

## 2017/2018 Winter Newsletter



**The Pattenmakers Summer Party**

### **Looking back at 2017 - a fascinating year for the Worshipful Company of Pattenmakers.**

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year!

As you know 2017 was our Tercentenary Year and we celebrated it in style with the special Ascension Day Service and the fabulous cocktail party at the Guildhall in July. To remind you of our Summer Party do watch the short and jolly video above made by Liveryman Rachel Davis – which encapsulates the fun and the splendour of the evening.

For both events, we were honoured with the presence of our Royal Patron, HRH The Duke of

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Gloucester.

We have hosted a number of exceptional Dinners at Ironmongers' and Goldsmiths' Halls - see below - and have had sell-outs for the Footwear, Facilities Management and Young Pattenmakers Dinners.

We enjoyed ourselves visiting the Chelsea Physic Gardens and the annual Whisky Tasting and a number of Members were able to participate by visiting during Open Days at Headley Court.

The Young Pattenmakers organised a number of informal evenings at our Church with guest speakers covering an amazing array of subjects – all events concluding with some intensive networking in the nearby pub!

Our Fund raising has reached new heights starting with the London Marathon, our Tercentenary appeal and raffle, a first time participation in the Swim the Serpentine day, abseiling down the "Cheesegrater" building and more traditional things like the Livery Halls walk. Congratulations and our thanks to everyone who helped raise record levels of funds. These include Assistant Bryant-Pearson, our Runners (Shirley Hardy, Gemma Halliday, Paul Bennett, Mark Jeffrey and Gerrard Shore), our Swimmers (the Leitjen and Andrews clans), our Abseiler (Freeman McFarlane) and Walkers (the Upper and Renter Wardens). And let's not forget our Learned Clerk who raised a heap of money eating cakes and drinking tea for the Queen's Sapphire Jubilee celebrations!

We launched our participation in the Livery Schools Link which facilitates Liverymen, countrywide, who want to assist schools with careers talks and mentoring. There has been a small but growing response to this.

We have a new website, [www.pattenmakers.co.uk](http://www.pattenmakers.co.uk), new name panels in St Margaret Pattens listing all our known Masters and a new Assistant to the Clerk, Jane Foreman.

We wish a long and happy retirement to our Beadle, Raymond Lewis and welcome his successor, Chris Moore who is also the Church Administrator.



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We also welcome new Court Assistants, Christopher Dean, and Alan Lyons, new stewards in Keith Bottomley and Keith Glennister and many new Liverymen and Freemen. Our membership totals are increasing and we have some outstanding recruits to our ranks which will enable us to maintain the energy and continuity we need to not only fulfil our charitable objectives but to raise our game in this area.

But we are also looking after our past. Apart from the Masters' name panels, we are ensuring that our stock of over 55 pattens and tools are in good condition and are being presented in an appealing and secure manner in the Display Cabinet in the Church. A special note of thanks to Assistant Steve Huxham whose skill and devotion in researching many aspects of our history and past Liverymen has been outstanding. We hope with Steve's direction to plan to re-write our History Book and put this in the social context of the seven centuries of our existence.

I think, however, that the main aspect of 2017 we can all be proud of, is the level of engagement amongst the Livery. Over 1500 people have attended Pattenmaker events so far this year and we have over 30 members sitting on the various Committees and we had a group of 13 members helping plan the Tercentenary party. We have been able to involve over 15 people at informal lunches and specific new Freemen's evening and have groups of people bursting with great ideas that will continue to drive us forward.

Finally, Sonja and I would like to wish all members of the Livery a wonderful New Year



*Richard*

Master

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## **A Week to Remember – November 6, 2017**

It all started with the Royal British Legion Service of Remembrance at the Garden of Remembrance at St Paul's Cathedral on a beautiful crisp November Monday. Attended by the Band of the Scots Guards, the Standards of the British Legion, choirs, the Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, Alderman and senior members of the Clergy, the Dean of St Paul's conducted a moving service.

After the Last Post and Two Minute Silence which still makes the hairs on the back of your neck bristle, the representatives of all the bodies present, followed by the Masters of the 110 Liveries all planted wooden crosses with a poppy on them in the Garden. Only the background hum of the surrounding traffic interfered with what was an emotional ceremony summed up by the final Dedication

***When you go home, tell them of us and say,  
For your tomorrow, we gave our today***

Then on the Thursday, and in conjunction with the Basketmakers, we held a different but no less moving Service of Remembrance in our own Church, St Margaret Pattens. The Gallant Clerk, in full military dress, started the proceedings with a reading from "In Flanders Fields," followed by Hymns, Readings and Prayers and including the Declaration by Liveryman Lt Col Heffer.

We then remembered The Fallen – Liverymen who failed to return from the Great War – and this was conducted by Assistant Huxham who had researched this story and paid particular tribute to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Douglas Fitch, son of the redoubtable Clerk, Charles Fitch (the writer of the original History Book). Telling the background to the death of this young man summed up the horrors and tragedy of this pointless War and added another level of meaning to the service.

Again the trumpet sounding the Last Post, the Two Minute Silence and the final Exhortations and Dedications all contributed to a thought provoking, memory jogging service appreciated by the large congregation.

The next day it was the turn of the Ceremonies to welcome in the new Lord Mayor. This took the form of the extraordinary "Silent Ceremony" held at the Guildhall. A long procession of the most senior City officials (including the Chief Commoner, Liveryman Wendy Mead) forms in the Great Hall and the incoming Lord Mayor then is given his sceptre, the Seal of office, the Purse, the Sword, the Mace and the Badge – all delivered to him with much doffing of hats, or 'reverencing', all this in complete silence apart from the clip of shoes on floor as the officials present and remove the various tokens of office and the scratching of the quill pen when the Lord Major signs the parchments noting his appointment.

Then, in typical City style, there are plenty of drinks and toasting of the new regime!

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But on Saturday, there was the piece de resistance, certainly so far as the Pattenmakers is concerned. Every three years, we participate in the Lord Mayor's Show in one of the official carriages in the Civic procession. The story is that in medieval times, the Livery held its own parade, which at one point criss-crossed with the Lord Mayor's event. This caused consternation and confusion so eventually, the Lord Mayor 'bought us out' and in return for us cancelling our parade, we are allowed to participate every third year.

Anyway, the Master, Upper and Renter Wardens, the very Gallant Clerk and the Beadle – all in our finery including bonnets - assembled at Guildhall and watched the main part of the Parade set off (7000 participants) whilst we refreshed ourselves with the appropriate liquid and smoked salmon sandwiches. Nothing elitist about us! The Mistress acted as photographer and chief cheerleader.

It was then time to climb into the very snug carriage and to welcome the fact that the weather was stable and there was no need to have the roof up which would have reduced the enjoyment. Carriage 114 (one of only 6) set off with the Beadle walking enthusiastically beside it and we started the 6 mile drive waving to the 70,000 or so people lining the route. We doffed out bonnets to many people, including lots of bewildered tourists, and several Pattenmakers.



On arrival at the Royal Courts of Justice, we alighted and then were privileged to witness the making of the Declaration enabling the new Lord Mayor to perform his duties. It was then time for more refreshment, naturally, and we were off again on the Return Journey to Mansion House with more waving (the Renter Warden says he is suffering still from Repetitive Arm Strain!) and doffing. The Master was one of the greeting line and we were all able to see the arrival of the Lord Mayor in his magnificent State Coach accompanied, as a break with tradition, by the Lady Mayoress and two daughters riding horses behind the Coach. The Lord Mayor is greeted by several representatives of

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the ceremonial staff and the historically attired and assorted Pikemen and Musketeers. And then it was off to meet the Mistress who had been photographing scenes from the Show for posterity and to the Egyptian Hall for a late lunch – of Shepherds Pie!

A remarkable, entertaining and unique day during which we were privileged to participate fully in an important aspect of the life of the City and to play some small part in the fun and glamour of the Show.

Our thanks to our coachmen, to the Beadle who had such presence that he was mistaken by one tourist for the Lord Mayor and to all the many support staff and Marshalls who ensured it all went without a hitch.

Roll on 2020 when we can do it all again!



**The Pattenmakers Ride in Style!**

*click on pic for video*

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**The Pattenmakers Dine in Style!**

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**Dinner at Goldsmiths' Hall.** We had a full house at this most impressive of Livery Halls, especially when the candles are lit and the bling is blinging. The Guest Speaker was Tim Parker, ex-CEO of Clarks and currently Chairman of the National Trust and the Royal Mail and we really enjoyed the singers from the Guildhall School of Music. The Master will especially remember the touching rendition of Happy Birthday at the end of proceedings!



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In November, we hosted our **Masters and Clerks Lunch** which was well attended by over 60 people including the Chief Commoner (our "own" Wendy Mead), the Chairman of the Livery Committee and the Pageantmaster. The Master enlivened proceedings by presenting specially engraved trophies in respect of the CV s submitted by attending Masters.

**Facilities Management Dinner.** This was held in September at Grocers' Hall and was preceded by a fascinating talk about the repair and restoration of the Houses of Parliament by the Project Leader, Tim Healey. His candid insights into the physical and political aspects of the project were compelling and set the scene for a lively and successful evening.

**The Young Pattenmakers' Dinner** took place at Barber Surgeons' Hall and had as its guest speaker, Robert Perkins, COO of Hotter Shoes. Over 110 attendees enjoyed the talk and there was a convivial and energetic atmosphere that we have learnt to expect from this event. As a result of this Dinner and the other activities of this group, there are a growing number of candidates for full Livery membership, which now exceeds 20 YPs.

## Our Charities

It may be useful to remind the Livery of whom we support and here is a list of beneficiaries of our charitable giving which is around £60-80k per annum.

### **Bespoke Footwear**

Headley Court, Defence Rehabilitation Centre. Provision of custom made orthopaedic footwear for injured servicemen

**Apprenticeship Scheme** for bespoke orthopaedic footwear

**Young Managers Scheme.** Prizes and year long training and mentoring programmes for aspiring managers in the Footwear and Facilities Management sectors

### **Secondary Education**

Bursaries and Prizes at the City of London Schools for Girls and Boys

Bursary at St Paul's Cathedral School

Participation in **Livery Schools Link** providing career advice to State schools

### **Tertiary Education**

Bursaries and Prizes at De Montfort University – footwear specific

Prizes at University of East London – Podiatry

Prize at Guildhall School of Music and Drama

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## **Armed Forces**

Support for  
HMS Chiddingfold  
101 (City of London) Engineer Regiment. EOD.  
Kent Army Cadets  
University of London Air Squadron

Support for the Annual **Lord Mayor's Appeal**

Support for **St Margaret Pattens Church**

## **Headley Court Update**

Headley Court is due to close in mid 2018 and will be relocated to much larger premises at Stamford Hall in the Midlands. We had a meeting with the Commanding Officer and were very heartened to hear about the continuity that has been planned for the senior staff, patients and quality of treatment. There is no decline in the demand for specially constructed footwear from injured service personnel as this note from Bill Bird Shoes sets out.

“It seems that the overall feedback from most (if not all) of the individuals that have received footwear is how the said shoes/boots can transform and change their lives. Horse riding seems to play a big role in rehabilitation. Having made riding exercise boots for Guy Disney some time ago, this enabled him to eventually get his jockeys license back and go on to win a big military race!. I believe Guy is now an assistant trainer. Following in the riding side is Clifford O’Farrell who we made Polo boots for thus enabling him to continue with his passion of the game. We are also in the process of making polo boots for Dr Frances Townsend so she can also continue with her love of riding after suffering in a RTA whilst on duty helping other injured personnel. Rory McKenzie is at present having another pair of shoes made after his TV debut in the Paralympics in the opening games!

A recent recipient of a lovely pair of black double monk shoes was for Mr Andrew Armstrong which he wore at the recent remembrance service and was seen pushing a colleague on TV representing Help for Heroes, a day he said he was honoured to be part of especially in his new formal footwear. Many of our service men have BOB braces and we are able to make footwear to accommodate the brace internally giving them a smart pair of formal/dress style shoe which gets them out of their said trainers.

Andrew Ledger has had several pairs of smart ankle boots (for support) enabling him to carry on his charity work abroad.”

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## The John Foxon - Pattenmakers Apprentice Scheme Update

This has now been launched and the first two employers, Bill Bird Shoes and Phil the Cordwainer have recruited their first apprentices – Amanda Davies and Charlotte Duff – both of whom are enjoying their first months into the year long training course.

In 2018, we will be identifying additional employers in the bespoke orthopaedic sector who will want to participate in this programme.

## BFA Reports

### Christmas Cheer from the BFA and Brussels

My Gran always told me that time flies when you are getting older and I can hardly believe that 2017 has come and gone in what seems like a flash.

The year has been an eventful one, but one that has been crowned by, what has seemed at times, like almost insurmountable issues caused by BREXIT and the often stymied negotiations on our trading future with the EU. To the frustration of the BFA and many of our members, the negotiations have appeared to freeze out all other discussions on vital future trade deal with the rest of the world. This is the real prize for business with the opportunity for incremental growth for the UK economy.

But suddenly, and almost without warning, we all woke up on the 8 December 2017 to the news that Mrs. May and the EU 27 had in fact been able to put aside enough of their difference to allow crucial talks to begin on our future trading relationship with the EU. Importantly without selling out on the UK status of Northern Ireland, with an exit settlement that is “fair to the tax payers of the UK” and to jointly protect the rights of UK and EU citizens.

A return of confidence and stability in the UK economy is much needed and the removal of the uncertainties of the last 18 months and the promise of continued easy access to some our biggest and most established trading partners on the Continent can only be good for business.

Although we undoubtedly face many twists and turns in the talks ahead let’s hope that today’s agreement to start to negotiate about trade, marks the starting point for the UK to look towards a new positive relationship with the EU and a new global trading future. These will be real tangible “big wins” that will make the pain, disruption and cost of

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BREXIT worthwhile.

However, with all the challenges ahead there has probably never been better time for us all to work collectively for the betterment of the UK footwear sector. The BFA will continue to lobby the Government on your behalf to ensure the needs of the UK footwear sector remain front and centre of all trade discussions.

So I am happy to be able to wish you all a happy, settled, and successful New Year to come.

BFA looks forward to supporting the footwear sector in 2018 and working with our friends and colleagues at the Pattenmakers

Best Wishes

John Saunders

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## Dates for the Diary - 2018

January 25: Annual Banquet in the magnificent surroundings of the Mansion House

March 8: Installation Dinner at Clothworkers' Hall

April 26: Footwear Dinner at Vintners' Hall

July 5: Summer event at Charterhouse

September 26: Facilities Management Dinner at Haberdashers' Hall

October 11: Dinner at Skinners' Hall

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If you would like any information about the activities of the Worshipful Company of Pattenmakers, please contact: Robert Murfin [clerk@pattenmakers.co.uk](mailto:clerk@pattenmakers.co.uk)

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