



The Pattenmaker

WEEKLY NEWS FROM AROUND THE LIVERY

Issue 17

Friday 24th July 2020

From the Master Elect, Jennifer Bryant-Pearson



We begin this newsletter with an outstanding act of courage by two Past Masters in Aldersgate – courtesy of 101 Engineer Regiment!

Liveryman Gail Devereux-Batchelor provides a blow by blow account of managing a

care business during the pandemic and Freeman Jo Holloway reports on returning from Germany to support her father during lockdown and developing a passion for gardening.

We welcome two new Freemen, Will Holland and Lucy Reece – Raybould as well as new baby, Wilfred Turgoose

Congratulations to Joseph White, whom we supported during his time in Sixth Form at City of London School, who writes to update us on his time at Oxford University where he achieved a First Class BA (Hons) degree in French and Russian

Liveryman Ian Balcombe reports on the very successful webinar on our new history book - Out of the Mud – presented by Past Master Richard Kottler, Assistant Steve Huxham and Liveryman Stephen Cribb and chaired by the Master. If you have not yet ordered your copy, details are available in the newsletter. We were delighted to be joined by over 70 members for this webinar including overseas Pattenmakers in Switzerland,

Portugal, America and Canada. Many thanks to Liveryman David Emanuel for managing the technology so smoothly!

Continuing with our history, Assistant Steve Huxham will now regularly introduce us to the Company's historic collection and today he focuses on our Silverware.

We have an absolutely fascinating report in our Postcard from Abroad from Freeman Lucky Gopalakris who writes about his time in the RAF and now living and working in Africa – and he extends a warm invitation to Pattenmakers to visit him there.

Our Avian correspondent, Freeman Richard Parlour, discusses Swallows this week and Freeman Jane McCauley shares her own special recipe for burgers – perfect for barbecuing!

Please check our future events in August set out by Upper Warden Elect, Sarah Leitjen and we very much hope that it will not be too long before we can gradually begin to hold small dinners and events back in the City.

Finally, the Master and Wardens and all the Company send our very best wishes to Past Master Sheriff Hayward who had an accident at the Police passing out parade at Guildhall. Due to the intense heat and sun, he fainted and collapsed on to the hard stones and was taken to hospital. I am pleased to report that he is safely at home and although Past Mistress Alex has not yet been able to take his phone away from him, he has assured me that he is taking it a little easier this week!

City of London Corporation

Past Masters Alastair Watson-Gandy and Nick Andrews

When the Pattenmakers were asked to help defuse a WWII bomb, we leapt at the chance. Two smartly dressed James bond look alike descended on Aldersgate station. Would we cut the wrong cable? Reality was far from our thoughts.



Above is us dressed in our fatigues, but not in the protective gear, which is heavy and hot and surprisingly has a lip under the chin. Without the lip we were chillingly told, if the bomb exploded, the force would travel up the protected gear and blow my head off. Nice start.

We used the state-of-the-art robot to look around. With it we explored the surrounding areas and loos. All empty. Then went down passing a London Tube to find the WWII bomb. All Bombs have a fuse and explosive material. The fuse controls when the bomb goes off. The bomber does not want it to explode too soon or he will not be returning so tends to delay the fuse setting. Our aim is to neutralise the fuse and then the bomb can be safely moved to a safe place to detonate in a safe place.

Those sending the bomb do not want to make neutralising the fuse easy. They vary the way the fuses work. Some on movement. Some are timed. Some even have two fuses. Some on when you touch the fuse.

Our plan was to drill a hole and flood the fuse area. Modern drills would almost certainly vibrate the bomb and there will not be much left of the

Tube station or us. We knelt next to the bomb carefully hand drilling the fuse. 15 minutes we were allowed before the bomb exploded. Luckily, we survived, and the defused bomb carted away.

We all went off for lunch, grateful to the 101 (City of London) Engineer Regiment (EOD) for organising the event.

Covid 19

View over the Mask

Liveryman Gail Devereux-Batchelor

Asking anyone to write an article at short notice whilst Government missives are landing will always raise a smile. You'd see an eyebrow movement rather than my lipstick because of my medical Type IIR mask ...so this is straight - no varnish.



Thankful of my former years of footwear manufacturing experience, buying from China, avoiding rogue merchants and managing process and strict control stood me in good stead whilst navigating a Pandemic for my domiciliary care business - Home Instead.

The invisible enemy on the horizon was Anxiety in the first instance. Not just mine but staff, clients (mostly they live in their own homes - it's not a Care Home) and their families. I tuned into the World service, receiving wisdom from Gov.uk, my UKHCA (UK Home Care Association) and of course Facebook.

Caregivers, clients and families and anyone who had recognised a dire situation in Care Homes started to phone asking if they could buy masks and availability of staff to help them cope with loved ones who during the bright idea of "lockdown together", had realised early signs of dementia and not being able to cope.

Lockdown looming, I revisited my SWOT analysis asking “What does a leader look like and What does a leader do?” Strong, resilient and focussed seemed the best place to start. (And I started a veg patch).

I reassured my key players team underlining our Capability. Sound management team, over 100 staff, excellent cloud based systems, remote working underway and good consultants at hand, plus knowledge that our 9 year old business was in excellent shape. A franchised office of the World’s leading home care provider, tv ads and sponsorship of 9 o’clock crime drama meant the phone continued ringing with increased client enquiries.

Staff – award winning training and accredited Dementia and End of Life qualifications secured our exemplary hygiene and good care practices. Inbound Information – changing sometimes 2x a day and often like yesterday - at 23.08 hrs which changed yesterday’s “latest” processes and policies.

Threats – navigating Chinese Mask QC reports for starters. Suddenly my private care business was on Local Authority speed dial – being a private care provider I had been previously ignored by the Local Area Health Authorities. Three different lengthy weekly reports were required plus similar for CQC – Care Quality Commission, was to ensure that “someone” knew how many vulnerable people would need hospitalisation or worse should the worst Covid19 scenarios prevail under my watch.



I knew that my staff and PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) supplies could be requisitioned by them at immediate notice should a local care home collapse (likely given the poor state of much commissioned social care). Plus

reminders during the weekly support calls that non-commissioned care providers were “not a

priority” for receipt of any government PPE or funding.

Providing 4000 hours care a month means relentless PPE sourcing amidst scant supply and rising prices of gloves, masks and aprons. News of supplies flashed amidst trojan emails - stock at 5x higher price, paid up-front from untested sources, shipments being “stopped at customs” and freight/shipping rates outbid by the Bigger Fish.

I bought bulk hand cream from the Avon Lady – offsetting the effects of the alcohol based hand sanitising. Goody bags and hand penned letters of thanks were delivered to all employees with their PPE over a 2000 sq. mile radius by my furloughed family, I Zoomed through meetings, and ensured that no matter what, I would keep fit with rowing and weight training (and digging for Victory!) at home.



Excerpt from the Care Managers Day book :

- 60 - 90 hour week – hours of extra legislation to consider amidst increased care needs.
- Client with Dementia cutting all the ear loops from the delivered Caregivers masks.
- Long awaited 4000 apron delivery finds many are cut in half.
- County Councillors asking me to apply for planning permission or remove smart roadside recruitment banners whilst agreeing there’s a shortage of staff willing to visit sick people in their homes.
- Unannounced hospital discharge of wife back to client’s home with positive Covid test. Difficulties delivering dignified and gentle care with hard of hearing clients – our staff arrive without a mask, smile and wave then have to shout beyond 2 metres that we are about to wear a mask and start their lunch.

- Clients with memory loss who can't see who it is behind the mask starting to panic and don't remember that they have to keep 2m away.
- District nurses arriving in full Bio Hazard outfit scaring already anxious client.
- Still dismayed by public health commissioned services refusing to visit (physically or by Zoom) our elderly clients who need GP's, Occupational Health, Physiotherapist, Dementia or Mental Health assessments.

Today's view is less frantic. Resources are less scarce (costs still very high.) Business is stable and demand growing.

The July prevalence survey of COVID-19 among domiciliary care staff in England provided evidence that the prevalence of COVID-19 among domiciliary care workers who are currently working is in line with the general population and not a higher prevalence as observed in studies of front line healthcare workers and care home staff.

Despite all, I'm optimistic and proud of staff who stand firm, professional and dedicated as any nurses or doctors. These care workers demonstrate why last year we gained equivalent to an Oscar in care - recognition that we are rated in all five areas Outstanding by the Care Quality Commission.

Our Charitable Fund

City of London School Joseph White



From 2014-16 your company supported me through my time in Sixth Form at City of London School. I am deeply grateful for the assistance you provided, and

I wanted to update you on what has happened to me since then, and how I have tried to make the most of the opportunities I was given at City.

I recently found out that I will be graduating with a First Class BA (Hons) degree in French and Russian from Oxford University. This comes at the end of a wonderful four years of study at an institution that could not have suited me better. In the summer of 2016, I received 4 A* grades at A Level and went up to Oxford, eager to use my time there to the fullest. I spent a lot of time in my first and second year attending talks at the Oxford Union, and I took up rowing competitively in my college's First Eight, as Vice-Captain in my second year. The structure of the Modern Languages course at Oxford means that all students spend their third year abroad, and so I spent four months as an intern at a business school in Dijon, France, before moving to Russia for a semester and studying at Moscow State University.

Despite a rather tumultuous end to my degree, I have enjoyed my final year at Oxford most of all. I rowed for Oxford University Boat Club, competing at Great Britain trials, before ultimately being selected for the Oxford reserve crew, Isis. Despite the bitter disappointment of not being able to race Cambridge, the friendships I have made and the skills I have developed have made such an undertaking more than worthwhile. I am currently in the process of applying for jobs, keen to pursue a career in diplomacy after an eye-opening year abroad, and a lasting desire to be part of a team that makes a difference. I am excited to see what the future holds, and I am happy to keep you informed along the way!

Without the support that the Worshipful Company of Pattenmakers gave me, I would not be where I am today. My two years in Sixth Form allowed me to come out of my shell in a way that I hadn't done previously. I felt more confident and self-assured, and the experiences I had both as a student and as the head of the school's CCF contingent will stay with me for the rest of my life. I would love to be more involved with the Livery company in the future, and be able to give something back to an organisation that has given me so much.

Our History

Out of the Mud - Liveryman Ian Balcombe reports on the Webinar

Master Dr David Best welcomed all those who were in attendance, which numbered over 70 and introduced the speakers Past Master Richard Kottler, Assistant Steve Huxham and Liveryman Dr Stephen Cribb. Past Master Richard Kottler thanked Steve and Stephen for the thousands of hours that they had spent of their own time at no expense to the Livery to produce the book. He had acted as Managing Editor, liaising with the Court and the Publishers. Publication would be in 5/6 weeks and would consist of 280 pages due to all the information that had been unearthed, as well as 150 images that had come to light. It would also feature an extensive review of Pattens around the world. Stephen Cribb said that he had reviewed over 25 other Livery histories to see what was best and what to avoid. The first mention of Pattens was in 1379 and in 1669 a petition was delivered to Charles II for incorporation of the Livery to protect the trade from foreign manufacturers – mainly German. In all he had amassed 8500 pages of documentation relating to the Livery. The book will also include vignettes of notable members of the Livery which to the Authors' surprise include Daniel O'Connell, the Irish Political Leader and campaigner for Catholic Emancipation. There is also detail of the first Pattenmaker to be Lord Mayor. Steve Huxham said that the gateway of information available in the modern age made the Livery better connected than ever before. He said that excavations carried out by the Museum of London over the years had given indication of the first Pattens and developments over the ages. He also gave a hint of the mentions in Literature that Pattens had from Chaucer to Thomas Hardy, but what did Charles Dickens have against the Company – we will have to wait until the publication to find out.

It looks to be an extremely well-produced and enjoyable read and if you have not already made

an advance purchase you should do so: [History Book Order Form](#)



Screen shot of the Webinar courtesy of the Master Elect

The Company's Historic Collection – the Loveday Commonwealth Wine Cup Assistant Steve Huxham



The item from the last Newsletter on the new acquisition for the Company's Collection has prompted the thought that it might be of interest to Members to feature other items and their stories on a more regular basis. Hence this week, the focus moves to Silverware, and more specifically the oldest and potentially most valuable item that the Company holds. Sadly, and as a result of us not having our own premises, most of the Collection and in particular the Silverware is stored under lock and key, and rarely seen by Members other than at special events and Dinners, for example when the Ceremony of the Loving Cup might be taking place. Thankfully, we will soon have both more space, and better conservation conditions to showcase Collection items in the recently renovated display cabinet at St Margaret Pattens, a project wonderfully managed and overseen for

the Company by Past Master Richard Kotter. Clearly though, these new displays will rightly focus on footwear. Securely stored though the Silverware usually may be, we do have several interesting pieces, although, it has to be said, less than we did before the period 1981-84, when the Court of those days decided to sell off several items of Silver seen as "surplus." This was done partly to offset the cost of a new item, a silver oval rose bowl and stand, specially made in 1982 to commemorate the appointment of our first Royal Patron. The items "lost" to us at that time do not for the most part seem to have re-appeared on the market since, although we did manage to re-acquire what is known as the Lambert Cup in 2016. We shall of course keep looking for the others just in case we can ever get them back!

For this Newsletter though, the focus is on The Loveday Commonwealth Wine Cup, dating from 1649, and sometimes also known as the Cromwellian Cup. As stated previously, this is the oldest and one of the most valuable of the Company's Treasures: our possession of it dates back to 1693 when it was engraved and presented to us. It also carries on that engraving the earliest yet known style of the Company's shield. At 16.5 cm high, this silver gilt cup stands on a spreading circular foot and baluster stem, with a tapering bowl, carrying those Company Arms within plumes. The inscription reads:

This Bordle was Bought for y^e use of y^e Company An^D 93, Thomas Loveday Master, Thomas Ireson and Robert Tredwell Wardens.

There is a maker's mark, WM, with pellets below and from the extremely rare Cromwellian-period hallmark it is dated to London in 1649. There is a curiosity which is mentioned in the new History Book, in that we have a surviving record, dating from 1702 and showing the wide selection of dining and other items the Company by then owned, but this Cup is not referenced there at all, which is strange. Thomas Loveday served two terms as Master, in 1692 and 1693, and in turn Thomas Ireson was Master in 1698. Robert Tredwell also carried out two terms of office in 1700 and 1701.

For the next look at the Company's varied Collection, I intend to go into an entirely different direction, but I am sure we will return to the theme of Silverware again in due course.

Members' News

Liveryman James Turgoose

Stephanie and James are thrilled to welcome Wilfred Davis George Turgoose into the world. Born just before 7pm on Sunday 19th July (his due date!) weighing 6 pounds, 7 ounces at St Mary's Paddington.



Named after his great grandfathers William and Freddie, he's famous across the world, and has already taken part in his first FaceTime call with his Australian grandparents!

New Freeman Will Holland



My initial involvement with the Pattenmakers arose while I was an Officer Cadet in the University of London Air Squadron, I noted that there was an opportunity to run the 2015 London Marathon for the Pattenmaker's Charity and I leapt (naively!) at the opportunity. It was a fantastic cause, with the proceeds going to the Headley Court rehabilitation centre for military servicemen. I was a keen runner at the time, but I still managed to severely underestimate the challenge, running a 3:45 but being rendered completely immobile for an entire week... a tell-tale sign of someone who didn't train hard enough! Nonetheless, the charitable effort really stuck with me and the

chance to carry on raising money for more fantastic charities could not be missed.

I've had a long-held fascination with the City of London, attending King's College London to read War Studies where I in particular pursued a thesis focused on the City's role in defeating Napoleon between 1803-1815. Joining a livery company seems a brilliant way to continue to remain involved with the history of the City and learn more about the story of the Pattenmakers and its role in history.

Joining the Pattenmakers also seems a fantastic way to meet fellow members of the built environment industry, as I find my way in the early stages of my surveying career. I feel very lucky to play a role in the construction of the City's rich fabric of buildings, which play an important part of how the City functions and feels to workers, residents and tourists alike.

I want to in particular thank James Turgoose and Marte Lundby Rekaa for their assistance in welcoming me to the Company, as well as the wider membership for allowing me to join, I look forward to meeting many more of you in the future once some normality returns to life.

New Freeman Lucy Reece-Raybould



I joined the British Footwear Association (BFA) in June 2019, and am proud to be its first female Chief Executive; and coincidentally also am not yet a "Shoe Dog", coming to this

role from 30 years in the Jewellery and watch industry.

From Swatch in it's heyday of the late 80's and early 90's, through starting and running my own marketing and PR company and then on to establishing a subsidiary of the Goldsmiths group to distribute licensed brands like Guess, Versace and Lacoste. I have worked across a wide sector of the jewellery and watch sector in an operational and marketing capacity.

Stephen and I have been married for 7 years but have been best friends for over 30 years since meeting at Swatch. I am extremely proud of my daughter Lydia who lives with her partner in Lutterworth, and my two step-children and my four step-grandchildren who live in New York and San Francisco.

Aside from my family probably one of the things I am most proud of in my life is my work with Fairtrade to raise awareness of Fairtrade Gold. I championed the initiative from its launch in 2009. And after visiting the Sotrami mine in Peru in 2015, later that year I raised over £30,000 during a conference. These funds provided not only the ultra-sound equipment and training at Sotrami, but also kitted out a sewing room with 13 work stations so that the women at a second mine, Macdesa, could make work clothes for the miners and their families to earn money. The sewing room has been named "Lucy's Room".

Postcard from Aboard

Planes, Trains and Africa – Postcards from Freeman Lucky Gopalakris



Officer Cadet Lucky Gopalakris *Mr Lucky Gopalakris*
Sep 2012 *Sep 2019*

The past year has been a whirlwind of change that has seen me swap No 2s and combat pyjamas for short shorts and a seemingly endless supply of pairs of white chinos, as I began life out of the military and into Africa.

Back in 2005 I made my first commitment to Her Majesty's Royal Air Force, receiving a scholarship and later a bursary for my university studies at Imperial College, London. It was while I was reading Aeronautical Engineering at Imperial that I served as a volunteer reservist with the University of London Air Squadron (ULAS), and also first became associated with the Pattenmakers. My time at ULAS contains most of my fondest memories of my university experience, and the lessons that I learned while flying, skiing, sailing, cycling, hill-walking, *insert sport*-ing and leading ULAS in her 75th Anniversary Year played a considerable part in forming the Officer in me that then joined the real Air Force. I also vividly remember my first Pattenmakers dinner, where I had the great pleasure of sitting in the company of Past Master Richard Paice and the Clerk to the Company, Robert Murfin. The warmth of welcome and fantastic conviviality was wonderful to be a part of, and I knew that this was a company I wanted to keep and hold in high regard.

In 2013 I took up my first role as a baby Officer at RAF Odiham, home of the indomitable Chinook helicopter. I had a team of 65 engineers repairing and maintaining Chinook components, ranging from the humble headlamp to the mammoth 30ft fibreglass rotor blades. It was a dream first job, working with some incredible "wokka warriors" (the list of gallantry medals awarded to the Chinook Force during Iraq and Afghanistan are testament) and throwing myself more seriously at my passion for rugby, where the Station rugby team I was "player-chairman" at (certainly more accomplished at the latter than the former) became 15s, 10s and 7s RAF champions.



2 years later, I was plucked from the rather agricultural lifestyle of the rotary platform world and awarded the role of being the Engineer Officer on a Typhoon Fighter Squadron at RAF Coningsby. My world suddenly became very sharp and pointy, as our Squadron's main role was providing constant air defence of the realm, in the form of Quick Reaction Alert (QRA). QRA was and still is the last line of defence in defending the United Kingdom and Her interests overseas from the threat posed by foreign hostile aircraft (those pesky Russian and/or Argentinian bombers!) and hijacked airliners. It was extremely sobering seeing in the flesh a Typhoon armed to the teeth with high explosive missiles, that was only a few switch-throws away from hurtling through the sky at supersonic speeds to destroy anyone and anything that intended to cause harm to the United Kingdom and her people.

However, within weeks of joining the Squadron, the UK Government voted for the British Military to do our bit in the fight against Da'esh in Iraq and Syria, and my Squadron would be spending Christmas 2016 carrying out this role. Our pre-deployment training took us to the Arabian desert in Abu Dhabi and the Nevada desert in North America, working with Air Forces from 6 different nations and spending a total of 4 months on the road. Operating out of Nevada in conjunction with the US Air Force was the highlight, as we were taking part in the world's largest air combat exercise with nearly 150 fighter jets taking off one after the other just metres away from where I stood in command of the launch. It was a cacophony of noise that would pound your chest on day launches, and also warm your hands and face from the afterburner jet blast on chilly

desert night launches. Living in Las Vegas for 2 months also had its benefits...



Our Typhoons air-to-air refuelling en route to the Arabian desert; Oct 2015



The End of Exercise photo in the Nevada desert; Nevada, USA Jan 2016

After a stint in the UK running QRA, I deployed to the Mediterranean in November 2016 (just as the Mediterranean winter struck; rain, rain and more rain!) where the Squadron set to work in halting and reversing the progress Da'esh had made in Mosul, Iraq and Raqqa, Syria. Running 24 hour operations, we launched over 300 successful missions against Da'esh targets without missing a single sortie through aircraft failure, an extremely proud moment for me and my team of 100 engineers.



Two of our Typhoons prepare to take off for missions over Iraq and Syria; Dec 2016

I had hoped to have a 2 month NATO Baltic air policing exercise as a Squadron swan song for me in the summer of 2018 (Black Sea coastline; 30 degree sunshine; Romania's famous hospitality); alas, I ended up being the last minute stand-in to spend 6 months in the Falklands running Typhoon QRA for the South Atlantic Islands (Antarctic Ocean coastline; 0 to -20 degree liquid sunshine; penguins for company). After coming to terms with having to deal with a year made up of 2 Northern Hemisphere winters and one long Southern Hemisphere (semi-Antarctic) winter, I did enjoy my time being in one of the most remote and hostile landscapes in the world. The wildlife amongst the South Atlantic Islands is renowned for its variety and rarity (dolphins, penguins, countless sea birds, elephant seals, wild horses, LOTS of sheep), and I never once grew bored of my commute to work driving through a Scottish Highlands-esque tundra either bathed in sunshine, snow or horizontal rain. And, although the perceived threat from our South American neighbours is low, I had the "good" fortune of having 2 live aircraft scrambles in my tenure, the most for a number of years!



Hosting the Commonwealth Games baton as it passed through the Falklands; Typhoon mission debrief; Falklands 17





Usual view at the end of a Falklands nightshift; one our Typhoons at dusk over the Falklands; Jul 17



Penguins on Bertha's beach, and a seal pup at Cape Pembroke; Falklands Aug 17

After returning to the UK having spent the best part of 3 years intermittently on a world tour, I was relieved to have a bit of stability working in Bristol for the RAF on weapons research. This job was quite literally rocket science, but one I found very relevant after my recent experiences on the front line. However, with the potential of now spending 3-6 years without being anywhere near aircraft (the RAF Engineer Officer career path has roles away from frontline engineering built-in), I decided it was now the moment to hang up my fatigues and finally see what life as a “civilian” in the “real world” would be like.



Being taken for a back-seat blast in a Typhoon; RAF Coningsby, Apr 17

I first made use of the rather large cumulative leave balance the military had left me, and spent time visiting Malaysia and Borneo, Singapore, Thailand, Australia, Hong Kong, Vietnam and Cambodia to meet and spend time with friends and long lost family members, plus a fair amount of sight-seeing.

One evening in London in between trips, while imbibing a few shandies, I had the good fortune of bumping into an old mucker of mine from my Imperial Aeronautical Engineering and ULAS days. It had been 10 years since we last saw each other, but after a brief chat, he managed to convince me (I imagine the shandies assisted him in his mission) to put on hold my plans to return to the Big Smoke for the next stage of my career, and instead consider working alongside him in running operations in his commodities trading and rail logistics company, working and living in that most stable of economies, Zimbabwe (Rhodesia in old money, if you prefer).

On the face of it, it was a complete stab in the dark: I had never step foot in Africa; I had no prior commercial experience (other than working on the checkout till of my parents' convenience store from the age of 6 years old); and I only knew planes, not trains! (Although I always did enjoy prefer Thomas the Tank Engine to Budgie the Little Helicopter). But I was fortunate that at that moment in time I had no domestic ties to the UK, and this was an opportunity I could not let pass by. Additionally, Africa, and particularly her wildlife, has been an object of mystery and wonder from my earliest living memory. As children, my sister and I would often be glued to any and every David Attenborough documentary on Africa that we could get our hands on. As a family we were fortunate to finally go on a safari in Kenya and Tanzania in 2019, and the magical experience of photographing and being in the presence of these magnificent creatures got me hooked.

In August 2019, after a 3 week work experience trip in Johannesburg, Harare and Cape Town earlier in the year, I committed to expatriating myself out of the UK and starting my new life in Africa. My initial role was to head up our rail

operations for all of Southern Africa, moving commodities ranging from fuel, to mining products, to grain and fertiliser across the continent. Although the railway lines in Southern Africa are largely unchanged since Cecil Rhodes laid the Cape to Cairo railway, rail is still the most reliable, safe and energy efficient way (75% lower greenhouse gas emissions than trucking) of moving bulk products cross country. There are a number of other socially responsible reasons why rail should be preferred to the other dominant mode of transport, trucking, but this is a postcard and not a podcast! So please find me at the next Pattenmakers event and request me to wax lyrical on the subject; I'll gladly oblige as long as the bar tab remains open.

The challenge of learning a new job, in a new industry, in a new country was as daunting as can be imagined. The imposter syndrome was certainly there for the first months, but I took comfort from my military experiences. Arriving as a new Engineer Officer on a RAF Squadron, making time-pressured risk to life decisions on complex (and often explosive) aircraft issues, when the only people who you can share your engineering judgement with are people you have never met before, are often 10-20 years older than you, and do not carry the burden of responsibility of being culpable if the worst was to happen, were challenges of leadership and character, and gave me the confidence to apply myself in this new, alien role I found myself in.

Living in Africa is certainly not everyone's cup of tea (or coffee). As Meryl Streep ably portrayed, Karen Blixen's learning curve was steep, and although nearly one hundred years have passed since her memoirs, Africa is still just as mysterious and enchanting a place today. Arriving in the suburbs of Harare, I was very fortunate to be living in a relatively sumptuous colonial dwelling with my two colleagues, the partners in the business. Being five thousand feet above sea level, the climate is very agreeable and does not suffer from the humidity or malaria problem in other parts of Southern Africa. It is also a gardener's paradise, as the rich ochre soil (with enough watering) can sustain virtually anything! It certainly hammers home the terrible

state of the soil in Surrey Heath (regrettably, I don't think Michael Gove will be addressing this in parliament any time soon).



Walking the Matopos Hills, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe Dec 19; afternoon tea with friends from the UK (giraffes are included at no extra cost), Harare, Zimbabwe Feb 20



The daily life of people can appear normal: shopping for groceries; commuting to office based jobs; sports practices at weekends, and cold beers any time after 3pm. However, it is very apparent that, like with all of Southern Africa, there still exists a horrendous wealth gap, simmering racial tensions, and endemic corruption at all levels of government. Botswana appears to have escaped the worst of these traits, thanks largely to its plentiful supply of diamonds that ensure some of that wealth actually does make it to its people. But Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Zambia and South Africa can trace the source of the majority of their social and economic problems to these three afflictions. To try and run any sort of business in this environment is a challenge; most, if not all

norms of business administration can be discarded. However, the one single currency that I have learnt trumps all other forms, is that of trust. As an expat, you have to be acutely aware of your role as a facilitator of business in the region, and not the embodiment of business itself, and that you are not going to be the proverbial panda who eats, shoots and leaves.



My mobile standing desk, that doubles as a Hilux pick-up truck; Beira, Mozambique Mar 20

As I approach one year in this new career, I am pleasantly surprised at what has been achieved so far, but I am also incredibly excited at the huge potential that exists in all other areas of our business in Africa. More recently, we have come to the urgent aid of the Botswana government who were at the precipice of a crippling fuel shortage due to COVID enforced border closures preventing road transported fuel imports. We are currently moving 11.8 million litres of fuel product to ensure that their industries can continue to operate, sustaining their economy and allowing their people to have as normal a life as possible while trying to fight back against the pandemic.



One of our trains transporting urgently needed fuel to Botswana, Beira Jul 20

Work in Africa has now taken me to the Indian Ocean coastline of Mozambique, the dense bush of Zimbabwe's copper belt, and the arid moonscape of Saldanha Bay, South Africa. But play in Africa has allowed me to immerse myself in more new cultures, to see more wonders of the natural world, and to further engage in my passion for wildlife photography. I have been able to add Kruger and Sabi Sands to the Masai Mara, Serengeti, Ngorongoro and Amboseli National Parks as places that I have been privileged to photograph African wildlife in their natural habitat. No amount of ultra-high-definition Netflix documentary series can prepare you for the sheer majesty of seeing these animals in the flesh. As humans, we have left quite an indelible mark on this planet, and with that comes a sense of superiority in our abilities and power. All that sentiment however very quickly evaporates as you come eye to eye (with your neck craning considerably) with an African bull elephant in season, who would happily knead your body into the dirt to show the onlooking harem of females just how suitable a mate he is.



Walking with my family up Lion's Head, Cape Town, Jan 20; the view from the Delaire Graff estate, Stellenbosch, Mar 19.



The view of Vioria Falls through the Victoria Falls National Park, Zimbabwe Jan 20; attempting to jump with Masai tribesmen at the entrance to the Masai Mara, Kenya Jan 19.



Yet amongst all this respect we hold for some of these animals, others are unfortunately helpless in fighting a losing existential battle. Animals like the pangolin and black rhino are being murdered for nothing more than the fact that parts of their body are made of higher levels of keratin than us. Any work that can help conserve some of these vulnerable creatures is something I certainly hope to find a path into, and is likely to be the reason that I may end up staying in the Africa slightly longer than originally planned.



Female leopard walking past our vehicle, Masai Mara, Kenya, Jan 19; male lion waking from a snooze, Serengeti, Tanzania, Feb 19.



Tim, one of Kenya's last remaining tuskers, who passed away aged 50 earlier this year. Amboseli, Kenya 19; cheetah family keeping cool in the bush, Masai Mara, Kenya, Jan 19.



Male lion, Sabi Sands, South Africa Jan 20; male leopard stalking through the bush, Kruger, South Africa, Jan 20.

I have the most wonderful memories from my time with the military: the brilliant people who I have worked for and have led; the incredible places that I have deployed to; and the countless life lessons I have learned along the way. I have made life-long friends who have been there to help me through the lows, and celebrate with me during all the highs (and they far out-number the lows!). But I have also sadly lost close friends who died doing what they loved. However, I am overwhelming grateful for how the military has developed me as a person, and how it has allowed me to accomplish things that I would never have seen myself achieving when I first became involved with the Royal Air Force 14 years ago. I will miss the unrivalled camaraderie, the razor sharp banter (predominantly dad jokes), the excellent role models, and the ability to have any excuse at any point in time to dress up and share a drink. I will also miss the pride of serving my country, both in the UK and on operations overseas.

However, the satisfaction that comes with living, working and playing in Africa is something that more than makes up for the loss of what I had with the military. We operate an open house policy at our house in Harare and flat in Cape Town so, when circumstances finally allow, I would be honoured to be able to host anyone from the company who find themselves in my neck of the woods/savannah.

Hope to see you all (at a safe distance) soon!

Events Committee

Upper Warden Elect Sarah Leijten

Tuesday 11th August 10.30 am – Coffee Chat (very informal)

[“Are you ready to breakout of lockdown even if virtually?!”](#)

Join Freeman Susan O’hare and Zoe Dodge for a mid-morning conversation. They will be discussing how we are all approaching differently, the new rules in our social or business lives.

What impact in the short term has the lockdown had and what effect will the new rules have on you? And anything else that you might wish to touch upon in the hour.

Please register by clicking on the link below to join via Zoom if you would like to. Feel free just to listen in or join in the conversation as much as or as little as you feel: [Zoom Registration](#).

Monday 31st August 6.00pm - PatTEDmakers Talk

Jessica Warrant – Founder of Mindunlocked (<https://mindunlocked.co/about/>) who will give a 15 minute talk with questions around: [‘Her approach to mental wellness in the pandemic’](#).

A bit about Jessica: Jessica Warren is Co-Founder of Mind: Unlocked - a company that shares science-based, actionable content, courses and workshops to help people with their modern mental well-being - including guidance on mental well-being in lockdown and building a meditation habit. Jessica is a published wellness writer and international public speaker - including for ThriveGlobal, Economia Magazine and Wanderlust Festival - sharing the best personal development tools she has discovered on her own journey with individuals and blue-chip companies like PwC.

As a graduate, Jessica trained as a Chartered Accountant, and then worked in finance to help start-up companies raise money and grow. She left the City to follow her passion for better well-being and works to share ideas and frameworks that can help us have more fulfilling, mentally and emotionally healthy lives."

Renter Warden Elect – Commodore Patrick Tyrell – who will regale us with: ["A Random Look Through The Periscope"](#)! A light-hearted view of life in submarines, including how not to be run down by the Scotland to Ireland ferry!

The whole event should last approx. 45 minutes.

We look forward to having as many as possible join us for the call and if you are interested please can you register by clicking on the link: [Zoom Registration](#)

City Events

The *City of London Corporation*-owned art gallery will open initially on Saturdays and Sundays (10.30am to 5pm) during August, while the lower galleries and Roman Amphitheatre will reopen at a later date, due to the difficulty in implementing social distancing measures in these spaces.

The Enchanted Interior, the major exhibition on the historic depiction of women in enclosed and ornate spaces, which closed after just four days for the Covid-19 lockdown, will reopen and run until 30 August.

Pre-booked tickets – available from mid-July – are compulsory for Guildhall Art Gallery and *The Enchanted Interior*, and visitors are encouraged to download Smartify before they arrive to help them get the most out of their visit. Free tickets for general admission to the gallery and tickets for *The Enchanted Interior* can be booked online at: [City of London/Guildhall Art Gallery](https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/visiting-the-gallery)

Photo of the Week

Freeman Jo Holloway

Before



After



Funny how life sometimes throws curve balls at you and takes you in directions you weren't expecting. At the back end of last year, my role at adidas, living in Germany was about to change, as my role was being moved to Portland USA. Adidas had signed Beyoncé as one of their main assets, perhaps if I had been 20 years younger that opportunity would have been extremely exciting to undertake, however with an elderly parent who is 86 and living with bone cancer – it was time to pack my stuff up and move back to the UK and do a caring role for a bit.

Weird how fate plays a part, as my father would never have been able to cope with lockdown, it was definitely the right decision to come home to the UK. I moved back into my father's house and spent a good period of lockdown sorting out old cupboards and areas of his home that hadn't been really touched since my mother had passed away. There is something quite therapeutic when you clean out a cupboard and give it some sort of order.

Probably the one thing I really enjoyed is spending time in the garden. Being used to seeing projects through from design to production, it was certainly a huge job to get my teeth into. My Father had a vegetable patch, greenhouse and a couple of sheds at the bottom of the garden which were very unloved.

Sketch pad at the ready, I channelled by inner Monty Don, to come up with an action plan of what needed attacking first. Luckily, I am physically fit and used the exercise as a great workout session. Clearing and sorting the ground

first and then re-digging for the first couple of weeks, just to get rid of some of the weeds, which I have realised my Father seems to grow very well.

Next came painting the sheds and sorting out the greenhouse. Not sure if any of you guys found it hard getting shed paint, but it did feel like the whole of the UK was out painting fences and sheds, but thankfully I found some or maybe it was the colour my father insisted on painting which was in short supply, I'm still not sure, but anyway found some and gave them a new lease of life.

I could see how my father was enjoying seeing the results, gardening certainly does give you that satisfaction. I always thought my Mother was the most eccentric member of the family, but I know realise it my Father, as I totally forgot he built/designed the shed from scratch in the kitchen about 15 years earlier.

Fast forward a couple of months, the vegetables are growing, I picked the first broccoli and it certainly felt lovely sharing some of crop with the neighbours. I can say I have really enjoyed lockdown, spending time with my father, and also finding a new passion, that of gardening



Bird Watch

Freeman Richard Parlour

Bird of the week this week is the Swallow



They are often taken as a sign of the end of cool winter months, but as Aristotle said "One swallow does not a summer make". Just as well that swallows are on the UK green list! Swallows are small birds with glossy dark blue backs, dark red throats, pale underparts and long tail streamers. They are extremely agile in flight and spend most of their time on the wing. Swallows like places with lots of small insects. They are particularly fond of open pasture with access to water and quiet farm buildings. Swallows need rain for wet mud for nest building and for encouraging the abundance of insects. Cold periods and prolonged rain during the breeding season can reduce the numbers of flying insects and lead to high levels of chick starvation. Swallows are one of four main UK hirundines (not hirondelles – those were wines popular in the 70s!). Swifts are all black and much larger, with a stubby tail. House martins are smaller, with a v shaped stubby tail and a tell-tale white rump. Sand martins are the same shape as house martins, but have brown upper parts, no white rump, and a brown chest band, if you are close and quick enough to see it. Very occasionally we get the red rumped swallow, as the name suggests, like a normal swallow but with a red rump, usually flying in amongst a flock of our normal "barn" swallows.

Swallows arrive in the UK in April and May, returning to their wintering grounds in September and October. British swallows spend their winter

in South Africa, fully 6,000 miles away, travelling through western France, across the Pyrenees, down eastern Spain into Morocco and across the Sahara. Some birds follow the west coast of Africa. Large reedbeds in late summer and early autumn can be good places to look for pre-migration roosts. Swallows often congregate in large numbers on telegraph wires. They migrate by day at low altitudes. Despite accumulating some fat reserves migration is a hazardous time and many birds die from starvation, exhaustion and in storms. Migrating swallows cover 200 miles a day at speeds of 17-22 miles per hour though they can reach 35 mph. UK swallow numbers have fluctuated over the last 30 years with pronounced regional variation in trends. There are weather related fluctuations, and climatic changes in African winter quarters and on migration routes, shown in swallows returning to their breeding areas in poor condition and laying fewer eggs than previously. Adverse climatic conditions in Europe such as cold springs with late frosts can cause problems, as do exceptionally hot and dry summers when pools dry out, reducing the numbers of insects so nestlings die from heat exhaustion and dehydration. The expansion of the Sahara desert is making this formidable barrier increasingly difficult for swallows to cross. Changes in farming practices, and barn conversions, are reducing the numbers of nest sites and the quantity of flying insects. Swallows like to forage over grazed pastures, and the loss of cattle grazing has negatively affected them.

International birding result of the week has to be the Portuguese Government confirming that it has banned nocturnal suction olive harvesting in the country for the coming season. The decision follows the publication of a national study that concludes the practice causes significant bird mortality and that the mitigation measures tested, including the deliberate scaring of birds, proved ineffective. In May 2019, the news broke that millions of birds were being killed annually as bycatch through nocturnal suction olive harvesting across the Mediterranean region. It had been estimated that 96,000 birds were dying every winter in Portugal alone. The Portuguese decision follows that of Spain, which in October 2019 opted to ban the method for the 2019-20

harvest season in the regions of Andalusia and Castilla-La Mancha, which are some of the largest producers of olive oil in the country. Prior to the ban, 2.6 million birds were estimated to be vacuumed to death annually in Andalusia alone. The Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests (INCF) was quick to point out that the disturbance and mortality of birds constitutes a violation of Portuguese law and that penalties should apply for anyone committing such an offence. With this in mind, INCF has pledged to ramp up inspections of olive farms between October 2020 and March 2021 in order to ensure that farmers are complying with the new ruling and are not practising nocturnal suction harvesting. Watch out for changes in the taste of your olives, and maybe there will be more smaller migratory birds in the UK next year!



Olive harvesting

The Clerk raises the following question

"Why in the past couple of years I have been regularly blessed with a "charm" of goldfinches but none seen this year despite a gourmet food selection and fresh water on offer? Was it something I said?"

Richard responds ...*thistles in the garden will be attractive, plus try niger seed. I occasionally see them on my feeders, but more rarely this year, and then only after the sunflower hearts*

Recipe of the Week

Scrumptious Burgers

Freeman Jane McCauley

Makes 4 x 6oz burgers
30 mins pre time, 60 mins chilling time

Ingredients

24oz Rump Steak
12 tsps. Breadcrumbs
6tsps. Finely Chopped Red Onion
4 tsps. Mustard Powder
4tsps. Finely Chopped Sage or Thyme
Salt and Pepper

Construction

Remove some of the fat from the steak and any sinew – to your taste
Grind the meat and split it 4 ways
To each pile of meat, add 3 tsps. of breadcrumbs, 1 tsp. mustard powder, 1tsp. of chopped herbs and 1.5 tsps. of onions and pinch of salt and pepper
Stir each pile with index finger
Then pull together into a patty. Press together and shape in a flattened circle and pop on baking tray. Repeat 3 more times
Cover with cling film and chill in the fridge for a minimum of 1 hour
Note. The uncooked burgers can be frozen and taste just as good as fresh – Ensure fully defrosted overnight in the fridge cover

Cooking / Serving

Pop on a preheated BBQ and cook for around 10mins for a well-done burger
Pop a slice of back bacon on the grill after 8mins and cook
When the burger is almost cooked pop a cheese slice on top
Serve on a Brioche Bun (I get mine from M&S), adding the bacon slice on top of the cheese
Serve with side salad and your favourite sauce or ketchup

Tips

I use fresh herbs from whatever I have in the garden

*I buy my meat and grind it myself; it means you know exactly what you are putting in
I whizz the herbs and onion in a small food processor
I use an electric grinder around £60 from Amazon – it is amazing*

Why not try

Pork and Chorizo Burgers – Replace beef with 20oz of Pork and 4oz of Chorizo - I use outdoor reared pork leg and remove most of the fat. Pork and Chorizo go into the grinder.
Lamb and Mint Burgers – Replace Beef with 24oz of Lamb Rump, use finally chopped fresh mint instead of sage or thyme and add 0.5 tsp. of Mint Sauce to each Patty before stirring.

Make in same way as above

You can also use any variety of buns and toppings to your taste
For smaller burgers just reduce the ratio

Hope you enjoy

Letters to the Editor

Liveryman Ray Bentley

Good morning from an extremely hot southern Portugal. I had to leave as the Q & A session began, but just wanted to say how much I enjoyed the Zoom presentation.

Liveryman Dick Clay

I found Chris Hayward's talk on the strategy for development within the City of London very interesting and to the point that a whole raft of issues not covered might merit another Webinar.

All contributions are welcome – please send to the Editor Ian Balcombe : ianbalc@gmail.com

The Clerk's Quiz of the Week

The answer to last week's question was:

Charlie (Charles James) Kray

There were several correct answers this week but the first name out of the hat was . . .

Honorary Freeman John Foxon

Having watched the outstanding webinar launching the new History Book last Tuesday (now available on the website) and learning how rude Charles Dickens was about Pattenmakers I thought we would have a Dickensian question this week so . . .

This Week's Question . . .

In which London neighbourhood can you find Charles Dickens' former home (and now museum) *and for those who just google the answers* his Great, Great Grandson is the Clerk to which City of London Livery Company?

Please send an email to clerk@pattenmakers.co.uk with your answers to enter into the draw. Each correct entry will be entered into a draw to be made by an independent adjudicator at noon on the following Wednesday. The winner will be notified in the subsequent edition of the Newsletter