



NEEDLEMAKERS' NEWSLETTER



AUTUMN 2024

FOREWORD

Welcome to the latest round up of news from the Worshipful Company of Needlemakers.

This newsletter includes a message from our new Master, Dr Sue Sumners, as Immediate Past Master Michael Foulkes hands over the baton. We reflect on two Past Masters who have recently passed away: Brian Hatfield (2000) whose obituary follows, and Dame Elizabeth Fradd (2016), whose memorial service was held in September and whose obituary was included in our last newsletter. And there is other news, including from HMS Trent, our Royal Navy affiliate, whose drug-busting activities in the Caribbean featured on the national news.

We would also like to draw your attention to the Charity Accounts which are now available for review in the Company Information section of the Members' area of the website.

Many thanks to all without whom the production of this newsletter would be impossible, particularly the contributors and those behind the scenes including Freeman Yasmin Baker-Marshall, Liveryman Valerie Wilkins and the Clerk.

Liveryman Kimball Bailey
November 2024





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WELCOME TO THE NEW MASTER

3rd October arrived as planned, and **SUE SUMNERS** was installed as our new Master. She would like to thank everyone who was with her for such a wonderful evening, and to raise a metaphorical glass to those who could not be.



DAVID and I are massively looking forward to the year ahead after a splendid installation dinner. It is a privilege and a pleasure to be your Master, and Nick and Simon, now Senior and Junior Warden respectively, share my good wishes to you all.

I was delighted to thank Michael for his year as Master. One of the things that stood out for me was the warmth that was present at every meeting and with every contact that Michael had. His enthusiasm was felt at every event and was much appreciated by us all. We wish him well as he heads for the golf course!

Engagement is one of our core values, and I very much hope that you will be able to enjoy both the civic events of which we are part, and those that our Functions Committee will be helping me to organise. Our growth and fellowship depend on engagement with one another.

I am organising a trip to Norwich which will include a trip on The Broads – so umbrellas will probably be needed! I am looking at a cheese tasting event and hopefully a bellringing session. Currently, though in a different county, I am also exploring a visit to Highgrove.

Our heritage is important, so we are hoping to visit The Forge Mill Museum in Redditch.

But spontaneity is important, and so there will be events organised that will be a surprise to me as well.

I look forward to you joining David and me on an exciting year ahead.

With very best wishes to you all.



Sue Sumners
Master 2024-2025



MASTER MICHAEL FOULKES

HIS LAST BOW

The last act of **MICHAEL FOULKES** as Master was to hand over both chain and responsibility to his successor, Sue Sumners, at the Installation Dinner at Painters' Hall. And what a fabulous evening it was.



MICHAEL, now installed as Immediate Past Master, was able to reflect on a year in charge, full of warmth and enthusiasm, where all members and guests were able to enjoy the fun and fellowship associated with his tenure. Many thanks from all of us to Michael for his efforts in representing us across the City and beyond in so many different ways, and of course for presiding over multiple events that so many of us were able to enjoy.

He flew the Needlemakers' flag by attending formal events – lunches and dinners; installations and civic banquets – at many other livery companies and indeed at Mansion House, and was able to reciprocate at our own celebrations. His aim was to say “yes” to every invitation that he could! He walked with fellow Needlemakers along with many representatives from other ancient livery companies in the Lord Mayor's Show. And yes – he met the King and Queen.

He supported our bursary students and visited a number of the educational establishments with which we are involved and to which we give prizes. These included Arkwright scholars, Christ's Hospital, City and Guilds, the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, King Edward's Witley, the Royal College of Surgeons, and the Royal School of Needlework.

He found his visit to Treloar's, seeing what children can achieve despite many physical problems, to be particularly humbling. He also visited Imperial College to celebrate the founding of the Royal College of Chemistry (the oldest of the institutions that joined to form Imperial; we were one of the founding companies of City and Guilds, which in turn was another predecessor).

We continue to back our armed forces, and Michael attended a carol service at Canterbury Cathedral for the 3rd Princess of Wales's Royal





Regiment, as well as the Beating the Retreat at Dover Castle. He also joined all other livery companies to plant a cross in the Garden of Remembrance at St Paul's.

There were many events for the Needlemakers themselves, from the Almoner's Lunch to the Awards Dinner, the Mansion House Banquet to the Installation Dinner, and the Carol Service, along with a veritable array of walks, tours and lectures – not to mention a few days of fun in rural Essex. All a chance to expand on the renowned fellowship of our company.

He has, as Master, been able to welcome a host of new Liverymen

and Freemen and support the recruitment of new members.

It has been a full year but, as he emphasised, a thoroughly enjoyable one, made more so by his friends within the livery – tinged, of course, with sadness over the loss of Past Masters Liz and Brian, and Bishop Christopher's accident: we wish him a speedy recovery.

The theme for Michael's year was "give generously to a generous livery company", and we hope people will continue to do so in the coming years.

Once again, we raise our glasses to Michael Foulkes to thank him for his year as Master and for his ongoing friendship. Enjoy the golf!

THE INSTALLATION OF SUE SUMMERS AS OUR MASTER

The Needlemakers gathered on Thursday 3rd October for our Annual Service, followed by the Installation Dinner. And what a wonderful evening it was. Past Master **PHILIP LAW** was part of the celebrations.



FIRST we congregated in St James Garlickhythe, packing out our delightful Livery church for the Service. Regrettably, Bishop Christopher was unable to attend, having been involved in a motor accident a few days earlier – but fortunately he had already written his sermon, which was read by the Rector, the Revd Canon Anthony Howe. All were in good voice, especially the wonderful Choir, urged on by the ever-splendid organ playing of Sir Andrew Parmley.

A short walk took us to Painter-Stainers' Hall for the Installation Dinner, a traditional and happy occasion where fizz and fellowship flowed. The Installation of our new Master is conventionally the last act of the evening, so, at about 10.00pm, Dr Sue Summers was installed as Master, Nick Macrae as Senior Warden and Simon Bentley as Junior Warden.



Immediate Past Master Michael Foulkes entertained us with some reminiscences of his year in office, and welcomed the new Freeman and Liverymen who had been clothed at Court immediately before the Service.

Michael had also arranged an excellent musical interlude during the meal, performed by Gabriel Francis-Dehqani on cello and Henry Lewis on piano. Gabriel is the son of Michael's friend, the Rt Rev Guli Francis-Dehqani, Bishop of Chelmsford, who had been a most eloquent after-dinner speaker in May during his Master's Holiday in Essex.

The Master gave a delightful speech in which she set out “Engagement” as the theme of her year and laid out her plans for what promises to be a fascinating series of excursions. We all wish Sue a most exciting and fulfilling time in office.



PAST MASTER DAME ELIZABETH FRADD

IN MEMORIAM

It spoke volumes for the popularity of Liz Fradd that on 6th September our livery church, St James Garlickhythe, was as good as full for her memorial service, with members of the livery and many others remembering and honouring her. Liveryman **PHILIP GRANT** was among them.



COURT members and their consorts filled the choir stalls, members of Liz's family were in one front pew, and dignitaries from the world of nursing filled the other. The service was conducted by the Rector, Father Anthony Howe, and the address was given by the Needlemakers' Honorary Chaplain, the Right Reverend Christopher Chessun. The organ was played by Sir Andrew Parmley, who was Lord Mayor in Liz's year (2016-2017). Other Past Masters from her year were also present, and four church wardens, all Needlemakers, took part in the processions.

The service included a reading by the Master and tributes by old colleagues Chris Young and Jill MacRae. Other tributes were given by Past Master Simon Fradd: he introduced Liz's brother, David, who gave many interesting insights into Liz's early life. Simon Fradd ended by reading the poem Live Your Dash. The St James's Choir sang the anthem, Holy is the True Light (Sir William Harris), and led the enthusiastic singing. The service reached a crescendo with

the final hymn, Love Divine All Loves Excelling.

After the service, refreshments were provided and wine served, allowing the assembled congregation to mingle and exchange reminiscences of Liz and retell some of the many stories about her, the most calamitous always told by Liz herself in great good humour.

We are happy to report that the live streaming from St James worked well, and that the service was enjoyed by old friends of Liz as far away as Australia as well as by some of the livery who were unable to attend.

The photograph of Liz below, taken with now IPM Michael Foulkes in York in 2023, adorned the last page of the order of service. The notice in the centre reads, appropriately, 'The Happy Bench'. The photo at the start of the article, with the Hon. Chaplain, also captures her sense of laughter and fun.

It was a very poignant but ultimately a very happy service.

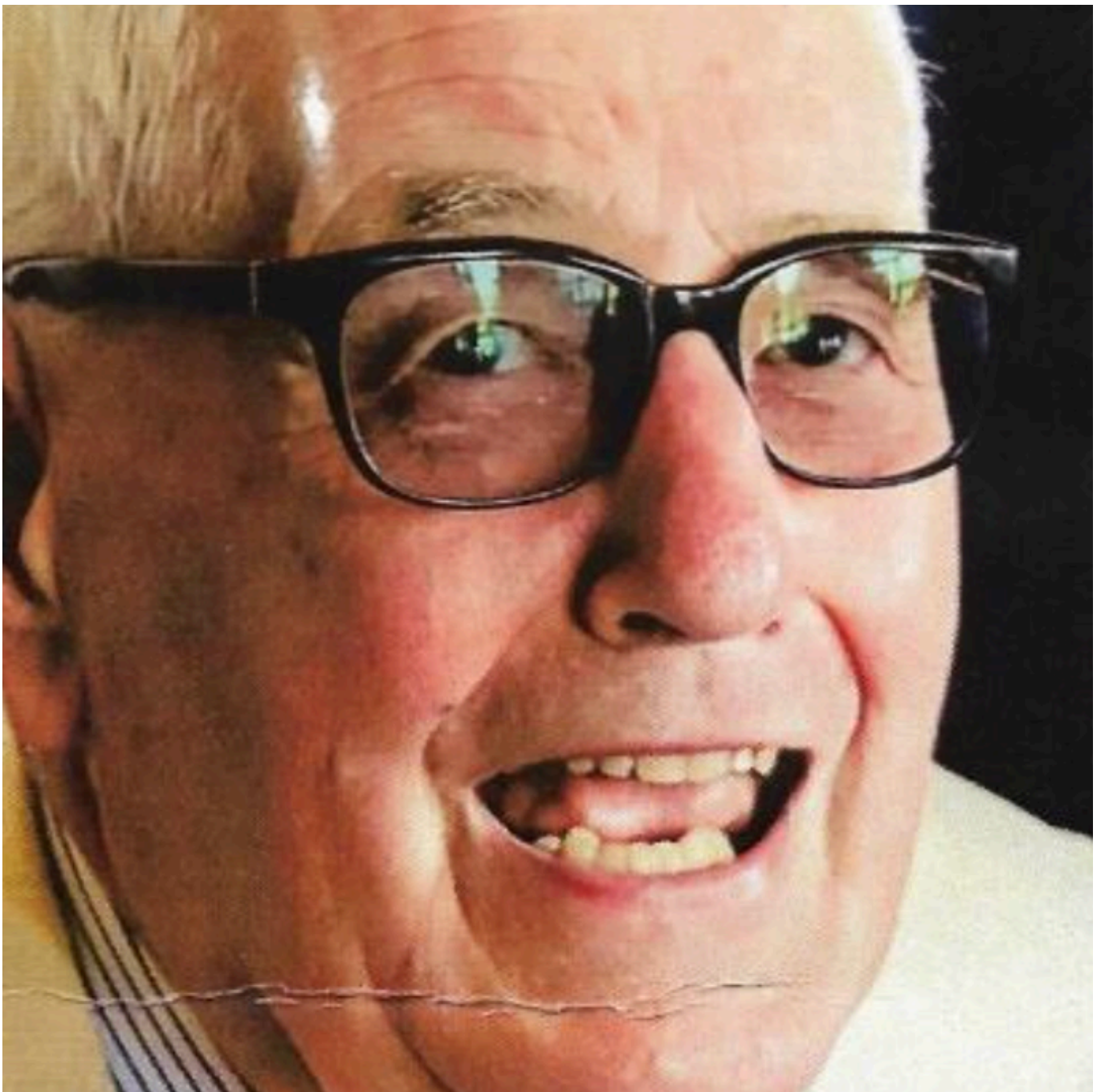


Our full tribute to Liz by Hon. Almoner Gill Loftus can be found in the previous newsletter.

PAST MASTER BRIAN HATFIELD

IN MEMORIAM

It was good to see so many Needlemakers at Past Master Brian Hatfield's funeral service at Christ Church Esher on Tuesday 3rd September. Among them was Hon. Almoner GILL LOFTUS who joined various members of Brian's family and his extended family, with whom he spent a great deal of time.





THERE WAS beautiful music, of course, and several touching tributes in a service put together by his nieces and life-long friends. It was obvious how fondly he will be remembered by them all. Afterwards we were warmly invited to Burhill Golf Club for a delicious cream tea.

Brian Charles Barton Hatfield was an able student at Bradfield College, Berkshire, who went on to study history at Magdalen College, Oxford. After graduation, he joined the family timber agency, Flatau Dick, based in Fenchurch Street, working alongside his brother David.

Their father, Charles Hatfield, was Chairman, and they were the leading UK agents for timber and timber products, resourcing

supplies largely for the construction industry.

PM Martyn Chase recalls "Brian was never one to talk about his skills, but I well remember him sharing hair-raising stories about trips to source timber from the Far East and finding producers to make doors, window frames and so on." Brian became a director in 1968 and, shortly afterwards, the business moved to Croydon.

Brian met twin brothers David and John Morgan at a family party, and they formed lasting friendships. David Morgan shared a flat with Brian in Holland Street, just off Kensington High Street, which was described by Country Life as "a very good address". Brian commented that "we have obviously arrived!" David Morgan went to Italy to expand his

knowledge of international business. "Brian was a frequent visitor," said David, "and when I was due to return to the UK in 1964, I suggested that Brian might like to help me drive back. He agreed, and we decided on a mini-European tour, covering Austria, enjoying the new wine season, Germany, Liechtenstein, France and Holland. Brian was very keen on Baroque architecture, so we visited many convents, monasteries and churches on the way, and also took in the occasional opera."



When David married Biz, Brian was his best man, and he often joined them on holidays to Italy. David recalls on one trip that "Brian insisted on visiting Verona to see the opera and he helped to carry our two young children to their seats high up in the amphitheatre – no mean feat!"

Around this time, Brian was introduced to the Needlemakers. He was proposed by Sir Martin Wilkinson (who was Master in 1975), and he became a Liveryman on 7th October 1965, subsequently joining the Court at a young age. He became Junior

Warden in 1998 and Master in October 2000.

He was a wonderfully enthusiastic Liveryman, rarely missing Court Meetings, regularly attending events, and participating in most of the Masters' holidays. His close friends and family were often his guests at Mansion House and at other dinners.

Sir Martin's daughter Jenny, who died a while ago, will be remembered by many of us. Jenny married John Morgan, David Morgan's twin brother, and was brought into the Livery in 1992 by PM Michael Copsey. Philip Morgan, Jenny's son, joined the Livery in 1999, sponsored jointly by Jenny and Brian.

Brian's goddaughter, Susie Ford, spoke on behalf of the Morgan/McCauly/Edwardes Jones families. She recalls "As well as being a Hatfield, Brian was, without doubt, an honorary Morgan, and any Morgan gathering was incomplete without him... He was a loyal and good friend, staying in touch regularly and always



staying in touch regularly and always interested in what people were up to. He was a great support to many friends as they got older and, as the family expanded, Brian became a much-loved extra uncle to the younger generation. He used to come to Brancaster in Norfolk on our family summer holidays, always arriving with a car full of wine and chocolates! He would play at least one round of golf a day, sometimes more, and would sail most days too (usually wearing one of his fine boating hats!).

"Brian was a great and generous host, as well as guest, regularly inviting his close friends and family to excellent restaurants. When he was younger, he also threw legendary Christmas parties with free-flowing champagne cocktails!"

His good humour and sense of fun were renowned, as was his commitment and unwavering reliability. Unsurprising then that he was considered ideal godfather material. Susie continues "Brian was



such an excellent godfather to his five goddaughters... He took the role very seriously, never missing a birthday, Christmas or other important occasion. He patiently suffered our dogs mucking up his smart car and forgave my brother James and me when we broke the electric windows (a big novelty in those days!)."

Susie and her mother Caroline remember one disastrous occasion when Brian arrived at their house in Brancaster straight from Belgium, bringing with him the usual grand box of chocolates which were left high on a mantelpiece while they went out. On their return, they discovered that the dog had managed to get the box down and eat all the chocolates – and was promptly sick over Brian's shoes! Brian just about managed to hold on to his humour.

Following a lunch with our Archivist, Angie Lewis, in the company of PM Derek Foster, Jackie Foster and Carolyn Ezekiel, Brian wrote to Angie "It was great fun looking through the

old photos and trying to think who everyone was... and the Company has changed so much for the better... As a Junior Liveryman I used to quake with fear if, in the unlikely event, I was spoken to by the likes of Sir Martin Wilkinson, Lord Ilford or Sir Arnold Silverstone! And I remember the incomparable Norman Loweth who liked to conduct his committee meetings in the local pub – and that was that for the rest of the day!”

Betty Copsey, whose husband played bridge with Brian, sums up sentiments of many in the Livery. “He was always such good company, and with that wonderful laugh he will certainly be missed.”

Brian was a keen supporter of the Woodwind Competition and, in recent years, in spite of increasing difficulties with his health, he was still determined to attend events whenever he could. Carolyn Ezekiel and Jackie Foster have fond memories of sharing a car with Brian to go to Mansion House and to Livery lunches and dinners. He famously entertained them – and the chauffeur – with many amusing stories which passed the time as they navigated the traffic on the way into the City.

Later on in years, Brian still led a full and busy life: as well as playing bridge and attending concerts at Wigmore Hall, he was

a regular at the Royal Opera House. He enjoyed art, especially water colours, and gardening and concert weekends on the south coast and in Norfolk. He became involved with the North Norfolk Music Festival where he sponsored concerts. Brian also enjoyed horse racing, although he did once tell me that Ascot was never the same after the ladies stopped wearing white gloves!

Brian loved travel and being with people. In his year as Master, he took a group to Edinburgh and loved returning to Scotland. His slight disability never curbed his activities. He had a positive attitude to “get on with things”, even when life was difficult or when he had good reason to complain.

To think of Brian conjures an image of an old-school gentleman with many admirable qualities. He was a committed Liveryman, a wonderful friend and a rare and delightful person to have known – an extraordinary character who will be much missed by all who knew him.

A GOLDEN JUBILEE OF PAST MASTERS

At the Court Meeting on 17th April 2024, the then Master congratulated Henry Milward, pictured on the left, and Simon Fradd, on the right, as they celebrated 50 years as Liverymen of the Worshipful Company of Needle makers.



THEY MARKED this achievement by offering champagne to the Court at the end of the meeting. Hon. Almoner GILL LOFTUS spoke to both Past Masters and asked whether they were aware of many changes in the Livery since he joined in 1974.

Simon said he thought most changes were for the better:

“The Livery is a much healthier place than when I first became a Liveryman in 1974. At the end of dinner, we were served with Sobranie cigarettes for the ladies and cigars for the men. The alcohol consumption, though, seems to have changed little over the years! In those days, the number attending functions was few enough for us to meet at Innholders’ Hall. The top table was on a raised dais so that the Master, Wardens and selected Court members towered over the company. I sat up there only once, right on the end. My lowly neighbour was none other than Alan King-Hamilton: he told me it would never be repeated, but we became great friends.

The livery holidays had not started then. The first was to Portugal, but was too expensive for a newly qualified doctor and a young nurse to afford to go. It was, however, a great development and one that I believe is one reason the Livery has become so intimate and has developed a reputation for being so friendly. I have gone on many and loved each

one. In 2008 I took the Company to St Petersburg – that would not be repeated now.

“The Egyptian Hall in the Mansion House was quite tired, but still overwhelming for a new Liveryman. It was refurbished in the 1980s. Initially, the gold leaf was so bright we almost had to wear dark glasses. Today, having toned down, it is just perfect. The Needle makers never fail to fill it.”

Henry shares many of those sentiments:

“I was first introduced to the Needle makers at the ‘Ladies Banquet’, as it was then known. I was sent off to Moss Bros to hire a tailcoat and white tie, essential dressing at the Mansion House in 1972. Ladies had to wear long dresses – no miniskirts! The format was very much as today, except the men were offered cigars and the ladies cigarettes: the Egyptian Hall would be filled with clouds of smoke during the speeches. The Master would have to supply the ladies with a gift, normally a needle case engraved with his name. This banquet was during Edward Heath’s premiership, and we were suffering from the miners’ strike and the three-day week. At 10.00 the main lights went out, and we were left with two security lights beaming down. The speakers just carried on unperturbed, as if nothing had happened. The banquet was not always held at the Mansion House, and the hall could be

chosen by the Master.

"In 1974 I was formally summoned by the Clerk to London to attend the Guildhall for the Freedom of the City of London ceremony, followed by the Court meeting at Innholders' Hall. This was where most of the Courts were held. Two Court lunches a year were 'men only', but ladies could be invited to the other two lunches. The little room holding the Court was crowded, with members sitting in seniority of joining the Livery – it was all rather intimidating for my investiture. At the luncheon, one of the new liverymen was chosen to give a speech; luckily, being the youngest, I did not get the short straw.

"In those days, the needle industry was centred on Redditch. There were some nine major needle companies, so many of the Assistants and Liverymen came up to London for the day. Once a year, the Needlemakers' Association (based in Redditch) ran a sewing competition. The winners would be invited – along with the best needlemaking apprentices – to receive prizes and join the Livery for lunch. It must have been an intimidating experience for these winners.

"The Court would frequently visit and be entertained by the industry in Redditch (up to the 1970s, Milward's employed over 600 staff). The Court would visit one of the factories. Following the decline of the Redditch

industry, the Livery has since visited the industry in Studley (Redditch), Edinburgh (Ethicon), Czechoslovakia, India and of course the Needle Museum to keep in touch.

"When my father was senior warden in the 1980s, it was proposed that ladies should join the Livery. As I understand, it was not a straightforward decision. At that time the 'black ball' system was in action – each member of the Court would place a black or white marble in a wooden box, and one black ball vote would have meant that the motion would not be carried. But it was, and we are all the better for it.

"It was in 1984 that it was decided that many of the charitable legacies previously given should be put into a Charity Fund, to be separate from the Livery monies. This was the formalisation of the Charitable Giving that is now a major part of the Livery today.

"Up to the 1980s there were only one or two extra events during the year, and no holidays. By the 1990s, more events were being run and the holidays were started, initially every two years, then becoming yearly. We were already deserving of a reputation of being one of the friendliest Livery companies. We had outgrown the Innholders' Hall. I remember that, when I was planning my year as Master, the opportunity for two holidays was presented. I did not think there would be enough

demand – but the trips to visit India to see the Pony needle factory at Ooty (originally started by Milward's) and the trip up the Douro were fully subscribed. The holiday tradition has grown from strength to strength to be a very important part of the Livery's calendar.

"The new century has seen more change by more active Liverymen being brought on the Court so that they would join the list for further progress. At the same time, the committee system was strengthened by building on the talent within the Livery.

"My grandfather was Master in 1910-1911. I wonder what he would have made of the current Livery. He presented Queen Mary with a needle case, which I am sure is still in the Royal Archives and, hopefully, well preserved, as is our Livery today."

Congratulations to both Henry and Simon on their golden jubilees.



ONE FOR THE MASTER

As we look forward to a successful year with her as our new Master, **SUE SUMNERS** shares with us some highlights of her background and history with the Needlemakers.



GOLF HAS a lot to answer for! Proceeding to the 19th hole at Hadley Wood Golf Club, some ten years ago, I was asked by Gill Loftus if David and I would like to attend a Livery event. This was the start of our journey with the Worshipful Company of Needlemakers – our first dinner was the installation of Geoff Lewis as Master in 2014.

There had been a bit before. I was born in Isleworth and then moved to Grimsby and Nottinghamshire, where I went to the Nottingham Bluecoat School. Medical school followed, studying at the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, and then a Vocational Training Scheme to become a GP.

I trained at – and subsequently joined – the Watling Medical Centre in Barnet, eventually becoming senior

partner, and during this time I spent 20 years training newly qualified doctors to become GPs. I was fortunate to be able to pursue other interests, including mental health, and during this period I was part of a national initiative, the “Defeat Depression Campaign”.

I became one of three Clinical Directors for Barnet Primary Care Trust, and in 2010 the Chair of Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group.

Retirement in 2014 saw an improvement in my golf, but only just. I had previously served on the Ladies’ Committee as Treasurer, and in 2017 became Ladies’ Captain – and the golf did then improve.

The Livery became a bigger and increasingly fulfilling part of my life, and I became a Liveryman in 2015.





As time progressed, I was invited to join the Membership Committee, and in due course became Chair. This was a wonderful opportunity for meeting so many of you.

Then, as part of the Fellowship Committee, the remit of producing a newsletter was suggested. Once or twice a year, I was told. Then Covid hit. Could we do a monthly newsletter, perhaps? I realised then how supportive we can all be. Nothing was happening, but Liverymen were keen to help provide articles, and I can never thank them enough for this.

In 2019 I became a Court Assistant and, as they say, the rest is history, and I am very much looking forward to my year as Master. But that is for another article.

My family provide amazing support, especially my husband David. We have two children, Emily and William, who, despite both parents being doctors, decided to pursue other careers. They each have a daughter, and we love spending time with them.

When I am not on a golf course, David and I enjoy wining and dining. We also love travelling, and have just returned from a fabulous holiday in Botswana and Zambia. We are associate members of Glyndebourne.

I am honoured to be the latest Master of the Worshipful Company of Needlemakers, 368 years after our first foundation. This is a very exciting time, and I look forward to working with you all.



FREEDOM EN MASSE

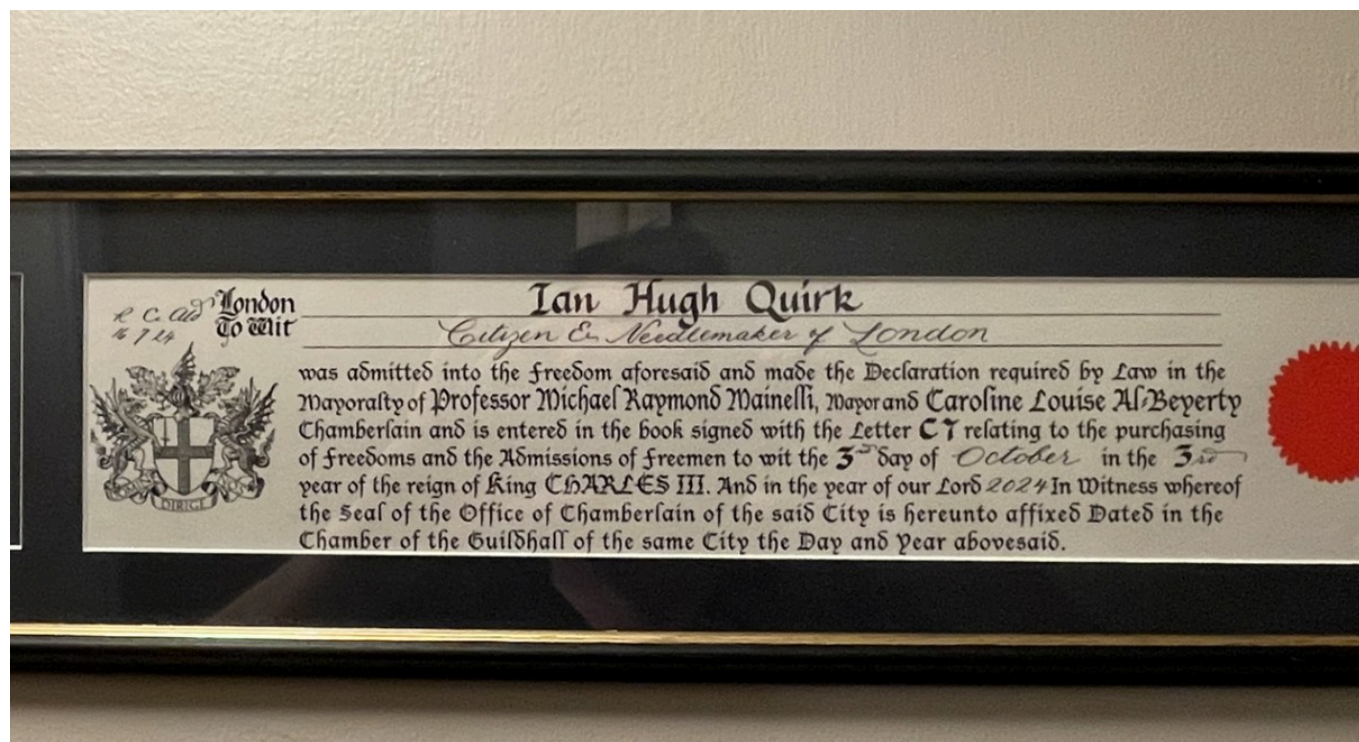
As everyone who has been through the process knows, it can take quite a while to get an appointment for one's Freedom of the City. With a queue of Freeman needing their Freedom of the City to progress to Liveryman, the Needlemakers decided to bite the bullet and book a group ceremony at Guildhall. New Freeman of the City and Liveryman **IAN QUIRK** was one of those present.



FOUR Freeman of the Needlemakers assembled at the Chamberlain's Court in Guildhall at half past three on 3rd October, only hours before the Installation Dinner. Nothing like practising brinkmanship, or perhaps the "Just In Time" philosophy of contemporary manufacturing? The ceremony was as fascinating as ever, embedded in the history and symbolism of the City of London, and we now know whether or not we can claim our ancient rights to bear arms – or to get free transport from a constable back to our homes if found intoxicated... The admission of the four of us (rather than one at a time) was handled very smoothly.

Now the City's newest Freeman, we had time to look at some of the treasures of the Chamberlain's Court, which showed how we have followed in the footsteps of the great and the good, before high-tailing it to Painters' Hall, where we were clothed in the Livery of the Needlemakers at the Court Meeting before the Installation Dinner. All done with impeccable timing.

It is by no means unusual for livery companies to arrange mass Freedoms, but the Needlemakers have not done so for some years. If we continue to recruit new members at the same pace, we will need to do so again.



The picture at the top of this article shows (left to right) the Beadle to the Chamberlain's Court, new Freeman of the City Ian Quirk, Victoria Page, Rasika Meena Kaushik (Raz) and Caroline Green, with their brand new certificates, and Tiphaine Le Bian, the Deputy Clerk to the Chamberlain's Court.

INTER-LIVERY SPORT

THE TRIUMPH AND THE TRAGEDY

Several hundred years ago, disputes between livery companies (about matters such as precedence, for example) were resolved by brawling in the streets, in the style of the Montagues and the Capulets. Liveryman **KIMBALL BAILEY** considers our contribution to 21st century inter-livery rivalry.



EVERYTHING is all now rather more civilised. Swordplay has given way to healthy inter-livery competition, and a high level of expertise in the many sports represented is not always a prerequisite. “It’s not the winning, it’s the who took part,” they say, echoing Olympics founder Baron Pierre de Coubertin – and the Needlemakers have their fair share both of winning and of taking part.

There is a huge range of sport with Companies old and new challenging for glory. From shooting to sailing, golf to tennis (both lawn and real), rowing to bridge, and skiing to – well, some of the more arcane options if you are looking to test your mettle include croquet, pétanque and quizzing. Before I go any further, let me thank the volunteers from across a variety of companies who do such brilliant organising.



So how did we do this year?

Sadly, Assistant Charles Barrows and Liveryman Kimball Bailey struggled to raise a team for the inter-livery skiing in Morzine in January 2025. But there is always next year – and the skiing is moving to Mayrhofen in Austria, so please contact Charles or Kimball if you are interested in participating. The trip, organised by members of the Ironmongers, is a logistical triumph, and while some take the competitive element more seriously than others, particularly in the downhill, it is livery fellowship at its best – and several of our Liverymen have been before. Kimball has strong views about the “snowshoe yomp” element of the triathlon, though – if the good Lord had meant us to walk in snowshoes, he wouldn’t have given us gondolas and gravity.

We were also unable to raise a team for the Inter-livery golf, where we have had success in the past, but we will be represented at the inter-livery real tennis, where Assistant Charles Barrows is teaming up with Woolman John McVittie at Queen’s Club in November.

But did I mention “arcane”? Liverymen Nolan Shaw and Kimball Bailey faced torrential rain at the Inter-livery Golf Croquet competition in June, organised splendidly by the Glovers (who coincidentally won it, narrowly beating the Leathersellers), at Sussex County Croquet Club.

They have 11 lawns which are up to international standard. "Golf croquet" is certainly sneaky (albeit not as sneaky or complicated as association croquet) and still gives you the opportunity to thrash your opponents into the theoretical shrubbery if you are so inclined. Miraculously the rain stopped, and 20-odd pairs played in glorious sunshine. Much to their surprise, the Needlemakers beat the Woolmen and the Turners, but pride cometh before a fall: we fell, albeit proudly, by one hoop in two tight games against the Horners and the Actuaries, and in a rather less close match against the Farriers. All in all, we were sixth in our half of the draw, which we thought was a good result. This is the third consecutive year in which we have raised a team.

And who knew that there were a bunch of pétanque courts in the Vauxhall pleasure gardens, along with a thriving club?

Organised by the Distillers and with the Vintners providing enough rather nice rosé to float a battleship, the tournament was an absolute hoot – despite the intermittent driving rain. The team of IPM John Mill, the Clerk Fiona Sedgwick and Liveryman Kimball Bailey was, again, perhaps, not the most competitive of the 32 teams present, having eschewed practising with boules in favour of a glass or two of rosé. But we did our bit. Much to our surprise we beat the Playing Card Makers, lost closely to a very committed team from the

Framework Knitters, and tied with the Tax Advisers. This left us equal 11th which we felt deserved a resounding cheer. A little more luck against the Framework Knitters might have resulted in an entirely different final.

And we can hope for success in the inter-livery pancake race in Guildhall Yard on Shrove Tuesday – again huge fun and a completely random way to spend a lunchtime in the City. And on the subject of random things to do in the City, the Coopers organise a cask-rolling event in June, again in Guildhall Yard. Any takers?

But as the sun goes down on another sporting season – like any committed cricketer I regard the sporting year as ending at the Oval – we can relive past glories and think about the future. Will we do better in 2025? That is rather up to you, the membership. Not only does participation raise our profile in the livery, but it's a lot of fun! Watch out for the various emails about forthcoming competitions and respond enthusiastically to the organiser or to the Clerk. In the meantime, and though this isn't really a sport, let us cheer on those Needlemakers who took a formal part in the parade – again for the third consecutive year – as part of the Lord Mayor's Show on 9th November.

FELLOWSHIP AND FUNCTIONS

We complement our annual Livery events such as the Mansion House Banquet and the Installation Dinner with a programme of informal (and lower-cost activities). **PIPPA ROUSSELET**, Chair of the Functions Committee, gives a flavour of some of these events, from tours to teas to tastings.



THE AIM of the programme of events is fellowship, allowing members to meet and get to know one another better, often while learning something new about our city. Events during the year have included a gin tasting, a walking tour of Hawksmoor churches, and a visit to the Fan Museum in Greenwich, all of which have been covered in recent newsletters. And most recently, in September, we visited the Foundling Museum in Bloomsbury.

The museum explores the history of the Foundling Hospital, the UK's first children's charity, and includes a public art gallery. We heard about how babies became foundlings and how they were treated, from their first five years when they were often fostered with wet nurses in families out in the country, to their return to the Hospital where they stayed until they were old enough to be apprenticed, usually at the age of eleven. Our volunteer guide Robin illuminated the history and the

characters for us, including the founder, Thomas Coram, who, along with many famous artists of the day, including William Hogarth and the composer George Frideric Handel, all supported the hospital. We saw Handel's last will and testament in a room dedicated to him on the top floor, and some of the ancient and contemporary art, including a tiny glove sculpture by Tracey Emin on the railings outside the main entrance.

It was a moving and memorable visit, and afterwards we adjourned to the Riding House restaurant in the Brunswick Centre for some refreshment and fellowship.

Future plans include a trip to The House of Lords, a sewing masterclass – also suitable for novices, and a cheese tasting at Paxton and Whitfield. Please look out for announcements, sign up and bring a friend – who knows, we may even attract a new member or two?



If you would like to get involved by suggesting a particular event, or by helping to organise one, please contact Pippa at FunctionsChair@needlemakers.org.uk.

BURSARY STUDENTS UPDATE

AS EVER, it is a delight to hear positive news of our bursary students from the City of London School for Girls' School. Hon. Almoner **GILL LOFTUS** – our CLSG liaison – met two of them.



Both alumnae (and previous bursary students) have had a great summer and are doing well in the various stages of their degrees.

Tolu Agbedu is in her second year at Warwick University studying Global Sustainable Development and Economics. She tells me she has joined some exciting societies and is already busy making internship applications for next summer.

Meanwhile, Sharwa Molla is in her third year at Imperial studying Aerospace Engineering, and was eager to tell me about her current internship which will take her through the entire third year. She thinks she may be able to fit in another internship next summer before returning to Imperial for her fourth and final year.

Towards the end of her second year, Sharwa was shortlisted for the Undergraduate of the Year Award. Had she been successful, she would automatically have spent her third

year at Rolls Royce.

She did not come out on top on this occasion, however, and instead applied for a place in industry. She was delighted to interview successfully with Frewer Engineering in Surrey. This is a relatively small company which designs enormous test rigs for jet engines and space equipment. Sharwa is in the analysis team which must prove the designs before they go for construction. She has happily settled into this friendly company, contributing well and gaining valuable experience of the vital analytics side of the design process.

Sharwa is living with a family not far from the company, but comes back to her family home in East London at weekends, so Liveryman Philip Grant and I were delighted to be able to invite her to take Sunday lunch with us at Le Coq d'Argent on the roof of No. 1 Poultry. It was great to see her. We completed the day with photos on the roof terrace with the City skyline behind us.



BETTER BANNERS

The London Museum (formerly the Museum of London) is one of the many city institutions supported by our charitable giving. To date we have provided funding for the restoration of five suffragette banners which will be displayed in the new Votes for Women Gallery when the museum re-opens in Smithfield in a couple of years' time. Assistant **PIPPA ROUSSELET**, our link from the Needlemakers' Charity to the Museum, talks to them about how our latest round of funding is making a difference.



LONDON Museum is delighted to share details and pictures relating to the restoration and treatment of two of these wonderful artefacts – the Home-Makers Banner and the Hammersmith Banner – thanks to the generosity of the Needle-makers. To date, the Museum’s expert Textile Conservation Team has successfully completed parts of the treatment, yet more work needs to be done, and the two banners are still currently out in the conservation studio.

The Home-Makers Banner (pictured) was designed by Mary Lowndes for procession through London on 13th June 1908. The procession was organised by the National Union of Women’s Suffrage Societies with intent to convince the new Liberal Prime Minister Asquith that there was mass support in the country for female suffrage. It was referenced in ‘Women’s Franchise’, the newspaper of the NUWSS, on 14th May 1908, with the comment “Under it [this banner] we hope that any will walk who feel their special sphere is the home.

“The group should comprise all classes of home-makers, the lady at the head of the house, the housekeeper, the children’s nurse, the cook, the parlourmaid”.

The banner is rectangle-shaped, with seven black grosgrain ribbon loops for a carrying pole and black fringe at the bottom. At the top, the words

“Home-makers” are applied in yellow silk satin edged with metal braid on a dark brown panel. Appliqued at the bottom of the main purple satin panel are the words “Demand Votes”, and in the centre is a design of a fire representing “the fire of the hearth and a lamp of happy evenings”, with the words “Remember their Homeless Sisters” on either side.

Overall, the banner is in fair condition, but it still requires significant treatment for it to be displayed safely. Both the purple ground silk and gold silk of the appliques require stabilisation and protection for their long-term preservation. The turned back edges and heavy vertical creases have resulted in loss of the floating wefts in the purple silk satin, leaving the bare warps exposed and vulnerable.



There is a particularly worn area at the bottom left corner of the banner (pictured) which has been somewhat stabilised with previous conservation stitching. While this has prevented further loss, the stitching has unfortunately distorted the bare warps.



The proposed treatment is to apply an adhesive coated layer of silk crepeline (a very fine open weave silk), which will stabilise the areas as well as providing a protective overlay so that the banner is safe to handle during the mounting and display process. Once the overlay has been applied, it will be further supported with additional conservation stitching. Before the proposed treatment can be carried out, however, a number of steps need to be taken, the first of which is to dye the silk crepeline to match. We work with precise recipes to get a good colour match, dyeing smaller samples before dyeing the

bulk fabric which will be used for the treatment. Each dye cycle is a long process (over two hours) which requires the fabric to be constantly but gently agitated, and the temperature to be carefully controlled using a bain-marie (pictured) to make sure we achieve the correct depth of shade and that the colour is even and not patchy. Fortunately, the sample and bulk dyeing of the purple and gold crepeline has all gone to plan.

The Hammersmith Banner (pictured) was made and carried by the Hammersmith branch of the Women's Social and Political Union. The central panel has three hammers and horseshoes painted on material over card with "Hammersmith" and the suffragette motto "Deeds not words".

The banner is reversible – the side panels are embroidered with irises on one side and appliqued in velvet on the reverse, with hanging tassels. It appears to have creatively repurposed purple, white and green upholstery and curtaining off-cut fabrics probably sourced from members' homes.

Like the Home-Makers Banner, the Hammersmith Banner is in an overall stable condition, but does still require conservation treatment to ensure it can be safely displayed. There are small splits and losses in the purple silk border, particularly at the bottom and top corners, which were under particular strain due to the wooden dowels stitched into the bottom edge



and the hanging mechanism at the top corners.

The cream silk lettering is frayed and splitting, and the green silk lower panel has a few small holes and ring staining. The main beige backing fabric is also slightly yellowed, with light creasing throughout, and the hammer and horseshoe applique is loose in places. The proposed treatment is to protect the weak silk

lettering from further loss by stitching a colour-matched conservation net over the individual letters. The vulnerable edges in the purple silk borders will also be netted.

Previously conserved areas of loss will be further stabilised where necessary, and any loose applique will be resecured with stitching.

The whole banner has already been surface cleaned to remove particulate soiling (pictured), and fabric dyeing tests are underway to find a good colour match for the net to cover the lettering. The Conservation Team will also be discussing with Curatorial which side of the banner will be displayed in the new museum.



HMS TRENT

Royal Navy patrol ship HMS Trent – the ship with which the Needlemakers have been affiliated since 2020 – seized £160m worth of cocaine from a ‘narco-sub’ in the Caribbean Sea.



HMS TRENT'S latest operation, operating alongside the US Coast Guard and a US Maritime Patrol Aircraft, was the first 'narco-sub' the Royal Navy has ever intercepted. The ship's boarding team – comprising US Coast Guard personnel, Royal Marines from 47 Commando and specialist sailors – clambered aboard the semi-submersed vessel in waters 190 nautical miles south of the Dominican Republic.

The team seized 2,000kg of cocaine with a street value of £160m, striking yet another blow to the Caribbean drugs trade.

In eight drugs busts in seven months, the Portsmouth-based patrol ship has stopped nearly £750m of narcotics – that is 9,459kg of drugs – from reaching the streets of the UK, or indeed anywhere else. This eighth drugs bust took place on 26th August, just 72 hours after HMS Trent's last successful interdiction in which 462kg of cocaine worth £37m was seized.

HMS Trent's Commanding Officer, Commander Tim Langford, said "It has been a busy yet rewarding eight months for Trent while deployed to the Caribbean, and this latest seizure reinforces the utility of Royal Navy's Offshore Patrol Vessels in the delivery of this vital tasking.

"My skilled team and our embarked USCG Law Enforcement Detachment fought challenging conditions to interdict this semi-submersible – rarely seen in the Caribbean – and were rewarded with another record haul. These operations are a team effort and require involvement from every single member of my crew irrespective of their usual role – they can be extremely proud of what they have achieved."

These successful interceptions disrupt Transnational Criminal Organisations (TCO) and underscore the Royal Navy's vital role in maintaining maritime security and upholding international law both at home and abroad.



This role is more important than ever with the flow of drugs to Europe and the UK, where an estimated 117 tonnes is consumed per year, grows significantly.

HMS Trent continues to patrol the Caribbean as a reassuring presence to British Overseas Territories during hurricane season (from June to November) and to stem the flow of illegal cargo through the region.

Aboard the ship are around 50 specialists in disaster relief

operations, including a Crisis Response Troop from 24 Commando Royal Engineers. As well as carrying equipment to make repairs to damaged infrastructure and life-saving medical supplies, the ship has a drone system, called the Puma, which provides vital reconnaissance and surveillance and is operated by 700X Naval Air Squadron. The ship recently visited the British Virgin Islands, making repairs on Tortola after Tropical Storm Ernesto had passed through the region.



This report and the associated pictures are taken from the Royal Navy's own release.

NEWS FROM ST JAMES GARLICKHYTHE

Over the years, visitors to the Needlemakers' Livery Church of St James Garlickhythe will have noticed that more than a little redecoration is needed. Liveryman PHILIP GRANT – also Senior Church Warden at St James – describes the renovation plans.



THE LIST does indeed go on and on. Replastering is needed too, and new lighting, and a better sound system – all of this is well known to the parochial church council (PCC) and plans are now afoot to undertake a major programme of refurbishment.

As soon as one begins this sort of exercise, it becomes clear that what seemed at one time to be no more than a glorified paint job becomes a project on a whole different scale. If the roof and tower are not worked on, then all the interior work becomes largely irrelevant and has to wait. And so, the list becomes a very major project indeed. And, of course, the minute anyone mentions a new roof, then every conversation and every report will be preceded by many pound signs.

Plans are being drawn up now. A design team has been assembled (based largely on the team which did such a spectacular job at St Lawrence Jewry), and surveys are well under way. A 3-D measurement survey has already been carried out, and others will start soon, including ground penetrating radar, drainage, biodiversity (bats and newts), dating of all timbers, and asbestos. Glass doors, which will improve access, draught exclusion and security, may be an early sign of progress, as will the creation of a small chapel in the narthex. But that all pales into insignificance until the big jobs are done. The plan for the roof is to

restore it to a lead covering and to incorporate everything green (solar panels, insulation etc.) which will give it, we hope, a life of another hundred years. To carry out the work, a false roof of scaffolding will have to cover the whole for many months.

A major fundraising exercise is going to begin soon. When it is noted that the total works at St Lawrence Jewry cost north of £4 million, the blood tends to drain. We hope, of course, that the fifteen livery companies which call St James their spiritual home will be supportive and generous. That will allow us to approach the major players such as the Heritage Lottery Fund et al for matched funding, always a requirement. That will allow us to approach the major players such as the Heritage Lottery Fund et al for matched funding, always a requirement.

It will be wonderful when we see Wren's Lantern fully restored and a bright light once again in the City.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW FRIENDS

Eight new Liverymen and one new Freeman joined the Needlemakers in the first half of 2024. We highlight a few of the new faces and bid all of them a hearty welcome.



Chris Clark

Liveryman

CHRIS CLARK grew up in Rochford, Essex, where he was born and still lives. He graduated from Southampton University in 1964 with a degree in English and then worked as an investment analyst in the City, becoming a partner in Kemp-Gee & Co in 1975. This firm was bought by Citicorp during Big Bang in the 1980s and became Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers, where he eventually became head of investment research, a role he subsequently took at Credit Lyonnais Laing. After semi-retiring in 2002, he pursued a few writing projects as a useful hobby, calling upon his experience in financial journalism and booklet design. He met his wife Angela at university, and they have four children, all now in their late fifties. Their daughter is a language teacher who has recently started writing and illustrating children's books. Their three sons are all specialist scientists, two working in industry and one in university academia. Their spare time is mostly spent around gardening and family (they have fourteen grandchildren and two great grandchildren). Chris was late coming into Livery, despite working in the City for all his business career, but is thoroughly enjoying the new experience and only regrets that his work commitments stopped him from joining earlier.



Katy Clift

Liveryman

KATY CLIFT is Essex born and bred and now lives in Billericay with husband Seb and their two-year-old Shetland sheepdog, Marble. She read mathematics at King's College London and obtained a first, which led an old school friend turned Lloyds Insurance broker to suggest she should become an actuary. She secured a position within the actuarial team at a small Lloyds syndicate which grew into a global organisation and has worked in general insurance, in the square mile, for over 20 years. When she isn't analysing air accident frequency (she heads up the pricing team for aerospace), she enjoys the usual socialising, good food, art exhibitions, trying out new crafts, getting outside walking or gardening, and has recently become passionate about history, a subject she has never previously studied. She looks forward to contributing to London's rich history of Livery Companies while connecting with fellow Needlemakers.



Sir Ian Dove

Liveryman

SIR IAN DOVE was born and educated in Northampton, and still has a season ticket for Northampton Saints RFC. After graduating with a law degree from St Catherine's College Oxford (where he is now an Honorary Fellow), he was called to the Bar in 1986 and developed a practice principally in planning and environmental law for nearly 30 years. His first judicial appointment was as an Immigration Adjudicator in 2000. He was made a Recorder of the Crown Court in 2003 and took silk in the same year. He was appointed as a High Court Judge in 2014, and between 2018 and 2021 was a Presiding Judge on the Northern Circuit. He is currently serving as the President of the Upper Tribunal Immigration and Asylum Chamber, and is also a Bencher at Inner Temple. Ian is married to Juliet, and they have two grown up sons. All four have a shared passion for Aston Villa FC, and Ian and Juliet have been season ticket holders for over 20 years; they are also patrons of the CBSO and keen theatre goers.



Paul Lay

Liveryman

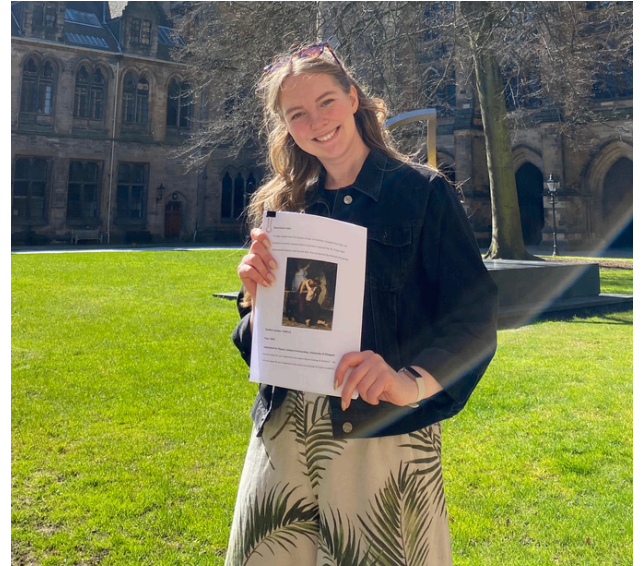
PAUL LAY's connection with the Needlemakers arose from his work as a historian of the 17th century and especially the Cromwellian period – it was, after all, under the rule of the Lord Protector that the Needlemakers gained their first charter. As well as being a historian, with research fellowships at St Andrew's and the University of Buckingham, he also runs a project called Engelsberg Ideas, which publishes the writings of leading authorities on history, statecraft, diplomacy and culture. On the latter subject, he is a big fan of opera, especially the works of Richard Wagner, and is a patron of Longborough Festival Opera, as well as the Wigmore Hall, where he indulges his taste for lieder and chamber music. He lives in Highbury, though his football team is Aston Villa rather than Arsenal. He also enjoys cricket and swimming long distances in the open air. His wife Susan is a TV executive, and their son John is a lawyer in the City.



Simon Sadinsky

Liveryman

SIMON SADINSKY is an Executive Director at the King's Foundation, overseeing the organisation's education, health and other charitable activities. In addition to his role at The King's Foundation, he serves on the Governing Board of the Global Centre on Healthcare and Urbanisation at Kellogg College, University of Oxford, and on the Advisory Board of the Harmony Institute; is a Professor of Practice at the University of Wales; and is a Research Fellow at the University of Grenoble. Prior to joining the King's Foundation, Simon worked within the education and community development sector in the UK, US and internationally. He has recently passed his viva for a PhD in Urban Studies from the University of Glasgow, and holds an MSc in Population and Development from the London School of Economics, an MA in Urban Policy from the University of Illinois-Chicago, and a BA in Political Science from Colorado College. The father of two young children who keep him busy outside work, Simon is originally from the United States; he and his wife, Mairi, live in Glasgow, having spent a number of years in London. He is also training for his first half-marathon and can otherwise be found with a book, a camera or a set of golf clubs.



Yasmin Baker -Marshall

Freeman

YASMIN BAKER-MARSHALL is delighted to have been welcomed into the Needlemakers as a freeman and is excited to join the livery company to gain hands-on access to over 500 years of tradition within the unique heritage of the City of London. She looks forward to being an active member and engaging with both the company's storied past and vibrant community.

Yasmin works in the Press & Brands team for television distribution company All3Media International, combining her passion for media with a creative approach to social media management and corporate communications. Recently completing a Masters in Classics from the University of Glasgow, where she focused on Epic Poetry, Yasmin's academic background reflects his deep love of history and culture. Her appreciation for history extends beyond academia, with frequent visits to Historic Royal Palaces and National Trust properties. In her personal time, Yasmin enjoys attending the theatre, where she loves seeing a wide range of performances, from musicals to plays. She's also passionate about health and fitness, including running and recently picking up her golf clubs again.

UPCOMING EVENTS

27th Nov

Webinar – Fine Cell Work
Online; 18:30-19:30

17th Dec

Carol Service and Supper
St James Garlickhythe; 18:00-22:00

15th Jan

Webinar – Street Storage
Online; 18:30-19:30

22nd Jan

Court Lunch
Cutlers' Hall; 12:30-15:00

11th Feb

City Briefing
Guildhall; 17:30-19:00

4th March

Banquet
Mansion House; 18:35-19:45



Remember to view the latest updates in the Members' area of the website for Livery and City Briefings and Court Meeting News.

The Charitable Fund Accounts are also now available to view on the page of that name.