



The Pattenmaker

WEEKLY NEWS FROM AROUND THE LIVERY

Issue 33

Friday 13th November 2020

From the Master Jennifer Bryant-Pearson



What wonderful news for us all that a vaccine is now looking so positive – I very much hope that it will not be too long before we can restore our reputation as the Partygoers and once more, appreciate the fellowship that is so important in this

great Company of ours.

You will have the opportunity to hear more about our current activities and future plans on two occasions this coming week. On Saturday morning we are joining three other Livery companies for a 350th anniversary event with the Lord Mayor as our special guest, and on Monday evening we are holding a Meet the Team zoom call when we will unveil the hugely exciting 2021 project at Stanford Hall. Please register and join us for both events - full details inside along with a variety of other Livery and cultural evenings in which to participate.

We continue our introduction to Young Pattenmakers with Freeman Bryan Oknyansky's story this week. In Members' news, Liveryman Colin Harris tells us of his background and involvement with the Company and Past Master Richard Page has a cunning plan in our Court Members' series!

The Framework Knitters' Company is holding a charity online auction of their blankets, a number of which have been knitted by Pattenmakers and the Clerk to the Drapers' Company updates us on the success of the Livery Kitchen Initiative.

Freeman Richard Parlour solves the mystery of the difference between a Mistle Thrush and a Song Thrush, and also tells us of all the other rare Thrushes sighted around the UK so keep a watch for all Thrushes from Somerset to the Shetland Isles!

The Clerk carried out his civic duties this week for Remembrance Sunday and I am sure that many of us saw the Service from Westminster Abbey, and missed not being able to attend a local service

Court Assistant Steve Huxham introduces Puzzle Pattens this week whilst the Clerk's puzzles continue to be a source of great frustration in solving the final clues!

City of London Corporation

The Livery Kitchen Initiative - Clerk to The Drapers' Company

The Livery Kitchen Initiative (LKI) is making a genuine difference to a small but significant number of beneficiaries from poor socio-economic backgrounds in largely migrant communities in North and East London. This is in a similar footprint to that of the Barts Health NHS Trust hospitals' catchment area which was supported by the LKI from April to July. The prospect of worsening unemployment in a deepening

recession strongly suggests that the need for such meal provision will grow over the winter into next spring and beyond.

It seems highly unlikely that Livery Halls will be in a position to entertain at any scale before the New Year, if not until Easter 2021 and possibly beyond. In-house chefs from the Drapers' and Fishmongers' Halls will continue to support those most in need and have established a sustainable routine to do so. They will be joined by the Grocers' Company kitchen from 9th November.

This initiative continues to be reputationally positive for both those companies directly involved in the LKI project and the Livery movement as a whole.

Time running out to have your say on City landmarks linked to racism

People have two weeks to have their say on what should happen to statues and other landmarks in the City of London with links to slavery and historic racism. Since it launched in September, more than 800 responses have been received to the City of London Corporation's consultative exercise on the issue.

Covid 19

From the Clerk to the Environmental Cleaners - OUT OF AFRICA Reflections on the 2014 EBOLA epidemic – did we learn anything? -

This is an open invitation to your Master, and members of your Livery, to join our inaugural webinar, which will be presented by **Major General Jeremy Rowan** CB OBE QHS MRCPG FRCGP(G) on **Friday 20th November 2020** at 6-645 pm

Jeremy is one of the world's very few experts with direct experience in leading response to and managing pandemics. He has had a distinguished military career and since retiring from the Army is a successful consultant specialising in the design

and delivery of medical aid to the developing world. Jeremy is an Honorary Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Environmental Cleaners, and the Chairman of its Chartered Practitioners Register.

He led the UK Government's West Africa Ebola Virus Disease epidemic intervention, and will frankly discuss his experiences there, and then attempt to cross-reference this to the current global Covid-19 pandemic to identify any similarities and applicable experience.

Please use the link below to join the webinar:

[Registration for Out of Africa Webinar](#)

Passcode: 169601

Our History

The Puzzle Pattens - Court Assistant Steve Huxham

Usually a bit of wood, some leather, and a piece of metal – that is it really when it comes to pattens, is it not? Simple and easy to define when it comes to identifying the item, wouldn't you think?

In fact the best answer to that is "not necessarily" as we have found time and again when either refining the Inventory for our own Collection or looking at potential new additions to it.

One of the main reasons for this is that the basic designs of pattens in Britain remained virtually unchanged during their long years of usage, and so surviving examples are very hard to date precisely, even if they differ in detail and decoration. The Company did, in its early years, try to impose production standards in our bye laws, but this was driven by quality control considerations, rather than overall design. Added to this is that there is no complete written chronological history of pattens in Britain spanning the centuries, nor for their equivalent elevated footwear counterparts elsewhere in the world. The project team have attempted to address this challenge in the new Book, based on the evidence available, but naturally even a published attempt remains very much a work in

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progress and subject to correction and amendment by future discoveries.

To further illustrate these challenges, let us consider a pair from our Footwear Collection – the “puzzle pattens” of the title.



They are indeed strange items and unlike anything else we have, particularly in respect of the elongated toe piece. Our current Inventory describes them as follows:

“A pair of wooden pattens with iron fixings that are possibly Continental traditional or folk dress. If folk dress, the pattens are in a style that was probably used in the 15th century and became ‘fossilised’ into traditional dress. Swiss or German? These pattens are old, handmade, probably 19th but possibly even 18th century. The straight sole is made of medium brown wood with a long needle nose, total length about 335mm long. The upper is a one-piece strap going over the foot, straight on the front edge, with a horseshoe shaped open space at the toe. The brown leather is folded back an inch on either end and held down with three rows of deep red silk? floss diagonal satin stitch. It is lined again in leather. Welted with a 14mm wide band of iron, held by 4 flat iron nails.

The sole has an extremely narrow waist, 21mm, flaring into a circular heel. The toe extends 48mm beyond the upper. Two separate pieces of wood have been attached to the soles for the platforms, horizontally, and extend beyond the width of the upper. Front 137mm wide, back 130mm wide. Height is 35mm off the ground. Each platform is covered by iron at the bottom, held on by large square iron nails that also give grip. The front piece has two flat iron keys in the centre, possibly connecting with the long strip of 12mm wide iron than runs up the centre from the front platform, up over the

needle toe, and back into the upper, ending in a decorative point. It is attached by 2 nails on the top, 1 on the bottom, and has a small fold in the metal at the toe tip to make a raised section 21mm high.”

It is a personal opinion only, and welcome to be challenged, but I have a few problems with that assessment (which was possibly taken from the original auction notes, whenever we acquired them, which is uncertain.) Firstly, it is unlikely, which the notes accept, that they date right back to the 15th or 16th centuries or they would be rare survivors indeed and unlikely to exist outside of a museum. Then, although they may reflect a later folk dress adaption to use with the with the very long toed shoes, known as poulaines, pikes, or crakows of 15th century continental Europe, there is something not “right” about these. If we compare them with a detail of pattens from Jan van Eyck’s Arnolfini Portrait of 1434 in the National Gallery, then we appear to be looking at two very different design concepts.



A puzzle indeed?

What does make this become interesting is a picture that has literally just come to light of some remarkably similar ones held in the Collection of the Science Museum.



The Museum caption dates them to c.1890-1920 and is intriguing:

"These shoes are made in Sudan and thought by Nuba people to protect against infection passed on by the Guinea worm. They have an elongated toe on two wooden supports."

I will leave any reader wishing to do so to read up on the Guinea worm, or *Dracunculus medinensis* but it is not pleasant!

Puzzle solved? Unfortunately, this is where things get complicated as there appears to be little historical evidence easily available to back up this provenance. Even in the Science Museum's own collection there are other items labelled as being from the same region, but showing a much cruder design, and labelled:

"Light wooden, patten made from one piece of wood with holes for securing, thought to prevent infection from guinea worm, worn by Nuba, Sudan, Africa, 1890-1920"



Can such differing items have the same source of origin? What is interesting in this context is that the Wellcome Collection has a 1920s photograph of Nuba pattens (but sadly not the originals it seems) showing the different styles assembled together and with the more elaborate example on the left.



Perhaps the answer, and it can only be conjecture, is that the more elaborate design is in fact a higher status item, but from the same location. We know that this was true elsewhere, as in Britain, where our examples of fine Georgian polychrome shoes and pattens would have co-existed with the much more functional everyday workwear for the streets. So, what we may well have is a pair of Sudanese higher status pattens from the same time period of those at the Science Museum.

Whatever the answer, it serves to prove once again that history is rarely straightforward!

(Photo credits and thanks to the National Gallery, Science Museum, and the Wellcome Collection.)

Members' News

Young Pattenmakers – Freeman Bryan Oknyansky

At a time when I needed to meet people in the footwear industry, fate introduced me to the Pattenmakers. My career started in the architecture industry in the USA, and, on more than one occasion, dipped its toes in the footwear industry. I found myself drawn to a calling in footwear design a couple of years after I moved to London. The one big snag was that I hadn't a clue as to how to go about developing a high heel shoe. Ultimately, my architectural training sufficed by enabling me to 3D print the shoes.

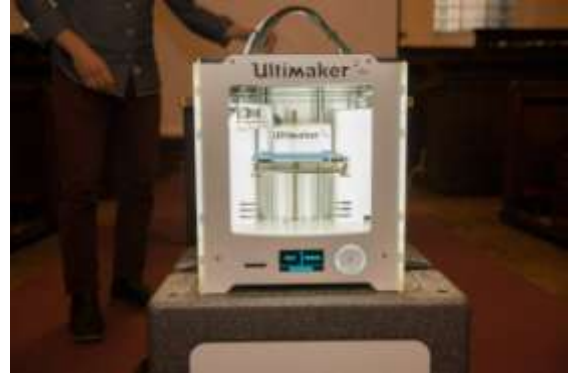
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In the early days, the people I met with and showed my prototypes to in London found them intriguing, and – although they wished they could help me – were ultimately unable to play a part in the development of my path through the business of footwear. I put myself out there and applied for every investment or grant opportunity going. Eventually, I landed in front of the board of the Footwear Friends charity, whom sponsor annual grants for new footwear designers.

Past Master Richard Kottler, The Benevolent (not an official post-nominal title) chaired the Footwear Friends charity then. In amazement of my pitch to incite the next industrial revolution and robotically manufacture footwear for the masses as a newcomer to the footwear industry, PM Kottler spun a loss (I didn't get the grant) into an opportunity I have found to be far more valuable than the grant on offer. He invited me to a Young Pattenmakers dinner.



Pictures show Bryan's Presentation



As an architectural graduate, I was excited to experience fine dining in a historic venue in London. Most, if not all, of my friends even knew these places existed, let alone thought they could visit them. And who doesn't like a bit of fancy dress in "the City"? Once introductions commenced, it did not take long to meet multi-generational members of the footwear industry past and present. I went from being in awe of the décor to being in awe of the fellowship and networking potential of the Pattenmakers.

My literacy in footwear design, manufacturing and business was fuelled by my conversations with Pattenmakers and their gracious offers to invite me to their factories across England. Doors and opportunities opened. I took the next step and became a Freeman of the Company and began to attend events with more frequency throughout the year. This is an extra-curricular activity that I enjoy taking part in, that helps me in my development as a professional and inspires me to play a role in its future by giving back.

Known as the livery that hosts the best parties, it's the members that make the parties fun. With the livery movement rolling into the future, new members will add to the fun, fellowship and knowledgebase. Whether you're already a Pattenmaker or new to the Livery, I look forward to seeing you in black tie in a beautiful historic building with fine food and inspiring speeches once we get past the pandemic. Keep safe.

Liveryman Colin Harris



*Liveryman
Colin Harris
with his wife
Stephanie at this
year's (2020)
Annual Banquet
at the Mansion
House.*

As we rapidly approach what is traditionally the festive season, the telephone call from our Master inviting me to provide an article for contribution to the excellent 'Pattenmaker' newsletter, generated a wide range of thoughts and memories of my time as a Liveryman and particularly of the events of this year. I wholly echo the written comments of fellow Liveryman James Webster in a recent edition of the newsletter, where James summarised 2020 as 'having its ups and downs but we have made some great strides forward in the face of uncertainty'. For my wife Stephanie and I, this year, as a result of the pandemic, has seen some major changes to our lifestyle and in our thinking.

We consider ourselves to be very fortunate in terms of our health and we live in a small village with our Cavachon dog Coco in a rural part of Essex. To a certain extent, the incredible spring weather created a wonderful 'artificial' bubble at the start of the first lockdown with an almost surreal atmosphere and the pace of life seemed to slow down just a little.

My wife owns a retail floristry business (The Rose Garden) in Great Dunmow, Essex which is High Street based and although forced to close its doors during lockdown, could fortunately still continue to trade on-line, by telephone and with a click and collect facility. The real impact of Covid became most evident with an increase in people being unable to travel and therefore wanting to send lovely bouquets and gifts to love ones and family members. A sad side to the business saw an increase in funerals and associated family tragedies occasioned through Covid cases.

I'm very proud of my wife and all her hard work. The Rose Garden florists celebrates being in business for five years this week and Stephanie came third this year in the British Floristry Associations Retailer of the Year out of over 8,000 entries!

I help with deliveries at peak times such as Mother and Valentine's Day and Easter and Xmas as well as being Finance Director! I don't possess the unique design and floristry skills needed to craft beautiful bouquets, so I managed to escape that particular vocation!

As I started to write my contribution, I smiled recalling the highlight of the early part of this year was of course the Annual Mansion House Banquet, which we always try to attend. It seems incredible to consider that within such a short period of time from this wondrous event, the world was thrown into complete fear and chaos.

As I then reflected further, I also smiled on the number of career changes in my life which include leaving grammar school in Surrey and going to Sandhurst as a cadet, then joining the Royal Marines down in Lympstone, Devon but forced to leave due to sustaining an injury. I then took up my lifelong passion of music and became a professional rock guitarist touring the world and working with a number of celebrities and bands and writing a few ditties which were luckily sold to record companies and artistes. I left the professional music world in the early nineties but still have a studio in my house and until Covid 'rocked the world', would regularly perform in various bands in clubs and venues in both the UK and in Portugal where I have had a home in the Algarve since the eighties.

My father was always a keen supporter of my music interests and when I was very young once asked me 'what did I want to do when I grew up?' I replied I wanted to be a guitarist, to which he replied you can do one or the other i.e. grow up or be a guitarist!

I did manage to eventually grow up in the nineties having reached my early thirties. I sold my studio company and other associated music production businesses and I wanted to follow my

new-found business vocation. I studied hard to achieve a BSC Hons, MBA and accountancy qualifications. It was at this time that I met fellow Liveryman Mr Robert Tipping. I was a director of a DTI Enterprise Agency in Docklands, East London and Robert was a business growth and finance consultant working for the DTI agency and for Business Link. I was introduced to the Pattenmakers and wanted more! I became a Freeman in 1997 and a Liveryman in 1998 thanks to Robert and Past Master Barry Ryder.

Since then, I have enjoyed a number of central government and business consultancy roles including working for Boris Johnstone at the London Development Agency, running a number of government business support schemes and holding consultancy positions with the Department of Business, H M Treasury and most recently following a long rest over summer, I have just commenced a role as a Business Case specialist for the Ministry of Justice.

Throughout my time as a Pattenmaker, I have always found our Livery Company to provide a unique level of support, friendship and feeling of belonging to something special. The weekly Newsletter is a wonderful way to enable its members and their families to feel 'in touch' and in contact with the Livery. It has been my absolute pleasure to provide this article for members and my wife and I look forward to when we can all enjoy the magnificent benefits and friendship of the Livery in more easier times.

As we enter the uncertain world of a second national lockdown, I wish you all and your families the best of health.

The Court

Past Master Richard Page



I have been reading the regular Pattenmaker reports with great interest and have marvelled just how industrious and active my fellow

members have been during the restrictions dumped on us by the virus.

I have sat and pondered just what I could report that would provide not only interest but show that I was equally industrious and active. Here it all gets a little difficult because apart from re-tiling a field shelter for the mares and foals it all seems a rather repetitive. A report that every day since March, I have got up, had three meals, a bottle of wine and then gone back to bed is hardly the stuff of legends.

Even if I were to elaborate on the re-tiling of the field shelter in deep and boring detail it would only get the sensible reaction on the lines of, what is an old fool of 79 doing clambering over a roof some 15 ft up, has he no brain? To which the answer is in the affirmative/

Then it has come to me that I could tell everyone about my pride and joys—joys because it is in the plural—my two filly foals who when they are a little older are going to enter training and sweep all before them.

One of the problems about trying to compete in the racing game is that unless you have an oil well in the back garden or own a brewery you start at a distinct disadvantage because the blue blooded yearlings that grace the sale rings command rather a lot of money. All of which boils down to the fact it is handy to own an oil well or two.

Whilst most go for tens of thousands, in this year's Autumn Newmarket sales, two fillies have just sold for, in nice round figures, 3 and 4 million guineas. In this case a brewery gave the purchaser a distinct advantage.

However even these stratospheric figures do not touch the pinnacle that was reached at the tail end of the last century—a son of Northern Dancer appeared in the sale ring and the interest was intense.

I should explain that Northern Dancer is the granddaddy that has founded a dynasty of successful stallions that have swept all before and in retirement each has handed on the baton to the next generation. I will not list the names but to the

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racings world they read like battle honours on a regimental flag—in fact one of the latest is Frankel undefeated in all of his races (14), £3,000,000 prize money and his covering fee is now some £175,000.

It was £125,000 but his progeny have been doing well, hence the rise in his fee and hence for any purchaser the need for the odd oil well.

For those of a mathematical bent just do the calculation of what a stallion can earn if his fees are £100 000 and he covers 100 mares a year for 15 years.

However back to the sale ring and in the last few rounds it reduced down to oil wells versus football pools. The bidding climbed higher and higher, the prize of owning this well bred son of Northern Dancer was driving it onwards and upwards.

Finally the oil wells won, the hammer fell at over \$10,000,000 some \$26,000,000 in today's money. The under bidder was consoled by a friend "don't worry you were bidding against a nation"

The colt was named Snaafi Dancer and entered training with all agog to see how he would perform because he was earmarked to found a breeding dynasty.

Here the nightmare began:

He was so bad in training that he was not even entered for a race—but no matter with a pedigree like his he could fall back on stallion duties. Finally the full extent of the nightmare hit home—he was infertile. So \$10 million down the plug hole in the space of a year.

I understand the football pools a year after the auction wiped the sweat off his brow at the narrow escape.

But I have a cunning plant to overcome the minor problem of not having an oil well down here in deepest Sussex. Simply this in that I will breed my own foals from my two mares by having them covered by stallions whose fees are very low. Very low because they have just started their stallion duties and their offspring have not yet

been launched upon a racecourse. Of course these offspring when they race (which will include mine) will sweep all before them and in winning will in turn drive the covering fee up into the oil field territory.

Naturally my 2 foals, being amongst those winners, will handsomely repay me for all the hours I have spent feeding and patting them during this lockdown. A minor additional requirement in the production of winners to breed from mares that have achieved racetrack success. It is no good getting a good stallion if you are going to couple him with the current driving force of the local United Diaries milk cart.



Beleave Mum, foal Miss Pattens



Stylistik, Mum, foal Golden girl

So here I have a cunning plan to overcome the fact that to purchase successful mares that are retiring from active racing service is also expensive, where again an oil field is also needed. A smaller oil field admittedly but nevertheless an oil field.

However how to obtain a good mare for breeding for pennies is a tale for another time.

So down here in rural Sussex leave me in peace and just let me quietly Dream on.

Editor's note – *before anyone raises any spelling issues - I am told by Past Master Richard Page that the mothers names are deliberately misspelt in order to register their names as there are so many horses with similar names.*

Events

14th November, 10:15am – The 350th anniversary committee of the three Livery Companies will have a virtual event in place of the Lord Mayor's Show. All three Companies will make a presentation and our Sheriff Chris Hayward, will speak for the Pattenmakers. The Lord Mayor will be joining us for this special event.

Don't forget to register.: [Registration for Webinar](#)

At the end of the formal presentations, there will be an opportunity to meet with other Pattenmakers in our own break out room, no registration needed, just a direct link: [350th Celebration break out room](#)

Meeting ID: 974 2956 3779

Passcode: 686524

16th November @6.00pm - 'Meet the Team' this is a chance to meet the new Master, Wardens and Committee Chairman and to hear from them directly their plans for 2021. Please use the following link to register for the event:

[Meet the Team Registration](#)

3rd December @ 7.30pm - 'Pattenmakers Wine Tasting' after the success of our first one of these we are running another.

St Margaret Pattens – every Thursday – services continue by zoom.

From the Clerk to the Framework Knitters' Company - 'Knit for Community' Charity Blanket Auction 9 – 22 November 2020

Our 'Knit for Community' initiative began as a result of lockdown earlier this year. The response from over 400 volunteers across the UK has been

fantastic, including residents of our Alms-houses in Leicester and members or friends of 32 Livery Companies. Over 12,000 squares have been donated and to date over 130 blankets and 30 lap blankets have been completed. Charities in Leicester, Nottingham, Calderdale, Watford and London will benefit from this project and we have already presented 55 blankets to three of our charities.

From 9th until 22nd November we are holding a Charity Blanket Auction and would be grateful if you could encourage members of your Company to support us by bidding for a blanket via:

[Blanket Charity Auction](#)

For any queries please contact Liz directly: liz@lizgreen.co.uk.

We would very much appreciate your support for this project – a quote received from James at Action Homeless in Leicester: 'I am about to take the blankets to one of our hostels for people with high support needs. As well as keeping people warm, they will help us to dress rooms and make each one feel more like home for the person in them'.

Thank you for any help you can give in spreading the word and I'm attaching a flyer that shows some of the blankets which will be included in the Auction.

Editor's note – *our thanks to Past Tim Watts for bringing our attention to this project at its outset and for Livery Members for supporting it.*

**From the Guildhall School of Music - Opera Triple Bill
Fri 6 & Mon 9 Nov, 7pm**

Live streamed broadcasts

Wolf-Ferrari *Il segreto di Susanna (Susanna's Secret)*

Mascagni *Zanetto*

Donizetti *Rita (Two Men and a Woman)*

We're halfway through our live-streamed performances of three darkly comic Italian operas, exploring troubling romantic relationships and escapist fantasies in the interwoven lives of three Florentine women.

Lyrical and tuneful music features throughout these skilfully written, one-act works, which were composed between 1841 and 1909. This new Guildhall production directed by Stephen Medcalf reimagines these challenging and thought-provoking stories for the present day. Don't miss the final two live-streams of these operas – fully staged and with live orchestra – brought to you free of charge this Friday and Monday. Download the full programme: [from our Website](#).

Editor comments – *also worth checking out many other events on their website.*

Photo of the Week

The Clerk carries out his civic duties at the Remembrance Sunday service in Bromley.



Bird Watch

Bird of the week this week is the Mistle Thrush Freeman Richard Parlour



The unlucky nature of the number 13 originated with a Norse myth about twelve gods having a dinner party in Valhalla. The trickster god Loki, who was not invited, arrived as the 13th guest, and arranged for Höðr to shoot Balder with a mistletoe tipped arrow. “Balder died, and the whole Earth got dark. The whole Earth mourned. It was a bad, unlucky day.” This major event in Norse mythology caused the number 13 to be considered unlucky. So is there a really unlucky bird? There are some contenders, but this time I have focused on mistletoe as it is mentioned in the Norse myth. Although we are shortly about to start kissing underneath it (Covid concerns aside, wear a mask, get tested or form a bubble), mistletoe is a very sticky berry, poisonous to humans, though not to birds. Mistletoe berries are a firm favourite of, you guessed it, the Mistle Thrush, which is this week's bird of the week.

The Mistle Thrush is a pale, large, aggressive and powerful thrush. It is the largest of our thrushes, a couple of centimetres longer than the song thrush, and a little more powerfully built, yet slender. It has an off white breast, streaked with black dots. It is a steely brownish grey colour from the top of its head, through its nape, down its back to its tail. It stands boldly upright and bounds across the ground. It then stops, listening for worms, will often cock its head to one side, assess where it thinks the worm is, then penetrate the soil for its prey. In flight, it shows its long wings and its tail has whitish edges. The underwing is white. It is most likely to be noticed perched high at the top of a tree, singing its fluty song, or giving its rattling call in flight (this really does sound like a football rattle). Its song has very pure notes and is very strong. It is also known as the Storm Cock due to its willingness to carry on singing through the heaviest of downpours. It is further known as the Holm Thrush (holm meaning holly) due to its association with holly berries. The Mistle Thrush is a widespread bird in the UK, found almost everywhere except the highest, barest ground, and absent from the northern and westernmost isles of Scotland. Mistle Thrushes eat worms, slugs, insects and berries, and can be seen in grassy areas, horse paddocks, woodland, parkland and large gardens. The Mistle Thrush is another declining species though, and is down to

170,000 territories, which puts it on the UK red list. The decline is thought to be due to the loss of invertebrate rich pasture land, houses having far smaller gardens, and they are less common in arable intensive areas.

So how do you tell the difference between a Mistle Thrush and a Song Thrush? The former is more erect, larger, paler, has a white underwing and from above, white edges to its tail in flight. The Song Thrush on the other hand is smaller, dumpier, more warmer russet brown colours, and has an orangey patch on its underwing in flight. The former sings more loudly, but uses shorter phrases. The Song Thrush sings a wider variety of phrases, repeating each one two or three times, and does not have the rattling call of the Mistle Thrush.

Some other thrushes are arriving in the UK at the moment for the winter from Scandinavia. These are the fieldfare and the redwing. Occasionally other rare thrushes appear in the UK. For example, in January I was lucky enough to see a Black Throated Thrush, which appeared, of all places, in Whipsnade Zoo (not in a cage!!) and stayed there for quite a few days, raking in quite an amount of extra admission revenue for the zoo too. If it is rare thrushes that you are after, then the Shetland Isles attract many rare thrushes blown off course such as the Swainson's Thrush, White's Thrush, Siberian Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Dusky Thrush, Thrush Nightingale and Eyebrowed Thrush. The rarer thrushes also have a habit of turning up in the Scillies and Norfolk, so it might be an idea to look closer at whatever thrush is in front of you!

In other bird news this week, a Black Headed Bunting has been seen on Islay, at Bruichladdich (coincidentally one of my favourite distilleries!), a Long Billed Dowitcher in Yorkshire, and a Bonaparte's Gull in Pembrokeshire (looks like a slightly smaller version of a black headed gull in winter plumage, but with a black bill). Elsewhere there have been sightings of Penduline Tit, Glossy Ibis and Grey Phalarope (a bit of a ballerina of a bird, very dainty and extremely confiding). Common cranes have had a great year in Cambridgeshire and flocks of up to 60 have been

seen (also a good number in the Somerset Levels). Happy birding!

Letters to the Editor

From Past Master Michael Fincham to the Clerk

Well done Robert. I think you and all team are doing an amazing job in keeping things going. The News letters are also great.

From Liveryman Raymond Sancroft-Baker to Past Master Richard Kottler

Just a note to say 'Well done' with the publication of Out of the Mud. It really is a splendid book, excellent illustrations, easy to read and not a endless mention of minutes from the past. I am under no illusion as to the amount of work that Stephen and Steve put in and am amazed that they did it in a couple of years. it really brings the Company to life and is full of interesting facts that were new to me.

Recipe of the Week

Christmas Pudding – Past Master Tim Watts

I explained last week how I use recipes for mincemeat and Christmas pud that are written in my grandmother's 100 year old recipe book. I submitted an article giving both recipes but, as I suppose the two together are pretty rich, the editor spared your indigestion by cutting the piece into two instalments. Here, then, is the next instalment.

This level of ingredients will give you 3 or 4 good size puds so half measures may be a good idea.

Ingredients

1 lb Sultanas
½ lb Large Stoned Raisins [raisins]
1 lb Currants
¼ lb Candied Peel
1 lb Suet
½ lb Flour [plain flour]
1 lb Breadcrumbs [wholemeal works well]
1 lb Raw Sugar [demerara sugar]
½ lb Chopped Almonds

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4 or 6 eggs with a little milk
Nutmeg – pudding spice [mixed spice]
Juice of one lemon and one orange and grated
rind of both
Brandy

Don't miss the Clerk's Quiz on the last page.....

When it says 1 lb Suet, Grandmother used ½ lb suet and ½ lb butter.

No mincing of the fruit for this recipe, just mix all the ingredients together (tip: mix the dry ingredients first) and put the resulting mixture into greased pudding basins and cover (Grandmother used to have cloth covers for the basins with an integral drawstring for attaching: I find kitchen foil tied on with string works fine but avoid plastic string).

The cooking instructions are simple - "Puddings should first be boiled for 8 hours then left until day required to eat when they should be boiled for another 4 hours making 12 hours in all." [I learnt that this meant that the water in the pan should be about half way up the basin, that you boil gently, that you should watch carefully to be sure that the pan does not boil dry and, if using a gas hob, to put a saucer (or similar) in the bottom of the pan and stand the basin on it.]

In my Grandmother's day, the boiling was done in the washhouse to keep the steam out of the house but it is a long time since I have seen a separate washhouse. Steam is not a problem if put the pud in boiling water and then leave the pan and pud in the simmering oven of the Aga overnight and then repeat for Christmas Day. As tips go, this one is pretty useless if you don't have an Aga.

Happy Christmas.

Editors Note. *Past Master Tim also advises that Stir up Sunday, the traditional day for making puddings (25th after Trinity*), is 22nd November.*

** the Collect in the Book of Common Prayer for this day is "Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works may of thee be plenteously rewarded: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

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

The Clerk's Quiz of the Week

There were ten questions but only eight different answers and no correct entries 😞



1. "Remember, Remember the Fifth of November" What is the next line? **Gunpowder, Treason and Plot**
2. Which County town is famed for its celebrations of "No Popery" and its Bonfire Societies? **Lewes. County Town of (East) Sussex**
3. Where did the Clerk go to School? **Lewes**
4. Fifty female sheep . . . **Lewes – L (50) ewes. Do try and keep up**
5. Although Guy Fawkes is the most famous conspirator who was the leader of the gang? **Robert Catesby**
6. How many barrels of gunpowder were discovered? **36**
7. Who received the anonymous letter revealing the plot? **William Parker, 4th Baron Monteagle**
8. Who was arrested guarding the barrels of gunpowder? **Guy Fawkes**
9. Which event, in the King's presence, was the target? **The State Opening of Parliament**
10. Where is the lantern Guy Fawkes used during the plot? **On display at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford**

This week's questions, based around Friday the Thirteenth:

What was to have been question one was expertly discussed and answered in this week's Avian Times! So here are the remaining nine:

1. How many guests were there at the Last Supper?
2. On which day of the week was Christ Crucified?
3. What is the term for fear of Friday the Thirteenth?
4. Which Film Director was born on 13th August 1899 whose first film was called Number 13?
5. Which King of France arrested and subsequently slaughtered the Knights Templar on Friday the 13th 1307?
6. What is the term for fear of the number 13?
7. What is the maximum number of Fridays the Thirteenth in any one calendar year?
8. Who directed the 1980 Horror film Friday the Thirteenth?
9. In Ontario Canada which group of people have met on Friday the Thirteenth since 1981?

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