerk

9th - 11th September – The Leicester Weekend

9th September	Golf Match & Golf Dinner	Under Warden Matthew Ellis
9th September	Visit to the Ruddington Framework Knitters Museum	The Social Committee
10th September	Morning: Ceremony of the Socks, Wigston Framework Knitters Museum	The Clerk
	Evening: Livery Dinner, St. Martin's House	The Clerk
11th September	Morning: Annual Church Service, St. Peter's Church, Oadby	The Clerk
	Lunchtime: Luncheon at The Cottage Homes, Oadby	The Clerk
25th September	Sheep Drive over Southwark Bridge	The Clerk
29th September	Common Hall for the Election of The Lord Mayor	The Clerk
21st October	Livery Banquet, Plaisterers' Hall	The Clerk
22nd October	Post-Banquet Outing (venue TBA)	The Social Committee
7th November	Garden of Remembrance, St. Paul's Churchyard	The Clerk
8th November	Consorts' Luncheon in Swan at the Globe	Mary Jarvis
12th November	The Lord Mayor's Show	The Clerk
21-22 November	Guildhall Christmas Market	The Clerk

2023

18th January	Winter Lunch, Farmers' & Fletchers' Hall	The Clerk
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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.