



The Pattenmaker

WEEKLY NEWS FROM AROUND THE LIVERY

Issue 37

Friday 11th December 2020

From the Master Jennifer Bryant-Pearson



I write this as we prepare for the Carol service – our first actual event since January 23rd so it will be a very special service for all those present and I hope also for those watching it from home. I am very grateful to our

Honorary Chaplain, Andrew Keep and the Churchwardens and Administrator for ensuring that this event can go ahead.

We have our second virtual clothing ceremony on 15th December so please join us if you can,

Activities are slowly returning to the City with the re-opening of Leadenhall Market with its Christmas theme and it is good to hear from the Brigantes are now planning their 2021 programme.

Hanukkah will be marked in the City with a virtual celebration on 14th December which will include the Lord Mayor and a panel of guests who will discuss amongst other things, the importance of Hanukkah and how celebrations are being observed during COVID-19.

Following the sad news of the passing of Past Master George Andrews there is a link to the Funeral Directors for tributes and charitable donations.

Senior Past Master Helen Auty has unearthed a fascinating story of Georgina Jane Henderson, thanks to a reference to Pattens and this has been provided by her former colleague, Susan Bennett. We continue our focus on young Pattenmaker members as Freeman Polly Davies updates us on her life as a new mother and plans for the future whilst Past Master Alastair Watson-Gandy contribute to the Court members' series and reminds us of the tradition of the Christmas tree.

With the holiday break ahead, Olivia Emanuel provides some ideas for Christmas reading which will make great presents for family and friends,

We also report on the very successful and enjoyable wine tasting event.

Freeman Richard Parlour highlights the Crossbill this week and some very important issues that have arisen regarding conservation, particularly with regard to Scottish shooting estates. Past Master Ian Scarr-Hall provides the most unusual recipe ever direct from the Isle of Harris and Court Assistant Alan Lyons gives us the answers to last week's Lockdown Brainteaser. This week the Clerk challenges our knowledge of the new history book – Out of the Mud.

City of London Corporation

Brigantes, City of London Liverymen in the North - A message from Fiona Robinson, Brigantes Administrator

The year 2020 is closing without the Brigantes having met either for Breakfast or our usual carol supper. We hope to get back to normal in 2021 but

we will still have to be patient for a while – it is too soon to make any firm arrangements.

We are determined to have a Brigantes Breakfast, but our intended venue for 2021, the National Railway Museum, will not be confident for some time that they can host a suitable event for us. For this reason, the Tribal Council is working on a plan B. This might be to hold two simultaneous events, one on each side of the hills that bestride our lands, each with smaller numbers. We are working up what might be possible and hope to be able to confirm plans in February.

Virus restrictions permitting, one event that will go ahead is the annual Brigantes golf competition, at Ganton, Yorkshire on April Details and booking forms will be sent out in February.

We are confident that the carols and supper will happen in 2021 and we have a couple of new Cathedrals in mind. Watch this space.

Crime in the City



Crime has fallen by more than 50% in the Square Mile while detection rates have become “the highest in the UK”, according to the City of London Police.

Alistair Sutherland, assistant commissioner of the force, shared the perhaps unsurprising news during an online residents’ meeting hosted by the City of London Corporation.

With footfall in London’s financial district hugely reduced this year, recorded crime fell by 54 per cent.

“That equates to around 3,000 fewer offences,” Mr Sutherland said.

“My officers have managed to raise our detection rate to the highest in the UK, around 28 per cent

of all crimes are being solved with a positive outcome.”

The detection rate is up from 21 per cent for 2019/20, and 18 per cent during 2018/19.

According to the Home Office, a reported offence is classified as “detected” when a suspect has been charged or summoned; cautioned; fined; or had an offence taken into consideration by a court.

He also told the 100+ residents on the online meeting that the Square Mile has been carved up into an East Sector and West Sector, containing 12 and 13 wards.

Leadenhall Market

Leadenhall Market, one of London’s oldest marketplaces, has reopened to celebrate Christmas in the heart of the City of London.

To mark the holiday season, the airy and covered Leadenhall Market will be transformed, with a festive snowflake projection and indoor snow installation.



The Market is home to 35 boutique retailers, bars, restaurants and cafes which are finally opening back up again.

The iconic architecture of Leadenhall’s Victorian wrought iron and glass Market provides a spacious setting for Christmas shopping and enjoying a festive drink with a meal. The inspiration for the Harry Potter Films’ Diagon Alley, visitors may recognise the entrance to wizard’s pub, the Leaky Cauldron, in Bull’s Head Passage.

Chair of the Property Investment Board at the City of London Corporation, Tom Sleigh, said: “Leadenhall Market’s stunning architecture and beautiful painted roof make it a wonderful destination year-round for residents, workers and

visitors alike – but it really comes alive at Christmas.

“With its unique surroundings enhanced by the magic of indoor snow and festive light projections, Leadenhall Market provides a safe, open air setting for Christmas shopping and dining. We are looking forward to welcoming back visitors to this world-class retail and hospitality hotspot and supporting our businesses through the new Tier Two restrictions.”

Our History

Senior Past Master Helen Auty

A friend and ex-colleague, Susan Bennett, had an extraordinary piece of luck one day. Hiding within the pages of her discovery was a reference to a young woman’s footwear and, of course, her pattens.

Discovering a Life: Georgiana Jane Henderson (1771-1850)



Georgiana Jane Kate by Angelica Kauffman, 1779. Acknowledgement: Private Collection UK. Photograph courtesy of Richard Green Gallery

Two red leather diaries measuring 5” x 3” (12cm x 8cm) dated 1794 and 1802 led me on a long search to identify the writer, and to discover why her

father described her in his will as ‘a thankless child’. The owner, the then navigation officer on Concorde, had found them while sorting out her mother’s effects. She didn’t know if they had been written by a family member, or more likely, her mother had found them in the local second-hand bookshop, where she had a habit of acquiring items of interest. The closely written entries had proved a struggle to read but when she came across the name Captain William Bligh, of ‘Mutiny on the Bounty’ fame, she thought they might have some historical value. This entry about her attendance at a ceremony at the Society of Arts in 1794 to see Bligh receive a gold medal, for his successful transportation of breadfruit from the East to the West Indies, led to my interest as Curator/Archivist of the Royal Society of Arts.

On receiving the diaries, sent by registered post and protected in bubble wrap, I discovered from other names mentioned in the diaries, the identity of the writer’s father as he was well known to most of the artistic and literary circles of the day.

This enabled me to identify the author - Georgiana Keate. One name that appeared quite frequently



In the diaries was that of Henderson. An accomplished amateur artist his drawings of shipping in Dover had been thought to be the work of J.M.W Turner for many years. He often joined Georgiana and her parents at their home, on their visits to the theatre and he met up with them on holiday. Georgiana even records her father attending the Society of Antiquaries to support Henderson’s election as a Fellow. However, when he married Georgiana her parents responded in an extreme manner – they

disowned their only much-loved daughter. They were never reconciled. Georgiana's father wrote in his will that she had 'fled disgracefully...to give her hand to a man whose principles and whose manners she well knew I abhorred'. I then set out to try and uncover what lay behind this change in their feelings.

The transcript of a third diary, from another source, added to the two I originally saw, together with surviving correspondence and contemporary accounts led me to write the story of her life and times. The paucity of material meant that I couldn't write a full biography.

During her long life, she lived through the reigns of George III, George IV, William IV and Queen Victoria, she saw much to amuse and entertain her, and her family as the world opened up. However, her diaries proved to be a record of her daily activity rather than an account of her innermost thoughts and feelings. We know she visited the theatre on several occasions, spa towns and seaside resorts. She witnessed the first balloon flights and visited the Rotunda in Leicester Square to see the panoramas on display. Her friendship circle included the actor/manager David Garrick, an exotic visitor from the South Seas Prince Lee Boo, the transvestite Chevalier D'Eon, as well as the Lord Mayor of London Sir Brook Watson and Alderman Sir Richard Clark. She lived most of her life near the British Museum, first with her parents in Charlotte Street and then with her own family in Montagu Street.

Georgiana enjoyed shopping and made a number of visits to shoe shops, including one in Bond Street, to buy shoes for herself and her young children – including a pair of tin shoes! Were these meant to be worn?

At home or on holiday Georgiana believed in walking as a daily exercise. During their winter stay on the Isle of Wight the weather deteriorated making the paths difficult to traverse. After she had to carry her daughter over the dirt to the leeward side of Cowes Castle, where the ground was 'dry and fine', she decided to visit the shop and buy some pattens for her five-year old Georgy and herself. The next morning she took her daughter for a walk 'in pattens for the first

time', which must have been a challenge for one so young.

You can read Georgiana's story in *A Thankless Child. The Life and Times of Georgiana Jane Henderson (1771-1850)* which is available on Amazon for £9.99 [Click here](#)

Members' News

Past Master George Andrews

Following the sad news of the passing of Past Master George Andrews, please see the link to the Funeral Directors for tributes and charitable donations.

<https://abbeyfs.muchloved.org/Tributes>

Pattenmakers' Wine Testing Event – Liveryman Graham Perry



Philip Trease

Thursday 3rd December was the evening selected for the latest Pattenmaker Wine tasting event and what a superb evening it turned out to be. Our host for the evening was Philip Trease Managing Director of Weavers wine, A fifth generation family run business based in Nottingham. A very pleasant surprise at the beginning of the evening was to discover that Honorary Freeman John Foxon had in fact known Philip for many years and actually popped into his shop to pick up his tasting case.

After a brief welcome from the Master, Philip began the evening by explaining to all how he gone about selecting the wines for the evening and that the decisions had been based on two primary influences. The first was that he realised

not everyone would be finishing all of the wine this evening and so the selected wines would last at least a few days and some up to 6 months if kept in the fridge. The second and more important reason was that each had an interesting story of either how they were produced or the producers themselves.

We started the evening with a little English Sparkling Wine the Nyetimber Classic Cuvee, very much aimed as a competitor to French Champagne. From this we moved onto a white Albarino from the Galicia region in Spain which most agreed was not a wine they would usually have picked but certainly one that most would buy again. This region is very close to Portugal and thus very similar to the Albarino produced there also. This was followed by a deep and robust Bordeaux inspired red from Argentina, the Alandes Paradoux went down well with some of the attendees but not with others. It was generally agreed if you liked a heavier red this was a good choice. Finally, the revelation for the evening was Pineau des Charentes Blanc, Château d'Orignac a sweet, brandy-based aperitif that is a cross between a brandy and a sweet desert one. This one was a revelation and agreed by all something that no one would ever have selected but that everyone enjoyed.

The event went on for well over the original hour that was scheduled as everyone was chatting, asking questions and having a very pleasant evening, for a moment we almost forgot that we were all sitting at home and on a zoom call. At the end of the evening Past Master Tim Watts had what he described as an obvious idea and combined the English sparkling wine with the Pineau des Charentes and created a stunning cocktail that we have nicknamed 'The Pattenmaker'. If you are looking for a different drink for Christmas Day, I can heartily recommend it.

I would like to extend my grateful thanks to all those who attended and made the evening so enjoyable and I look forward to the next one, which hopefully will be a physical event and possibly even within Philips, Georgian tasting room which he so graciously offered.

Book Recommendations - Octavia Emanuel, the wife of Liveryman David Emanuel and the owner of Octavia's Bookshop suggests some Christmas reading

I first opened the doors of my award-winning, independent on Black Jack Street, Cirencester in March 2011; on a truly memorable day, with best-selling children's author Lauren



St John cutting the purple and gold ribbons! And what fun we've been having ever since.

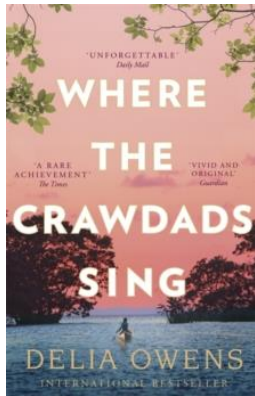
I have always been passionate about children's literature and learnt about the book business working for Ottakar's and then Waterstone's - all whilst dreaming of having my own beautiful shop in my hometown of Cirencester.

Understandably, this year has been difficult for us to hold book signings. In spite of this excitingly, Ben Miller a local and regular customer launched his latest children book *The Day I Fell Into a Fairytale* outside the shop in October- with an interview by presenter Alexandra "Alex" West on BBC One Points West. I was then invited to discuss Ben's book and make some recommendations for the listeners of BBC Bristol radio.

We have quite a few local authors here in the Cotswolds that have been very supportive of the shop over the years and have held readings or signings, including Jilly Cooper. Last year Daisy May Cooper and Charlie Cooper from the TV series *This Country* promoted their book *This is This Country* at an event in the shop. Black Jack Street had never seen queues of people like it before, it was amazing to see over 1000 fans pop in, to see them that day.

Where The Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens PB £8.99

'For sheer escapism pick up Where The Crawdads Sing . . . there is writing that takes your breath away' The Times.

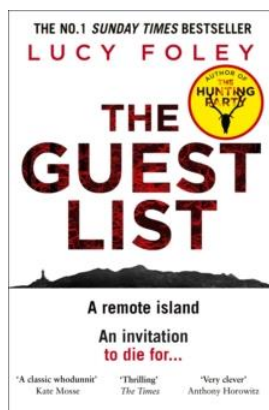


For years, rumours of the 'Marsh Girl' have haunted Barkley Cove, a quiet town on the North Carolina coast. So in late 1969, when handsome Chase Andrews is found dead, the locals immediately suspect Kya Clark, the so-called Marsh Girl. But Kya is not what they say.

Sensitive and intelligent, she has survived for years alone in the marsh that she calls home, finding friends in the gulls and lessons in the sand. Then the time comes when she yearns to be touched and loved. When two young men from town become intrigued by her wild beauty, Kya opens herself to a new life - until the unthinkable happens.

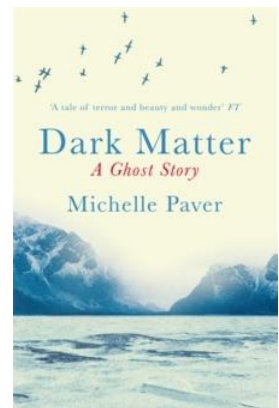
The Guest List by Lucy Folely PB £8.99
The Times Best Crime Fiction of the Year.

On an island off the windswept Irish coast, guests gather for the wedding of the year - the marriage of Jules Keegan and Will Slater. Old friends. Past grudges. Happy families. Hidden jealousies. Thirteen guests. One body. The wedding cake has barely been cut when one of the guests is found dead. And as a storm unleashes its fury on the island, everyone is trapped. All have a secret. All have a motive. One guest will not leave this wedding alive . . .



Dark Matter by Michelle Paver PB £8.99

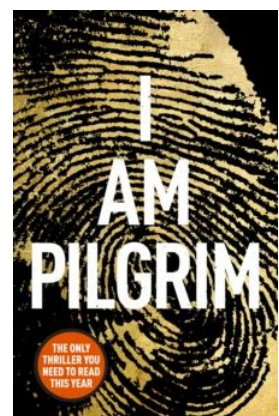
A terrifying 1930s ghost story set in the haunting wilderness of the far north. January 1937. Clouds of war are gathering over a fogbound London. Twenty-eight year old Jack is poor, lonely and desperate to change his life. So, when he's offered the chance to join an Arctic expedition, he jumps at it. Spirits are high as the ship leaves Norway: five men and eight huskies, crossing the Barents Sea by the light of the midnight sun. At last they reach the remote, uninhabited bay where they will camp for the next year. Gruhuken. But the Arctic summer is brief.



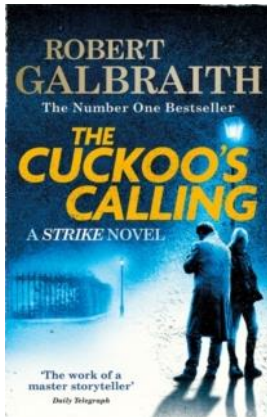
As night returns to claim the land, Jack feels a creeping unease. One by one, his companions are forced to leave. He faces a stark choice. Stay or go. Soon he will see the last of the sun, as the polar night engulfs the camp in months of darkness. Soon he will reach the point of no return - when the sea will freeze, making escape impossible. And Gruhuken is not uninhabited. Jack is not alone. Something walks there in the dark...

I am Pilgrim by Terry Hayes PB £8.99
International Phenomenon.

A young woman murdered in a run-down Manhattan hotel. A Father publicly beheaded in the blistering sun of Saudi Arabia. A man's eye stolen from his living body as he leaves a secret Syrian research laboratory. Smouldering human remains on a mountainside in the Hindu Kush. A plot to commit an appalling crime against humanity. One thread that binds them all. One man to take the journey. Pilgrim.



The Cuckoo's Calling: A Strike Novel by Robert Galbraith PB £8.99



When a troubled model falls to her death from a snow-covered Mayfair balcony, it is assumed that she has committed suicide. However, her brother has his doubts, and calls in private investigator Cormoran Strike to investigate the case. Strike is a war veteran - wounded both

physically and psychologically - and his life is in disarray. The case gives him a financial lifeline, but it comes at a personal cost: the more he delves into the young model's complex world, the darker things get - and the closer he gets to terrible danger . . .

Young Pattenmakers - Freeman Polly Davies

Each week we will profile one of our Young Pattenmakers community members. This week we speak to Polly Davies who has been with the Company for eight years. She has had such an interesting career and has travelled to many places, one of particular interest is Tajikistan where she carried out fieldwork for a recent MPhil in Social Anthropology.



How long have you been in the Company?
8 years

What industry to do you represent? Please give a quick overview of what you do.

I work in publishing, as Compliance and Ethics manager at the 500 year old Oxford University Press. Pre covid, I would travel to various of their 52 offices around the world to find out how the business deals with corruption risk locally. However, I started my career in the shipping industry, training as a maritime lawyer in London and Paris. I am currently on maternity leave with my little boy Pip.

How did you find out about the Company?

I was led to the Pattenmakers by Past Master Richard Paice - whom I had met as an 18 year old when I was about to embark on a nine month trip to China to teach English.

What have you enjoyed the most about our Company or the best experience you have had of our company?

I enjoyed a number of dinners in beautiful surroundings - including one on the HQS Wellington, the home of the Honorable Company of the Master Mariners - whilst still living and working in London. These always involved meeting such an interesting array of people. St Margaret Pattens was very near my old office - but sadly I only managed to attend the Pattenmakers annual service there once!

Have there been any additional benefits that you weren't expecting prior to entering our company?

I remember when I was once made redundant, and was in touch with the Company about something, and thought how nice it is to have connections beyond work which endure through sudden changes in circumstance like redundancy.

What are your current aspirations and/or activities/hobbies you are currently pursuing?

My main focus at the moment is Pip and our only hobby I would say is swimming which we do every Monday! In terms of aspirations, I'm wary of anything too definite at the moment - I'll go back to work in April and then see. I would like to work abroad again in the future and to use my language skills (my undergrad was in Turkish and latterly in my shipping career I worked mostly for Turkish shipowners) but Oxford is a

lovely place for a young family so I'm in no rush to change.

Are you in contact with any other members of the livery outside the events hosted by the company?

I am in frequent contact with Richard Paice but like everyone I imagine I feel a bit cut off from everyone this year!

What have you learnt during quarantine?

Pip was born in May so I didn't really notice the first lock down - other than how quiet it was and how noticeable the birds singing suddenly became. I feel quite lucky that Pip came along at this time.

The Court

Past Master Alastair Watson-Gandy



With Past Mistress Pattenmaker, Jenny Dicken

Sir Lawrence and Lady Verney introduced me to the Pattenmakers, for which I am very grateful. At the time I was fundraising for Woodrow High House in Buckinghamshire, part of which is now London Youth. It was the Duke of Edinburgh's first charity. I remember after a particularly stressful week selling tickets for a Yoga event for Woodrow had finished successfully, I went to a Pattenmakers dinner. I was still bubbling with the event, when the person next to me said that he had written 5 letters to raise money for a hospice and raised £250,000. My £300, although positive, diminished, but I thought I was in the right place. I began on the Fundraising committee, which we turned round with the help of Past Masters

Michael Fincham and Ian Scarr-Hall. We started using Justgiving.Com, for our runners to collect their donations and more importantly collect the gift aid. My worst moment was in early January, when my runners shrank to two, one, who wrote that he was advised by his doctor to take easy. However, it all worked out well. There was an active intake that year with Alison Truphet and Sally Dymott. We even laid on a concert to raise money for our Guild Church.

I then helped look after our military connections. We had a great experience defusing a WW1 bomb in the old Aldgate station, as shown in a previous newsletter. My visit to HMS Chiddingfold was not so explosive but mine sweeping was discussed in principle. I made some interesting contacts with the London University Air Squadron.

I became a Steward. My first job was under the guidance of my senior Steward was to welcome people into Grocer's Hall and ensure the diners knew the layout. The senior Steward was to welcome the speaker, Richard Chartres then Bishop of London and now Lord Chartres. The hall has a small area for cars with barriers at both ends. The speaker's car drove in and went gently past pursued by the senior Steward. Lord Chartres walked after it to be welcomed by me. I then proceeded through the process to become Master and beyond.

Christmas is coming. The children are getting excited. Will Santa bring them the presents they want? With the tedium of Christmas everyone needs a bit of joy, so they are shopping earlier this year. In fact, we have been decorating our houses for thousands of years, although with branches of fir, holly mistletoe, ivy, etc. rather than a tree. The Egyptians thought that with the shortest day in the 21 and 22nd of December, as the sun was at it weakest, they should bring in green palms, which would encourage the sun's return to health.

I have tried to have a Christmas tree every year. I remember as a teenager staying with my Grandmother. To my horror there was no tree planned, so I shined up a fir tree and cut the top off. It was not the usual Norway spruce, and it looked a bit odd, but it was a tree to be decorated!

Every Christmas the Queen gives two trees to St Pauls, one for outside and the Other for inside. The inside tree is for the congregation to leave presents for needy children. The most famous of Christmas trees is the one which stands in Trafalgar square. It is gift from the grateful people of Oslo, Norway, for our aid in WW2. After WWI, the city of Manchester gave Lille in France a tree and some money to gifts to the children as Lille was devastated by bombing. It is seen as an act of friendship.



The Norwegian tree in Trafalgar Square. It has been sent every year since 1947 from the people of Oslo. This year it was erected on the 3rd of December.

When did we start to use trees? The evergreen fir tree has traditionally been used to celebrate winter festivals for thousands of years. Early people used branches of it to decorate their homes during the winter solstice, as it made them think of the spring to come. Records show that the early Vikings decorated trees outside with cakes and apples for Odin. The Romans fixed lighted candles on their trees in honour of Saturnalia. It is thought that bringing Christmas trees into the house started in Germany in the seventeenth century, where trees were decorated with sweets, apples, paper roses and gold foil. However, The Latvians claim to have the first Christmas tree in 1510 or so states a plaque in Riga. For Britain Prince Albert brought the Christmas tree to Queen Victoria in 1846. It then became popular throughout Britain. In Poland they add wafers. On Christmas Eve, each person has a wafer, which they break off a bit and give it to another person with a wish for the coming year.

On the 10th December is the Pattenmakers Christmas Carols. I hope you can Zoom in and take part. May Jenny and I wish you a Very Merry Christmas and a happy 2021.

Events

15th December at 5:00pm Pattenmakers' Admissions Ceremony

The second historic event will be held on **Tuesday, 15th December at 5.00pm**, all are encouraged to "attend" especially friends and family. Here is the link: [Registration for Admission Ceremony](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

14th December at 6:00pm – 6:30pm Celebrating Hanukkah in 2020

The City of London Corporation invites you this year to a virtual celebration of Hanukkah.

The event will include a welcome from the Lord Mayor, followed by a short film in which Rabbi Shalom Morris from Bevis Marks Synagogue in the City of London will give an insight into the synagogue, the oldest in Great Britain, and will light the Menorah.

There will be a brief introduction to the history of Hanukkah by Martin Goodman, Professor of Jewish Studies and Fellow of Wolfson College, University of Oxford. This will be followed by a live panel discussion.

The panel discussion will be chaired by Alderman Ian Luder, and will focus on the importance of Hanukkah, how celebrations are being observed during COVID-19 and the impact that the pandemic has had on the Jewish community.

Panellists will include Marie van der Zyl, President, Board of Deputies of British Jews, Laura Marks OBE, Founder and Chair, Mitzvah

Day, and Rabbi Jackie Tabick, West Central Liberal Synagogue.

There will be an opportunity to ask the panel questions at the end of the webinar.

If you would like to attend, please register here: [Register Here](#)

We hope that you will be able to join us.



Photo of the Week

Winter – Assistant Clerk Jane Forman



The first fall of snow of winter has fallen here in North Essex and it is beginning to feel a lot like Christmas! A lovely early morning walk through the snowy woods followed by fun on the playing fields with my two German Shepherd dogs, Willow and

Skye and our little lodger Daisy.



Bird Watch

Bird of the week this week is the Crossbill - Freeman Richard Parlour



Crossbill Couple

There are lots of crossbills around at the moment. This is not some ornithological jest, but a reference to a rather chunky finch with a large head, and a bill which is crossed over at the tips.

This crossed bill may look like some bird world equivalent of an orthodontal issue, or some mythological form of punishment, but the crossed bill is used to extract seeds from conifer cones, this bird's favourite food. They are most often encountered in noisy family groups or larger flocks, usually flying close to treetop height, so you need to keep looking up and have a fairly good set of binoculars to see them perching on the tops of fir trees. Check out their calls before you go looking for them as you are likely to hear them before you see them. Keep a watch on your county bird website as sightings should appear there. Realistically, you will need a wood with lots of conifers to stand a chance of seeing them. Crossbills are the acrobats of the conifer forest, fluttering from cone to cone and defying gravity.

Crossbills have very distinctive colours, the adult males being a distinctive brick red colour and the females a greenish-brown (in the photo, it is the female on the left and the male on the right. They look as if they have had a cross word, let alone a cross bill)! I was hoping to see a pair flanking a yellowhammer to bring a kind of traffic light quality to birdwatching, but I have not seen this particular species grouping as yet! The crossbill is

a Schedule 1 species, and although there are only around 40,000 pairs in the UK it is on the green list.

Other species of crossbill can be found in the UK. The year before last there was a great clamour when parrot crossbills were seen in a wood to the south of Hertford. In the Scottish Highlands, there is another variant known as the Scottish Crossbill. Indeed, the Scottish Highlands can pose crossbill identification problems as all three species occur naturally and they all look very similar, plus there may be the occasional two barred crossbill making a rare visit to the UK. Check your bird guides and bird calls before you venture out!

The crossbill is an “irruptive” species, which means it may be numerous and widespread in some years, but less so in others. Irruptions usually happen when there is the failure of their food crop in Europe and the birds make a tactical winter migration to avoid starvation. Other species do this too, so last year we had an irruption of hawfinch following failure of the beech crop in Central Europe. Established breeding areas for the crossbill include the Scottish Highlands, the North Norfolk coast, Breckland, the New Forest and the Forest of Dean. The crossbill regularly comes down from the treetops to pools to drink. The reason for this is that conifer seeds are very dry and crossbills need lots of water to soften the seeds up and digest them properly. Crossbills breed very early in the year, often in the winter months, to take advantage of the food supply.

Conservation is starting to make some further headway in legislation. Licensing is set to be introduced for Scottish shooting estates, in an effort to make them more accountable for practices such as raptor persecution. The decision comes in response to the Werritty report, published in December 2019 in the face of strong opposition from land managers who claim it will make their businesses unprofitable. The Scottish government, which said self-regulation of Red Grouse moors is not enough to end illegal persecution, intends to bring forward legislation in the next parliamentary term. This change was ordered after a report by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) (now called Nature Scot)

concluded that a third of satellite tagged Golden Eagles had disappeared in suspicious circumstances. Nature Scot’s remit was also to look at grouse moor management more broadly after concerns were raised by conservationists about the burning of heather moorland and the culling of Mountain Hares. Unlicensed culling of mountain hares is also being made illegal.

The report makes 58 recommendations, but the most controversial of them is the suggestion of licensing for shooting estates. It proposes a five year probationary period to show a “marked improvement in the ecological sustainability of grouse moor management”. Environment Secretary Roseanna Cunningham responded to the report at the time by saying that if a licensing scheme was required, it should be introduced earlier than suggested by the review. However, the Scottish Gamekeepers Association said it was concerned about “spurious” claims against licence holders by people seeking to end grouse shooting in Scotland. The association’s chairman said grouse shooting was an important element of Scottish rural life and gamekeepers should get more recognition for the many benefits they deliver. Scottish Labour welcomed the plans for a licensing system, saying it was long overdue. Environment spokeswoman Claudia Beamish said “the persecution of wildlife and the illegal shooting of raptors to preserve only grouse for sport must stop and will require additional resourcing for proper enforcement.”

The weather is starting to cool down a bit, as I discovered last week when camping out to see whether my four season sleeping bag actually worked as it said it would! I have to say I slept really soundly, but it does make you wonder how wildlife survives in such low temperatures without such luxuries. For birds, a slight change in the diet you put out for them in the winter months will be welcome. You could try items such as rolled oats, and fruits occurring naturally in the UK like apples and pears. I’m not sure about exotic fruits, but they may be worth a try! Dried fruits are good too. Fat is great for wildlife as the extra energy they gain from it helps to keep them warm. A tray of fat that is still liquid, from cooking a turkey for example, is not a good idea as birds will get it over their feathers and find

flying difficult, but mixing fat with seeds to make fat balls and suet cakes is fine. Rind from meat, particularly pork and bacon is also welcome. You could cut the rind up into small pieces. It goes really quickly from bird tables! Don't forget water in these colder conditions, so smash the ice on puddles, and add hot water to bird baths, keeping a watch during the day from time to time as it may refreeze. Alternatives are to put a tray of water on bricks and place a nightlight underneath, or try a "solar sipper" bird bath which uses solar energy to keep water from freezing. Just use pure water though, and definitely do not add antifreeze! With Christmas coming up, if you are stuck for ideas on presents, why not try an avian related gift and help the planet out at the same time! If you think a bird book would be good for someone, try Collins Bird Guide, probably the leading guide, though I find having several bird guides is useful as imagery is slightly different from guide to guide, so a mix can assist in identification. The Birds of Britain and Europe by Heinzel, Fitter and Parslow is another I use a lot. Happy birding!

Letter to the Editor

Steward Raymond Lewis to the Clerk

Out of the Mud arrived today, 5th December, a big thank you to the editorial team who have done a wonderful job.

I am very pleased and impressed with the high standard of printing & presentation.

It now occupies the prime position on my bookshelf not to gather dust but to be removed for a daily read. I will now experience what the Priest does reading his daily Office.

Recipe of the Week

Brot Ceann Caorach (Sheep's Head Soup) – Past Master Ian Scarr-Hall provides a very unusual recipe from the Isle of Harris

Ingredients

*Sheep's head – ceann caorach
1 flank of mutton
1 cup of barley
1 cup of dried peas
Salt and pepper
3 medium carrots
3 medium onions or leeks
3 small turnips*

Wash the head out and then leave it to soak in a bucket of cold water and salt overnight.

The next day, remove from water and clean off any residue.

Put the head and mutton into a large soup pan. Fill the pan to about three quarters full, making sure that the meat is covered with water.

Add plenty salt and bring to the boil.

Add in the barley, soaked peas and more seasoning. Keep on the boil for an hour and a half. Cut up all the remaining vegetables, add to the pan, and boil slowly for another two hours.

Serves 6 – 8

Plate up the soup as a starter.

Remove the meat and head from the pan, place it on an ashet (large plate or dish) and serve as the main course with boiled potatoes, carrot, and turnip.

From personal experience I recommend a bottle of Amhuinnsuidhe whisky produced on my "illegal whisky still" hidden in the hills of Harris!

Sláinte!

*Past Master Ian Scarr-Hall
produced Whisky*



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



THE
WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF
PATTENMAKERS



Donate Your Dining Fee

and improve the lives of the injured members of the Armed Forces recovering at the DMRC

The Pattenmakers are creating a new space for the servicemen/women at the DMRC to relax and spend time with their visiting friends and family. We have committed to spend at least £35,000, but we know this ambitious project will cost a lot more to achieve.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

STEP 1: DECIDE YOUR DONATION AMOUNT

It can be all of your dining fee or a percentage of it; how much you donate is entirely up to you.

STEP 2: MAKE YOUR PAYMENT TO THE PATTENMAKERS

Account: The Pattenmakers Company Charitable Foundation
Sort Code: 40-04-09 Account Number: 31826166
Reference: ESCAPE

For more information on the Escape Café and to find out how else you can support the Pattenmakers with this ambitious project, contact the Trade Warden, Martin Pickard: martin@denton-house.com

Quiz

The answers to Assistant Alan Lyons' quiz last week are shown below, Steward Raymond Lewis MSM providing the correct answers

1. 29 = Days in February in a Leap Year
2. 64 = Squares on a Chessboard
3. 40 = Days and Nights of the Great Flood
4. 1 = Electron in a Hydrogen Atom
5. 9 = Zeros in a Billion
6. 4 = Horses of the Apocalypse
7. 15 = Men on a Dead Man's Chest
8. 4478 = Height of the Matterhorn (Metres)
9. 3×10^8 = Speed of Light (Metres Per Second)
10. 23 = Human Chromosomes (Pairs)
11. 17 = Syllables in a Haiku
12. $6.62607004 \times 10^{-34}$ = Planck's Constant
13. 170 = Highest Checkout in Darts
14. 214 = Aces by John Isner at Wimbledon in 2018 (Tennis)
15. 5 = Digits in a United States Zip Code

Clerk's Quiz of the Week

All the answers to this week's quiz can be found in the new History Book
OUT OF THE MUD

So if you haven't bought one yet you will struggle!

1. What wood was forbidden by King Henry V in 1416 to be used for making pattens?
2. Whose image is stylised on the flying angel playing a fanfare on the inside front cover?
3. What is the ISB Number of the book?
4. Who was the first recorded Master Pattenmaker?
5. What was his wife's name?
6. Who composed the Pattenmakers' Fanfare?
7. What is the title of Hogarth's engraving that shows the tracks of pattens in the "snow"?
8. Who was the artist of "A Cat in Pattens"?
9. Who found the Pattenmakers' Staff in the Lanes in Brighton?
10. What is the furthest south a Pattenmakers' place mat has been photographed?

You might need to visit the website now and download the book order form! It is a fantastic read!

No prizes but special mention to the best performers! Please email answers to pattenmakersmembership@gmail.com. Answers revealed next week