



The Pattenmaker

WEEKLY NEWS FROM AROUND THE LIVERY

Issue 31

Friday 30th October 2020

From the Master - Jennifer Bryant-Pearson



It has finally arrived! The magnificent Out of the Mud history of the Pattenmakers has now been delivered to a hugely grateful membership. On behalf of the Company, I want to thank the amazing

team of Past Master Richard Kottler, Liveryman Dr Stephen Cribb and Court Assistant Steve Huxham – and the Gallant Clerk - for their hard work, dedication and total commitment to ensuring that this fascinating history book will now be treasured by Pattenmakers for generations to come.

Liveryman Dr Stephen Cribb displays the new book in our Photo of the week and it is reviewed by our Editor, Liveryman Ian Balcombe. If you have not yet ordered your copy, you will want to do so immediately!

Our long association with naval aviation is reported on by Liveryman Steve Huxham and you can read the full story in the history book.

We are now actively planning for our Carol Service on 10th December at 6pm, which we very much hope will take place in St Margaret Pattens but will be streamed on YouTube so that as many of our members as possible in the UK and overseas can participate in this annual event. It will be different this year due to Covid restrictions but we are determined to make it very special so please save the date in your diaries.

We will keep you updated in future issues but our Honorary Chaplain provides an introduction to this year's event below.

There is always so much to report on our charitable activities but we are very proud to launch an exciting new scheme in bespoke orthopaedic footwear thanks to the generosity of Honorary Freeman John Foxon working together with the Past Masters Richard Kottler and Stuart Lamb and Liveryman Bill Bird – full details reported today by PM Kottler.

Our links with the Tanners and Shoemakers Guild in Zurich go back 23 years and Past Master Donald Newell provide the background to the close relationship thanks to Past Master Ian Scarr-Hall's Swiss connections. Although Sechselauten had to be cancelled this year, we remain optimistic that it will take place next April and that we will be able to join our Swiss friends there.

Past Master Stuart Lamb writes in our regular series on Court members and reminds us of the many wonderful aspects of our Pattenmakers' activities and also contributes a genuine Yorkshire family recipe!

We are delighted to welcome a new Chair for the Young Pattenmakers, Freeman Sophia Lee and she introduces herself and her plans for the future.

Many of you followed the first virtual Freedom ceremony for a Pattenmaker and the youngest freeman (for about 10 hours on 27th October) Zoe Chowney reports on her big day

The US elections take place on 3rd November and Liveryman Philip Rutledge provides a perspective

from the United States which will help us understand the intricacies next week.

As always, we have a range of virtual events in which you can participate and we have reports on the last two very successful Pattenmakers' events – the Magic Show and the PatTEd talk.

The Clerk also has a Halloween theme in his weekly quiz and our avian correspondent, Freeman Richard Parlour focuses on the Raven this week as the bird most applicable to Halloween. The Raven is often associated with loss and ill omen but read about their historical significance and you might feel differently!

St Margaret Pattens Carol Service – 10th December at 6pm.
Honorary Chaplain , Rev Andrew Keep



This has been such a difficult year for us, I suspect all in different and uniquely challenging ways.

We now have Christmas in sight, which could be rather a

lowering thought, but let's not let it be.

Christmas is usually a time for us to celebrate and to be together. That may be limited. But the Christmas story is actually about God's love breaking through the problems, regrets, and constraints of life, into what is actually a bit of a shambolic birth in a cattle stall, so that should get us thinking. It is about God's love breaking through and transforming what we would rather not be, with a message of hope, and peace, for the future.

Let's try and make that the case this year at St Margaret Pattens. We hope to have a carol service, with a limited and distanced - but beautiful - choir, with a fully decorated altar, and with as many people as is possible in the church itself.

We are trying to set up new technology that will enable YouTube live, for those that are at home. Do put the date and time in your diaries, which if they are like mine, are a bit blank at the moment. We want to feel that we are together, around the crib scene, and can hear again- wherever we are- the message of the angels.

In the meantime, stay safe and well, and I hope to see you soon

City of London Corporation



It's hard to believe it's already a month since City Giving Day!

CHANGE OF DATE: City Giving Day Thank You Reception – Tuesday 1st December

We would like to invite you join us for our Virtual City Giving Day Thank You Reception on **Tuesday 1st December** at 5pm. We do hope you will be able to join us, please [click here](#) to register. For those of you who have already donated or will be donating to The Lord Mayor's Appeal this year, we would like to offer you the opportunity to take part in a virtual cheque presentation with the Lord Mayor. If this is something that you would like to do, please tick the box on the event registration form.

Help us evaluate 2020 and make City Giving Day 2021 even more successful

So that we can continue to make City Giving Day even better, we really need your feedback and would appreciate a few minutes of your time to complete [Our Survey](#)

Your photos and video

Lots of you have already sent us your photos from the day, but we would also like to see any video footage that you took of your virtual events, so

that we can use them in our promotional materials for 2021. Please send your photos and videos to cgd@thelordmayorsappeal.org

Virtual Tour of Mansion House

It's not too late to join the Lady Mayoress as she takes you on a virtual tour around The Mansion House. If you'd like to watch the tour, all we ask is for you to [Register and Donate](#) £20 to The Lord Mayor's Appeal, and will be sent the video link to watch the tour in their own time.

Our Charitable Fund

News about the Pattenmakers' new approach to supporting the Orthopaedic footwear sector – Past Master Richard Kottler

For many years, the Livery has been active in awarding grants for military service personnel who have damaged limbs and we have built up a close Association with the Defence Rehabilitation Centre, now at Stanford Hall.

In more recent years, we have also created the Orthopaedic Footwear Apprenticeship Scheme, funded by Honorary Freeman John Foxon and through which 4 apprentices have "graduated." However, the number of referrals from Stanford Hall has reduced substantially as the country become less involved in theatres of war. Equally, we have found it difficult to enlist a wider range of orthopaedic shoemakers to host apprenticeships.

The Court has, therefore decided to take action to ensure that the Livery continues to pay a central and relevant role in developing the industry to meet the growing demand for footwear of this type. (It is estimated that over 1 million people in the UK need some form of "special" footwear as a result of increased diabetes, obesity and age and that this need is increasing at about 8% per year).

Action 1

With immediate effect, the Orthopaedic Shoe Fund will be open to non-service personnel (as was the original intention some 15 years ago) and

grants will be prioritised to applicants who are under 18 or over 70.

Action 2

We are delighted to announce the launch of the John Foxon Pattenmakers Certificate in Bespoke Orthopaedic Shoemaking. This ground-breaking scheme, funded by the generosity of John Foxon, has been created by Liveryman Bill Bird who will also be the lead tutor.



Honorary Freeman John Foxon

The 2-year course will be entirely run on-line and will feature tutors from around the world as well as the UK. The first course started on October 19 and has an initial 5 students from 3 shoemaking companies.

The curriculum has been specifically designed to expose the students to the full range of bespoke orthopaedic shoemaking techniques and will draw on the extraordinary expertise of Bill and his fellow lecturers. In addition to the Zoom based learning, there will be away weekends with guest lecturers and at different locations.

Action 3

With this range of activities, it will be possible to re-approach the 10-14 makers who are not participating in these schemes and to grow the community we are now firmly part of.

Summary

We believe that these initiatives, running in parallel with the existing Apprenticeship Scheme, will enable the Livery to be the main driver of developing a vibrant and well trained workforce providing high grade bespoke footwear for people with walking disabilities. At the same time, by expanding the grant franchise, we will be able to help an increased number of these people

who otherwise would not be able to afford to purchase the specialised footwear they need.

Past Master Richard Kottler has also heard from Liveryman Bill Bird



We held the first two sessions for the course yesterday afternoon. The first session was a Welcome in which all the students and tutors were on the Zoom gallery at the same time. The only exception was Phil Stewart as he was actually

teaching all day yesterday. His day off is Wednesdays so we'll arrange for his sessions to be on Wednesdays. Lisa and Marcell were in the USA morning and Hartmut was in the German early evening!

I thought you would enjoy seeing the fruits of your work in helping us get this course up and running. I have copied a link below for you to watch the recording. It's speaker only, rather than the gallery.

[Bespoke Orthopaedic Course](#)

Passcode: nkp!Y6*t

Our Links – The Tanners and Shoemakers Guild in Zurich (Zunft zur Gerwe und zur Schuhmachern in Zurich) – Past Master Donald Newall

We are fortunate to have strong links with the Tanners and Shoemakers Guild of Zurich. Over the years we have often attended the famous Sechselauten, the celebration on the third Monday in April, a custom which started back in history at the time when it is light enough for the six o'clock bell to be rung daily to mark the end of the working day. In return they have been to The Lord Mayor's Show, Mansion House Dinners and other festive occasions

It all began in 1997 during the year when Ian Scarr-Hall was Master. With family links in

Zurich and being fluent in Swiss German he volunteered to contact the Tanners and Shoemakers Guild. He called to see their "Active" Master Lukas Briner (they have two masters who serve eight years together, alternating every two years as "Active Master and then two years as "Sleeping Master").

Lukas was a busy man as Chairman of the Zurich Chamber of Commerce and Ian had to wait some time, but fortunately they got on very well and a link was formed. Lukas spoke at Ian's Mansion House dinner and made such a good speech that he received a standing ovation. This launched a relationship that flourishes to this day. We have enjoyed many weekends, functions and social activities together over the last 23 years and many firm friendships have been made.

Our scheduled visit to Zurich in April this year had to be cancelled because of COVID-19 and I sincerely hope that a new date will emerge in due course when this can be rescheduled. I commend such a visit to you. Zurich is a fine City and we enjoy great hospitality from our Swiss friends.



Past Master Ian Scarr-Hall speaking at the first function in 1997 attended by a Pattenmaker.



And presenting a pair of Pattens to Zunftmeister Lukas Briner

Our History

Out of the Mud

A review by Liveryman Ian Balcombe

The crisp and innovative paper cover of the book invites the reader to delve further and is richly rewarding. The history of the Pattenmakers covers the origins, development, decline, resurgence and renewal in a most readable and entertaining manner. Acknowledgement is given to the previous history books from which many of the source documents were relied upon, and the hard work of Past Master Sir Lawrence Verney who updated the previous history, without the benefit of modern technology. Even Covid 19 is mentioned – you can't get more up to date than that. The vignettes some of which the newsletter has featured add greatly to the narrative. Why for instance was a Past Master on the HMS Hampshire which struck a mine with the loss of all on board including Lord Kitchener. Feeding and Feasting was an unexpected Chapter, and includes the tradition and ceremony of the Loving Cup, of which we partake at Dinners and sets out

the origins. Another unexpected delight was a whole Chapter on the Company Arms, which was fascinating, The chapter on the Company Church poses the question “but why Margaret Pattens”. It appears that the formal connection nearly failed in 1896 as the invitation to the Court to attend the regular Divine Service, met with a negative response as no convenient date could be found for a good number of the Court to attend. Many features of the Church, which are taken for granted are given ample description and will make future visits even more interesting. However the Church and Pattens did not always mix and a vignette tells us why. The Company's wider connection is also featured as well as Pattens from around the World. The vignettes include the Past Master who scored the first goal for England and which has been featured in the newsletter but what about the Pattenmaker who was Lord Mayor of London and the Chairman of Arsenal Football Club, and what about the Company Mace which was rediscovered in an antiques shop in Brighton. There is so much more and so the question I would pose is this - if you have not purchased a copy why not?

The Fleet Air Arm – our long connection with naval aviation renewed – Court Assistant Steve Huxham

The recent report (Issue 22) from the new Commanding Officer of our affiliate, 824 Naval Air Squadron, Fleet Air Arm will have been interesting to all Newsletter readers, and we hope that we will be able to see the Company's most recent military affiliation in action again directly soon, rather than remotely as we have had to in 2020. We should also thank once more the two individuals instrumental in making this latest affiliation a reality: Rear Admiral Martin Connell CBE, Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Aviation & Carrier Strike) and Rear Admiral Fleet Air Arm, and Commodore David Elford OBE ADC, Royal Navy Regional Commander Eastern England. Both gentlemen have good friends to, and supporters of, the Company in this matter.

Although 824 NAS are the “most recent” affiliation, as above, readers may be interested to know that the Company’s extended connections in fact reach back almost to the dawn of naval aviation. Our original World War One Roll of Honour, discovered in the archives some years back, gives us a close and important family link to those days. It recorded Pattenmakers and family members who survived, as well as those lost in the War. Thus recorded were three sons of Member Henry Gaskell Blackburn (Admitted 13th January 1910.) These were: Captain Geoffrey Gaskell Blackburn, killed leading his Company of the 10th West Yorkshire Regiment on the first day of the Battle of the Somme; Lionel Oddy Blackburn, a Major who served on the Western Front and then with the Rhine Garrison Headquarters; and Vivian Gaskell Blackburn, who is the connection with naval aviation. Born in Headingley, Leeds on 8th March 1892, and educated at Uppingham School, he learnt to fly a Bristol biplane at Brooklands, and took out his Pilot’s Certificate (No. 617) on 10th September 1913.

Vivian was commissioned into the fledgling Royal Naval Air Service at the outbreak of the War as a Flight Sub-Lieutenant and was clearly soon in action as a seaplane pilot since he took part in the world’s first Carrier Air Strike at the end of 1914.

This was the Cuxhaven Raid carried out on Christmas Day 1914, the fourth and last raid of that year conducted by naval airmen but the very first raid using carrier-borne seaplanes. The Zeppelin sheds at the Nordholz Airbase near Cuxhaven were out of range of UK-based aircraft, so a plan was developed for the seaplane tenders HMS Engadine, HMS Riviera, and HMS Empress, supported by a force of cruisers, destroyers, and submarines, to launch three seaplanes each from their station near Heligoland in the German Bight. The objective was to reconnoitre military installations in the area and if possible, bomb the Zeppelin sheds. Accompanying the raid as a navigator was Lieutenant Erskine Childers RNVR, the noted yachtsman and author of *Riddle of the Sands*, who had sailed the area before the War.

On Christmas Eve, the air temperature was only just above zero degrees, when the nine seaplanes, all Short Folder variants and all carrying three 20 lb bombs each, were lowered to the water. Only seven were able to start their engines and take off, with the other two being winched back on board.

Over the German coast, the seaplanes encountered swirling mist which developed into dense fog, and the pilots consequently failed to locate their primary objective. A number of bombs were therefore dropped in the dockyard area, causing only slight damage; but a reconnaissance of the area was more successfully carried out. Vivian, flying his Short Improved Type 74 Folder (RNAS serial No. 814,) attacked an anti-aircraft site and dropped bombs on the city of Wilhemshaven. Having been airborne for over three hours, by 10am on Christmas Day three of the seven floatplanes had returned to their parent ships to be recovered safely.



Legendary naval aviation pioneer Commander Charles Samson taking Winston Churchill aloft in Short Folder Type 74 No.76 similar to that flown by Vivian Gaskell Blackburn at Cuxhaven. Pictured flight was at the Isle of Grain, Kent, 1914.

Of the other four machines, three, including Vivian’s aircraft, had run short of fuel, and therefore landed on the water near the British submarine E11, which managed to rescue the crews before crash diving to avoid being bombed by a patrolling Zeppelin. The final aircraft also had to land due to engine trouble, but its crew were rescued by a Dutch trawler and returned safely to England. Many of those involved in the raid were decorated and for his part Vivian received a Mention in Despatches.



A somewhat fanciful artist's impression of the Cuxhaven Raid.

Although the Cuxhaven Raid fell short in practical results due to weather conditions and anti-aircraft fire, it was judged a great success for demonstrating the feasibility of attack by ship-borne aircraft and the strategic importance of this new weapon.

Vivian went on to have further flying success during the War. He flew in the operations against the German cruiser SMS Königsberg in East Africa and was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his reconnaissance flying over Turkish forces at the Battle of Kut-el-Amara, Mesopotamia, in 1916. He gained a Bar to his DSC in 1918 during the advance and retreat from Ctesiphon, Mesopotamia, and was later awarded the Air Force Cross. In August 1919 he resigned from the Navy and was granted a permanent commission in the RAF but remained one of the few officers granted special permission to wear a beard, in deference to his record in the Senior Service. By the time he retired from the RAF in 1947 he had commanded an unusually wide variety of units in both war and peace. Group

Captain Vivian Gaskell Blackburn died on 6th October 1956.



A portrait of Vivian Gaskell Blackburn in later years, in his rank of Group Captain RAF and sporting the beard he was permitted to keep due to his distinguished previous service in the Navy. Picture credit to RAF Museum, Hendon.

The Company may well have had other connections to the Fleet Air Arm over the years, some of which are no doubt still waiting to be discovered, but few can go back as far as those of the Blackburn family in those pioneering early days. More recently, we have had other recorded close connections, and perhaps most notably Past Master Lieutenant-Commander Robert "Sam" Macdonald-Hall RN (Master 1974 and 1978.) Sam was recognised as a Fleet Air Arm ace in World War Two, and whilst flying fighters was credited with one enemy aircraft destroyed and six shared destroyed, plus one probable, and two damaged. You can read the rest of his WW2 story in the new History Book.

Members' News

New Chair of the Young Pattenmakers - Freeman Sophia Lee

I will never forget the moment I saw a * against my name in the evening programme, indicating that I was now officially a



Freemen and would have the privilege of obtaining the Freedom of the City. It was a proud moment, being recognized and accepted and a moment of fear; fear because my sponsor in jest, told me I would now have to stand up and make a speech during the dinner. Luckily, that was not the case.

A little introduction, I am a British born Chinese, mid-30's and would describe myself as polite, caring, ambitious and currently reading the 'The Medici' by Paula Strathern. I would consider myself to be quite traditional as I was brought up in an eastern culture and quite conservative. It was when I started working my way up the career ladder that I started to see the value in creativity and being innovative. Participation, thinking critically and engaging in fruitful debates, as oppose to submitting to authority. However, I am still learning, but it is one of the key drivers in my desire to promote women in data and in FM.

I have been very privileged to know some key members of our Company and whom I would consider as friends. People I can go to for advice, support, and encouragement. I don't doubt myself, only question how far I can go. I see the benefits of having a sociable network and want to promote and support others in the same way.

I was exceptionally lucky to meet my sponsor Graham Perry when we met through work in a previous role. I was head of product development at the time and was asked if I would like to attend a Livery Dinner. It was at this dinner I was introduced to my mentor Anne Lennox Martin, also a Freeman. She offered to mentor me for the year and for those of you who know her, she is a force of nature. Nothing was going to dampen her spirits and I learnt to understand what was important to me and there were no limits, only those I enforced on myself. Through Anne and Graham, I got to meet several key individuals who were friendly, supportive, and approachable. Titles didn't matter, if anything they were left outside while we were enjoying our meals and drinking.

As mentioned, I am an advocate for promoting women in data and FM and the benefits of mentoring. I also enjoy practicing golf, practicing being the key word. My father often had to work a lot while we were growing up and so his best friend would take my brother and I out and introduced us to golf as it was his passion, along with fishing. I never enjoyed fishing, but my brother recently caught his personal best carp 38lb 8oz.



Brother's Best Personal Carp

I am part of a large family, my mother is 1 of 9 children, 5 sisters and 3 brothers. My father is the eldest of 6 children. I mainly associate with my mother's side of the family, the Chongs. The Lee's (my father's side) is a little more complicated with a lot of history.

The majority of my family are currently living in Mauritius and we often visit, especially for family weddings and major events. We are all foodies and if you have seen any of my company's LinkedIn post, my colleagues will testify to that. I struggled to find recent pictures of all of us together but I did find an old picture taken a while back demonstrate how many of us there are!



Chong Family

As you can see there is a higher ratio of women in the Chong's and as time has gone on there have been a fair few more weddings. However most recently was a wedding in Portugal, of which my father was able to attend. Due to him being self-employed, when we were younger, he struggled to find the time to come with us on these events and so now with him having more time, these moments are even more special.



Wedding in Portugal

Out of all the girls you can see in the pictures, there are only 2 left who are unmarried or not engaged of which I am one. This is a topic of great interest and much debate among the family, which makes me smile and laugh; well at least it isn't about COVID.

I wanted to end by talking a little bit about what Pattenmakers has done for me, being brought up aligned to an eastern culture but having to grow and adapt to western values which, initially were quite foreign to me. I was a quiet, polite, submissive individual who was perhaps too overwhelmed by positions of authority. What changed for me was a combination of things. Firstly, by working my way up through the ranks of business and understanding that innovation, creativity and engaging with individuals, no matter who they were, were key soft skills I needed in order to succeed and were valued in a western society. Skills that were very much the opposite of those I was brought up in. However, as I started to grow and develop, I also took with me some useful skills that were instilled in me. Hard work, dedication, loyalty, respect for authority and chain of command.

I did however still struggle with this concept of authority, despite having reached a managerial position in my career. This is where joining the Worshipful Company of Pattenmakers and being able to network with senior, high profile, individuals in my industry brought me out my shell. I found myself conversing and sitting next to (so you had to talk) the most interesting people, people with their own stories to tell and interests to discuss and their titles didn't instantly make me fearful. I found myself becoming more and more comfortable with every dinner I attended, and I felt accepted and able to go on and achieve my ambitions knowing I had their support should I need it.

I think this is one of the key benefits for me when joining the livery, it was about meeting and networking with high profile individuals and learning from the best. I also loved the traditions and history which resonate with my culture and I was lucky to find a group of individuals who I feel I can count on and bounce ideas off. This for me, is what being part of this Company is about and is what I feel many young people, young managers, can benefit from in a sociable environment with no pressure or judgement.

Possibly because of my experience or perhaps my passion to share our fabulous Company with other young people, I have been asked and have accepted the position of Chairman of Young Pattenmakers.

The Young Pattenmakers has always been something I felt I could support wholeheartedly. I hope to bring to the role and to our Worshipful Company, fun, fellowship and an accessible sociable environment even if for now we have to live within the boundaries of our current situation. I want to promote the benefits of being part of the Pattenmakers and the networking opportunities it provides, whilst still maintaining and honoring our traditions.

It is my belief that Livery Companies are as relevant today as they were 350 years ago. My own experience of the benefits of being part of the Pattenmakers demonstrates that we have a great

deal to offer to young people, what we need to do is improve the way we communicate this. I have seen how the Young Manager awards have shaped the future of our winners and how they continue to talk of the benefits of their involvement. I believe that exposing more young people to these benefits will allow us to develop an active membership that builds a strong foundation for the future of our Company.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to speaking and eventually seeing you all soon

Freedom Ceremony Freeman Zoë Chowney



This week I had the honour of receiving my Freedom of the City of London. I was holding out from having my ceremony as I was hoping to be able to have the ceremony in person at the spectacular Guildhall;

however, due to these somewhat Covidy times, unfortunately it was not to be.

Instead I had the pleasure of being the first Pattenmaker to receive the Freedom via a virtual, online ceremony. It was lovely to see so many friends and other Pattenmakers 'attend' and raise a glass with me.



Murray Craig, Clerk of the Chamberlain's Court, conducted the ceremony, and he was his usual engaging, entertaining and enjoyable self, with interesting and amusing anecdotes flowing freely! I'd like to thank our Master for introducing me to the Pattenmakers and to all of you for your warm welcome and friendship.

Now to find some sheep and head off to London Bridge!

The Court

Past Master Pattenmaker Stuart Lamb



I was first introduced to the Pattenmakers by my friend, Liveryman Thomas Black, a fellow Yorkshireman and erstwhile competitor. Thomas was, at the time of my introduction, Trade Warden, and to my surprise resigned his subsequent appointment to the Court. In a quieter moment Thomas told me he was somewhat awed by the implication that by remaining on the Court he would tacitly be agreeing to becoming Master and he did not feel able to commit to "taking a year out of my life"

I became a Freeman in 1994 proposed by (PM) Richard Paice, seconded by Thomas Black and subsequently a Liveryman in 1995. My great friend, the Late Past Master Paul Ziff proposed me to join the Court in 2000 after serving as Trade Warden for two years from 1998.

Although our main home is in God's own County of Yorkshire my business commitments required me to spend a significant amount of time in London and consequently from the beginning, my wife Jean and I became enthusiastic supporters of Livery Dinners and other events. As I spent more time meeting people and getting to know the incredible history of our ancient Livery Company, I realised I was "hooked" and the Worshipful Company of Pattenmakers has become very dear to myself and my family for a number of reasons.

Firstly, the tremendous fellowship enjoyed by us all. As we started to attend more events Pattenmakers were extremely welcoming and we have subsequently made many enduring friendships. The opportunity to attend Dinners in spectacular and historic Halls coupled with the maintenance of our traditions and the pomp and ceremony of an ancient Livery Company is very compelling. At the same time, I believe the Pattenmakers are a collective with a sense of humour. I recall something quite vividly (PM) John Timpson said when he and I were dealing with a sensitive Livery matter at the time we worked closely together as Master and Upper Warden. He said, "Stuart, we must never forget that this is meant to be fun!" How very true and what fun we have had and will continue to have before too long. In a Livery with origins in the Middle Ages the pandemic will be a short blip in our proud history.

Secondly as one of my early Livery jobs was as secretary to the Pattenmakers Charitable Foundation I started to see how the Liveries charitable giving could change people's lives. Now that the trade of making pattens is no longer in existence our Charitable Foundation has become our *raison d'être*. The advantage that our charity has over other causes which constantly bombard would-be contributors with fliers and emails is that all of us who are involved in the Charitable Foundation are volunteers so there is no intermediate cost or overhead to deduct from the funds raised in our giving to the beneficiaries. Of course this is only possible in relatively small charities like our own and is not meant as a criticism of our national and international charities for medical research, protection of children and the poorest in our society but nevertheless, for me, the ability to, in effect, give direct to beneficiaries who need and deserve our support is a key motivation.

At the core of our charitable works are the grants for the provision of bespoke orthopaedic shoes for people with walking disabilities and our relationship with Headley Court and Stanford Hall which I discussed in a Newsletter issue 4 earlier this year. In a more recent development,

Honorary Freeman John Foxon approached the Livery in 2016. Suffering from walking disabilities himself and having been hugely grateful for the expertise of Philip the Cordwainer in making bespoke shoes for him he identified that the craft industry of making bespoke shoes would potentially die if they were unable to train more apprentices. John's idea was, through the Pattenmakers charity, to fund such a scheme and as (PM) Richard Kottler has mentioned elsewhere, with the assistance of the wonderful creative vision of Liveryman Bill Bird we are now able to add an exceptional new online training course at the same time as continuing grant aid to cover 50% of the wages of apprentices. This is a very important development for the whole orthopaedic project and we are hugely grateful to John and Bill for making this possible.

Also the Court has approved a proposal to make additional grants available to those people with walking disabilities who may otherwise find the cost of bespoke orthopaedic shoes prohibitive. Our intention is to assist at least a further 12 patients a year.

Consequently we now have three very important strands to our Orthopaedic Footwear initiative: grants for the provision of orthopaedic shoes to a wide group of people with walking disabilities; grants to assist in the employment of apprentices in the orthopaedic footwear industry; and now a Pattenmakers certificate online course in the making of orthopaedic shoes with an international group of tutors.

I have always been conscious for the need to recruit new members. The membership of our Livery must grow to enhance our fellowship and ensure that we not only maintain our traditions but continue to make a difference with our charitable giving. All Liverymen have a responsibility to introduce people who might fill our criteria for new members. Of course, we need quality rather than quantity but I am very pleased to see that our Membership Committee consistently and actively manages to create the right environment to recruit new likeminded

members and our annual growth in membership is as strong as it has ever been.

In 1999, (PMs) Richard Kottler, Richard Paice and I had a brainstorm meeting to explore ways in which we might recruit new members from the footwear trade. From that meeting the idea of the Pattenmakers Footwear Dinner was born and in the year 2000 we held our first dinner. The principle difference with this "trade" dinner was to invite people from the industry who were not Pattenmakers, not hosted by specific members and who paid for their own tickets! On that first occasion I recall we had just less than 50 attendees and am delighted to say that this annual Dinner is regularly supported by 120 or more Pattenmakers and senior people involved in all aspects of the shoe business. The Pattenmakers' Footwear Dinner is the only formal event held specifically for our industry and has resulted in many new members of the trade becoming Liverymen. It has also been very successfully emulated by our colleagues in the Facilities Management/Built Environment section of the Livery who regularly have a guest list of up to 150 for their own Pattenmakers' Dinner.

Recruitment from our respective industries has therefore been very successful. In my year as Master I became friendly with the Master Cordwainer who said he was always rather envious of the fact that the Pattenmakers who originate from a somewhat tangential trade, manage to recruit far more members from the industry than the Cordwainers which is not only a senior Livery to ours but is the traditional home of shoemakers. Past Master Cordwainer Mark Shaw continues to be a good friend and when he was my guest at a Pattenmakers footwear dinner he saw the light! Fortunately, I am pleased to say Mark is too much of a gentleman to copy the idea for the Cordwainers.

In addition to recruiting people and colleagues from the same industries, another challenge is the recruitment of younger people to ensure that we can pass the baton of care and concern for an ancient livery to a new generation of Pattenmakers. Richard Paice once again had the

vision and generosity many years ago to create and fund both the Young Managers Awards and the Paice Memorial Bursary in memory of his late father Reginald. Both awards are for training young people in the industry and several years ago Richard invited me to join the judging panel for applicants. I subsequently found the experience of interviewing these young people was hugely uplifting. Like all industries, Footwear has seen many changes during the 50 years or so of my experience in the trade in terms of distribution, retail and manufacturing sources and it is great to see these younger guys ambitious for themselves and their respective companies. I am also delighted that we have now created the same opportunities for training of young people from the Facilities Management sector to apply for the Awards.

In order to pull these strands together and to stimulate recruitment, John Timpson and I had the idea of us hosting a Dinner for young Pattenmakers and potential new members with, at the core, the Young Managers Awards (YMA). The interviews for YMAs usually take place on a Friday in November and all the applicants whether successful or not are invited to attend as guests at a dinner held on the same evening. Our first dinner was in 2011 and is now regularly attended by upwards of 100 YPs and guests. This initiative has been so successful that our proportion of young members is much higher than other Livery Companies. We now have 42 young Freemen and Liverymen and additionally 22 Award winners who, as part of their award are appointed as Honorary Freemen.

My year as Master Pattenmaker in 2010-11 was a huge privilege and Jean and I thoroughly enjoyed every moment. As Thomas Black predicted all those years before it was a little like a year out of our lives but what a year we had!

I was incredibly well supported by John Timpson as Upper Warden and Richard Page as Renter. In addition, the Pattenmakers are very fortunate indeed to have one of the most highly regarded Learned Clerks in the whole Livery movement. Our gallant Clerk, Robert Murfin's support to a

rooky like me was absolutely invaluable and our enjoyment of the year was hugely enhanced by Robert's guidance and encouragement.

So when I reflect on all these aspects of the Livery which have engaged me and given myself and Jean so much enjoyment I am delighted to say that joining the Pattenmakers was one of the best things I've ever done. Accordingly, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have contributed to this enjoyment and also for your friendship which is very precious to us both.

Postcard from Abroad

A Perspective on the US Electoral College – Liveryman Philip Rutledge



As you may have heard, the US holds a presidential election on 3 November 2020. I thought a timely explanation of the process for electing the US

President might be useful for those who may have an interest in US politics or in how the US presidential election process works since it can be a bit mystifying to those residing in countries based upon a parliamentary system of government like the UK.

To some degree, it all begins with the Treaty of Paris of 1783 which concluded hostilities in British North America wherein the UK recognised each of its former colonies as sovereign and independent states. As a sovereign state, each had its own laws, tariffs, militia, courts, currency and other indicia of sovereignty.

In 1787, delegates from these sovereign states held a convention which resulted in a proposal for each state to join a political federation to be known as the United States of America, agree to the formation of a federal government and identify those sovereign powers held by the each

state that it would agree to cede to the new federal government.

The legislative branch of the new federal government consisted of two co-equal bodies. The US Senate was designed to represent the interests of the states. Therefore, each state was accorded two senators irrespective of population or geographic territory. Hence, California with a populace of almost 40 million has the same number of senators as Rhode Island, the smallest state geographically, with a population of 1 million.

In contrast, the US House of Representatives was designed to represent the populace and therefore, states with larger populations have more representatives than states with smaller populations. Hence, California has 53 members of the House of Representatives whereas Rhode Island has two.

This tension between the "will" of each state and the "will" of the general populace resulted in the formulation of the Electoral College as a method to elect a candidate to the office of US President. Be it remembered that there was no template for the framers of the US Constitution to follow in electing the head of government and head of state. The US had no monarch and, after a less than satisfactory experience with the Westminster model, determined not to adopt a parliamentary form of government.

The US Constitution addressed this tension by allocating to each state a number of electoral votes equal to the number of members to which that state is entitled in the US Senate and US House of Representatives. Hence California, because it has the largest population of any state, has the most electoral votes (55).

Currently, there 538 electoral votes equal to the sum of 100 members of the US Senate, 435 members of the US House of Representatives and 3 granted to the District of Columbia. To be elected US President, a candidate must receive a majority of the total electoral votes. There is a constitutional mechanism to address a tie in electoral votes but space does not permit an

explanation of that process even though it has occurred at least once in US history.

The conduct of elections for state and federal offices is a state responsibility and state law governs voter eligibility, polling times (including early voting), acceptance of postal ballots, etc. Actual administration of elections, such as designation and manning of polling places, verification of eligibility to vote and tabulation of votes, has been delegated by state government to municipal or county governments.

After each state has polled its electorate for candidates for US President, individuals, known as electors, in a number equal to each state's electoral votes will convene in the capital of each state in December to cast that state's electoral votes in favor of the candidate who won the popular vote in that state. The "electors" collectively constitute the Electoral College. Therefore, it is the state that casts its electoral votes for a particular candidate for the office of US President by which the winner of the election is determined.

What about the citizens' vote, commonly known as the "popular vote" which reflects the preferences exhibited by eligible voters on election day? Don't they have a say in who becomes the next US President? Yes, but only in the context of the popular vote cast in their particular state. Except for two states (Maine and Nebraska), which apportion their electoral votes in part by congressional district, the winner of the popular vote receives all of the electoral votes allocated to that particular state.

As a result, a presidential election is fought on a state-by-state basis wherein the candidates seek to win the popular vote in each state which would then entitle the candidate to receive all of that state's electoral votes except the two states which apportion their electoral votes.

Although one presidential candidate in 2016 received a majority of the popular vote on a nationwide basis, that candidate did not win the popular vote within each of a sufficient number of states whose combination of electoral votes would

have resulted in that candidate receiving a majority of all electoral votes.

Therefore, the campaigns of the current presidential candidates are focused on Pennsylvania (20 electoral votes), Michigan (16 electoral votes) and Wisconsin (10 electoral votes) where the incumbent won the popular vote by less than 1% of all votes cast. Therefore, a small shift in the popular vote in any one of those states could influence to whom that state will cast its electoral votes in 2020.

Why should not a candidate who receives a majority of the popular vote win the US presidency? In my opinion, it comes down to a fundamental bedrock of US political and constitutional arrangements which is a system which requires a balancing of the interests of all the states. At the time of adoption of the US Constitution, the idea of a federal government was a very novel and untried concept.

Remember, it was the states ceding certain of their sovereign powers to this new federal government and the states wanted a system that would recognize their interests and reflect a consensus on the individual who would hold the office of US President and serve as head of this new federal government by requiring the successful individual to achieve a majority of the electoral votes allocated to the states.

If a presidential candidate could win the office based solely based on the nationwide popular vote, candidates could be tempted to concentrate their campaigns on those states with the largest populations and potentially ignore the interests and concerns of residents of those states with less significant populations.

Imagine if, for whatever reason, the citizens of the 11 most populous states in the US which, except for California, are mainly states in the Mid-Atlantic and Midwest regions of the country, all voted for the same presidential candidate who then would be declared the winner, the populace of the remaining states representing the West, Southwest, Pacific Northwest, Mountain West, Great Plains and South may feel deeply disenfranchised.

The Electoral College was intended to give each state a meaningful participation in the process of electing a US President by requiring a successful candidate to obtain a majority of the popular vote in a sufficient number of states that could cast a majority of the total electoral votes in favour of that candidate and prevent the states with the most population from ignoring the will of the other states by having the ability to elect a US President based solely on the national popular vote.

Although US history since 1787 informs us that the winner of the nationwide popular vote for President usually wins a majority of the electoral vote and therefore assumes the office of US President, that is not always the case as events in 2016 made clear.



Events

Gresham Lectures for November

What Do We Owe Society?

[Link to What do we Owe Society](#)

How has Covid-19 re-shaped our ideas about what we owe society? The lockdown has had a terrible impact on the economic prospects of young people - and the elderly have suffered from high mortality in care homes. In this lecture Visiting Professor of Economic History at Gresham, Martin Daunton, will look at how choices have to be made between the generations. Should people save and pay for their own pensions, care in ill-health and old age as an individual responsibility? Or is it a societal duty that should be funded by compulsory payment of

taxes? Might Covid-19 mark a further shift in the balance?

Tuesday 10 November 2020, 6pm-7pm, Online, free (or watch later)

Data: The Past, The Present and The Future

[Link to Data Future](#)

Data structures are the critical ingredient of all good information systems. In this lecture by Professor Richard Harvey, he'll explain how poor data structures lead to horrendous problems of interoperability and nightmarish complexity; good ones can make the 'uncomputable' computable. Structure and order would seem to be particularly important in the problems of "Big data." However, is this changing? One of the exciting developments is systems, such as Google, which handle unstructured data.

Tuesday 24 November 2020, 6pm-7pm, Online, free (or watch later)

The Changing Geography of Ill-Health

[Link to Geography of Ill Health](#)

Ill health has always been concentrated in particular places; tackling these pockets of ill health is an essential role for public health. In this lecture Professor Chris Whitty will explain these may be driven by environmental factors, demography, deprivation and healthcare provision. In the UK, the geography of ill health has shifted widely over time and continues to do so. Specific areas have particular health challenges, including coastal towns, rural districts and inner city areas. This lecture will consider the shifting geography of ill health in the UK and globally, and its implications.

Wednesday 25 November 2020, 6pm-7pm, Online, free (or watch later)

Russian Piano Masterpieces:

Rachmaninov

[Link to Rachmaninov Piano](#)

There is no need to introduce Rachmaninov, considered by many to be the greatest composer-pianist in history and the creator of several famous items on the "classical hit parade". But his very popularity has always detracted from the value of his music in the eyes of scholars, who tend to view his music as merely middlebrow.

This is a serious misunderstanding of his art, and has left the complexity and subtlety of his music underappreciated. This lecture-recital by Professor Marina Frolova-Walker and pianist Peter Donohoe will look at his music's irresistible appeal.

Thursday 26 November 2020, 6pm-7pm, Online, free (or watch later)

Paul D Jagger Court Assistant of The Worshipful Company of Information Technologists

The next Grant of Arms workshop will be hosted by me on the evening of 5 November. Unsurprisingly it will be a virtual workshop and I'm pleased to announce that one of the officers of arms will be joining us in a private capacity to receive any confidential enquiries.

The workshop is open to all Freemen, Liverymen, Masters and Clerks, partners and adult children. Anyone who is a subject of the Crown born in one of the 16 Commonwealth Realms is very likely to be eligible, so long as Her Majesty hasn't already had the pleasure of detaining them!

Tickets are £35 and include a copy of the Pitkin Guide 'Coat of Arms' and an electronic copy of a Practical Guide to Petitioning for a Grant of Arms - but the real value is in the discussion and Q&A that tends to flow liberally during these workshops. Feel free to circulate details of the workshop among your membership.

Full details and enrolment at: [Grant of Arms Tickets](#)

NB. The Kings of Arms usually raise the fees in January, so petitions processed and paid this side of Christmas will benefit from 2020 pricing. Since the College is part of the Royal Household there is no VAT to pay on the fees.

Pattenmakers' Events

The Virtual Magic Show - Renter Warden Commodore Patrick Tyrell OBE Royal Navy



It was Trafalgar Day, the 21 October 2020, when the Pattenmakers, en masse, decided to subject themselves to the wizardry of Zoom! (Straight out of the Lord of the Rings!) Actually, his name is Alan

Hudson, a member of the Magic Circle and a professional magician. What he has done is to tailor his one-man show to the discipline of Zoom and wow an audience widely dispersed across cyberspace!



The Magician performed

We had a diverse audience of Pattenmakers and their guests; some agog with anticipation and others, dare I say, the more cynical, knowing full well that they would be able to spot the sleight of hand and the misdirection essential in every successful magician! Alan suddenly appeared and turned five old receipts into five £20 notes. All well and good, until he turned them back again! Alan called our attention to a golden envelope propped up beside where he was sitting. "Keep an eye on this" he charged.

He then invited Helen to choose a card and then to suggest what to write on it. We followed the card here, there and everywhere, it seemed to exist one minute and be gone the next. He then brought out a thimble, then another in a different colour, and another and another; he asked one of

us which colour we preferred but not to say it. Then he told us the colour was Red. One out of five is not bad. His next trick was slightly more challenging – a Pattenmaker was challenged to go onto the Wikipedia data site – “How many articles are there in Wikipeddia?”, he was asked, “5,675,863” was the reply. “And what is the average length of each article?” “Just over 1000 words”. “Go into Wikipedia, choose any subject and scroll down to find a multi-syllable word. Does that word begin with ‘R’?” The response was in the negative – we’d trumped him!

Pattenmakers 1: Wizard 0!

“OK”, said the slightly chastened magician, “the word begins with ‘C’ and ends with ‘Y’ and spells ‘constantly’?” Pandemonium ensues, how did he guess. “And the ‘R’ I mentioned was for the subject which was RAF” How did he do it?

Another target was asked to think of a four-digit PIN code; Alan cracked that like a professional safebreaker!

When he came to the end of the session, Alan turned to the golden envelope and extracted a sheet of paper on which were written the colour chosen, the word written on the card, the chosen subject ‘RAF’ and the selected word. And yes, you’ve guessed it, the PIN code was written for all to see!

Entertaining, fast-moving and full of surprises – just what Trafalgar Night should be!

PatTED Talk – Liveryman Ian Balcombe

The Zoom event organised by Liveryman Joseph Robertson Zoom featured 2 talks. The first was from an old friend of the Company, Clerk to the Chamberlain’s Court Murray Craig.

Speaking on the eve of Freeman Zoe Chowney receiving her Freedom of the Ceremony, Murray explained that due to Covid 19 the offices of the Chamberlain’s Court had to close in March. He however was as busy as ever, having adapted to his new conditions operating from home, and his enthusiasm was clearly undiminished. He showed us his extensive Library from which he carries out

his research and the many objects he still receives from Livery Companies, for his Museum at Guildhall. He told us the stories behind various Freedom Ceremonies and featured that of Sir Alistair Cook and Luciano Pavarotti. The cricketer had told a radio interviewer that he was off to help his then fiancée with lambing, but could now take his sheep over London Bridge as he was now a Freeman. This comment led to Murray being interviewed on 5 Live. The Maestro was invited to sing his Freedom Oath - but insisted on reading it, and proceeded to give everyone assembled bear hugs and kisses. Murray had also featured on the BBC programme “Who do you think you are” when Len Goodman of Strictly fame was the subject. He also explained the Freedom by Special Nomination which had been created 5 years ago. A famous recent recipient was Captain Sir Tom Moore and the honour had previously been bestowed upon Lord Foster and Bryn Terfel amongst others. Another Centenarian who had also been honoured in recent months is Dabriul Islam Choudhury who had raised funds for Charity by walking around his garden 100 times.

We then heard from our own Court Assistant Steve Huxham on Genealogy. Joseph had been inspired by the work that Steve had carried out on researching the recipient of the Long Service Medal that he had purchased at auction. Steve set out the requirements for good research –

1. Have an enquiring mind, but have sources to back up what you find.
2. There are various sources – decide which is best.
3. Don’t believe everything you see as being true. There is a danger of people copying other person’s family trees as if they are their own.
4. Look at different records for the best source.
5. Take care of spelling of names and dates of birth.
6. Not everything is on line – there may be other ways of obtaining information. Keep looking – history is not static.
7. You will not find everything but have fun.

Photo of the Week

Liveryman Dr Stephen Cribb gets his hands on the new History of the Pattenmakers of which he is co-author.



Bird Watch

Bird of the week this week is the Raven
Freeman Richard Parlour



This week I thought I might jump the Clerk's gun (a dangerous thing to do with a military man) and come up with something applicable to Halloween, which will be tomorrow. Bird of the week this week is the bird most closely associated with Halloween, the Raven.

Lots of the birds covered in this column so far are going through a really hard time and numbers have reduced dramatically in the last decades. The raven bucks the trend. This means going from around 1,000 birds in the UK at one stage, to a 150% increase in the last 25 years to around 15,000 birds, which puts them on the UK green list. Naturally, if you put this into human population terms this would only be the equivalent of a small town, but at least it is a spot of good news. Ravens breed mainly in the west and north, although they are currently expanding their range eastwards and every so often I see them in Hertfordshire, for example. Most birds are residents, though some birds, especially non-breeders and young birds, venture from their breeding areas, though do not travel far. The raven is a large black bird. It really is large, like a black version of a small buzzard. It is the largest in the corvid family (other corvids in the UK include the carrion crow, hooded crow, rook, jackdaw, magpie and jay). Yet crows and rooks are also black and quite large, so how do you tell the difference? The raven is the largest. Ravens have a wingspan of 120-150 cm and weigh from 800g to 1.5 kg. It has a particularly heavy and thick bill, much bigger and thicker than other corvids. In flight, the raven has a diamond shaped tail. If you hear its call, it is a deep "cronk" as opposed to the "caw" of the crow, the "rook" of the rook, and the "chack" of the jackdaw. Ravens can be extremely playful. Last summer whilst traversing Crib Goch on Snowden, I was treated to the sight of ravens rising on ascending air over the ridge and tumbling mid air the other side, their version of a victory roll!

The raven is often associated with loss and ill omen. Yet its symbolism is complex. As a talking bird, the raven also represents prophecy and insight. Ravens in stories often act as psychopomps, connecting the material world with the spirit world. In Swedish folklore, they are the ghosts of murdered people without Christian burials and, in German stories, damned souls. In Greek mythology, ravens are associated with Apollo, the god of prophecy. They are said to be a symbol of bad luck, and were the god's messengers to the mortal world. Apollo sent a white raven, or crow in some versions of the Greek myth, to spy on his lover, Coronis. When

the raven brought back the news that Coronis had been unfaithful to him, Apollo scorched the raven in his fury, turning the bird's feathers black. That is why all ravens are black today, according to our Athenian friends. At least Apollo didn't shoot the messenger! In the Book of Genesis, Noah releases a raven from the ark after the great flood to test whether the waters have receded. According to the Law of Moses, ravens are forbidden for food. Ravens are an example of God's gracious provision for all his creatures. The raven is described as having been only one of three beings on Noah's Ark that copulated during the flood and so was punished. The Rabbis believed that the male raven was forced to ejaculate his seed into the female raven's mouth as a means of reproduction. Some explain that the reason the raven Noah released from the ark did not return to him was that the raven was feeding on the corpses of those who had drowned in the flood. Legends about the German Emperor Frederick Barbarossa depict him as sleeping along with his knights in a cave in the Kyffhäuser mountain in Thuringia or the Untersberg in Bavaria. It is said that when the ravens cease to fly around the mountain he will awake and restore Germany to its ancient greatness.

The raven has a special place in British folklore. According to legend, the Kingdom of England will fall if the ravens of the Tower of London are removed. It had been thought that there have been at least six ravens in residence at the tower for centuries. It was said that Charles II ordered their removal following complaints from John Flamsteed, the Royal Astronomer. However, they were not removed because Charles was then told of the legend. Charles, following the time of the English Civil War, superstition or not, was not prepared to take the chance, and instead had the Royal Observatory moved to Greenwich. During the Second World War, most of the Tower's ravens perished through shock during bombing raids, leaving only a mated pair named "Mabel" and "Grip". Shortly before the Tower reopened to the public, Mabel flew away, leaving Grip despondent. A couple of weeks later, Grip also flew away, probably in search of his mate. The incident was reported in several newspapers, and some of the stories contained the first references in print to the legend that the British Empire

would fall if the ravens left the tower. Since the Empire was dismantled shortly afterwards, those who are superstitious might interpret events as confirmation of the legend. Before the tower reopened to the public on 1 January 1946, care was taken to ensure that a new set of ravens was in place.

In other bird news this week, the bearded vulture which had spent some time in Derbyshire, then going on tour to Lincolnshire and Bedfordshire, has now crossed the Channel and headed south. You might also have seen news of a Rufous Bushchat in Norfolk, the first sighting for 40 years. Norfolk also saw a number of rarities including lots of red flanked bluetails, and some red breasted flycatchers. A masked shrike was seen in Kent. Lots of possibilities to get lucky! Not sure if this is a trick or a treat for Halloween!

Letters to the Editor

From Past Master Richard Paice to the Master

A large parcel has just arrived, and what a delight. Please give my congratulations to all who worked on this History of Pattenmakers. The effort has been huge, down to every last detail, and must surely put our livery ahead in yet another area of enterprise.

From Past Master Dame Heather Steel DBE to the Master

Out of the Mud. What a magnificent book. MANY congratulations to all the team concerned in the research and publication. It will be a book to treasure.

From the Clerk to Freeman Richard Parlour

The Long Tailed Tits turned up Saturday for a flying visit. I sat at my desk awaiting their return but in the next nine minutes I had visits from:

Blue Tit

Great Tit

Chaffinch

Robin

House Sparrow

Nuthatch

I know they are all common but such variety and pleasure for a handful of sunflower seeds

Recipe of the Week

Grandma Wagstaff's Yorkshire Puddings – Past Mistress Pattenmaker Jean Lamb

In God's own County Yorkshire puddings are not treated as extra trimmings for the Sunday roast but as a standalone starter. The background to this was based on Yorkshire thrift: the main meat course was expensive and therefore as a prelude Yorkshire puddings were meant to fill up the family so that there would be sufficient meat left to feed them on Monday and Tuesday. Try it!

Ingredients

- 2 to 3 eggs
- 5 to 7 tablespoons of plain flour
- ¼ pint of whole milk mixed with ¼ pint of water (alternatively ½ pint of semi skimmed milk)
- Beef dripping (in Grandma's days) or olive oil.
- NB you can increase or decrease the ingredients depending on the consistency of the batter
- Thinly sliced onions and/or currants as preferred.

Utensils

- Grandma's whisk or a Food processor such as Magimix.
- For plain puddings baking tins with 2.5 inch bun dishes
- For onion or currant puddings tins with 3.5-4 inch bun dishes.

Instructions

- Put eggs, flour and milk/water into a bowl and beat with a whisk for 1 hour!
Alternatively put into the mixer and combine for at least 5 minutes.
- When consistency is thicker than water but thinner than double cream transfer to a lidded jug.
- Keep in the refrigerator for several hours with the lid on, ideally overnight.

- Pre heat the Oven to temp of 200 minimum – it cannot be too hot.
- Line each of the tin dishes with a little dripping or a small slug of olive oil.
- Put the tins in the oven to preheat before removing and adding batter.
- For plain puddings pour batter into each dish to about halfway or slightly higher.
- For onion or currant insert a slice of onion or a few currants followed by batter above halfway.
- Good beef or Lamb gravy mixed with chopped onions or herbs is vital.
- Serve the puddings as a starter whilst the Sunday joint is resting and enjoy.
- All contributions are welcome – please send to the Editor Ian Balcombe
ianbalc@gmail.com
-
- Please see last page for the Clerk's spooky Quiz



The Clerk's Quiz of the Week

Several good entries this week, the regulars joined by Honorary Freeman John Foxon and Assistant Steve Huxham, well done to all.

The answers to last week were:

1. Which synthetic food was named after the Greek word for pearls?
Margarine, after Margariter
2. Who sang with Teddy Johnson the runner up song in the 1959 Eurovision Song Contest? **Pearl Carr (Sing little birdie, sing) She died last February aged 98**
3. What is the largest pearl in the world? **Pearl of Puerto. It is 2.2 feet long and weighs 75lbs**
4. What happened on the 7th December 1941? **Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor – “a date that will live in infamy” Franklin D. Roosevelt**
5. Who painted “Girl with a pearl earring”? **Johannes Vermeer**
6. Who was the female lead in the 2003 film of the same name? **Scarlett Johansson**
7. What is the chemical formula of a pearl? **CaCO₃**
8. What colour are Tahitian Pearls? **Black**
9. What year was pearling banned in the UK? **1998**
10. What is the standard weight measurement used by pearl dealers?
Momme

Spookily the 31st Edition of the newsletter falls on the 31st October (tomorrow) so here are your Halloween questions . . .

1. In theory, from which Gaelic Harvest Festival has Halloween evolved?
2. How many Saints are celebrated on the 31st October?
3. “An invisible man sleeping in your bed” is a line from a hit song from the film of the same name - which film?
4. Which vegetable was traditionally carved to create Jack-O'-Lantern before the pumpkin became the vegetable of choice?
5. Which famous magician died on Halloween?
6. Who was born on Halloween and is currently lobbying for free School Dinners?
7. Witches in Lancashire were around which famous landmark? *see Photo of the Week in a newsletter passim*
8. What UK TV series was shown in the USA entitled “My Partner the Ghost”?
9. What are “Guisers”?
10. Who played the monster in the 1931 film “Frankenstein”?
11. Which US State was admitted as the 36th State on Halloween 1864? *Clue – see the Silver Quiz in the 25th newsletter*
12. On a scale of 1 to 10, how grumpy does the Clerk get at the prospect of having to “do” Halloween?

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