



THE WYRE DRAWER

EDITION 13

AUTUMN 2007



After the Church Service in April. Left to right: Robin Hope (Hon Asst Clerk); John Edgcumbe (Third Warden); Tim Waller (Second Warden); Master Brian Jones; James Simmons (First Warden); Vernon Knapper (Fourth Warden); Commander Robin House (Clerk).

Master's Message

In January the Court completed a further stage in reviewing how the Company is governed. This is designed to reflect the best traditions we seek to maintain and the standards of personal integrity which should underlie everything we do.

The review included a decision that Past Masters since 2001 should serve for only seven years, after which they would become Past Masters Emeritus. The effect of this is simply that they lose their voting rights on the Court and may attend Court meetings less regularly than is expected of other members.

Much of the responsibility for representing the Company in the City rests with the Master. But we all have a role to play when receiving members of other Companies and guests generally. We have always tried to ensure that Court Members meet and look after the Company's guests at our functions. We are seeking to enhance the welcome we give our guests with the help of Company Stewards from among some of our newer and younger Liverymen.

We are striving to increase our fundraising for charity and we hope all members will support those efforts. If we do not progressively raise our efforts, inflation either erodes the number of deserving causes we can support or the levels of support become less meaningful.

Brian Jones, Master, 2007-2008

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The Map Room

Cabinet War Rooms Visit

In early March a party of 50 Liverymen and their guests visited the Cabinet War Rooms and Churchill Museum near Horseguards Parade in London.

After an entertaining illustrated talk on 'Life in Wartime Britain', the party was able to explore at leisure the excellent Museum dedicated to the life and achievements of Sir Winston Churchill. There was also a chance to visit rooms used by the British Prime Minister to direct the war effort from 1940 onwards. The Museum combines modern technology with key objects, documents, film and sound recordings to tell the story of Churchill's 90-year life. It was a fascinating insight into the life and times of one of the most important and influential leaders of the 20th century

The visit was followed by an enjoyable dinner at the Civil Service Club, kindly arranged by the Master.

Robert Lampitt

Church Service and Dinner

We were favoured once again with good weather for the evening Livery church service at St James

Church, Garlickhythe on 2 April followed by the Master's dinner at Vintners' Hall.

As the rector had been called away at short notice the service was conducted by the Master's Chaplain, the Very Reverend Dr Richard Fenwick, Dean of Monmouth. His eagerly anticipated address took the theme of life being a personal pilgrimage. This was linked to the centenary of the Scout Movement and how younger people are given opportunities which might otherwise pass them by. This was an appropriate link as the Master is a life-long member of the Scout Movement and one of his personal guests that evening was the Hon Michael Baden-Powell, Lord Baden-Powell's heir.

The well attended dinner had a novel and popular touch - starting with a meat based course before a beautiful main course of fish. The main speaker was Admiral Sir John Brigstocke who is now Judicial Ombudsman. At the earlier Court meeting Peter Dewhurst was made a Freeman of the Company and Freeman Justin Jordan was clothed in the livery.

Brian Jones
Master, 2007-2008



The Master's Chaplain, the Very Reverend Dr Richard Fenwick, Dean of Monmouth outside St James Garlickhythe.

Royal Navy visits

The Company has very close connections with the armed services, not least the Royal Navy. Earlier this year the Master led a party of liverymen to both our naval affiliates. In



The Clerk and Master at Devonport Dockyard.

May they visited *HMS Victorious*, the trident nuclear submarine currently in refit at HM Dockyard Devonport, and in July to *814 Naval Air Squadron, Culdrose*.

HMS Victorious

Our party was met at Plymouth Station by Lieutenant Mike Roberts, *HMS Victorious* Affiliations Officer, and bussed to the dockyard. Here we were greeted by the Captain, Commander Paul Stubbings, who entertained us to an excellent lunch in the wardroom of *HMS Drake*. In the afternoon we visited the submarine in dry dock which looked like a huge sleeping whale and very daunting when standing underneath the hull. We then set off on a cruise on the river and around the dockyard where there was a good view of the dockyard facilities and ships of the fleet. We stopped off at the Field Gun Museum and later the gallows in the execution shed which was built by Napoleonic prisoners of war to deal with their less savoury comrades.

RNAS Culdrose

On 16 July the Master led another party of liverymen to the Royal Naval Air Station Culdrose, home of our other affiliate 814 Naval Air Squadron, which is equipped with state of the art Merlin Mk 1 Anti Submarine/Marine patrol helicopters. The party flew from Gatwick to Newquay where they expected to be bussed to the RNAS. To everyone's surprise and delight the Commanding Officer of 814 Squadron, Commander Peter Munro-Lott, sent one of his aircraft to meet the party and on boarding even more surprises.... Peter was the acting 'air hostess' who looked after us! There followed a

flying tour of the Cornish Peninsula with the doors of the aircraft open. Later, after an excellent lunch in the wardroom of *HMS Seahawk*, we spent a fascinating afternoon between the simulators (where the Master's skills of landing a helicopter on an aircraft carrier became apparent). We also visited 771 Search and Rescue Squadron where Lt John Speake gave a very comprehensive briefing. After climbing all over a search and rescue helicopter the party returned (by bus!) to Newquay Airport. Our thanks to the Commanding Officer and particularly to 814 affiliations officer, Lt Ben Hartley who made it all happen

Tim FitzGerald O'Connor

City Livery Yacht Club Cowes Regatta

The Company was represented at the CLYC annual regatta in Cowes in May by Liveryman Thijs Knapper in his J24



Yacht 'Phoenix'. His crew were fellow Liveryman Peter Burke, Chris and Phil Coultard (Liveryman of the Pewterers' Company), and Chris Ratcliffe.

Saturday, the day for the Gentlemen's eight leg sail race, started with lively force 5/6 conditions. Tragedy struck at the end of the second leg when the main boom collapsed, forcing the crew to take the mainsail down and continue with just the jib.

After successfully completing the course we enjoyed a wonderful dinner hosted by the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club. Here we met members of other liveries taking part, and were astonished to learn we had been placed third and won a prize.

This was our first experience of the CLYC Cowes weekend and the whole crew hope to repeat the very enjoyable weekend next year.

Thijs Knapper

Ladies' Court Dinner

This very well attended dinner was held in the Bakers' Hall, Harp Lane on 22 May. The Master and his companion, Mrs Jeanne Holt, hosted the evening, Guests enjoyed a delicious four course dinner with accompanying wines, including a delightful Full Rich Malmsey with the dessert. The entertainment was provided by two students from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, whose repertoire was varied and most enjoyable.

The Worshipful Company of Bakers is one of the ancient livery companies. The Hall has been in Harp Lane since 1506. The current Hall was opened in 1963 and provided the perfect setting for a memorable evening.

Tim Humm



The Master with Mrs Jeanne Holt

Garter Ceremony

The Master, First Warden and other guests gathered in the precincts of Windsor Castle on a blustery afternoon in June to witness the colourful Garter Procession.

There was plenty to see from our vantage place beneath the Castle battlements. Dismounted squadrons of Household Cavalry lined the route while the Bands of the Life Guards and Coldstream Guards marched to St George's Chapel, heralding the Royal Procession which was led by the Constable and Governor of the Castle, Sir Richard Johns. Following him were The Military Knights of Windsor, the Officers of Arms, and finally the Knights and Ladies of the Garter who preceded the Queen and other members of the Royal family as they made their



The Garter Ceremony Procession

way on foot to St George's Chapel. The service was relayed on loudspeakers to the large crowd outside. Thankfully the rain kept off and at the end of proceedings we walked around the Chapel ourselves. Our day ended with an early supper at a lively riverside hostelry.

Bill MacConnol

Royal Ballet School at Covent Garden

The Master, First and Fourth Wardens were in the party of 16 members and wives who attended the 2007 end of year Royal Ballet School Gala Performance at Covent Garden in July.

The standard of ballet demonstrated by both lower and upper Schools was of the highest order. A highlight was a work entitled 'Poem' created in 1981 for the Australian Ballet Company. The piece celebrates the real and imagined loves of Sir John Betjeman and was danced to the poet's own narration – a magical presentation that had the packed house cheering for several minutes. Star of the show was a young graduation student, Sergiy Polunin, whose sheer power left the audience gasping. He



Bethany Kingsley-Garner performing the Bridesmaid Variation from Don Quixote. Picture by Johan Persson.

is joining the Royal Ballet and it was a privilege to see him so early in his career.

After the performance the Master attended the Graduation Leavers ceremony in Floral Street and presented the Company's Leavers Prize to ballerina Bethany Kingsley-Garner. Bethany has taken up a contract with the Scottish Ballet Company where we wish her every success.

Bill MacConol

July Court Meeting and Luncheon

Traditionally the July Court meeting and luncheon is when we leave Vintners' Hall for a different venue. This year we visited Ironmongers' Hall for the first time.

The July luncheon is also when we entertain our apprentice at the Royal School of Needlework, this year Rebecca Ray, the student who has won the gold and silver wire work competition and, this year, the School's chief instructor. The Master presented the gold and silver wire work certificate and prize to Katie Pirson.

Apart from Masters and Clerks of other liveries we were delighted to welcome Mrs Pat Snelling, Registrar of King Edward's School Witley and an upper sixth form student, Tim Copeman, a great grandson of late Past Master, Alderman Sir Frederick Tidbury-Beer.

The principal speaker was Alderman and former Sheriff David Mauleverer who congratulated the Company on its educational charity work and referred to ways in which some aspects of the City were evolving.

At the preceding Court meeting five new freemen were admitted: Thomas Hofer, Douglas Slessor, John Wood, Mike Kennedy and Vassilis Mouratoglou. Freemen John Kenyon-Muir and Walter Isler were clothed in the livery.

Brian Jones Master, 2007–2008

Musical Evening

We enjoyed an evening of wonderful and varied music from five Guildhall School of Music & Drama



Guildhall School students with the Master. Benedict Nelson is second from left.

students on 5 July at Barber Surgeons' Hall. After a reception we sat at round tables for two sessions of music with a first class supper in the interval.

The Master planned the evening because of his life-long love of music and in order to raise funds for the Company's Second Charitable Trust. The instrumentalists and singers included our post graduate opera bursary student, baritone Benedict Nelson, and, at the Master's request, a bassoonist, Laurence O'Donnell. The Master explained that he had himself played the bassoon in his school orchestra and felt the instrument could benefit from a fairly rare opportunity to show itself off. Lawrence O'Donnell's contribution included part of Weber's bassoon concerto, a piece which amply demonstrated the instrument's range, depth and tone.

It was a very enjoyable evening and we are most grateful to the students for their significant contribution.

Brian Jones Master, 2007–2008

Success for Guildhall Student

Baritone Benedict Nelson, the Guildhall School of Music and Drama student awarded the Company's Scholarship this year, has gained two major prizes. He was awarded second place in both the prestigious Kathleen Ferrier Awards at Wigmore Hall, and the Guildhall School's Gold Medal competition.

The standard of competition was, as always, exceedingly high and he was 'cheered on' by the Master and 20 Liverymen and their guests.

Benedict (23) is studying on the Opera Course at the Guildhall School with Robert Dean. In 2005, he covered the small roles in 'Peter Grimes' in Salzburg under Sir Simon Rattle and Sir Trevor Nunn and performed Faure's 'L'Horizon Chimerique' with Graham Johnson. In 2006 he played Marcello in 'La Bohème' and covered the title role in 'Don Giovanni' for British Youth Opera. 2007 sees Benedict perform at the Barbican, Royal Albert, Wigmore and Cadogan Halls as well as performing the role of Masetto in a new production of Mozart's 'Don Giovanni' directed by Sir Thomas Allen for Samling Opera. Awards include the Sybil Tutton Award.

City Walk

On a sunny September morning, the Master, accompanied by 34 stalwart Liverymen, partners and friends, met at Liverpool St station for a guided walking tour of the City of London. Under the watchful eyes of our guide Yasha, we set off to explore the City's historical and modern architecture, down narrow alleyways and streets that tourists and even Londoners seldom see. We learned about the importance of the Thames to trade throughout the ages and the impact of visiting races, including Romans, Jews, Turks and Italians, and the arrival of coffee bars in the 60's (the 1660's, that is!). Our tour covered how banking began within the Square Mile, and how Livery companies evolved, as well as Sir Christopher Wren's huge influence on all the City's churches, including the magnificence of St Paul's Cathedral. Yasha's humorous and informative style kept us captivated all morning until we arrived at the Olde Cheshire Cheese tavern in Fleet St for a well deserved lunch. Refreshed, we set off again to learn about newspaper empires, and the legal quarter in the



Temple, but the security guard would not allow us in, so the Da Vinci Code and Knights Templar riddles remain a mystery! Our thanks to Assistant Michael Powell for organising a most informative and enjoyable day.

Nick Sillitoe

Great Wall Of China Trek

The Immediate Past Master and Clerk would like to thank everyone who has so readily and generously responded to the sponsorship appeal for their trek on (and off) the Great Wall of China. They have been in serious training with



The Immediate Past Master in training. The Clerk in training but still working....

several 12 mile walks and have improved their fitness levels considerably. The trek takes place 13 -18 October (as you receive this magazine) in aid of the Second Charitable Trust and their two chosen charities.

Charities Supported

This year so far, the Company has made grants to the following charities:

- Elizabeth Finn Care
- Hackney Carriage Drivers
- Disneyland Tour
- Tower of London
- Royal Armouries
- Ralph Bates Pancreatic Cancer Trust
- RLC Association Trust
- Mudchute Park and Farm
- St Luke's Hospital for the Clergy
- Toynbee Hall
- Girls Guild of Good Life, Stoke Newington

Cystic Fibrosis Trust
 VSO (Lord Mayor's Charity)
 Strongbones Children's Charitable Trust
 Advanced Institute for the Scotstoun Technique
 Royal Ballet School White Lodge Appeal
 Royal London Hospital, Childrens Unit

The Company and Education

One of the Company's most important activities is to support, both through its Charity and General funds, bursaries, prizes and donations to assist in education.

The best known of these activities is our close connection with the Royal School of Needlework at Hampton Court where we give a scholarship to an apprentice, this year Rebecca Ray, and a prize for distinction in the working of gold and silver thread which the Master presented to Katie Pirson at the July Court at Ironmongers' Hall. We also supply the School with gold and silver thread to help encourage the continuance of the benefits of our past trade.

We also award a two year Scholarship to a postgraduate opera student at the Guildhall School of Music. This year's student, Benedict Nelson, is a very accomplished baritone (see page 5).

The Company presents a prize to a ballet dancer at the Royal Ballet School, this year Bethany Kingsley-Garner for distinguished accomplishment (see page 4).

Financial assistance was given to a student at King Edward's School, Witley, whose grandfather, Alderman Sir Frederick Tidbury Beer, was Master of the Company in 1947. An annual prize is also given to a King Edward's student in the 3-D Art and Ceramics Department. An annual prize for Geography is funded at the City of London Freeman's School. Finally the Company has supported the Lord Mayor's Charities (Treloar Trust for the education of severely handicapped children and VSO) and the Mansion House Scholarship Scheme.

Much is done in the educational field but the opportunities for the Company to extend this vital aspect of its aims are legion.

Michael Roberts, Past Master

Master's Badge and Collars

The Company is extremely fortunate to have a particularly notable badge which the Master wears during his year of office. It is worn either on its main collar (when robes are worn) or on the travelling collar.

The present badge dates back to 1880. The collars are not so precisely dated but the main collar is certainly no more than a decade younger.

During the summer the opportunity was taken to repair some minor damage to some enamel which had arisen over the years and to re-ribbon the collars. As a consequence, the badge was cleaned more generally and it is now possible to see the really excellent gold work and other detail. It will make the badge even more notable as the Master represents the Company.

Golfing Society

Liverymen interested in joining should contact: Geoffrey Perkins, FRICS, 'Fairlight', 25 Stagbury Avenue, Chipstead, Surrey. CR5 3PD.
 Tel: 01737 553565

New Court Assistant

At the July Court, John Walsham was elected as a new Assistant. John is a Joint Managing Director of Walsham Investments Ltd and Managing Director of Thurrock Garden Centre Ltd. He is married to Amanda and is the father-in-law of Liverymen Graham Pinkerton and Nick Sillitoe.

Lodge of Love and Friendship No 6123

The Lodge is open to male members of the Company. Those already entitled to join or wishing to become Freemasons should contact the Lodge Secretary: Tel 020 8953 1084
 Email bobnuttall@btinternet.com

Obituaries

The Company regrets to inform Liverymen of the deaths of Past Master Emeritus and former Clerk Philip Cresswell (clothed 1936), Lord Weatherill (clothed 1950), Martin Barber (clothed 1976) and Peter Ford (clothed 1995).

New Liverymen

April 2007

Justin Jordan

July 2007

Walter Isler

John Kenyon-Muir



Walter Isler and John Kenyon-Muir



Justin Jordan

From the Clerk

Are you receiving the calling notices that you want for events? Make sure the Clerk knows your up-to-date email address and remember to fill in the 2008 list of events when it comes out at the end of the year.

The next Livery List will be published in the new year. Now is the time to let the Clerk know if your details have changed.

Contact the Clerk on clerk@gswd.co.uk and 01980 863808.



Booking Procedure

When applying for seats at lunches and dinners, Liverymen are asked to do so on the form provided in legible writing and enclose the appropriate amount. Tickets are not issued but invitations are sent out to all those coming to the Banquet and to guests of Court members for lunches and dinners. These invitations will be addressed to the host or to the guest if the guest's address is supplied with the application. Liverymen requiring a receipt should enclose a SAE with their payment. Payment on the night and late applications are not acceptable.

Forthcoming Events

For up-to-date details please visit the Company's website at www.gswd.co.uk

2007

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|-------------|---|
| 17 October | Private Tour of the Windsor Castle State Apartments |
| 13 November | City Briefing |
| 4 December | Carol Service, St Giles Cripplegate |
| 7 December | Banquet, Mansion House |

2008

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|------------|--------------------|
| 14 January | Installation Lunch |
|------------|--------------------|

Past Master Stuart Holmes' Report to the Livery has been posted on the website.

Quarterage/Catering

The names of those who have not paid their quarterage will be brought to the notice of the Court. The quarterage rates have remained fixed for three years but will be increased with effect from 1 Feb 2008. Please take action on the revised banker's order when you receive it. The costs of lunches and dinners, also fixed for the past three years, have risen slightly.

Honorary Assistant Clerk

The new Honorary Assistant Clerk, Nick Sillitoe, was installed at the July Court meeting. My thanks to Assistant Robin Hope and his wife Meri for their invaluable assistance during the past years.

Company Stewards

Company Stewards have been introduced to enhance the way in which official guests are welcomed at Court lunches and dinners. The following Liverymen have been appointed: John Vesey, Karen Watts, Maurice Court, John Newman and Brian Stevenson.