



The Pattenmaker

WEEKLY NEWS FROM AROUND THE LIVERY

Issue 47

Friday 5th March 2021

From the Master Jennifer Bryant-Pearson

We have a spectacular St Patrick's Day event planned for you on 17th March to replace our dinner so join us with your family and friends for an hour of fun and music bringing us together in a virtual social setting. You will learn more about our military affiliations, the Young Pattenmakers, the Honourable Company of Pikemen and Musketeers and meet our special guest, Lieutenant Commander Emma McCormick to hear why the Pattenmakers are involved in the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre.



From the City, Sir Charles Bowman updates us on the Pan-livery Steering Group report, 'Philanthropic giving by Livery Companies' which clearly sets out the value and contribution which Livery companies make to society – and he asks for your views and ideas so please send us your thoughts as we contribute to the survey.

There is also news of a free app to explore the statues of the City virtually – Sculptures in the City and there is an invitation to view the Passing Out Parade for 14 new City of London Police on 22 March.

We have had an enquiry from Keith Spencer in Canada about his relative's involvement with the Pattenmakers in 1790 and Court Assistant Steve Huxham provides a fascinating answer and also gives our links with Canada.

Liveryman Bill Bird reports on the 2021 Independent Shoemakers' online Conference which pioneered a new trend in getting together and the introduction of close up views of teaching videos will be of huge value going forward.

Liveryman Lesley Exley, the new Chair of the Fundraising committee sets out her strategy for the coming year and will be asking for your support to meet the targets for the great fundraising events planned which include a champagne tea at Fortnum and Masons on 30th June, the day after our summer dinner.

Freeman Anne Lennox-Martin has so enjoyed Senior Past Master Helen Auty's gardening articles that she was inspired to send in photos of her own garden.

Freeman Bryan Oknyansky interviews Young Pattenmaker Sam Lenehan, a former Young Manager of the Year, whose success in the business world has been spectacular. We clearly recognised his potential an early stage!

Freeman Zoe Chowney's cultural calendar continues to engage us with international festivals and events and save the date now for the Woolmen's annual Livery Sheep Drive on 26th September.

Our Avian correspondent, Freeman Richard Parlour provides an insight into the Black Headed Gull this week and is concerned about the decline in birds in Cornwall.

Our editor, Liveryman Ian Balcombe produces his own bird statue in London and I photographed a very empty Horse Guards Parade in Westminster on returning to the Capital this week.

Past Mistress Pattenmaker, Eileen Eskenzi shares the former Mansion House Chef's recipe for Chocolate Truffle Cake with rather special introduction!

Our gallant Clerk has not only supplied the week's answers to last Quiz (including a link to "the Singing Postman") but also a mobile phone joke doing the rounds linked to our gulls feature!

Disgruntled of Sutton Valence has provided this week's quiz and said any sort of postman would be welcome round there, singing or not.

City of London Corporation

Pan-Livery Survey – Summary Report On behalf of the Pan-Livery Steering Group (PLSG) - Sir Charles Bowman Chairman

I am delighted to attach a copy of our report – Philanthropic Giving by Livery Companies, Results from the 2020 Pan-Livery Survey.

[Click here for Report](#)

This report aggregates data from all 110 livery companies, along with 8 guilds and companies without livery. Thank you all for your input and we hope this report will help to support you, your Court and your membership in communicating a clear, consistent and authentic message of the livery's value and contribution to society. We encourage you to share this report with all members of your company to help equip the livery's 48,000 members with more facts in relation to our philanthropic giving.

The PLSG

As we wrote in December, the PLSG plans, with your encouragement and support, to continue its onward trajectory. The PLSG recognises the opportunity to refresh its membership, with even stronger representation from across the entire livery, and to refine its terms of reference with a continued focus upon:

- Enhancing clearer and more transparent communication – both internal and external.
- Developing shared philanthropic endeavour.

- Encouraging the culture of pan-livery engagement.

Our intention has been to invite the Masters and Clerks of all livery companies to a Pan-Livery conference to agree next steps and set out the PLSG's refined terms of reference as well as highlight the impact of pan-livery philanthropy. We are very keen for this to be a physical gathering and, as soon as we have more certainty, we will set the date. It will most likely be in the early Autumn.

In the meantime, we have two requests to assist us in the lead up to the Pan-Livery conference:

- PLSG membership – we are looking to refresh the membership of the PLSG to ensure it reflects the spectrum of the livery and that it has the right blend of people with appropriate skills to deliver its purpose. Please let us know if you would like to nominate a member from your company – and indicate the particular skills and experience they will bring to this work.
- Terms of reference – we are keen to hear your views on specific areas where you would like your PLSG to focus.

Communications

Aligned with the above, the PLSG Communications Committee is now considering a Pan-Livery communication plan that takes account of the wider activity of the Livery.

Beyond the facts and data in the attached Survey Summary Report, there are many individual and collective stories that demonstrate the value and contribution of our livery – particularly over the last 12 months.

Amongst many examples is the Livery Kitchens Initiative which, by next week, will have delivered over 100,000 meals to four Barts Health NHS Trust Hospitals and 13 communities in East London in partnership with City Harvest. Fifty-eight livery companies have supported this initiative.

We look forward to showcasing this and other stories at the Pan-Livery conference. We are also

exploring a plan to begin communicating these stories, and their impact, more widely, beyond the livery.

Again, we have two requests to assist us as we develop the communication plan:

- Wider pan-livery communication – we would value your views, thoughts and ideas in relation to wider pan-livery communication – both internal and external – and we would value offers of support.
- Your stories - we also ask, please, that you share with us the stories of your company's individual and pan-livery activity – and their related impact and value.

As I said in December, we will need your continued support with this agenda and our aim is to develop a frequent dialogue with you all. It will be this support, combined with a pan-livery willingness to collaborate, that will make us stronger, more purposeful and ensure that our philanthropy is ever more impactful. We therefore look forward to hearing from you in response to the above and please do continue to share your other news. Please direct your replies to Rebecca, at: RebeccaT@mercercs.co.uk With our thanks again, all best wishes and we look forward to hearing from you.

Explore Sculptures in the City Installations with free app.

Sculpture in the City, the City of London's annual public art programme set amongst iconic architectural landmarks, has just launched its multimedia digital guide for visitors to explore at home, made possible by Bloomberg Philanthropies.

The guide is available through the free digital app, Bloomberg Connects and offers a new way to explore Sculpture in the City virtually.

Over the past ten years, Sculpture in the City has gained attention for bringing both established international artists and emerging artists to the wider public's attention.

With works juxtaposed against the iconic buildings in the Square Mile, the app offers audiences the chance to explore the current ninth edition from home, hear from artists featured such as Nina Saunders, Kevin Francis Gray and Nancy Rubins, as well as navigate previous editions through the app. The ninth edition has been extended through to April 2021.



Reza Aramesh's statue by the Gherkin



City of London Police Passing Out Parade

Monday 22 March 2021, 6.00 - 7.00 pm via Zoom

The City of London Corporation invites you to view the Passing Out Parade for 14 new City of London Police officers. The event features an introduction from Deputy James Thomson, Chair of the Police Authority Board.

Given current restrictions on gatherings, the Passing Out Parade will take place in a private ceremony at Wellington Barracks and include a viewing of the Parade and musical accompaniment performed by the Band of the Irish Guards. The Lord Mayor and the Commissioner of the City of London Police will be in attendance.

The new recruits have completed 16 weeks of basic training where they have been taught legislation, the history and purpose of the police,

its powers and procedures, as well as evidence gathering and interviewing techniques. The recruits have also undergone personal safety training including emergency lifesaving and regular physical training sessions. They have been assessed throughout by examinations and role plays. After passing out, they will join one of the 5 Response Teams working to keep the City of London safe.

[Register Here](#)

Our Charitable Fund

Update from Liveryman Lesley Exley, Chair Fundraising Committee



The Fundraising Committee has been busy and we have some interesting plans afoot!

The overall strategy is to

support the Pattenmakers Company in 2021 with exciting events which will raise additional funds from a number of different sources: -

- **Pattenmakers** – Individual Livery Members
- **Friends & Families** – External individual givers
- **Internal Corporates** – Footwear, FM, City/Retail companies who will sponsor events/drinks etc
- **Other Corporates/Companies** - who might have a reason to donate/sponsor campaigns/events etc

We will organise a specific Fundraising web page to give information and energise each significant campaign/event – target date 2nd week of March, and prepare a Fundraising Pack to support each campaign/event – downloadable and printable.

June 25th

Pattenmakers Pilgrims Bike Ride

This exciting event will be a first for the Pattenmakers! Sarah Leijten, together with Joseph Robertson and Richard Kottler, have organised a

supported, fun charity bike ride – approx. 70 miles, with c. 8-10 cyclists taking part.

A special T-shirt, to be worn by the cyclists, has been designed to incorporate sponsors' logos - corporate and personal sponsorship is being sought. **We are looking for sponsors now!**



The event will end with “jolly drinks” and a tour of Dr Martens HQ, Wollaston, who will host this, organised by Richard Kottler.

If anyone else wishes to join these brilliant bikers, please let Sarah know.
Target – £3,500

June 30th

Fortnum & Mason Champagne Tea



EVE POLLARD, OBE, Broadcaster and Journalist, is often referred to as “the First Lady of Fleet Street”, being one of the first female editors of a national UK newspaper. She

edited the Sunday Mirror, and subsequently the Sunday Express.

Eve will be interviewed by Lesley Exley – the topics we shall be covering will include - “Newspapers”, Claudia Winkleman (her daughter) and “Survival!”

Fortnum & Mason will be serving a Champagne Tea in the Private Drawing Room on the 4th floor – which can accommodate 60 people. Pattenmakers

may invite 1 guest each. A Raffle on the day will raise additional funds. Tickets will be £95 each.

Tea: 2:45pm-5pm

Target - £2,500

Supporting The Escape Café

We have crafted a one page resumé to drive our special fundraising project in 2021 – this will be added to Martin Pickard’s Escape Café Fundraising Pack.

“The Foundation is the charitable arm of The Worshipful Company of Pattenmakers, which supports a number of well deserving causes. They include contributing towards carefully crafted orthopaedic footwear; orthopaedic design awards; supporting education in the form of bursaries, the digital divide, shoe hardship and library funds; apprenticeships, training courses and awards for young footwear managers.

Alongside these continuing causes, we have an additional project in 2021, which is the creation of the exciting Escape Café for the DMRC - Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Stanford Hall.

The Foundation is committed to contributing £35,000 from our Charity budget towards this new Escape Café. This will improve the lives of these injured servicemen and women of the Armed Forces, by providing dynamic space where they can relax and spend time with visiting friends and family.

Zones within the Escape Café will create an oasis of calm as well as lively hubs – a place to socialise, to inspire, to keep fit, to learn and to work. It will address a whole range of needs for these injured service men and women – offering them a world class space to explore new horizons or to simply sink into a comfy sofa and contemplate.

“The Escape Café is a place where people should just feel normal. No more, no less.”

To make this and all our other dreams a reality we need your help. Please support the Pattenmakers Company Charitable Foundation by making a donation via Virgin Money Giving: [Pattenmakers Company Charitable Foundation](#)

or by Bank Transfer

Sort Code: 40-04-09

Account Number: 31826166

Reference: ESCAPE



Amazon Smile

Another way in which all Pattenmakers can potentially contribute to increasing funds for all our charities.

The Company has now been set-up as a beneficiary on the AmazonSmile Scheme. This scheme pays -.5% of eligible spend on Amazon to the Pattenmakers Company Charitable Foundation.

You can set-up your AmazonSmile profile by logging into your Amazon Account via www.smile.amazon.co.uk, hovering your mouse over the AmazonSmile (top left of screen), which will show a dropdown allowing you to link your account to the Pattenmakers Company Foundation by clicking ‘Change’.

Donate Your Dinner Money

Joseph instigated this campaign - to date, over £9,000 has been raised from Pattenmakers and Donors from “donated dinner money” in lieu of attending the Mansion House Event.

Committee Members - Individual Initiatives

Ed Macfarlane will reach out to the Members of the Real Estate Dining Club in March to ask them for donations to The Pattenmakers.

Ed will be undertaking the Triathlon, Blenheim, in September. He will have a gift giving page – part of the funds raised will be donated to The Pattenmakers

Our History

Enquiry from – Saskatchewan Canada - Court Assistant Steve Huxham

An enquiry was received by the Company as below
My great-great-great grandmother Elizabeth Knott (DOB 1765) was taken in by the Company of Pattenmakers in the year 1790.

Would your records have her information re exact date of birth date of marriage to John Simpson Spencer and when widowed (c 1790).

Any information would be appreciated by our family.
Thank you.
Keith Spencer

Court Assistant Steve Huxham responded
Dear Mr Spencer,

Thank you for your enquiry to the Company in respect of your research work into your family history, and particularly that of your great-great-great grandmother. The email directed to our Clerk, Colonel Murfin, has been passed to me for reply, since I look after some of our own historical research, albeit in a voluntary and strictly amateur capacity. I will do my best to help, as far as I am able.

The first thing I must do, as always in these cases, is to make you aware of the limitations we face unfortunately. We always try to help with enquiries as much as we can, but the constant challenge is that despite being an ancient and historic Company (though never a wealthy one!) we have large gaps in our own historical records and knowledge. This is inevitably due to lengthy passage of time, plus the fact that our records were stored in different places over historical periods, leading to some of it being lost. We have never had a permanent “home” in the shape of a Livery Hall, as some others do, so there was never any consistent storage of those records.

All the caveats above aside, let me try and help. Firstly, what we do now have a record of is all our Admissions, transcribed from the original manuscripts by my colleague Dr Stephen Cribb, who I have copied in here. I have now checked that transcribed record for both surnames as a precaution. We do not appear to have ever had an Admission of anyone under the surname of Knott, but I have now located the correct Admission date for your relative under the name of Elizabeth Spencer. The correct date for that would seem to be, not 1790, as below, but 3 July 1799. I am afraid that

Admission Records do not give any marriage or birth dates so I cannot help you much further on that, I am afraid.

The transcription does give a few other details though, which may be helpful. She is shown as a Widow, so that may help you to narrow down a date there, as this would definitely have been her status by this time.

A short address is also given: 12 Scots Place, Islington.

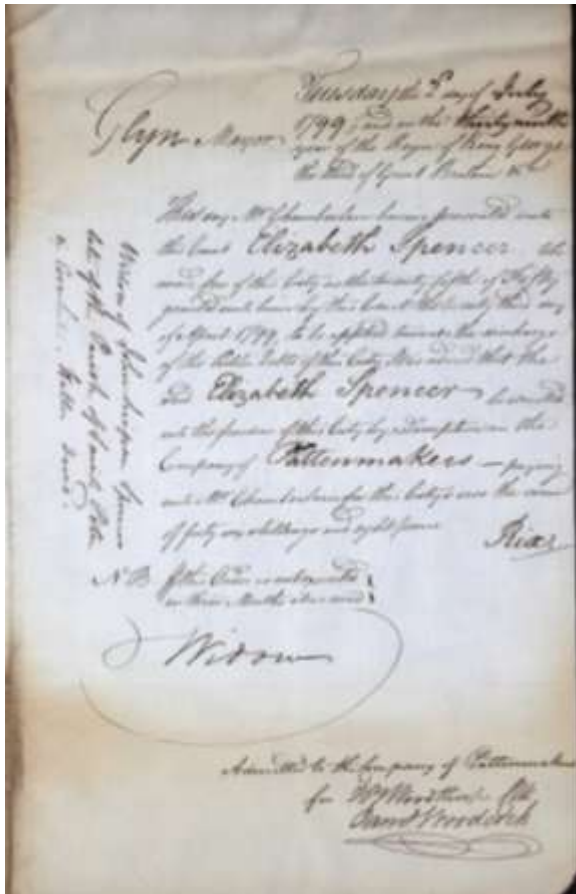
Moving on and with apologies if you have already found this, the genealogy websites show that Elizabeth’s Admission Paper did survive in the City of London record and has been digitised. I attach a copy just in case you do not have it. The Admission date differs slightly from ours but this is more common than not, since the records would appear in two places – with the Livery Company and with Guildhall. In the margin notes, it confirms that she is the widow of John Simpson Spencer “late of the Parish of Saint Peter in Cornhill” I’m not sure of the last two words – maybe “father deceased” with the second word shortened?

Finally, there are a couple of other things I find unusual in this case and would share with you. In common with other Livery Companies of the time, it was often the case that a Widow would be Admitted. In an age before the Benefits system or any other sort of State support, it was often vital that a widow had the permission to continue the trade or profession of her late husband in order to make ends meet and avoid the workhouse. However, these Admissions were still quite rare, and important now from a historical perspective as they were generally the first women to be allowed into City Livery Companies. In our case, and from what I am looking at, I think that only 32 women were Admitted in the whole of the 18th Century (starting in 1751, and not all widows) and your relative was the last in that time period.

The other unusual thing here is that there appears to be no trace of John Simpson Spencer, although mentioned on that attached Paper, as having ever been a Member of our Company himself. Was he a trading Pattenmaker, but not an actual Pattenmaker Member? It just begs the question of how Elizabeth came to join the Company. My colleague Dr Cribb has transcribed all the surviving Minute Books too, which I do not have access to here, so he may be able to check and see if there was any special provision made. In fact, the only other Spencer we have listed at all is a John Spencer, Admitted 3rd November 1815, and described as a Broker, but I don’t know, from what I have here, whether there was any family connection, e.g. that he might have been John and Elizabeth’s son?

I do hope that all the above is of some help even if it doesn't answer all of your questions. Given some of the puzzles mentioned above, of course it would be interesting in return to hear in due course whether you know or discover anything further about Elizabeth's or John Simpson Spencer's lives that would explain further their connection to the Company.

Kind regards,
Steve Huxham



Elizabeth Spencer Admission Paper 1799

Grateful thanks were received

Good day Steve,

Thank you so much the obvious attention and effort you have made in responding to my request. It is greatly appreciated. I am attaching a record from Guildhall regarding Elizabeth Spencer's son John Hodges Spencer. It bears out your report and seems to indicate that 9 year old John Hodges was quite likely enrolled in the Bluecoat School via Christ's Hospital at the same time (c July 3-4, 1799) that Elizabeth was being admitted by the Company of Pattenmakers. John Hodges would ship out to York Factory on Hudson's Bay as a Blue Coat Boy graduate to work for the Hudson's Bay Company beginning in 1806 (please see attached attached)

As for Elizabeth's husband John Simpson Spencer, he passed in 1790 in Jamaica at the age of just 23. His father, John Simpson Spencer Esq had established Spring Garden Plantation consisting of some 2000 acres in total and 350 slaves.

I wonder if the sugar/rum barons London connections might have been enabling for both son and widow to be 'taken care of'? John Simpson would have been just 11 years old when his father John Simpson Esq passed and the estate was managed by trustees. So though he and Elizabeth had been married in London I am uncertain of his affairs in Jamaica that he should die there other than that it would be a difficult time in Jamaican history to be connected to slavery.



Lt Alfred Cleeves grave in Saanich, British Columbia

Members' News

The 2021 Independent Shoemakers Conference online – Liveryman Bill Bird



The Independent Shoemakers Conference has been held every year since 1999 in both the UK and in Ireland. Hosted each year by a different shoemaker, the annual February gathering has taken place as far north as Dumfries and Galloway in Scotland, as far south as the Isle of Wight, as far east as Eastbourne and as far west as Cork, in Ireland.

The conferences have developed over the last 22 years into a much loved and looked-forward-to routine. The venues are usually in one hotel or

residential conference facility so no-one has to travel once they have arrived. Friday evening is an informal greeting party in the bar, often extending the chatter and babble of excited shoemakers talking together into the wee small hours.

Following a bustling breakfast in the morning, the conference gets on with a day of talks, masterclasses and demonstrations right through to the gala evening meal.

The Sunday usually has a closing session after breakfast followed by a trip to tour the host's shoemaking workshop.

Last year the 22nd conference was hosted very successfully by Phil Taylor, Steph Sweetmore and Charlotte Duff of 'The Cordwainer,' at Shrigley Hall in Cheshire, a rural golf resort that had been upgraded with modern wings.

At Shrigley Hall, Deborah Carre and James Ducker of the bespoke shoemakers and shoemaking school, 'Carreducker,' stepped forward to host the conference this year in London. Even then, rumours of a deadly virus spreading across the world was coming to our ears but it didn't occur to any of us just how devastating it was going to be and none of us thought that the conference this year was going to be impossible to hold in person.

Hugely to their credit, once Deborah and James saw the writing on the wall, they immediately set out to do an online version of the 23rd conference. They got to work and that's just what happened over the weekend of February 19th to 21st. Very memorable and enjoyable it was too.

The downside was that we couldn't see each other, cosy up over a pint in the evening, nor a breakfast in the morning, nor meet and mingle over coffee. The upside was that 240 delegates signed up for the event instead of the usual 70 to 90. People were taking part and even offering videos from all over the world from the Far East, all over the Americas throughout Europe and Africa.

We had a series of pre-made videos to watch, uploaded onto YouTube but easily clicked on

within the navigation friendly conference site. The short films could be viewed again and again if you wanted to learn the techniques being taught. In many ways, the close in views showed more about the process than you could see standing in a crowded circle around a maker doing a demonstration in person. At certain points during the conference there were question and answer webinars where those featured in the films could interact with the delegates.



Also included in the pre-made videos were some of long established shoemakers and the stories of their lives. Then there were members of the next generation of shoemakers and how they were progressing with their work. There were also leather tanners and sellers talking about many aspects of leather and its uses. A really interesting series was called 'Bloopers,' in which a variety of shoemakers talked about their greatest mistakes and how they got out of them! It made us all feel better to know that we were not alone in privately holding onto these dark traumatic secrets. Actually it was agreed, they were all our greatest teachers!

Two great highlights were the group Zoom conferences, one on Saturday afternoon and one on Sunday afternoon. That was where we could see everybody and even send a quick text or Whatsapp to someone you spotted. It was lovely to watch your friend in the little square look down at their phone and then wave! Most of us get Zoom fatigue after a couple of hours so it was great to see 60 to 70 on the Saturday Zoom and an amazing 90 people on the Sunday.

The great achievement of Deborah and James was not just that they hosted this conference online,

but that they pioneered a new trend for us to have an online aspect to the conference even when we are able to all travel and meet together in one place. It will broaden our horizons and our reach enormously and also give us a detailed, close-up view in the teaching videos that we can keep referring to long after the conference is over. It's not fully planned as to how we are going to do it, but I will make a point of keeping the Pattenmakers up-to-date as the 24th Annual Independent Shoemakers Conference gets planned!

Young Pattenmakers

Young Pattenmakers Profiles: Sam Lenehan – by Freeman Bryan Oknyansky



Today's Pattenmakers Profiles features Young Pattenmaker Sam Lenehan. Originally from Kingston-Upon-Thames, Sam lives in Leeds with his fiancée, Pippa, and works in the built environment sector. Before becoming a Pattenmaker, Sam worked with fellow members YP Chairwoman Sophia Lee and Graham Perry, which led to his nomination for the 2016 Young Managers Award. Sam won the award that year and became a Pattenmaker.

Sam's road to being "one to watch" in the built environment sector began by studying for his BA(Hons) architecture degree at Northumbria University. Although passionate about designing buildings, he realised early on that his strengths and career potential in the industry would find him more success in the business of building rather than in their design. He embarked on an MSc[Eng] in Engineering Project Management at Leeds University, which set him on the path to property development.

Sam works for a joint venture between Urban Splash, Sekisui House and Homes England, planting him firmly in both the private and the public sector. Urban Splash is a British company which regenerates decaying industrial warehouses, mills, Victorian terraced houses and other buildings. The company has its head office in Castlefield, Manchester, but works across the United Kingdom. Sam's role at Urban Splash is Associate Director of House by Urban Splash, looking after corporate development, including fundraising, shareholder relations, business planning and corporate governance.

Sekisui House is one of Japan's largest homebuilders. In May 2019, Sekisui House moved into the U.K. housing market in partnership with a local governmental agency, Homes England, and a general real estate company, Urban Splash. Their mission is to accelerate the supply of high-quality homes to meet market demands, leveraging technologies and know-how built up in Japan through their proprietary production system.

In recognition of his contribution to the built environment, Property Week named Sam "Property Week RESI Trailblazer 2020". Altogether, Sam has worked in the built environment sector for nine years, but has also been expanding his experience in the social media sector as a minority shareholder and non-executive director of a social media business named Komi Group. Komi Group hold as its mission the building of aspirational brands and communities filled with engaged people by creating, licensing and distributing social content. Sam advises the founders of Komi Group on corporate strategy.

Winning the 2016 Young Managers Award initially drew Sam in to the Pattenmakers. His favourite attributes of the Pattenmakers are the networking opportunities it provides and its linkage to history and tradition. To date, Sam's most memorable experience at a livery event is the 2017 Annual Banquet at Mansion House where he received his award. Post-pandemic, Sam looks forward to reconnecting with some of the judges from the 2016 panel.

In addition to overachieving for his age group, Sam is a Board Trustee for Leeds Mencap, loves to renovate properties privately and is a keen traveller and skier. Sam's aspirations for 2021 are manifold. However, meeting physically with people once again tops his list.

Events

Pattenmakers' Events

A full list of all planned future events appears at the end of the newsletter.

Save the Date: March 17th at 6pm Pattenmakers' St Patrick's Day Celebration



St Patrick's Day Celebration "Lá Fhéile Pádraig sona duit!"

Wednesday, 17 March 2021

6.00pm for 6.15 Black Tie (preferred but optional)

Following the March Court meeting why not log in to see Freeman "Clothed in the Livery" and then join fellow Pattenmakers in celebrating the feast of St Patrick?

Learn more about our military affiliations

- Who are the Young Pattenmakers and what, exactly, do they do?
- Where did the Honourable Company of Pikemen and Musketeers come from?
- What is the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre and why are the Pattenmakers involved?

An hour of fun and music to bring us together in a virtual social setting.

- In the Reception you can choose those you would especially like to meet and have a pre-reception gossip

- If you feel you would like to contribute towards the Pattenmakers' charities, you might like to donate the cost of your rail fare, car park, tube or taxi!

Pattenmakers Charitable Foundation HSBC 40-04-09 Acc No 31826166

Register in advance for this meeting:

[Registration](#)

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



SLAINTE!

Other Livery Events

Worshipful Company of Woolmen Sheep Drive and Wool & Livery Fair - Sunday 26th September 2021.

We are delighted that the Lord Mayor will once again be joining Freeman for this special annual event in the Livery calendar, which for 2021 will take place on Southwark Bridge – and in accordance with prevailing post-lockdown guidelines.



The entire bridge will be closed for the day to allow Freeman, their family and friends to drive sheep over the Thames. At the same time, there will be a full-scale Fair on the north side of the bridge, showcasing the best in Wool and Craftsmanship. In addition to these stalls, we welcome Livery Companies to display their crafts and trades in this area adjacent to the Sheep Drive. We are delighted that the Campaign for Wool (Patron HRH The Prince of Wales) will become a major sponsor of the Sheep Drive and Wool & Livery Fair this year. Guests of the Campaign for Wool will join the Lord Mayor, Freeman, family and friends on the Bridge celebrating the fellowship and charity of the

Livery movement and the Reopening of the City of London. Money raised for charity will go to the Woolmen's Charitable work supporting students who are engaged in promoting wool and wool textiles in innovative and creative ways, and in support of the Lord Mayor's Appeal.

This will be a wonderful day out for the family and we look forward to welcoming you. To celebrate the return of the Sheep Drive after a necessary postponement in 2020, we seek your support in three ways: Website bookings open early in April to sign up for places at www.sheepdrive.london In 2019, we had to open a waiting list so please book early. Places are open to Freeman of the City of London and their family and friends at £65 per person. This will entitle each participant to a place on the drive and a commemorative certificate signed by the Lord Mayor and the Master Woolman. The Livery Fair welcomes stall holders and Livery Companies. Please promote this festival among your contacts and friends. You may know a business which would enjoy the opportunity to trade in this unique and historic location. Footfall is c 2000+ just from the Sheep Drive, and wide media coverage reaches every continent. To book a stall please contact Kirsten@SquareEvents.co.uk

To ensure that every penny raised on the day goes directly to charity, we seek additional sponsors who would wish to support us in return for extensive and privileged media coverage. As the world begins to recover from a most challenging year in 2020, this could be an ideal opportunity for your company to show values of charity and community enrichment in a most distinctive and personal way. The Woolmen have been privileged to work with special friends and supporters over the years and we invite you to join us a sponsor in 2021. To find out more, please contact: judith@judithpleasance.com or anne@squareevents.co.uk

We look forward to welcoming you on the Bridge driving sheep over the Thames in London in the time-honoured fashion and enjoying a memorable Livery Fair.

Cultural Calendar

Presented by Freeman Zoe Chowney

This week's Cultural Calendar celebrates an important day for the fairer sex of our world, plus a couple of nocturnal religious festivals.

8th March – International Women's Day



International Women's Day, grew out of the labour movement to become a recognised annual event by the United Nations.

The seeds of it were planted in 1908, when 15,000 women marched through New York City demanding shorter working hours, better pay and the right to vote. It was the Socialist Party of America who declared the first National Woman's Day, a year later.

The idea to make the day international came from a woman called Clara Zetkin. She suggested the idea in 1910 at an International Conference of Working Women in Copenhagen. There were 100 women there, from 17 countries, and they agreed on her suggestion unanimously.

It was first celebrated in 1911, in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland. The centenary was celebrated in 2011, so this year we're technically celebrating the 110th International Women's Day.

Things were made official in 1975 when the United Nations started celebrating the day. The first theme adopted by the UN (in 1996) was "Celebrating the past, Planning for the Future".

International Women's Day has become a date to celebrate how far women have come in society, in politics and in economics, while the political roots of the day mean strikes and protests are organised to raise awareness of continued inequality. I The campaign theme 2021 is 'Choose To Challenge'.

Your humble writer of this article has participated this year by pre-recording a speech to be broadcast on International Women's Day at the global Women in Tech event, TECH(K)NOW Day.



11th March – Lailat al-Miraj (Islam)



Lailat al Miraj is a Muslim holiday that commemorates the Prophet Muhammad's night-time journey from Mecca to the 'Farthest Mosque' in Jerusalem where he ascended to heaven, was purified, and given the instruction for Muslims to pray five times daily.

The story of Lailat al Miraj consists of two major parts. The first part of the story begins with the Prophet Muhammad at the Kabaa in Mecca. He is visited by two archangels who provide him with a mythical winged steed called Buraq. Buraq carries the Prophet to the 'Farthest Mosque,' believed by Muslims to be the Al Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem, where Muhammad joins past prophets in prayer. The Prophet then ascends to heaven where he is told by God of the duty for Muslims to pray five times daily (Salat). This second part of the journey

is commonly referred to as the Miraj, an Arabic word meaning "ladder."

The events of Lailat al Miraj are described briefly in chapter 17 of the Quran, which is named "Sura Al-Isra" after the Prophet's ascension to heaven. Many of the details of the story are filled in by hadith, supplemental writings about the life of the Prophet Muhammad.

Today Lailat al Miraj is observed by Muslims as one of the most important events in the history of Islam. Muslims may attend special prayer services at a mosque, or they may commemorate the holiday privately at home by telling the story to children or reciting special night-time prayers.

11th March – Maha Shivratri (Hindu)



Maha Shivratri is a Hindu festival dedicated to Shiva, who destroys the universe, and is one of the deities of the Hindu Trinity.

While most Hindu festivals are celebrated during the day, Maha Shivratri is celebrated during the night and day that come just before the new moon.

Each new moon is dedicated to Shiva, but Maha Shivratri is especially important because it is the night when he danced the 'Tandav', his cosmic dance.

It also celebrates the wedding of Shiva and Sati, the mother divine. Night represents evil, injustice, ignorance, sin, violence, and misfortune.

Tradition says that Shiva, like his symbol the new moon, appeared in order to save the world from darkness and ignorance, before the world entered complete darkness.

Devotees of Shiva observe a fast during Maha Shivratri and stay up all night at a place of worship. Shiva is offered special food made from the fruits of the season, root vegetables, and coconuts, during ritual worship.

Young girls observe the fast and worship Shiva so that he may bless them with good husbands. They sing devotional songs in praise of the lord, and holy texts are chanted throughout the night.

The pandits in the temples perform the puja (religious worship) according to the scriptures. This is done four times during the night.

In temples, Shiva linga - the phallic symbol of Lord Shiva - is worshipped. Devotees flock to the temples to perform the ritual of bathing the Shiva linga. It is bathed with milk, water and honey, and then anointed with sandalwood paste, and decorated with flowers and garlands.

The legend surrounding the festival of Maha Shivratri says that Lubdhaka, a poor tribal man and a devotee of Shiva, once went into the deep forests to collect firewood.

At nightfall, he became lost and could not find his way home. In the darkness, Lubdhaka climbed a bel tree, and sought safety and shelter in its branches until dawn.

All night, he could hear the growls of tigers and wild animals, and was too frightened to leave the tree. In order to keep himself awake, he plucked one leaf at a time from the tree and then dropped it, while chanting the name of Shiva.

By sunrise, he had dropped thousands of leaves on to a Shiva lingam, which he had not seen in the darkness. Lubdhaka's all-night worship pleased Shiva.

By the grace of Shiva the tigers and wild animals went away, and Lubdhaka not only survived but was rewarded with 'divine bliss'.

Photo of the Week

New Statue in Regent's Park – Liveryman Ian Balcombe



An eerily empty Horse Guards Parade – The Master



Gardening

Freeman Anne Lennox-Martin



Spring is finally showing the promise of sun and colour in the garden. Lockdown in Shropshire has definitely had its upsides for Vin and myself and we look forward to inviting friends back into the garden this summer!



Bird Watch

Bird of the Week this week is the Black Headed Gull - Freeman Richard Parlour



We haven't covered any gulls so far, and for many, gulls all look the same and get labelled as "seagulls". In fact there is no such thing as a seagull, and there are many different types which visit the UK. The black headed gull is most definitely not a "seagull" and is found commonly almost anywhere inland.

The black headed gull is another bird which has been somewhat misnamed. It is not really a black headed bird, and when you look closely you will see it is more a chocolate brown. In fact, for much of the year, it has a white head, rather than black. The summer adult has a chocolate brown head, pale grey body, black tips to the primary wing feathers, and red bill and legs. "Summer" for these purposes has just started! I saw my first black headed gull with its chocolate brown hood last week. The hood is lost in winter (winter for these purposes starting in September), leaving just two dark spots behind its eye. Immature birds have a mottled pattern of brown spots over most of the body. In flight, the white leading edge to the wing is a good field mark.

It breeds in colonies in large reed beds or marshes, or on islands in lakes, nesting on the ground. Like most gulls, it is sociable, quarrelsome, noisy, highly gregarious in winter, both when feeding or in evening roosts, with a familiar "kree-ar" call. Its scientific name means "laughing gull". It is not a pelagic species and is rarely seen at sea far from coasts.

Black headed gulls are usually seen in small groups or flocks, often gathering into larger parties where there is plenty of food, or when they are roosting. The black headed gull is a bold and opportunistic feeder. It eats insects, fish, seeds, worms, scraps, and carrion in towns, or invertebrates in ploughed fields, all with equal relish. They are often seen following a tractor as it makes its way across a field. There are thought to be around 140,000 breeding pairs in the UK, which swells to 2.2 million birds in the winter months. Black-headed gulls are the commonest inland gull, particularly in Northern England, Scotland and Wales. Large colonies exist along the south and east coasts of England. Despite this, the black headed gull is on the amber list.

This species takes two years to reach maturity. First year birds have a black terminal tail band, more dark areas in the wings, and, in summer, a less fully developed dark hood. Like most gulls, black headed gulls are long lived birds, with a maximum age of at least 32.9 years recorded in the wild, in addition to an anecdote now believed of dubious authenticity regarding a 63 year old bird.

The black headed gull displays a variety of compelling behaviours and adaptations. Some of these include removing eggshells from ones nest after hatching, begging coordination between siblings, differences between sexes, conspecific brood parasitism, and extra pair paternity.

Black headed gulls display both head bobbing walking (HBW) and non bobbing walking (NBW). Head bobbing walking is expressed by a hold phase and a thrust phase. The hold phase in black headed gulls occurs mainly during the single support phase and is when the bird balances its head to equal the environment. Head bobbing walking occurs during a seeking type foraging by walking through water and includes benefits such as enhancing motion and pattern detection and gathering depth information from motion parallax during the thrust phase. Non bobbing walking occurs when black headed gulls display a waiting behaviour while foraging on flat surfaces.

The eggs of the black headed gull are considered a delicacy by some in the UK and are eaten hard boiled, the "Gulls Egg lunch" of livery companies. The collection of black headed gull eggs is heavily regulated in the UK. Eggs may only be taken by a small number of licensed individuals at six sites between April 1 and May 15 each year and only a single egg may be taken from each nest. No eggs are permitted to be sold after June 30. As the gulls tend to lay in late April and early May, the eggs are in effect, only available to purchase for 3 or 4 weeks per year. Egg laying can be earlier in black headed gulls nesting in the centre of the colony, with central pairs tending to lay larger eggs, which have a higher hatching success, than pairs nesting at the periphery of the colony. Centrally nesting individuals have also been found to be in better condition and have higher genetic quality.

Black headed gulls feed their young by regurgitating food onto the ground, rather than into each chick one at a time. The parents tend to accommodate their regurgitation amounts in proportion to how intense the nest begging is, from both an individual chick or a group of chicks begging together. Chicks which are siblings have learned this behaviour and begin synchronising their begging signals to decrease the costs as an individual and increase the benefits as a team. The amount and response of begging signals differs throughout the nestling period. Usually, there are 3-5 begging events every hour, each lasting around one minute. High intensity begging behaviour appears at the end of the first week in the nest, but the coordination between multiple chicks emerges during the last week of the nestling period. The more siblings present, the more they coordinate their begging while decreasing the frequency of begging.

Male chicks have less of a chance of survival when compared to female chicks. Black headed gulls are a sexually dimorphic species, so the larger sex is at a disadvantage when the amount of food sources is low. Male birds are more likely to be born in the first egg and female birds are more likely to be born in the third.

Conspecific brood parasitism is a behaviour that occurs when females lay their eggs in another female's nest, of the same species. It can reduce the cost of incubation and nestling young by

passing it on to another bird. Black headed gulls usually lay three egg clutches, and the first two are normally larger than the third. The third egg normally has the lowest survival rate, while the first or second are usually the parasitic eggs. Most of the egg dumping occurs within the beginning of the egg laying period. The parasitic eggs being laid in another conspecific's nest increases the chance of hatching and may occur because of nest desertion or a nest being taken over by another bird.

Multiple eggs in a nest from different mothers may also result from intra-specific nest parasitism, joint female nesting, and nest takeover. Intra-specific nest parasitism is a disadvantage to the hosts because the female could end up taking care of the parasitic chicks over her own and therefore neglecting them and reducing their fitness. Another disadvantage for the host is that incubating more chicks than their own takes up more energy.

Bird behaviour is a fascinating topic, especially for some species. There are lots of black headed gulls around at present and it may be easy to look at one or two in a flock and class the whole flock as black headed gulls. However, it may be worthwhile looking more closely as Mediterranean gulls may be in the flock. These look almost the same, but have a thicker bill and a more extensive hood in summer. In black headed gull flocks I have seen over the past few weeks, there have also been common gulls, herring gulls and yellow legged gulls, but more of these, and how to tell them apart, in a future issue. Happy birding!



New report reveals bird declines in Cornwall

A new report has shown that various bird species have suffered declines in Cornwall. In 2019 the national *State of Nature* report gave the worrying news that, since 1970, some 41% of species have declined in abundance across the UK. Cornwall Wildlife Trust wanted to know if the same was true in the county, so teamed up with Cornwall Council and the University of Exeter and analysed a huge volume of data to produce the *State of Nature Cornwall 2020* report. The report shows that many species groups are in trouble and nearly half of the breeding birds are in serious decline. Among them are Skylark (-28%) and Chaffinch (-22%), while Kittiwake has seen a 57% fall in breeding pairs in part due to the altering climate. There has also been a 30% decline in farmland bird species in Cornwall between 1994 and 2019. Nearly half of terrestrial mammals are found in fewer places in the Duchy and three-fifths of butterflies are found in fewer places. In the same period, 152 km of hedgerow and Cornish hedge has been lost.

While the report paints a generally gloomy picture, it does include some good news, detailing where concentrated conservation efforts have brought species back from the brink of local extinction, such as Cough, Water Vole and Cirl Bunting. There are parts that make for difficult reading, Cornwall's wildlife is in a bad way and continued species decline will inevitably lead to local extinctions. But more positively, public appreciation of wildlife has surged during lockdown and we know that together we can make a difference and bring nature back. We can still turn the situation around. The findings will be used by Cornwall Council in the Local Nature Recovery pilot they are delivering as one of only five national projects testing this new approach for nature, as set out in the Environment Bill. Cornwall Council is asking residents to have their say on what is needed for nature's recovery by completing a new Nature Recovery Plan survey on the Let's Talk Cornwall [website](#).

Letters to the Editor

To Freeman Richard Parlour from Liveryman Ian Balcombe

Your column is fascinating as ever. I did mean to write to you about gulls. I took this photo in Regent's Park in December and showed it to the ranger saying I thought that these looked similar to the sea gulls but clearly were not. With a well-worn weariness he told me that there was no such thing as a seagull (as you state) but that there were 10 types of gulls the names of which he reeled off and said that my gulls were black headed gulls - but they don't look as impressive as your specimens - he also said that they were sporting their winter plumage.



Yes, even more than 10 if you add in the rarities and the terns. Your photo is indeed of black headed gulls in winter plumage and would be great to include it.

From the Clerk - given the Avian times feature this week.



The first person at the seaside with fish n chips after lockdown 🤔🤔

Freeman Richard Parlour responds

They will be herring gulls! Herring gulls are larger, fearless and aggressive, as I discovered the last time I was hoping to have a nostalgic and peaceful fish n chips along a seafront - in Douglas! You can freeze these homemade spring rolls on the tray overnight after they've been assembled and transfer them to a zip-lock bag when they are completely frozen for future use.

Recipe of the Week

Chocolate Truffle Cake- Past Mistress Pattenmaker Eileen Eskenzi

Serves 10-12

This rich cake was served quite frequently at Mansion House whilst Tony was Sheriff. The recipe was kindly given to me by one of the Chefs there and I have made it often ever since. Delia Smith has published it in one of her books with thanks to Chef Derek Fuller.

At one dinner party we had, a somewhat strait-laced barrister friend of ours - after thoroughly scraping his plate clean, said:- "Eileen that was orgasmic!"

EQUIPMENT:- 23cm/9inch loose bottomed cake tin, oiled and lined.

INGREDIENTS:-

75g/3oz Amaretti biscuits, finely crushed with a rolling pin.

450g/1 lb dark chocolate (70/75% cocoa solids).

Aldi chocolate is good.

5TBS liquid glucose

1 teaspoon of coffee granules dissolved in 5 TBS Rum

570ml/1 pint double cream at room temperature

Cocoa Powder to dust the surface of the cake.

METHOD:-

1. Sprinkle the crushed biscuits over the base of cake tin.
2. Place a heat proof bowl filled with broken chocolate, liquid glucose and Rum/coffee into a saucepan half filled with simmering water. Do not let the bowl touch the water. Leave

this mixture to dissolve slowly over low heat - approximately 5 minutes.

3. Once the chocolate has melted, give the mixture a gentle stir with a spoon to blend.
4. Leave to cool.
5. 3. In a separate bowl whisk the cream until the floppy stage has been reached.
6. 4. Blend half the cream into the smooth, cooled chocolate and then fold the 'chocolate cream' into the remaining cream.
7. 5. Spoon the cake mixture over the biscuit crumbs, and smooth the surface with a palette knife. Cover with Cling Film and place into the fridge overnight. Keeps well for 2 days!

TO SERVE:-

Remove the Cling Film and slide a palette knife around the inside rim of the tin to loosen the cake. Give the tin a good tap and turn the cake onto a serving plate. Remove the paper case if using and then the base of the tin.

Using a small sieve filled with cocoa powder - generously sprinkle the entire biscuit crumb surface of the cake with Cocoa.

Optional: Hand round a jug of single pouring cream with Amaretti biscuits!



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

Quiz

The Singing Postman – The Clerk

Born in Wilshaw, near Bury, Lancashire, England, the son of Allan and Gladys Mabel (*née* Curson), Smethurst was raised in Sheringham, Norfolk from the age of 11. His mother came from the nearby village of Stiffkey. It is often thought that he became a postman in Lavenham, Suffolk, but photos of him in the area are just promotional material. In 1953, and later in Grimsby. He never worked from the GPO in Norfolk or Suffolk.

Smethurst hummed tunes on his daily post round for twelve years, writing and singing songs in his native Norfolk dialect. An audition tape sent to the BBC earned him a spot on Ralph Tuck's BBC Radio Norfolk show *Wednesday Morning*. His popularity led to Tuck recording Smethurst on his own record label, 'The Smallest Recording Organisation in the World', based in Lowestoft. A four track EP containing his signature tune "Hev Yew Gotta Lought Boy", made the EP charts in 1965. This was followed by another EP release by Ralph Tuck, and an album *The Singing Postman's Year*. He was then signed to EMI who re-released earlier songs and recorded new items. A colour promotional film was made of "Hev Yew Gotta Lought Boy" which has survived to this day. He made numerous live and promotional performances, including on *Top of the Pops*, but was afflicted by nerves and stage fright. His live performances included a summer season in 1965 at the Windmill Theatre in Great Yarmouth.

Smethurst left the music industry in 1970 citing stage fright and arthritic hands. He later admitted to an alcohol problem and revealed all his earnings were gone and he was penniless. He spent his last twenty years living quietly in a Salvation Army hostel in Grimsby, where he died from a heart attack in December 2000.

See next pages for answers to last week's Quiz and this week's Quiz

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

Clerk's Quiz – Week 46 Answers

Name the Flags - translate the phrases then allocate the regional phrases to each flag . . .



A



B

NORFOLK 1 5 7

NORTHUMBERLAND 2 6 8



C



D

BIRMINGHAM 3 9 12

BRISTOL 4 7 10

1. Moy hart aloive! Slow yew down an' holed you harhd **Well I never! Please take things easy**
2. That gadgie's gannin' proper radgie, like **That old chap is having a temper tantrum**
3. This ain't getting' the babby a frock and pinny **This is getting us nowhere**
4. Or-roight me ole mucker **How are you, ok my old friend?**
5. A'yer got a light boi? **Could you please light my cigarette my friend?** This was a hit record in 1964 by the Singing Postman, I know most members were not even born then so here is the link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kqmXLkJ8Bwk>
"My little nicotine Girl!" He'd go on a list these days! O tempora! O mores!
5. Am knackered. Howay, pet, I'm gan hyem **I'm tired, I'm going home**
6. T'wunt I - t'was ee **It wasn't me it was that gentleman over there**
7. Howay man! We gannin' doon the toon **Come on, we are going down the town**
8. You'll 'ave it dark **You are doing (it) very slowly, do get on with it**
9. Don't tell I - tell ee **Don't tell me, tell that gentleman over there**
10. Co ter heck, thass a rum 'un **My goodness, how odd**
11. A face as long as Livery Street **A person who looks miserable**

Still makes no sense at all to me I am afraid

The Quiz – Week 47

Following the complaints from “Disgruntled of Sutton Valence” last week we have asked him to compose this week’s quiz . . .

1. What Seeds are these?



2. What is the name of this Country?



3. What seed is a big waste of money for feeding birds?

4. What seed is ALLEGED to be the Goldfinches’ Favourite?



5. What is the third longest River in Africa?

6. This is the Flag of which Country?



7. Niamey is the Capital of which African Country?

8. What is this plant?



9. Guizotia abyssinica is the scientific name for what seed

10. What seeds do you put in this? Having spent £8.99 then another £4.99 on a big box to replenish in naïve anticipation it would soon empty but nothing – no, nothing, a complete waste of time and money – stick with sunflower hearts, I am not bitter, just saying, that’s all . . .



Disgruntled of Sutton Valence



Pattenmakers' Company Events Calendar Jan – Dec 2021

Pattenmaker Events = Black - Contact: Graham.Perry@datore.co

Civic Events = Red – Contact: Clerk@pattenmakers.co.uk

Young Pattenmaker Events = Blue – Contact: Sophia.lee@datore.co

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
10 th Mar	Murder Mystery	Virtual Event
14 Apr	Trade Outing	Virtual Tour of Hotter
22 nd Apr	Joint YP/Pattenmaker Comedy Night	Virtual Event
6 th May	Footwear Dinner	Virtual Event
7 th May	Murder Mystery Event	Virtual Event
12 th May	Inter-Livery Shoot	Holland & Holland Grounds
13 th May	Ascension Day	St Margaret Pattens
17 th May	Charity Fundraising Event	Reform Club
21 st May	United Guilds Service	St Paul's + Lunch
3 rd Jun	Drinks in the City - YP	Live Event
17 th Jun	Trade Outing	Royal Parks
24 th Jun	Common Hall	Election of Sheriffs
29 th Jun	Summer Dinner	Merchant Taylor's Hall
8 th July	YP Event	Live Event
22 nd July	Tour of Masons' Hall	Grand Lodge, London. TBC
5 th Aug	YP Event	Live Event
19 th Aug	Champagne Tasting	TBC
9 th Sept	YP Event	Live Event
21 st Sept	351 st Banquet	Guildhall
29 th Sep	Common Hall	Election of Lord Mayor
14 th Oct	YP Event	Virtual/Live Event
28 th Oct	FM Dinner	Ironmongers' pencilled in
13 th Nov	Lord Mayor's Show	
Xx Nov	Liveryman Dinner	House of Commons
26 th Nov	YP Dinner	Barber-Surgeons (or Glaziers)
9 th Dec	YP – Christmas Drinks	London City Live Event
16 Dec	Carol Service	St Margaret Pattens Church

To be included 2 x Freeman events at Guildhall May/June and Oct/Nov