



# The Pattenmaker

WEEKLY NEWS FROM AROUND THE LIVERY

Issue 28

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2020

## From the Master, Jennifer Bryant-Pearson

This is my first note to you as Master following the Admissions Ceremony yesterday at which we were joined by over 80 members of the Company. Thank you so much for all your support and the kind messages that I have received.



I want to thank Dr David Best for his huge contribution as Master over the last 18 months when he has steered us so successfully through the lockdown – always calm, clear and thoughtful - and into a new era for the Livery movement with virtual meetings and new approaches for the future. We are very grateful for his leadership and ongoing support during these difficult times and I am personally pleased that I will be able to continue to work closely with him in his new role as Immediate Past Master.

We are also very grateful to Liveryman Annette Cove, (and her husband, Ian who jointly received the Annual Master's Award this year), who has championed the Trade Members so effectively throughout her 3 years as Trade Warden and especially during the last 6 months when many of our members have experienced tough times in their businesses due to the effects of Covid-19. We will find an opportunity at our first event to thank both David and Annette properly.

It is a huge privilege and honour to become Master of the Worshipful Company of Pattenmakers and I hope that it is not too long before we can reinstate our reputation as the Partygoers! During the coming year, I very much want to celebrate our history but also to feature

our wide range of charitable and social responsibilities, our inclusivity and relevance as a modern Livery company in today's world and of course, our Fellowship.

I am delighted to be working with such a strong team of Wardens and warmly welcome Upper Warden Sarah Leitjen, Renter Warden Patrick Tyrrell and Trade Warden Martin Pickard to their new roles as well as Past Master Helen Auty as Senior Past Master. We will be introducing them all properly in next week's newsletter. We are also extremely fortunate to have our own Sheriff, Past Master Christopher Hayward, in post for another year and his ambassadorship for the Pattenmakers in the City is hugely appreciated by us all.

It is impossible at this stage to know how the coming year will develop but we have booked all our major functions for 2021 and very much hope that the majority will take place – all dates are on the website. However, we are still planning to have our Annual Carol Service on 10<sup>th</sup> December this year. It is always a wonderful occasion and we intend to make it really special this time, albeit in a different form to accommodate the new rules. Some of us will be present in the Church and I hope that others will join us by Zoom, as our Honorary Chaplain and Beadle have mastered interactive services from St Margaret Pattens so effectively for the weekly services - we even have three members of the choir singing and an organist playing each week. Do join us then in fellowship to mark the end of 2020 and a happier 2021 for everyone.

Without our regular events when we meet new and old friends, we have tried to ensure that we stay in touch through our newsletter each week and I am very grateful to all those who have contributed and to our excellent Editor,

---

Liveryman Ian Balcombe (and Gillian, his wife), the Gallant Clerk and the Assistant Clerk for all their support and enthusiasm in meeting our Friday morning deadline each week. I have been in touch with many of you as a result of the newsletter, but would love to talk to everyone and get your thoughts on the year ahead. Please do make contact whether to supply an article, provide some news or just have a chat – I would appreciate hearing from you.

Email: [jennifer@pattscomms.com](mailto:jennifer@pattscomms.com) or call on 07909 970991

Now for this week's newsletter!

Assistant Keith Bottomley highlights Clean Air Day and the improving situation in the City of London and also reports on the new Covid testing facility at the Guildhall. Liveryman John Clark's son ran in the virtual marathon last week and has already raised over £1600 for our charitable foundation; Jack reports on the big day.

Meanwhile Liveryman John (W D) Clark models the Pattenmakers' face mask very professionally! Our website is gradually being updated and improved thanks to Liveryman David Emanuel, our new Webmaster, and after reading his article, please take 5 minutes to go onto the website and update your details.

We continue with our introductions to Court members and today, Senior Past Master (until yesterday!) Tim Watts explains the role of the SPM.

Assistant Steve Huxham's recent article on Long Service Medals reminded Liveryman Joseph Robertson of his purchase a few years ago and as a result, our intrepid historian solves the mystery of Catherine Evans.

The starling is this week's subject for our Avian correspondent, Freeman Richard Parlour and Past Master Richard Paice and Liveryman Raymond Lewis feature in the Letters section.

Finally, when working on the Clerk's Quiz, you might not only want to consult last week's issue

but also to try a glass of sloe gin – courtesy of his excellent recipe.

## City of London Corporation

### National Clean Air Day 8<sup>th</sup> October Court Assistant Deputy Keith Bottomley CC



A variety of events took place across the country to highlight the issues surrounding air pollution. It started just four years ago, and I'm pleased to say that since then we have seen dramatic improvements in air quality the Square Mile. This is not a coincidence. We have achieved this through an unwavering commitment to change and by taking practical steps to rid the City of London of toxic air, for the benefit of all Londoners. In the City, the density of development, busy road network and central location means that delivering good air quality is a challenge. But through our ambitious Air Quality Strategy, supported by our Transport Strategy, we have been able to deliver real, measurable improvements. We have set ourselves an ambitious target because breathing polluted air leads to 64,000 premature deaths in the UK each year. We want over 90% of the Square Mile to meet World Health Organisation targets for nitrogen dioxide, a major pollutant, by 2025. We are well on our way to achieving this goal and we're working hard to meet it ahead of time. In 2018, around a third of the City met this target, and this doubled to two thirds last year. We expect to see an even larger area meet this target by the end of 2020. We have delivered this significant improvement through traffic management schemes such as the changes at Bank junction and by introducing the UK's first 24/7 zero emission street at Beech Street. These programmes have been instrumental in both reducing the amount of traffic in the Square Mile and encouraging cycling and cleaner vehicles.

We have also been leading by example by banning new diesel vehicles from our own fleet,

---

where there is a clean market alternative, and requiring low emission vehicles in our major contracts. The City Corporation will be the first UK governing authority to run a fully electric fleet of refuse collection vehicles. Collaboration is an important part of our work because we cannot eliminate air pollution on our own. That's why we are working with the construction industry to ensure clean boilers and generators in the City and using planning laws to make sure that new developments are low emission. It is why we have introduced a Private Members Bill into Parliament which would give all London Boroughs, as well as ourselves, tough new powers to tackle air pollution caused by non-traffic sources. And it is why we work with City businesses to help them make an impact in their own neighbourhoods. We celebrate this work through our Clean City Awards scheme, which recognises firms who are going the extra mile for the environment, by reducing single-use plastics, cutting carbon emissions or recycling more. I am proud of the partnership work we are doing with City residents, businesses and our local authority partners across London. And also I am proud of how we are using cutting-edge smartphone technology with our CityAir app, which now gives over 30,000 Londoners low pollution travel routes, advice and alerts.

But despite these significant achievements, there is more to do. The City is facing some very tough times right now. This virus is not going to go away quickly so we need to find a way of living with it. Saving lives and protecting the NHS is paramount but this needs to be done in a way that does not cripple our economy. It's a privilege to chair the City's Environment Committee and to serve as a Common Councilman in the City. We will continue to work hard to build a vibrant City, for all our residents, workers and visitors, with clean air at its very heart.

## Our Charitable Fund

### Virtual Marathon Liveryman John Clark



On Sunday 4th October 2020, our son Jack Clark ran his own 26 mile Virtual London Marathon from Stoke Mandeville Hospital to the Thames River bridge in Marlow, Buckinghamshire.

Both my wife Sarah and I are very proud of him for running his first marathon, after 500 miles of training and the disappointment of changes due to the London event being delayed due to Covid-19. Jack was delighted to be sponsored by The Pattenmakers Company and the Pattenmakers Charitable Foundation who benefit greatly from this additional early initiative, and the total will go to the actual London Marathon event that he will run in London in October 2021. Jack was supported on the day by two Pattenmaker sons, Giorgio Guarino son of Freeman Eraldo Guarino, who cycled alongside Jack and our son David Clark who ran the last hour with him. All were met on Marlow bridge by two great friends and fellow Freeman Ray Reed and Eraldo with his wife Maria. All had suffered some of the worst weather to come out in support of Jack and the Company



*Jack en route with Giorgio in support*



*The finishing line*

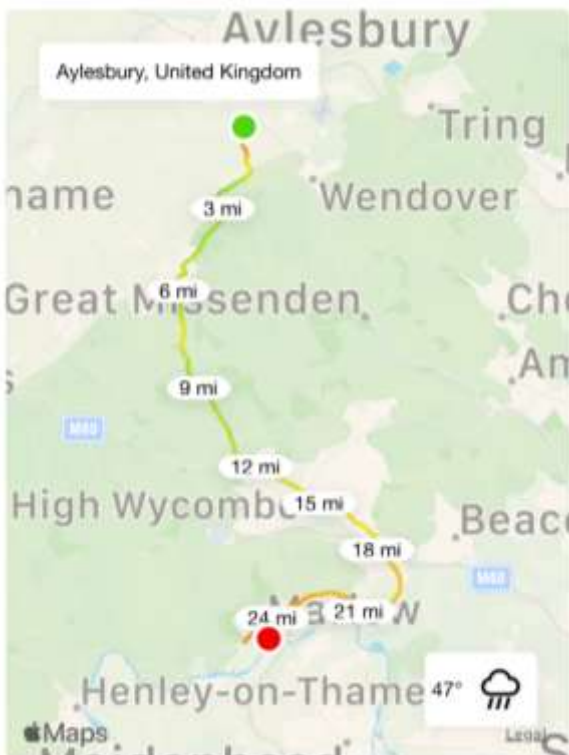
*Giorgio, Jack and David celebrate*

The rain was relentless for Jack and I am pleased to say that he showed the same determination on the day that he has done throughout his training.

Well done Jack we are extremely proud of you.

### Jack Clark

My time over 26.2 miles was 5.22.56 and for a first attempt in the pouring rain I'm happy with that. It went very well, very tiring but so elated at the achievement. I had such a good group of people come to support me out in the rain it was an amazing experience. Everyone that came to see me gave me such a boost.



*Jack's Marathon route*

The moment I crossed the line the memory of 500 miles of training all became worth it in an instant. It was a tearful moment for me and some members of my family as they have been along for the ride throughout training as well as the race.

I am delighted that due to people sponsoring me while I was running. my total shot up and the sum raised so far for the Livery with gift aid is £1,801.00. I can't thank everyone who sponsored me enough.

I really appreciate the Pattenmakers giving me the platform to make it happen and the inspiration that is potentially running in London next year!

All round it was an amazing experience.

From the Editor – Members of the Livery can make donations to the Just Giving Page:

[Jack Clark Fundraising](#)

## Our Charitable Fund

### Pattenmakers' Masks From the Clerk



There are now only four Pattenmakers' Face masks left so don't miss out - order now!

[Pattenmaker Masks Order Form](#)

96 have been sold and very nearly £400 raised for the Charity

---

## Testing centre at Guildhall Yard Court Assistant Deputy Keith Bottomley CC



The City of London Corporation has granted approval for the historic Guildhall Yard to house a coronavirus testing site.

The decision by the City Corporation is part of efforts to ensure people can safely work, visit and live in the Square Mile.

Guildhall Yard, the forecourt of the City Corporation's headquarters, can now act as a local testing site to boost testing capacity for the City and neighbouring boroughs.

The facility is expected to be installed next week and will serve for an initial period of three months.

Local testing sites support the NHS Test and Trace service, which ensures anyone who develops COVID-19 symptoms can be quickly tested to find out if they have the virus.

## Our History

### Out of the Mud Past Master Richard Kottler

After some last minute layout and presentational issues, the Book is now with the printers and should be delivered to the Fulfilment company we are working with in mid-October. Delivery to members who have pre-ordered the standard version of the Book will follow immediately with each copy having a covering letter included with

it. Those members who have ordered the leather bound version will receive their copies within a further month due to the complexity of the binding process.

### Long Service Medals

The article which **Court Assistant Steve Huxham** wrote on this subject prompted an enquiry by **Liveryman Joseph Robertson to recap :**

*I was very interested to read Court Assistant Steve Huxham's piece on the Long Service Medals as I managed to purchase one a few years back via eBay; I always wondered what the story was behind it. Based on the hallmarks, the medal I acquired was made by Thomas Fattorini Ltd in Birmingham in 1935. It was issued to Catherine Evans for 'general proficiency and 22 years satisfactory service' and Lucia has enjoyed wearing it to Pattenmakers' events. Perhaps one day we can find out who Catherine was and might be able to send a letter to her family!"*



**Court Assistant Steve Huxham** investigated:

The comment about wondering who Catherine Evans was, always acts as a cue for me to start digging! The challenge here as ever, and no doubt Liveryman Stephen Cribb will agree, is that unusual names are normally easier to track down than this one. There are/were plenty of Catherine Evans around – mainly in Wales, and no surprises there of course!

I thought initially I may have had some returns with a search in the 1939 England and Wales Register, with two people connected to the shoe trade (in Northants and Glamorgan) but then realised that the dates didn't stack up and those

## The Pattenmaker

two “Catherines” were born in 1912 and 1924 respectively, so both far too young to get any long service award!

So, doing the math on it, and working from your information on when the medal was made (not necessarily the year it was awarded) that could be anywhere 1935-1939 that the Court presented it. Add the 22 years of work, and the fact that Catherine would have started work at the earliest at 16 (or maybe a year or two before in those days) and work out roughly how old she would have been at time of the 1939 Register. So I thought roughly around 42 minimum in 1939, giving a birth year to check of 1897 (and allowing c.10 years flexibility either way on the history sites.)

A lot of checking and adjusting search terms gave me only 1 result – for Emily Catherine Evans. I’ll come on to the challenge of the middle name in due course. Originally there was a K for Katherine on the listing but this has been corrected in green ink to Catherine. She was a “Boot Machinist” in Leicester, born 17<sup>th</sup> January 1895.



*Catherine Evans 1939 Register  
Boot Machinist*

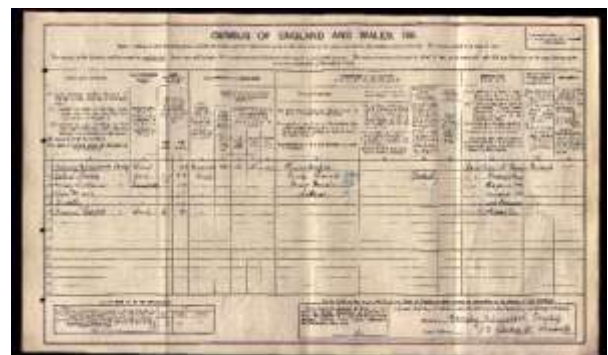
Confirmation that it was definitely a “C” comes from the Leicester death registration of April 1971, which I also checked. What we do not know, and can never know 100%, is whether she used her middle rather than first name. However the Probate Death Index (also attached) indicates

some flexibility in what she was known as, since it gives some alternatives and even better that these are documented in this way



*1971 Probate Death Register*

Moving on, I haven’t found a marriage record, but I believe that Emily Catherine’s maiden name was Corley and this leads on to another couple of interesting discoveries. Please see below the 1911 Census for the Corley family.



*1911 Census*

Although all born in London (Regents Park for Emily Catherine) apart from the youngest son, Thomas Harold, they are all in Leicester by this time and Emily Catharine’s job, at 16 years old (ties in with 1895 birth) – is a Boot Machinist! Clearly, even if our medal was handed out at the earliest in 1935, this person would already have

## The Pattenmaker

been working in the industry for a minimum of 24 years, not necessarily all at the same factory.

The final piece of the jigsaw today is the 1929 Electoral Register for Liggins Street in Leicester, showing the residents for No.14 to include Emily Katharine (sic) Evans, and also Thomas Harold Corley, her youngest brother, which helps cement the Evans/Corley connection. Even more interesting, the first named resident is Emily Elizabeth Evans – mother-in-law or other member of that side of the family?

POLLING DISTRICT E.		No. 8 or LATIMER WARD	
0412	R —	Tyax, John	4 SPINNER STREET—cont.
0413	R O	Berry, Sam	2
(Abode—39 Devana Road)			
0414	Dw —	Berry, Emma	2
(Abode—39 Devana Road)			
0415	Rw Ow	Richards, Annie	1 LIGGINS STREET
0416	R —	Fearn, George	1
0417	Rw Ow	Norton, Emma	3
0418	R —	Norton, Archibald	3
0419	R O	Horne, William	5
0420	Rw Dw	Horne, Emily	5
0421	Rw Ow	Simpson, Sarah Elias	7
0422	R O	Baggett, George Alfred	7
0423	R —	Coley, William	7
0424	R O	Day, John Henry	9
0425	Rw Dw	Day, Elias	9
0426	R O	Worth, George	11
0427	Rw Dw	Worth, Clara Elisabeth	11
0428	R O	Walker, Henry Richard	16
0429	Rw Dw	Walker, Sarah Hannah	16
0430	R —	Walker, William Henry	16
0431	R —	Harrison, John William	16
0432	Rw Ow	Evans, Emily Elisabeth	14
0433	Rw —	Evans, Emily Katharine	14
0434	R —	Corley, Thomas Harold	14
0435	R —	Spence, Francis John	14
William			
0436	R O	Wayne, Arthur	12
0437	Rw Dw	Wayne, Sarah Jane	12
0438	Rw —	Walker, Lilian	12
0439	R O	Teagle, Charles Edward	10
0440	Rw Dw	Teagle, Fenella	10
0441	R O	Warner, William	8
0442	Rw Dw	Warner, Nellie Kitty	8
Devilsden			
0443	R O	Cooper, Edwin Edward	6
0444	Rw Dw	Cooper, Mary Ann	6
0445	Rw —	Cooper, Mary Ann, junr.	6
0446	R O	Sargeant, William	4
0447	Rw Dw	Sargeant, Hannah	4
0448	Rw Ow	Sutton, Emily	4
0449	R O	Deacon, John	1 Court A
0450	Rw Dw	Deacon, Maria	1 Court A
0451	R O	Dent, William Cyril	3 Court A
0452	Rw Dw	Dent, Gladys Alice	3 Court A
0453	Rw Ow	McManus, Kate	5 Court A
0454	R —	McManus, Oliver	5 Court A
0455	Rw Ow	Stevenson, Ann Elias	7 Court A
0456	R —	Moore, George	7 Court A
0457	R —	Smith, William	7 Court A
0458	R O	Ingsid, William	9 Court A
0459	Rw Dw	Ingsid, Lily	9 Court A
0460	R O	Grant, John Henry	10 Court A
Alexander			
0461	Rw Dw	Grant, Annie Elisabeth	10 Court A

1929 Electoral Register Liggins Street

Maybe with two Emily Evans in the house at this time, it explains why “our” one chose to use her middle name at this point and through the 1930s? Incidentally if we refer back again at the 1939 Register again, it is worth noting that our person of interest is now the sole resident listed at the address 10 years on and noted as “single.” I did try and look further into the Evans family and Emily Elizabeth but it was hard to pin them down, although if that Emily is the one I found, all of them were also in the shoe trade. The final picture is a shot of Liggins Street including 14 just

before it was demolished as part of a slum clearance in the early 1960s.

Maybe with two Emily Evans in the house at this time, it explains why “our” one chose to use her middle name at this point and through the 1930s? Incidentally if we refer back again at the 1939 Register again, it is worth noting that our person of interest is now the sole resident listed at the address 10 years on and noted as “single.” I did try and look further into the Evans family and Emily Elizabeth but it was hard to pin them down, although if that Emily is the one I found, all of them were also in the shoe trade. The final picture is a shot of Liggins Street including 14 just before it was demolished as part of a slum clearance in the early 1960s.



Liggins Street before demolition

Does all this prove that this “Catherine” Evans is one and the same as the person who was originally given your medal? Sadly not and I suspect that would always be difficult after all this time, unless we happened to have a close family connection with descendants. However, the number of people called, or known as Catherine Evans, active and with already long service in the footwear trade in the 1930s has got to be very limited indeed, even if the name is not a unique one. So I think the probability is as high as we are likely to find unless other supporting or conflicting evidence comes to light in the future.

All I can say is that if this lady I’ve found is not the person who was given the medal, well, she certainly should have got one anyway from the Company for a lifetime of work in the trade!

---

## Members' News

### Liveryman Deborah Longstaff



*Deborah to the right receives her Freedom Certificate from the City of London*

I was born in 1963 in the seaside town of Whitley Bay in Northumberland. I spent my early years living all over the UK as my Father was in the Royal Navy. I left school at 16 & followed in my Father's footsteps & joined the Women's Royal Naval Service as a 'Wren' – I served for seven amazing years, meeting some interesting people from all walks of life & made lifelong friends. During my time I volunteered for St Dunstan's (now Blind Veterans UK) acting as a 'human guide dog' for ceremonial events such as Armistice Day at The Cenotaph

My last posting was in the recruitment division of the Royal Navy & this proved to be the start of a successful career in the world of recruitment & selection. I am now a Fellow of the Institute of Recruitment Professionals and Associate Director of Eden Brown Built Environment recruitment consultancy. During my time with my first 'civilian' recruitment business I spent seven years as a Governor & Tutor for the Institute of Employment Consultants (now the REC - Recruitment Employment Confederation) sitting on the Education & Training Committee.

I came into the facilities management arena in 1998 & have been recruiting FM professionals ever since. I volunteer for the IWFM (Institute of

Workplace and Facilities Management) as a guest speaker at Aldershot Garrison, giving careers advice to men & women leaving the military and embarking on a career in FM. This is hugely fulfilling and allows me to 'give back' to the industry that has served me so well over the last 20 years. I mentor consultants in my business & train young people coming into our industry.

I am honoured to be a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Patternmakers & enjoy the equal honour of sitting as a Judge & Training Facilitator for the Patternmaker's Young Manager award for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year running.

Lockdown has been a challenge for everyone & I am proud that the Facilities Management & Built Environment sector has held its own & played a significant part, not least in the maintaining and cleaning of our country's key worker buildings.

---

### Being the Webmaster General Liveryman David Emanuel



It was only a few months ago I contributed to the photo of the week in the Newsletter, so hopefully everyone can recall that having been a Londoner for most of my life, two years ago I re-married and moved to the beautiful Cotswolds and London

life seems a distant memory for me, as I've settled in to my new countryside surroundings and even recently bought an old Land Rover Defender to completely assimilate myself.

Of course, 2020 has been a year of change for most of us, adapting to the New Ways of Working and most of us that are still working are now working from home for the foreseeable future although some express the view that its really more like: living at the office! I was fortunate, that when I moved, I had a self-contained Annexe by the house, that I use as my home office, so I have a good work life balance and physical separation between home and office life, even Alfred my dog understands the words 'let's go to the office',

where he joins me, bar the Zoom calls, as he gets rather too excited by squirrels or birds in the garden and becomes quite the distraction!

What did change for me this year, was that I accepted a new role as the webmaster of the Livery. I had already rebuilt the website, hosted it on servers in the UK and integrated the membership database, so I thought accepting this really was just a title. Actually it has been much more than that, as whilst it's always been my responsibility to ensure that the website is assisting the effective communications of the livery and ensuring it is up to date, I've also set up the Livery Zoom account and been on hand to ensure that all our virtual meetings have taken place seamlessly, whether that's a committee or court meeting, a webinar or PattenTed Talk or our regular coffee chats, all virtual events that have been so important in these times to keep us all connected.

I now recognise the commitment, time and effort that so many freely give too. We'll be making further updates to the website, so that when physical events take place again, we can book these online and also get insights of which events are attended by whom, so that we can provide more of the events that you want. To do that it is important that we all ensure our profiles on the website are up to date, so please log in and make sure your profile and details are correct.

Being the webmaster, has brought me closer to the Livery and to those that work really hard behind the scenes, the Master, the Master Elect, the Wardens and members of the Court and of course our Clerk and Assistant Clerk. I really feel the fellowship of belonging to the Pattenmakers now and have learnt so much more about the work and workings of the livery too.

*Editor's Note – please be sure to visit the website and update your details in the Member's Section Address Book.*

## The Court

### Senior Past Master Tim Watts



The Learned and Gallant Clerk explained, in the last edition of the Newsletter, that The Court is made up of the Officers (Master etc), Past Masters and Assistants.

He also mentioned that about 10 years after being Master, the longest serving PM moves to the Honorary Court.

In this last year before moving to the Honorary Court, that PM is known as Senior Past Master. Normally, this move into the long grass of the Honorary Court is in March (i.e. when the new Master is installed). 2020 is not a normal year, but by the time this Newsletter reaches you, we shall have installed the New Master and I shall no longer be SPM.

My year as Master was 2008/09. Being Master was always fascinating, sometimes serious but above all tremendous fun. And a great many firm friends were made and have been kept. Every summer an association of all Masters during the particular Lord Mayor's Mayoralty is formed and, as the Pattenmakers install a new Master about half way through a Mayoralty, I had good friends in both years and I joined both the '08 and the '09 Associations. These are the After Eights (we tried to get sponsorship from the chocolate mint people without success) and the Cat's Whiskers (Ian Luder had his cat at Mansion House).

However, I am supposed to be explaining about being the SPM not recalling how much I enjoyed getting to be SPM. I should probably be aware of where it is written down what the SPM is supposed to do, but if it is written I haven't read it. I have (as I think all SPMs have) contributed or not as I felt appropriate. The SPM is invited to attend meetings of the Finance & General

---

Purposes Committee, usually held about a month before a Court meeting. The F&GPC reviews the finances and acts as the filter of the other issues that the Court needs to debate/decide. The idea of inviting the SPM, I suppose, is to bring a little experience and wisdom (or whatever you want to call it) to proceedings and to advise or guide on how the Pattenmakers have done things; or perhaps it is, how they should do things as, as any serving Master will tell you, there is a never ending refrain from all Past Masters: "well, we didn't do that in my year".

In our Company, all the Past Masters (that is, all PMs including those on the Honorary Court) also have a role (in conjunction with the serving Master) in making recommendations to the Court as to membership of the Court and the succession of the Officers. The SPM leads the Past Masters in that function. Putting forward recommendations is a task the PMs take seriously and consider very carefully, as you would imagine; but it may not be a surprise to hear that after such meetings there is usually a dinner.

The idea that the experience of Past Masters should be available at the Court after they have passed the Chair follows the example of the Court of Aldermen and is common (as far as I know) to most Livery companies. This is certainly true in my other Company, the City of London Solicitors Company where Past Masters continue to serve on the Court. Incidentally, the CoLSC is, I believe, the only Livery to have a geographical qualification to membership: you must have practised as a solicitor in the City to be eligible.

Life is a progression, and the Livery no different. Helen Auty followed me as Master, and so will as SPM. I am sure that, as I was shown up by Helen in 2009/10, so I shall be again by the new SPM.

## Events

**Sir Christopher Wren – Virtual Tout to be held on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October at 5:30pm**

[Christopher Wren Virtual Tour](#)

One of the most remarkable aspects of the City of London is that we can still visit so many churches

built by gifted architect, Sir Christopher Wren. Apart from his delightful contributions in the city, many of his works still stand around the country.

Recognised today mainly for his architectural skills, he was also a cultivated and informed astronomer, mathematician, anatomist, and physicist. Quite the man of science with the flair for designing aesthetically pleasing buildings many of which are still in use today.

## Photo of the Week

**Liveryman John W D Clark** in his Pattenmakers' mask at The Bridge theatre in London on Saturday



*Submitted by his daughter Renter Warden Sarah Leijten*

## Bird Watch

**Bird of the week this week is the Starling - Freeman Richard Parlour**



---

Slightly smaller than blackbirds, with a short tail, pointed head, and triangular wings, starlings look black at a distance. When you look closely, however, they are very glossy with an amazing iridescent sheen of purples and greens with flecks of silver. Their flight is fast and direct with a rapid wingbeat. On the ground they walk and run confidently. They can be very noisy and gregarious, and starlings spend a lot of the year in flocks. Although they are still one of the commonest of garden birds, their decline makes them a Red List species. This may seem incredible. I recall vast flocks descending on city centres, roosting on any (or even every) available office ledge. In those days there were so many of them that they were regarded as a noisy nuisance, but also a sign of the end of a scheduled workday. That was in my school days, however, and that was a little time ago now. There are thought to be around 1.8 million breeding birds in the UK and you can see them almost anywhere across the country, though they are a rarity in the Scottish highlands. Their numbers have decreased since the 1980s, however, by about 70%. It is thought that intensive farming methods, and lack of insects due to greater use of stronger pesticides, are the root cause.

Starlings nest in loose colonies, in holes and cavities, using trees and buildings, outbuildings preferably. The male acts as the nest builder, constructing the general structure of the nest. The female takes responsibility for interior decoration and lines the nest with fine grass, moss and feathers. The young are fed exclusively on insects, spiders and worms. Once fledged, you may see them eating fruit. They do take to nest boxes and you can either buy a starling nest box or make one. They need a 4.5cm hole. I will cover how to make one next week. As they like to nest in small colonies, you'll need at least three of them, and site them relatively close to each other.

Starlings are also known for their murmurations, where flocks of hundreds of thousands of starlings fill the sky, flying in unison, twisting and turning as they paint their amazing wave patterns across a twilight sky. These days you will be lucky to see up to 50,000 birds. Near London, there are murmurations at Rainham Marshes, on the way to Purfleet, and at Otmoor just north of Oxford, or

the derelict West Pier at Brighton, for example. You can also see smaller murmurations at places like Amwell, just outside Ware. Check out this website for a location near you: [www.starlingsintheuk.co.uk/roost-map.html](http://www.starlingsintheuk.co.uk/roost-map.html).

They like to roost in reed beds, but you can often see them starting to gather on electricity pylons and wires. They will start their displays shortly, and this will run through the winter. You'll need to aim to get to your chosen site at least an hour before nightfall or daybreak. Taking video is as good an idea as taking photographs. Wear warm clothing and take a flask of something hot! Starlings are usually the only birds thought of to flock like this, but I have seen jackdaws doing more or less the same thing, and I was treated to lapwings putting on a display at my local gravel pits last week.

In other bird news, the first Tennessee warbler has been seen in Shetland for 25 years. There have been a number of black browed albatross sightings in the North Sea (one is often seen off Bempton Cliffs in Yorkshire). Elsewhere there have been cranes flying over the south east, a Dartford Warbler just outside Luton, a Kentish plover in Sussex and a number of yellow browed warblers in various locations. Quite a few phalarope have showed up too. Natural Cambridgeshire is planning to double the size of land for nature by 2030 (currently only 8.5% of the county is set aside for wildlife, doubling this would bring it up to the UK average, see [www.naturalcambridgeshire.org.uk](http://www.naturalcambridgeshire.org.uk)). The Wildlife Trusts have launched a £30m campaign to start putting nature into recovery on 30% of land and sea by 2030, see [www.wildlifetrusts.org](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org). Happy birding!

## Letters to the Editor

### From Past Master Richard Paice to Court Assistant Steve Huxham

*What a surprise...I was delighted to read about William de la Motte as I have four of his engravings of trees: Abele, Sycamore, Pine and Oak , two with signatures engraved, hanging in my hall in the Cotswolds where I am locked down, inscribed:*

*Drawn and etched by William de la Motte*

---

Published as the Act directs by Wm de la Motte Gt  
Marlow 1811

You have filled in so much more for me

### Steward Raymond Lewis MSM to the Clerk

We both really look forward to 8:30am on Fridays to receive the Weekly News Letter. This has done our Company a lot of good. It is turning into a Freemans Bible - it reminds me of the Taxi Drivers knowledge programme. A way of explaining some of the Mysteries of Livery and making the goal of becoming a Liveryman even more exciting. The Master's Final Message was a very good read. To me this has got to be the way forward. However it would be better prior to their Admission to Office so that we all know who the new Head of the Family is and why they choose to become a Pattenmaker and not another Livery Company. We also enjoyed reading Sharon's Travelogue. I am hoping my Head of Catering (Margaret) will serve me up a Miso shortly. This week's quiz had myself & Margaret really buzzing! One of the best.

Question Number 7. I thought at the time where are the flowers? The second thing that came to mind was they would not be happy bees because if they have to drop down to gather pollen they might not survive the journey back up. I know they have to keep warm and if the Sun became overcast with cloud they would lose their body warmth and die of fatigue. I have always admired these creatures, they look so beautiful. Before we moved to Churchill Retirement Living I would often see a bumble bee laying on our lawn in late afternoon and would make up a solution of 50% white sugar and 50% water then tempt it with this mixture on a teaspoon. In most cases, after a while, it would walk a little then take off to a high point to get its bearings then fly off. A wonderful sight.

## Recipe of the Week

### Sloe Gin The Clerk

As we cannot hold Gin and Whisky Tastings and that we are in Autumn. I offer you this:



1. Visit your local hedgerow
2. Pick sloes (off a Blackthorn Bush)
3. Go home
4. Books tell you to cut/prick the sloes to release the flavours. Life is too short: bung them in a freezer bag and freeze them overnight and that will split the skins.
5. Fill a bottle one third with (split skin) sloes
6. Cover sloes with sugar (caster if available)
7. Fill bottle with Gin
8. Shake bottle every 48 hours (or when you can be bothered)
9. Wait six weeks
10. Drink

In a previous life I was told by Frances, a Norland Nanny, that when you have removed the Gin sodden Sloes at Christmas put them in a bottle and the fill bottle with sweet Sherry until Easter, drink then take the gin and sherry sodden Sloes and cover them in dark chocolate and have a brilliant May Bank Holiday.

The last time I tried this I had missed the sloes and got home with what I was told were damsons (looked like sloes to me)



Anyway, there was no Gin in the house but there was a bottle of Vodka which I had won in a raffle which I was told could be drunk

So I switched damsons for sloes and Vodka for Gin and hey presto six weeks later I had Damson Vodka!

. . . after two glasses no one cared!  
Enjoy!

All contributions are welcome – please send to the Editor Ian Balcombe [ianbalc@gmail.com](mailto:ianbalc@gmail.com)  
Deadline – Midday on Tuesday each week

## The Clerk's Quiz of the Week

Several good entries this week led by Assistant Steve Huxham, Steward Raymond Lewis and Diana Fieldwick so well done to all. No-one, at the time of writing, got everything right – Obviously Mr Google didn't know that there were now beehives on the roof at Mansion House which was the answer we were looking for. The answers to last week were:

1. What sex are worker bees? **Female (S says – obviously!)**
2. What is Propolis? **Propolis is a natural resinous mixture produced by honeybees from substances collected from parts of plants, buds, and exudates. The word is derived from Greek, in which pro stands for "at the entrance to" and polis for "community" or "city," which means this natural product is used in hive defence by plugging all the gaps to stop wasps etc getting in.**
3. Which Club is Bertie Wooster a member of? **Drones**
4. What is a skep? **A Straw or Wicker beehive**
5. Which bird in the UK is infamous for attacking beehives **Green Woodpecker**
6. If the calendar year ends in a five or a zero what colour is used to mark a queen bee? **Blue**
7. Which building in the City of London now has beehives on the roof? **Mansion House**
8. What is the collective noun for beehives? **Apiary**
9. Which City Livery Company has a Hall in Gresham Street? **Wax Chandlers**
10. What did the Clerk do last Thursday? **Bee Keeping Introduction**

To give Mr Google a rest, the answers to this week's Quiz can all be found in last week's newsletter (No 27)

### This week's questions:

1. What year did the HAC receive its Royal Charter?
2. Who is the CEO of the Marine Society and Sea Cadets?
3. Where was William Alfred Delamotte born?
4. How much did Past Master Lamb's newest Granddaughter weigh when she was born?
5. How many members of the Pattenmakers' Court are there?
6. What is smishing?
7. What is Katusobushi?
8. What is Barbie Doll's full name?

Please send an email to [clerk@pattenmakers.co.uk](mailto:clerk@pattenmakers.co.uk) with your answers. The winner(s) will be announced in a subsequent edition of the Newsletter