



# The Pattenmaker

WEEKLY NEWS FROM AROUND THE LIVERY

Issue 30 - Pearl Edition

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020

## From the Master - Jennifer Bryant-Pearson



As I write this, I am still thinking about the brilliant Magic Show that the Renter Warden organised on Zoom – what an amazing magician and one Pattenmaker is still worried about how his PIN number was accessed!

I am currently in St Margaret Pattens church where, following the weekly service, we have been planning the arrangements for the Carol service which will take place on 10<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm as a hybrid service – some will be able to join us in church and others can join online. Our Honorary Chaplain, Rev Andrew Keep, will provide more details in next week's newsletter but please save the date now. The church also appears in our Photo of the week with Past Master Richard Kottler and Liveryman Steve Huxham hard at work on updating the Pattenmakers' showcase.

This week's newsletter features our own Sheriff Hayward dressed appropriately with full ceremonial attire and the Pattenmakers' mask as he carries out his civic duties in the City whilst Vicky Russell, Chair of the Livery committee updates us on some of the Lord Mayor's many virtual engagements.

The gallant Clerk describes the background to the Office of the Trade Warden and also presents the Pearly Kings and Queens in this, our 30<sup>th</sup> Pearl issue and Freeman Richard Parlour has managed to create a pearly link in his avian column. Freeman David Lockyer reports on the Footwear Friends' activities over the past year and we have

an update from two of the students we support at the City of London School. Student One has recorded excellent GCSEs and is now embarking on her A level studies and Student 2 is taking part in swimming galas on behalf of the School and enjoying Year 7.

Past Master Ian Scarr- Hall sends us a Postcard from the Outer Hebrides and Liveryman James Webster features in the Members' news.

We continue our introduction to the Court members with the focus on Senior Past Master Helen Auty who also provides this week's recipe.

Look out for the events and an invitation to the first virtual Freedom of the City ceremony for Freeman Zoe Chowney to which you are all invited and don't forget the Quiz!

## City of London Corporation

### Pattenmaker Sheriff of the City of London, Past Master Chris Hayward CC

Sheriff Hayward accompanied the Lord Mayor to carry out duties in respect of the formal opening of the next legal session of the Central Criminal Court at the Old Bailey. It is one of only two ceremonial occasions in the Shrieval year when the Sheriff is allowed to 'bear arms' and carries with him the



ceremonial sword. At the proceedings both the Recorder of London and the Lord Mayor address the judiciary and by tradition the Lord Mayor briefly exercises his rights as the Chief Magistrate of the City to hear a very brief trial. Our Sheriff posed for this photograph proudly wearing his new Pattenmaker face mask!

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## City Livery Update

### Vicky Russell - Chair Livery Committee

The new Livery Committee website was launched on 1 September. This is the result of much hard work on the part of several individuals and it is very rewarding to have already had so much positive feedback and constructive comments. The website provides a one-stop shop for information about the Livery Committee, Livery Companies and Guilds and their related events and much more, including the various courses which the Livery Committee organises each year. The frequent updating of the information on the website means it will be far easier to keep everyone informed of changes to dates and events, which this year has been something of a particular challenge. If you have not yet visited the website, please take a moment to do so at <http://www.liverycommittee.org>. All feedback is very welcome to help ensure the website remains informative, accurate and relevant for all its users.

The Lord Mayor's virtual engagement has continued in earnest. In July, he visited Australia virtually, waking up early UK time for an online programme of events with Australian stakeholders. Top of the agenda was closer collaboration in Green Finance and Fintech, as well as discussing negotiations on a UK-Australia free trade deal and the potential benefits to the financial services sector. Closer to home, in October he also visited Glasgow virtually - a city with a growing financial services and Fintech sector. The visit focused on how the Lord Mayor could promote Glasgow's financial services and how they could work more closely with their City of London partners. The Lord Mayor also met with representatives from the Glasgow Livery, discussing their experiences during COVID-19 and charitable activities. A virtual visit to the USA is planned for mid-October.

The Lord Mayor is based in Mansion House during the week and still conducting physical visits where possible and within government guidelines. Since the last bulletin, he has visited many of the open spaces managed by the City of London Corporation - such as Epping Forest, Hampstead Heath and Kenley Common. These open spaces have seen far greater use in the summer months since the pandemic, as more households meet outside and seek green space. The Lord Mayor met with staff and discussed how they are managing this increased demand and ensuring the open spaces remain safe, tidy and accessible for all visitors

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## Alderman William Russell The Rt Hon the Lord Mayor



The Lord Mayor wishes to circulate a report published by the City of London Corporation on London's recovery following Covid-19 and its long-term competitiveness. The

report, titled *London Recharged: Our vision for London in 2025*, can be found in PDF form [at this link](#).

Note – you may recall that our Sheriff, Past Master Chris Hayward spoke on this subject when he presented his webinar and featured several aspects of the report.

## Our Charitable Fund

### Footwear Friends – Past Master Richard Kottler

Freeman David Lockyer who is the Chairman and President gives some insight into the work carried out by this Charity.



## Report of the Executive Committee for the year ended January 31<sup>st</sup> 2020

This year we have distributed £71,228 to our beneficiaries assisting 150 individuals through a combination of one off payments and mid-year and Christmas grants. Thanks to the generosity of Micro-Pak and the Cordwainers Livery Company we were able to continue to give a bonus grant alongside our Christmas grant which from the large number of “thank you” letters that we receive was greatly appreciated. As in previous years one of our committee members, Justin Morgan, reviews all the applications for help and with assistance from Gabi and Mandie deals speedily with all the requests we receive. Although we appreciate that many of our elderly applicants do not have access to a computer we have now introduced in addition an online application form which speeds up the process.

Our policy has always been to distribute the money we raise to our beneficiaries with the running costs of the Charity paid for from the income on our investments. The donations we receive from our many supporters are therefore critical to our ongoing ability to make payments. The International Golf Championship of the Shoe, Leather & Allied Trades continues to be one of our largest donors. Two thousand and twenty will be the 75<sup>th</sup> consecutive year in the history of this event which over this time has donated close to £550,000 to trade charities, a remarkable achievement. Another significant landmark was the 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the foundation of the BFA. I was delighted with the support given by the BFA through a fund raising event at the Northampton Footwear Manufacturers Dinner and by their commitment to provide mentoring support to our Annual Awards entrants.

For the second year running the Charity Committee from Dr Martens organised and ran a sale on our behalf which raised £10,000 a fantastic

result and we are indebted to all those who worked so hard to make this result possible. A similar sum was donated by Micro-Pak Ltd which funds one of our Awards at the Annual Awards event and our Christmas Bonus grant. The two Livery Companies associated with the footwear industry, the Cordwainers and Pattenmakers continue to provide generous support as do Community, the Trades Union representing footwear workers and the Elaine Barratt and Lilley Benevolent Trusts which have supported us for many years. Ongoing support from the London Golf Society and the Jeffrey West v Barkers cricket match is also much appreciated. The two trade publications, Drapers and Footwear Today, are very helpful with Footwear Today organizing a fund raising event at their awards evening and Drapers supporting a raffle at their awards event and providing space for our Christmas advertising fund raiser. We are grateful to the many companies and individuals who donate prizes for the various raffles we hold during the year which in total raise more than £3,000.

For our Annual Awards event we chose a new venue this year, The Crypt on the Green, Clerkenwell, an excellent atmospheric location. The large number of entrants clearly shows that the spirit of enterprise and creativity is alive and kicking in the industry and the judges were impressed with the quality of the work presented. The Worshipful Company of Cordwainers prize for Innovation was won by Ottowin, a specialist maker of handmade leather footwear using traditional manufacturing techniques, the Micro-Pak Award by Mon Fred a design company, specializing in Flip Flop sandals using vegan leathers with a meticulous attention to detailed execution and the BFA prize by Auxiliary a designer of top grade men’s sneaker products already finding a home in leading department stores. We are indebted to the sponsors of the event, Dune, Pavers, Shoe Zone, Skechers and Startrite and the providers of the prizes, The Cordwainers Company, Micro-Pak and the BFA without whom the evening would not be possible. Special thanks also to one of our committee members, Malcolm Collins, who as usual did a great job organizing the event.

The request for help from employees from all sectors of the footwear industry who have fallen on hard times shows no sign of abating and the importance of this long established charity in providing that help continues. The trustees thank everyone who donates to and supports our cause without which our work could not continue.

Since the year end we, along with all other charities and organisations, have been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Where possible we have reduced our expenditure by agreeing a rent reduction on our office space and taking advantage of the Government furlough scheme but since February our income has dried up as we have had to cancel all our planned fund raising events and private and company donations have ceased. The footwear industry has been badly impacted by the pandemic with this business sector reporting the largest decline in sales of any in the ONS survey and inevitably it will take time for our usual level of donations and sponsorships to resume. We have sufficient cash reserves to sustain our planned expenditure for 2020/21 but will need to think imaginatively on how we can resume fund raising activities as soon as conditions allow.

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## City of London School for Girls



**Freeman Dr Ingrida Kerusauskaite and Freeman Susan O'Hare** liaise with the two City Schools on our behalf. Reports have been received from the students at the City of London School for Girls which the Company assists.

### Student 1.

I am very grateful for the support given by the Worshipful Company of Pattenmakers for my studies here at the City of London School for Girls. This year I received my GCSE results and

was very pleased with the outcome. In my eleven subjects, English Language, English Literature, maths, further maths, geography, Latin, biology, physics and Spanish were all awarded a level 9 and I received a level 8 in history and chemistry.

This has allowed me to choose maths, chemistry, physics and biology for my A level choices and in our lessons so far, I am really enjoying the challenges of advanced level study. One of the reasons I feel I did so well was undoubtedly due to the superb teaching and support I have received at City. When lockdown happened last March, the school was very quick to transfer all of our lessons and extracurricular activities online and school carried on as normal. In doing this, we all very quickly adapted to the new technology involved and the lessons given were no different to what we would have done in school. It was also a real plus to interact with my friends just as if we were in class together. When formal teaching ended, City then went further by introducing an enrichment programme for year 11 students. Here we went beyond the curriculum and these lessons were fascinating to the point that they broadened my knowledge on multiple subjects which I would never have gained otherwise. Looking to the future, as I am extremely interested in the science of the human body, I am considering a career in this field so I became involved in a joint school (both CLS and CLSG) iGEM team. It is an international genetic engineering competition in which we are the only high school team taking part. Currently we are in the research stage where we are testing out theories through a series of experiments and I feel lucky and excited to be a part of this initiative. Out of school I enjoy sport and before the pandemic I was part of a swimming club where I competed at county level and trained multiple times a week. As well as this, I helped out once a week at the school swimming club which was lots of fun. I am also a member of the school netball team. To me sport is a great way of relaxing from academic study and I like that City really tries to balance our taught curriculum with our wellbeing in encouraging us to do more than just study. In closing, might I say that the City of London School for Girls has presented me with many wonderful opportunities so far and I am honoured to be here with your support as I embark on my A level choices.

**Student 2.**

Might I begin by saying thank you for your sponsorship of my education here at the City of London School for Girls. This first half-term has been wonderful for me as I have made so many new friends and I am really enjoying all of our different lessons. It is certainly very different from primary school where one teacher delivered nearly all of our subjects. I really like having different teachers for different subjects and they really make the work fun and interesting. So far, my favourite lessons are science, biology, art and design technology. I really enjoy designing and making in DT and we have been doing interesting experiments in the science lessons. Another great thing is that every day is different (we follow 18 subjects at KS3) so there is always something to look forward to. In my spare time, my hobbies include swimming and art. Swimming is a great way of exercise and is a lot of fun. In art I can always express myself and my feelings and bring a plain piece of paper to life. Due to pandemics like COVID-19 I have not been able to go outside as much as I would like but that has never stopped me from working or seeing my friends.

Having to do online work was a big challenge for me but I was pleased to still get good grades in my work. Every Sunday I go to a competitive swimming club and every Saturday I have a relaxing session of art. My love of swimming has allowed me to enter lots of swimming galas where we compete against other schools and I cannot wait to get involved with the swimming teams here at City. To date, I have won in total three gold medals, two silver medals and a bronze medal through my swimming clubs. In the future, I think I would like to study biology, chemistry and physics due to my dream of being a vet. I think City will be a great place to learn and I am so happy to be a year 7 pupil here.



**Covid 19**

**SEALED BID AUCTION**



There is but one Pattenmakers facemask left from the 100 ordered and sold.

Now is your last chance to acquire this not only a functional antimicrobial, washable and practical face mask but also what will become a rare and historic reminder of these unprecedented pandemic times.

So this is the last opportunity – remember that the selling price was £15 each (which included a donation to the Charity – the total currently some £400) please email your bid to the Clerk before 12noon on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020, the successful bidder will be announced in Newsletter number 31

Good luck – it is a good cause – and a chance for you to acquire a piece of the Company's history

**ALREADY HAVE A MASK?**

For those who have the masks already the following information from the suppliers may be useful.

The outer is 100% polyester and in the lining is a meryl based fabric. The masks are good for a 60 degree wash. Any hotter and the antibac lining will not retain its treatment as effectively. We don't recommend tumble drying. Both fabrics are fabrics we use when manufacturing our sports clothing so it's designed to be washed many times.

## Our History and a Pearl of Wisdom

### The Warden to the Trade – The Clerk gives the background to the Office

In 1981 The Court was granted a third Royal Charter which allowed for the appointment of a Warden to the Trade specifically, then, to foster links with the Footwear Industry. The role of the appointment now covers the Facilities Management Industry as well and endeavours are made to alternate the holder of the office between the two professions. The Warden to the Trade (if not already a Member of the Court) is elected as a Member of the Court at the Meeting of the Court held in January each year. The Warden to the Trade (Trade Warden) is then admitted to the Court and takes Office as Warden to the Trade at the Meeting of the Court held in the immediately following March. The Trade Warden holds office for a period of one year which may be extended to two years and at the termination of the relevant period shall leave the Court.

The Trade Warden's responsibility is to provide and encourage a link between the Company and the trades connected to the Company. In particular, if no separate Pattenmakers' Award Administrator is appointed, in alternate years, the Trade Warden is required to organise the selection of award winners for the Young Manager Development Scheme, which incorporates the Paice Memorial Bursary. The Trade Warden also liaises with the Scheme Administrator(s) for the Young Managers' Awards as necessary.

The Trade Warden is expected to, so far as their personal commitments allow, be present at all the Court meetings, the F&GPC meetings and formal Company events the two Annual Pattenmakers' Church Services and certain Civic events including the United Guilds' Service and Common Hall(s).

The Trade Warden also, in consultation with the Master and the Clerk, arranges once during the Trade Warden's term of Office, or twice if serving

a two year term in office, a Trade Outing to which all members of the Livery (and their partners) and winners of the Young Manager schemes are invited. Whilst the detail is a matter for the Trade Warden, it is usual for the Outing to last one day and to take the form of a visit to a place of interest to the Livery, (often with a relevance to a trade connected with the Company).

So as you can see, the office of Warden to the Trade is invaluable to the relevance of the Livery in the modern world, a busy yet fulfilling role.

### Pearly Kings and Queens – The Clerk

Costard is an apple, monger is a seller hence a costermonger is an apple seller, a poor itinerant street trader during the reign of Queen Victoria. The legend is that at some point a consignment of Mother of Pearl buttons was liberated at the London Docks (allegedly) and a costermonger thought it would be good for business if he sewed some on his ragged trousers to set him apart from his fellow street vendors. This soon caught on and there evolved Coster Kings and Queens who were appointed to lead the street traders in their areas.

An orphaned street sweeper and rat catcher, Henry Croft, found that by dressing entirely in clothing covered in these buttons it drew attention to him and his charitable fundraising activities. Henry Croft died in 1930 and a memorial to him was erected at St Pancras Station.



Today each London Borough has a Pearly King and Queen and there are several Societies all with the common aim of fund raising. Some "Pearly" suits can have some 30,000 buttons and weigh over thirty kilos.



*Pearly Kings and Queens at Harvest Festival in Guildhall Yard*

## Members' News

### Liveryman James Webster

As for many, lockdown was both a worrying and incredibly bizarre period of life but Katherine and I did our best to remain optimistic and in good health both mentally and physically. Thankfully both of our parents also remained in good health and my dad in particular, Liveryman Christopher Webster celebrated his 80th birthday socially distanced but in particularly fine spirits nonetheless!

Personally speaking, Katherine and I had some wins at home in terms of doing up our (London-sized) garden, which we are lucky to have. This made it much easier to enjoy the glorious weather bestowed upon us this year. More poignantly we learnt a lot more about each other's work due to both working from home full-time throughout. Katherine works for Southwark Council as a

Housing Officer to provide temporary accommodation for homeless people, whilst I design private homes for those far more fortunate. The polarities of our respective jobs was a stark reality and certainly put life and the importance of our careers into perspective.

Professionally, Katherine secured a promotion which was a great uplift during dark times, whilst my company was shortlisted for 'The Sunday Times British Home Awards 2020' for the category of 'Extension of the Year' for a project in Hampstead, London but the highlight was winning 'Johnston's Painter of The Year 2020' for our commercial graphic art installation at Genting's Resorts World in Birmingham. You can find our work at [www.aoarchitecture.co.uk](http://www.aoarchitecture.co.uk) if you're interested!



*Hampstead Extension*

Turning our small flat into an office for two was not ideal but we still managed to achieve a lot, but the time also made us consider the need for a change. Knowing we are able to work well remotely and wanting more space and fresher air, we made the decision to move from East Dulwich in South East London to a petite village in Kent, which has no less than 2 pubs, 1 church and 1 shop. A big change from the 'big smoke' but a move we are very much looking forward to in (hopefully) the coming weeks leading up to Christmas.

So to summarise, for us 2020 has had its ups and downs but we have made some great strides forward in the face of uncertainty, and for that we are fortunate and endlessly grateful!

## The Court

### Senior Past Master Helen Auty



*With Dr Richard Parkin*

Since the Renter Warden claims that he's a Yorkshire man, I can claim to be half Yorkshire and the other half is Welsh (my only claim to fluency in that language is that I can still sing the name of the longest railway station in Wales – learnt to entertain my Welsh Taid (grandfather).

PM Richard Paice joined an RSA (Royal Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, founded 1754) Committee when I was the Design Director. A sponsor of our national Student Design Award Scheme (footwear section of course), Richard told me about the Pattenmakers and invited me to join during the 1990s and it was with some astonishment that I was invited to join the Court and even greater astonishment to be invited to serve as Master – an enormous, and slightly daunting privilege as I had no City background before joining the Company.

However, way back in the 1960s I began to hear about groups of people known as Weavers, Mercers, Wax Chandlers, Goldsmiths all linked to the City in some way. Who were these mysterious people who gave handsome sponsorship to the RSA Awards scheme? Gradually I began to learn more about the Livery Companies whose nurturing links between their representatives on our committees and our young student winners led me to realise how important their benign influence and interest was to the individual award winners and I am delighted that the Pattenmakers continues to encourage and reward young people with its wide range of schemes.

Indeed, one of the many delights of my Mastership was to invite Johnny Abraham from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama to play

his specially composed 'Pattenmakers' Company Fanfare' from the Mansion House balcony.

But – to tell you a little more about my working background. I started as a secretary/PA at the RSA and was so lucky to be given the chance to 'jump over the desk' to run our Design Section and ultimately to become Design Director which led me down many fascinating corridors from being on the governing bodies of several colleges of art and design, the Court of the Royal College of Art, trips to Romania as a Director of Design for Transformation, wide ranging trips around Europe and the States to study art & design education. Membership of the Design Council at a time of huge change was fascinating and membership of the Crown Agents Foundation resulted in unexpected and endless communications from someone whose aircraft had been seized by Customs in some remote part of the world and who seemed to imagine that I could sort it out – I couldn't....

After I retired, I continued as a Governor of the Decorative Arts Society, travelling abroad with them on study tours both in the States and Europe. I undertook a Birkbeck College Diploma in Garden History which has opened up so many new areas of interest and led to many new friends and trips to Florence, Rome, Sicily, France and more. Some of you may recall that for quite a few years I organized a garden visit every year for the Livery Company, ranging from Highgrove to Eaton Hall in Cheshire.

Of course the Pattenmakers and all its activities have become a very important aspect of my life for the past 20+ years. I love being part of an organization which helps other people in so many ways and provides good fellowship and splendid social life. I guess that's why I took over the role of Almoner some years ago and try to keep in touch with members or their partners who may not be well or who may be celebrating something special in their lives. PLEASE do let me know if any of you hear of anything you think I should know about – I'm happy to help in any way I can, even if only by keeping in touch from time to time.

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So, following SPM Tim Watts, I hope to be a support for our new Master and don't agree with his final paragraph in N/Letter 28 – it's more likely that I shall be seeking out **his** wisdom. It's slightly daunting to think that anyone might imagine one has gained 'wisdom' as I think I'm really still waiting to grow up, so I think I'll just settle for common sense and hope for the best.

## Postcard from nearly Abroad

### Past Master Ian Scarr-Hall

My post card is sent from 'lock down' in the Outer Hebrides



Here I am involved with 100 acres of pristine West coast wilderness in Harris and Lewis.

It is said that when God made the world, some beauty remained. This He then scattered upon the earth. And so were formed the 'Western Isles'.

Part of the U.K. but, with a living Gaelic language, Celtic culture, Norwegian names, it possess a proud independence.



Here can be found, crofter living lifestyle with open door friendship, tranquillity, beauty, peace, a place where man may find his maker.

May I exhort you to hasten here in order to slow down and think.



## Events

**26th October 2020 – 6pm**

**PatTEDmakers TALK - Freedom of The City (during COVID-19)**

The Clerk of the Chamberlain's Court, Murray Craig, and Court Assistant Steve Huxham will be presenting.

YOU CAN REGISTER FOR FREE BY CLICKING THIS LINK: [PatTEDmakers Talk Registration](#)

27<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 2:30pm



**Freeman Zoe Chowney** becomes the first Pattenmaker to be made a Freeman by a virtual ceremony conducted by Murray Craig who will have spoken to us the night before. Please join her if you can.

The ceremony will be via Microsoft Teams and the link is: [https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_ZmNIMGI2NjQtZDVmYS00NWU5LTkwMmUtMGM2ODliNzkzMGI3%40thead.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%229fe658cd-b3cd-4056-8519-3222ffa96be8%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22344944c9-f17d-4b1d-8312-4f2bf840b88a%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZmNIMGI2NjQtZDVmYS00NWU5LTkwMmUtMGM2ODliNzkzMGI3%40thead.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%229fe658cd-b3cd-4056-8519-3222ffa96be8%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22344944c9-f17d-4b1d-8312-4f2bf840b88a%22%7d)

30<sup>th</sup> October 2020

*Messiaen Quartet for the End of Time* was performed in St Paul's Cathedral and can be watched on YouTube on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October by pasting the following link into your browser.

[City Music Foundation for the End of Time](#)

## Photo of the Week

**The Master** provides a picture of Past Master Richard Kottler and Court Assistant Steve Huxham working on the revamping of our display at St Margaret Pattens observing Government restrictions of course.



## Bird Watch

**Bird of the week this week is the Pearl Avian - Freeman Richard Parlour**



This week being the 30<sup>th</sup>, and therefore the pearl issue of the Pattenmakers Newsletter, the Clerk has set me a challenge to come up with a bird in the UK called a pearl something or other, there being none in his bird book. Well, there is none in my bird book either, at least not in the wild in this country. There is the pearl breasted swallow, not that you'll see one in the UK, but it does look surprisingly like the swallow which appeared in this column a few weeks ago, with a pearl tinged breast. Then there is the pearl kite. We get increasing numbers of red kite in the UK, and the occasional black kite, but none of the pearl variety. Last week the little owl was covered. This looks incredibly similar to the pearl spotted owl.

The white pearl bird is another exotic species which does not stray to these shores (looks something like a chunky finch made from different coloured playdough). There is also the pearl headed silverbill, which looks something like a fieldfare (these are just coming into the UK now from Scandinavia for the winter). So, what to cover, since none of these wonderful species are likely to be seen by the UK locked down Pattenmaker (without peeking in antique shop windows at pearl brooches styled in avian fashion)? The closest I can get is to look at where pearls are found and see what bird is reputed to have an association to that, and which you stand a chance of seeing. Bird of the week this week is therefore the oystercatcher!

What a handsome wading bird this is! Its jet black head flows down to its chest and along its back, giving way to a snow white underbelly. It has a long bright red beak, a red eye and red eye ring, and strong reddish pink fleshy legs. In flight you will see a distinctive white wing bar and a white rump. Oystercatchers fly fast and low. They have an amazing call, at its best when ringing around a misty Scottish loch, but equally iconic around the coast of Essex or Kent, or up the Thames estuary. Their name was coined in 1731, replacing the previous name, the sea pie. Despite their name suggesting the catching of oysters, they are more seen feeding on cockles and mussels. If you see them at an inland reservoir like the bird in the photograph, they may be taking fresh water mussels, or worms. They are thus more vulnerable if the cockle beds are getting over exploited, such as in South Wales and Morecambe Bay where the cockle industry has been taken over in certain parts by Vietnamese organised crime. There are thought to be around 110,000 breeding pairs in the UK (oystercatchers that is, as opposed to breeding Vietnamese criminals), with 340,000 wintering birds. Oystercatchers are monogamous birds and will keep returning to the same nesting site. They are on the UK amber list. Many come over from Norway to visit. They are quite large, so 40-45cm long, with an 80-85cm wingspan, weighing on average around half a kilo. They increasingly breed inland and a pair bred successfully at my local gravel pits this year. Celebrate this week's bird with a visit to the Oystercatcher pubs, either in Greenwich, by the Thames, or in Littlehampton on the south coast!

In other avian news this week, roseate terns have done very well off the Northumberland coast, with 130 pairs breeding successfully. Northumberland has also seen a rare two barred warbler. An enviable collection of Nearctic passerines including Black-and-White Warbler, Common Nighthawk and Philadelphia Vireo, along with various rare thrushes have been seen in the Northern Isles. Closer to London, there have been a number of sightings of Yellow Browed Warblers, and a few of red backed shrike and great grey shrike, along with a couple of glossy ibis and a Radde's warbler. Happy pearl birding!

## Recipe of the Week

### Prue's Pud

#### Senior Past Master Helen Auty

As someone who avoids cooking whenever possible all I can do is to steal someone else's idea for a very quick pudding. Known as Prue's Pud since that's where I first had it and it couldn't be easier.

Any fruit or a fruity jam or stewed fruit (but sufficiently strong taste not to be overpowered by the yoghurt/cream mix)

#### Ingredients

Plain full fat yogurt (low fat doesn't really do the trick)

Double cream or Crème Fraiche

Muscovado sugar

Thin and crisp almond biscuits (optional) or you could sprinkle some flaked almonds/other nuts on top

Individual glasses

Quantities depend on whether you're making 4 or 40

At the bottom of each glass put a couple of dessert spoons of whatever fruit you use (stewed plums, apricots, bananas, peaches, raspberries – anything you've got in)

Whip together yoghurt and cream/creme fraiche and pop a few spoons full on top of fruit, enough to fill the glass

Sprinkle Muscovado sugar on the top

Put in the fridge until ready to serve by which time the dark sugar will have dripped down the glass making a kind of marbled effect.

That's it – tastes really good and I always hope that there might be one glass left over so that I can indulge the following day.

This week we celebrate the Pearl Edition of the newsletter. Many thanks to the Editorial Team, Contributors and for your support.

All contributions are welcome – please send to the Editor Ian Balcombe [ianbalc@gmail.com](mailto:ianbalc@gmail.com)

## The Clerk's Quiz of the Week

Several good entries this week led as always by Steward Raymond Lewis and Diana Fieldwick so well done to all.

The answers to last week were:

1. What is the date of this year's Carol Service in the Guild Church?  
**10<sup>th</sup> December 2020**
2. Which is the UK's first 24/7 zero emissions Street? **Beech Street**
3. What was the time of Jack Clark's Marathon? **5hrs 22 Mins 56 secs**
4. Who made the Pattenmaker Long Service Medals? **Thomas Fattorini Ltd**
5. What do the initials SPM stand for? **Senior Past Master**
6. What is the collective noun for Starlings? **Murmuration**
7. What tree do Sloes grow on? **Blackthorn**

Celebrating the Pearl (30<sup>th</sup>) Edition here are the top ten questions this week:

1. Which synthetic food was named after the Greek word for pearls?
2. Who sang with Teddy Johnson the runner up song in the 1959 Eurovision Song Contest?
3. What is the largest pearl in the world?
4. What happened on the 7<sup>th</sup> December 1941?
5. Who painted "Girl with a pearl earring"?
6. Who was the female lead in the 2003 film of the same name?
7. What is the chemical formula of a pearl?
8. What colour are Tahitian Pearls?
9. What year was pearling banned in the UK?
10. What is the standard weight measurement used by pearl dealers?

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