



The Pattenmaker

WEEKLY NEWS FROM AROUND THE LIVERY

Issue 48

Friday 12th March 2021

From the Master Jennifer Bryant-Pearson

We have a range of exciting events for you to join virtually so please sign up now for the St Patrick's day entertainment and celebration on 17th March for which Freeman Zoe Chowney provides the historical background in her regular Cultural Calendar.



The Charity Comedy Night on 22nd April is exclusively open to Pattenmakers and their families and friends for the next week, and after that will be opened up more widely. Book your place now for this special event, for which Liveryman Graham Perry and his Events committee have already covered all the costs through sponsorship, ensuring that every pound you donate for the evening will go to our Charitable Fund,

With the increased number of virtual events and the proposal for a managed and structured social media presence, we have set up a Communications Committee based on the paper presented to Court by the Trade Warden. The new committee is chaired by Court Assistant Annette Cove and they will be looking at all aspects of our communications internally and externally, reporting back to the Court on their recommendations.

As spring arrives, our Senior Past Master, Helen Auty is requesting photos of your gardens to include in her regular gardening columns so please send us your pictures and our Editor

photographs newly hatched ducklings in Regent's Park and a great Lord's Covid poster!

Our history article by Liveryman Steve Huxham focuses on archaeology this week and the work of Past Master Bywater and the City of London goes green in its refuse collection.

Bird of the Week is the rare Dartford Warbler for which Freeman Richard Parlour received an invitation to explain his sighting to the Birder Elders of the Hertfordshire Bird Club Rarities Committee . . . and the lively avian correspondence continues in the Letters section.

Finally, the renowned Mimi makes her appearance in our newsletter – she is known to many for her constant presence in St Margaret Pattens alongside Beadle Chris Moore – and we have our regular brainteaser Quiz from the Clerk.

City of London Corporation

**Court Assistant Deputy Keith Bottomley
Chairman of the City of London
Corporation's Environment Committee**



The City of London Corporation will become the first UK governing body to run a full fleet of Electric Refuse Collection Vehicles (ERCVs) following recent successful trials of the new technology.

The first of the fleet of five new environmentally friendly trucks have arrived at Guildhall.

The vehicles will form the UK's first zero emission recycling and waste collection fleet and will collect residents' waste and recycling in the Square Mile.

These new vehicles will help to further drive down air pollution in the City and improve the environment. Our fleet vehicles emitted about 400 tonnes of CO₂e in 2018/19, so this change of fleet is of great significance.

We hope this move will encourage local authorities across the country to follow suit in the urgent need to deal with toxic air.

This pioneering fleet complements the work we're doing to help businesses consolidate vehicle deliveries and use more hybrid models.

Air pollution is the largest environmental risk to public health with up to 36,000 people dying prematurely every year in the UK.

We will continue to take steps to ensure that we are reducing emissions from our entire vehicle fleet, for the benefit of all.

Our History

Pattenmaker old fossils – Court Assistant Steve Huxham

Regular readers of my Newsletter articles will be only too well aware that there are no depths I will not plumb in the search for a catchy headline! Consequently, the focus of this piece is on archaeology.

What else could it possibly be???

I was prompted to write on the topic by the deservedly warm reception given to the new film *The Dig*, an entertaining and well-acted (especially by leads Carey Mulligan and Ralph Fiennes) reimagining of the events surrounding the uncovering of the Anglo-Saxon treasures of Sutton Hoo.

Given that Pattenmakers turn up everywhere you look, and rightly so, our Members may not be surprised to learn that one of our own Past Masters was a leading light in the development of interest in archaeological practices and methods during the Victorian age. This was Witham Matthew Bywater (Admitted 24th January 1877 and Master 1888) who had many and varied interests, one of which included his involvement as a "pioneer", using their own description of him, with the Kent Archaeological Society (KAS.) This article draws heavily on a more extended exploration of his life which was published by the KAS in their magazine in 2014, and to which the Company in turn contributed at the time.



Two photographs of Witham Bywater: the first from the Company's Past Masters Album, and the second a colourised version of one used by KAS.



The Pattenmaker

Past Master Bywater was born in London and then baptised in Mayfair on 19th October 1822. His parents were saddlers and harness makers by trade, and lived and worked at 99 Piccadilly, opposite Green Park. He took up the family trade and continued with it after his father's death in 1845 and also lived and worked out of that same address with his mother, even after Witham himself married Elizabeth Palmer in 1849. Although he clearly had an eye for innovation, with his products being exhibited at the Great Exhibition of 1851 at the Crystal Palace in Hyde Park, and he registered a patent for an improvement in side-saddles, early business life was clearly something of a rollercoaster. His estate had been assigned to his creditors by 1855, and he then became manager for another saddler's business, although he was back in business working for himself at 5 Hanover Square by 1871 (the address recorded when later Admitted to our Company.)

The leatherworking skills essential to his original career also enabled Witham to add pattenmaking to his portfolio of work at some stage, and this in turn led to him joining our Company and enjoying remarkably rapid progression through to Master. This suggests he was very well thought of within the Company, even if he did not get off to the best start as a Court Member, since he was fined for late attendance at his first meeting!

Witham's main achievement as Master appears to have been "cleansing" of the Company's financial affairs, and he was not the first and certainly not the last Master required to do that! His success as Master was countered by personal loss though, as his wife Elizabeth died on 21st December 1888, during his term. The fulsome tribute from the Court when he handed over to his successor in 1889 reflected gratitude and the wish that he would continue his "co-operation with them in the management of the Company's affairs."

Back to the past! As noted earlier, Witham Bywater also had an enquiring mind and a quest for innovation and invention. At 63 and a widower, still living in Hanover Square with his daughters Elizabeth and Katharine, he was certainly a man of means. At this stage he owned seven houses in East London as well as the

successful saddlery and pattenmaking businesses, but clearly had time also to indulge the wide range of interests he had developed in earlier life. These included becoming Secretary and a Fellow of the Royal Microscopical Society; the study of botany; and most relevant to this article, joining the British Archaeological Association and then in 1877, the Kent Archaeological Society.



Maidstone College Gateway believed to be photographed by Witham Bywater in August 1882.

Witham took part in many of the KAS's organised excursions to churches and historic sites all over the county, which were certainly not minor events. They were very adventurous, normally taking place after the Society's AGM in late July or early August and attended by large numbers of up to 400 (male) members, plus "a large number of ladies" as stated in a report of 1877. A different town hosted the meetings each year, and from there, horse-drawn carriages conveyed members off on a carefully planned itinerary. Sometimes, even trains were chartered by the KAS for these outings. As the original article about these events suggests, the sight of hundreds of these smartly attired archaeology enthusiasts descending on their location must have astonished the local residents.

It is here that Past Master Bywater's range of interests and love for the new technologies of his age came together – in this case archaeology and photography. During recent work in 2014 on transcribing the KAS archives, a letter was uncovered from Witham, written in August 1899, and sent to the then Honorary Secretary of the Society, George Payne. At the time Witham was in the process of downsizing from his Hanover

Square property to move to a detached Victorian house in Streatham Hill. The key portion of this letter reads as follows:

"I am contemplating a change of abode, which necessitates a general turnout of cupboards and odd corners. Among the sundries thus unearthed are a number of negatives of Kentish churches. They are the result of snapshots taken on our Annual Excursions. Of course some of these are old and perhaps useless..."

As the original KAS article was quick to point out, nothing could have been further from the truth in respect of those final comments! The negatives provided probably the first comprehensive photographic record of Kent churches and their donation to the KAS ensured their survival to the present day as a remarkable historical archive. It follows from this that Witham must have been the photographer, official or unofficial, to the archaeological excursions, since he held the collection of negatives. Taking these photographs for the record must have been quite an undertaking in itself, since it necessitated lifting a heavy camera, tripod, and boxes of glass plate negatives on and off carriages and carrying them to the chosen destination.



Witham Bywater also captures a heavily loaded cart in this photograph of St John the Baptist Church, Tunstall, Kent, believed possibly taken in 1896.

It would seem that Witham performed this role until 1897 when Ernest Christopher Youens became the society's honorary photographer and recorded the annual excursions.



KAS members at Kit's Coty, the Neolithic long barrow near Aylesford, photographed by Ernest Youens in 1909.

Past Master Bywater died on March 1, 1911, aged 85, and his funeral was held at Brompton Cemetery.

Witham Bywater's photographic record may not be on anywhere near the scale of Sutton Hoo, or the Tutankhamun "wonderful things" discovery, but nevertheless, it represents a unique historical record that might otherwise have been lost.

It would not be a Pattenmaker story though without a final mystery, would it? In the Company's collection of Treasures we hold a simple wooden box with a plaque on the lid stating that it was presented by Master Bywater in 1887. It is empty. There are no clues as to what it was originally designed to hold.

Perhaps we will never know.

(Credit to Kent Archaeological Society for the original article and the photographs, which appeared in Issue 100 of their magazine, Winter 2014.)

PS. No old fossils were harmed, much less written about, in this article.

Members' News

Communications Sub-Committee – Chair Court Assistant Annette Cove

The Inaugural Committee meeting took place this week.



Events

Pattenmakers' Events

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

17th March – 6:00pm - Pattenmakers' St Patrick's

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



Join us for our Spring celebration on St Patrick's Day. Click here for more information:

[St Patrick's Day Flyer](#)

Events Committee – Liveryman Graham Perry

We hope that you enjoy our April line up of events and can find some time to join us.

As we have a limited number of attendees for each event can you please complete your registrations as soon as possible.

April 8th 7.30pm – 8.30pm – Japanese Whisky Tasting event with expert Dominic North

Please register here: [Wine Tasting Registration](#) and



refer to the attached flyer [Whisky Tasting](#) for full details on how to order your tasting kit.

April 14th 3.30pm – 5.30pm – Virtual Tour of Hotter Footwear with our own Young Pattenmakers and CEO Ian Watson.

Please refer to the attached flyer for full details:



[Virtual Trade Outing](#) and if you wish to attend please send an email to the trade warden martin@denton-house.com and further details will be sent back to you nearer the time – This is a Free trade outing event.

**April 22nd 7.30pm – 9.00pm –
Pattenmakers Charity Comedy Night**

with 3 top comedians – free charity comedy event

This event has a **Maximum attendees of 500** households but will be opened up to our industries and to family and friends after a 1 week pre-release which is open to Pattenmakers only.

Please register as soon as possible within the next week, once we reach the attendee limit we won't be able to register any further attendees.

[Charity Comedy Registration](#)

Other Livery Events

**Worshipful Company of Educators -
Educating the City**

**Tuesday 16th March
2021 - 6.45pm for
7.00pm**

Education and learning have always been an important part of City life, from the medieval charity schools to the trade schools and apprenticeships. Indeed, education is the charity of choice for many City livery companies.



Join Freeman, London Blue Badge and City of London Guide Julie Chandler on a virtual journey through the history of education in the City.

The journey explores the founding of St Paul's School, the 'poor fatherless children' of Christ's Hospital and the 'religious and virtuous education of girls' at the City of London School for Girls



Along the way, we look at the work of Elizabeth Fry educating the female inmates of Newgate Prison and the endeavours of Lord Mayors, philanthropists and City Institutions to improve the education of London's citizens.

If you would like to attend please email the Renter Warden Sandra Holt:

renterwarden@co-educators.com

To join the meeting on Zoom please follow the link here: [Virtual Event](#)

Meeting ID: 862 1965 4986

Passcode: **CityEd**



Turning Demonstration

Wednesday 24th March from 5.30 to 7.00pm

During the pandemic and resultant lockdowns the Turners' Company has been supporting professional turners both financially and professionally through our charity. To help us to continue to provide this vital support to professional turners whilst they attempt to rebuild their businesses following the easing of restrictions, Liveryman of the Turners' Company and professional turner Les Thorne, is hosting a virtual turning demonstration on **Wednesday 24th March from 5.30 to 7.00 pm**. This will be both informative and entertaining. The cost to 'attend' the turning demonstration will be **£10 per connected device**. Full and further details, particularly on how to book contact clerk@turnersco.com



THE ARCHITECTS' COMPANY

Thursday 25th March - Artist, Art Consultant and Architect: Different Perspectives

On 25 March, the Worshipful Company of Chartered Architects and Glaziers are very pleased to be hosting a joint webinar, on "Artist, Art Consultant and Architect: Different Perspectives".

You are invited to join us for a special virtual discussion with Ellen Mandelbaum (Architectural

Glass and Glass Artist, based in New York), Andrew Moor (Art Consultant, Artist and Author, based in London) and Jonathan Louth (Architect, based in London). This webinar is hosted jointly by the Worshipful Company of Glaziers and Painters of Glass, and the Worshipful Company of Chartered Architects: our first joint endeavour. So many different types and styles of buildings include glass art. It's easy simply to marvel at the building or the glass, without wondering what led up to it. But how does the glass art get there? Who commissions it? How is the design developed? And are there any pitfalls? All this and more will be debated by our panel from the different perspectives of Artist, Art Consultant, and Architect. Tickets are £5 + the Eventbrite fee. If you have any queries, please contact the Glaziers' Clerk, Liz Wicksteed at:

Clerk@worshipfulglaziers.com

+44 (0) 207 403 6652.

Cultural Calendar

Presented by Freeman Zoe Chowney

Just a couple of notable dates for this week's Cultural Calendar. I understand that Mother's Day, can be an emotional time for some and I want to make sure I'm not talking to you about anything you may find sensitive or upsetting...in which case, please skip straight ahead to the next date and celebrations surrounding St Patrick's Day.

14th March – Mothering Sunday



Mothering Sunday is a day honouring mothers and mother churches, celebrated in the British Isles and elsewhere in the English-speaking world on the fourth Sunday in Lent since the Middle Ages. On Mothering Sunday, Christians have historically visited their mother church—the

church in which they received the sacrament of baptism.

and Mother's day:



The modern Mother's Day began in the United States, at the initiative of Anna Jarvis. It was first celebrated in 1908, when Jarvis held a memorial for her mother at St Andrew's Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia.

St Andrew's Methodist Church now holds the International Mother's Day Shrine. Her campaign to make Mother's Day a recognised holiday in the United States began in 1905, the year her mother, Ann Reeves Jarvis, died. Ann Jarvis had been a peace activist who cared for wounded soldiers on both sides of the American Civil War, and created Mother's Day Work Clubs to address public health issues.

She and another peace activist and suffragette Julia Ward Howe had been urging for the creation of a Mother's Day dedicated to peace. 40 years before it became an official holiday, Ward Howe had made her Mother's Day Proclamation in 1870, which called upon mothers of all nationalities to band together to promote the "amicable settlement of international questions, the great and general interests of peace." Anna Jarvis wanted to honour this and to set aside a day to honour all mothers because she believed a mother is "the person who has done more for you than anyone in the world".

In 1908, the U.S. Congress rejected a proposal to make Mother's Day an official holiday, joking that they would also have to proclaim a "Mother-in-law's Day". However, owing to the efforts of Anna Jarvis, by 1911 all U.S. states observed the holiday.

The modern Mother's Day is not directly related to the many traditional celebrations of mothers and motherhood that have existed throughout the world over thousands of years, such as the Greek cult to Cybele, the mother god Rhea, the Roman festival of Hilaria, or the Christian Laetare Sunday celebration (associated with the image of Mother Church). However, in some countries, Mother's Day is still synonymous with these older traditions.

Jarvis became resentful of the commercialisation of Mother's Day. By the early 1920s, Hallmark Cards and other companies had started selling Mother's Day cards. Jarvis believed that the companies had misinterpreted and exploited the idea of Mother's Day and that the emphasis of the holiday was on sentiment, not profit. As a result, she organised boycotts of Mother's Day, and threatened to issue lawsuits against the companies involved. Jarvis argued that people should appreciate and honour their mothers through handwritten letters expressing their love and gratitude, instead of buying gifts and pre-made cards. Jarvis protested at a candy makers' convention in Philadelphia in 1923, and at a meeting of American War Mothers in 1925. By this time, carnations had become associated with Mother's Day, and the selling of carnations by the American War Mothers to raise money angered Jarvis, who was arrested for disturbing the peace.

Internationally, there were immediate concerns surrounding the exclusive association of Mother's Day with a biological definition of motherhood. Constance Adelaide Smith instead advocated for Mothering Sunday as an equivalent celebration. She referred to medieval traditions of celebrating Mother Church, 'mothers of earthly homes', Mary, mother of Jesus, and Mother Nature. Her efforts were successful in the British Isles and other parts of the English-speaking world.

17th March – St. Patrick's Day (Christian)



The day commemorates St. Patrick (c. 385 – c. 461), the arrival of Christianity in Ireland, and celebrates the heritage and culture of the Irish in general.

The holiday has evolved into a celebration of Irish culture with parades, special foods, music, dancing, drinking and a whole lot of green. The Irish have observed this day as a religious holiday for over 1,000 years, although the first St. Patrick's Day was actually held on March 17, 1601 in a Spanish colony in what is now St. Augustine, Florida. The parade, and a St. Patrick's Day celebration a year earlier were organized by the Spanish Colony's Irish vicar Ricardo Artur.

According to the autobiographical Confessio of Patrick, when he was about 16, St. Patrick was captured by Irish pirates from his home in Britain and taken as a slave to Ireland, looking after animals; he lived there for 6 years before escaping and returning to his family. After becoming a cleric, he returned to northern and western Ireland. In later life, he served as a bishop, but little is known about the places where he worked. By the seventh century, he had already come to be revered as the patron saint of Ireland.

In the centuries following Patrick's death, the mythology surrounding his life became ever more ingrained in the Irish culture: Perhaps the most well-known legend of St. Patrick is that he explained the Holy Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) using the three leaves of a native Irish clover, the shamrock.

Among the legends associated with St. Patrick is that he stood atop an Irish hillside and banished snakes from Ireland—prompting all serpents to slither away into the sea. In fact, research suggests snakes never occupied the Emerald Isle in the first

place. There are no signs of snakes in the country's fossil record. And water has surrounded Ireland since the last glacial period. Before that, the region was covered in ice and would have been too cold for the reptiles.

The meal that became a St. Patrick's Day staple across the country (corned beef and cabbage) was an American innovation. While ham and cabbage were eaten in Ireland, corned beef offered a cheaper substitute for impoverished immigrants. Irish-Americans living in the slums of lower Manhattan in the late 19th century and early 20th, purchased leftover corned beef from ships returning from the tea trade in China. The Irish would boil the beef three times, the last time with cabbage, to remove some of the brine.

Please also remember to join us for a wonderful Pattenmakers' St Patrick's Day Celebration at 6pm on 17 March – details can be found in the 'Events' section of the newsletter.

Photo of the Week

Seen this week at Lord's Cricket Ground
Liveryman Ian Balcombe



And in Regent's Park



Wellington boots. Her grace and athleticism are frequently commented upon and her "zoomy" runs in huge circles, figures of eight and straight sprints draw gasps as she rockets about the place. Once home, paws wiped and fed, she does what all long dogs do finds a sofa and goes to sleep!



Pets' Corner

Mimi – The Beadle Chris Moore



Mimi is now four and a half, an orange brindle lurcher from County Clare. I rescued her four years ago and we are inseparable except when she realises a trip to the station in Keighley means a trip to the boat and the church or conversely staying in Yorkshire with Rose, involving treats and walks on the moor behind the house. She therefore keeps a low profile in the boot and ignores me when I ask if she is coming with me!!

She is a gentle soul except when a lead, poo bags and wellies appear. She then rushes about the place barking loudly and playfully nipping at any feet not quickly into the aforementioned

To the opera buffs, her name is that of the heroine in La Boheme by Puccini. Her favourite aria is, of course, "My tiny paw is frozen" and her ears prick up and she listens intently when she hears it!!

When we all meet up again soon, do pop in to the vestry at St Margaret Pattens' where Mimi assures you of a warm welcome. She loves people who bring doggy treats.

Bird Watch

Bird of the Week this week is the Dartford Warbler - Freeman Richard Parlour





Well great excitement! For the first time this year, I have seen a rarity for which I was summoned before the Birder Elders of the Hertfordshire Bird Club Rarities Committee (all bow). The last time this happened was when I saw a white stork circling above one of our local gravel pits (not bringing any babies in, those midwives amongst you will be glad to hear)! Last Sunday I saw a Dartford Warbler along the River Ver just outside St Albans, so that is the bird of the week this week. The last time I saw one was a couple of years ago in a quarry at Houghton Regis just outside Luton. If you have not visited this site, it looks like Luton's answer to the Grand Canyon. A bit of a contrast to the River Ver at Shafford, which has more of a Constable "Hay Wain" feeling about it.

Dartford Warblers are pretty rare birds in the UK. There are thought to be around 3,200 of them. This in itself though is a remarkable recovery from the ten remaining pairs left after large numbers of them were wiped out in the severe winters of the 1960s (seems strange to remember skating on the local lakes in the big freeze given current concerns at global warming and climate change). They are also sensitive to drought affecting breeding success or producing heath fires, as occurred during 1975 and 1976 in England when virtually all juveniles failed to survive their first year. Dartford Warblers are now off the red list, but are still on the amber list. The Dartford Warbler population in the UK is expected to continue to increase. However, future climate based projections for the European range indicate that by 2080, more than 60% of the current European range may no longer be suitable. There is evidence that this is happening already, with severe declines in Spain and France.

For this reason, the species is classified as Near Threatened on the [IUCN Global Red List](#). If the declines in southern Europe continue, the UK will become increasingly important for global conservation of this species. Ironic given the impact of severe cold weather in the 1960s.

This small, dark, long tailed warbler is resident in parts of the UK. Until recently, the best places to see them were the New Forest, Isle of Wight, Surrey, Devon, Somerset coast, and Norfolk and Suffolk coasts. Look for heathland with lots of gorse, or brambles and thickets. The Dartford Warbler will perch on top of a gorse stem to sing, but is often seen as a small flying shape bobbing between bushes, skulking in the undergrowth. As you will see in the photos, it is a rather oddly shaped bird, with a tail as long as its body, flicking it up and down regularly. The male is largely a slate grey above, with a russet purple kind of dull red below. Another feature which gives the game away is the red eye. The male often raises its head feathers a bit, giving it a somewhat dishevelled "punk rocker" look. Dartford Warblers eat insects and other invertebrates found in gorse and undergrowth and have slender pointed bills to do so. The female is similarly marked, though paler and not so distinctive. Both sexes have white spots on the throat and the male has a dirty looking white patch on its belly. They have a short, distinctive scratchy song.

The bird is called the Dartford Warbler as the first place it was found in the UK was Bexley Heath near Dartford in April 1773. John Latham opted for Dartford rather than Bexley for some reason. Those of you living in Kent can perhaps shed some light on this!

Dartford warblers first breed when they are one year old. They are usually monogamous and the pair bond can persist from one year to the next. The male sometimes builds several simple nests (cock nests) of which one is chosen by the female, but it is more usual for both birds to participate in constructing the breeding nest. In southern England the birds breed on heathlands, sometimes near the coast, and nest in either common gorse or heather. The compact cup shaped nest is located in dense bushes, usually

within 60 cm (24 in) of the ground. It is formed mainly of grasses and is lined with a layer of finer material that can include thin roots and feathers. The eggs are laid from mid April. The eggs are incubated for 12–14 days mainly by the female. The chicks are fed arthropods by both parents. The nestlings fledge 10–14 days after hatching and are then fed by their parents for a further two weeks. Usually two and occasionally three broods are raised in a year. Good luck with seeing them. Patience is certainly required!

Edinburgh aims to become a swift sanctuary

Conservationists are hoping to turn Edinburgh into a sanctuary for Swifts after a drastic decline in the bird's population. Numbers fell by more than 50% in the UK between 1995 and 2016, when the estimated average population dropped from 125,500 to 59,000. The Edinburgh Swift City Project is asking people to make boxes in a bid to encourage pairs to nest and breed. Residents are also being urged to report any sightings of swift screaming parties. This sounds like an anti-lockdown breaking measure, but in ornithological terms means groups of two or more swifts flying at low level while calling loudly, which means they are breeding nearby. Hubs are being created along a cycle route through the city to raise awareness, and a huge mural depicting the bird's long migration path between Africa and Europe is also being planned. The bird conservation charity RSPB Scotland is currently searching for a building in the city and an artist to create the mural. Swifts come back to Edinburgh in May, so as many nesting boxes as people can make and erect on their homes across the city are needed pretty quickly.

Studies have shown that a massive factor in their decline is that their homes are being destroyed as homeowners have their roofs developed. Their food source of insects is also declining and their migration routes are being impacted by climate change. Nesting hubs are being created along cycle paths between Leith and the Colinton railway tunnel. There is also a video to show people how to make a swift nesting box. Anyone who is happy to have a mural painted on the side of their building is urged to come forward!

New report reveals bird declines in Cornwall

A new report has shown that various bird species

Letters to the Editor

From Past Master Tim Watts

Dear Sutton Valence

Be careful what you wish for. Some wildlife will feed voraciously as this photo shows – some, what had been, splendid crocus after Bambi gave them a haircut.



Disgruntled of Sutton Valence writes

Dear Avian Times (Complaints Department)

On Sunday, following a sumptuous luncheon prepared by the memsahib, I thought I would share some of the day with my feathered chums. I adjourned to the garden with a large Laphroaig and PG Wodehouse, took post to enjoy the afternoon avian chorus and a little light reading. After some ten minutes I still hadn't read a word, the "singing" was a delight but most distracting. I suggested they might ease off a bit so I could concentrate, to no avail. Ten more minutes and I am sure the volume was deliberately increased and Bob was the ringleader in between munching sunflower seeds. A further ten minutes later I admitted defeat and went in. Needed a top up anyway.

Why don't they know when to shut up? No serious issue – just asking.

D of SV



Bob having a laugh

Avian Times responds

Dear D of SV (and bar)

Sounds a veritable rural Kentish idyll. Yes, spring is in the air, as is love, and young birds' thoughts are heading towards nest building and the next generation, thankfully for the continued biodiversity of the planet (and saving you from an infestation of insects otherwise). Impressing one's intended mate with a lusty musical chorus is seen as one of the best modes of avian dating (did it work for you with the memsahib's delicious luncheon?), so I would expect it to continue for a while yet. Shortly of course, the chorus will become even more melodious with the expected arrival of the warbler section over the coming weeks.

I would be interested to know who is in your choral ensemble, apart from Bob. The greenfinches have started weezing, song thrush have commenced in earnest, and Mistle thrush the loudest in the orchestra, though in terms of decibels per bird ounce the goldcrest takes some beating. More specificity needed, or make a recording on your phone and send it over for analysis. You may have a recording app already built in, but if not, download one called "Voice Recorder", which is excellent quality, and free, unless you desire the professional version. Perhaps, on the other hand, they were merely showing their heartfelt gratitude for your famous wide ranging and reliable smorgasbord of delicacies!

From Steward Liveryman Raymond Lewis MSM
Good Afternoon Disgruntled of Sutton Valence
Just returned from my morning walk only to find Margaret has dived in and completed your quiz. Having the Weekly Newsletter arrive on our doorstep at 8.30am every Friday during lockdown has been a real joy to read.

I would like to thank Freeman Sophia Lee for her Young Pattenmakers' Zodiac Signs item which appeared in Issue 45 on 19th February. I, at first, thought it would be a difficult read and hard going so I Googled "Wikipedia Chinese Astrology" to get my Zodiac animal sign. I discovered that I am a Goat (no comments please). Reading through the "Personality Trait" of myself I found it not only fascinating but in line with Sophia, totally accurate. I became hooked and have spent many enjoyable hours looking up my family and friends and, to my amazement, their traits also matched. Well done Sophia.

Quiz

Please see last page for this week's quiz and the answers to last week's quiz.

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

The Quiz – Week 48

“Disgruntled of Sutton Valence” Has kindly sent the answer(s) to last week’s quiz which was NIGER. Interestingly he tells me is the fact that not one person has spoken up on behalf of Niger Seeds – but many have reported the same experience!

Following the Avian News theme here is this week’s quiz:



1. What sort of Warbler is this?
2. Which Roman Road is now the A2?
3. Who is the current Conservative Member of Parliament for Dartford?
4. Which Dartford resident (alleged) led the Peasants Revolt?
5. Which City Livery Hall has the dagger that (allegedly) killed the answer to question 4?



6. What is the name of this Bridge?
7. SEVERRN was the catch phrase of which Dartford born “Strictly” judge?
8. How much does it cost to cross question 6? (in a car)
9. Which musician that gathers no moss was born in Dartford?
10. Who was the other one?



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

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
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
15 th Dec	House of Commons Dinner	
16 Dec	Carol Service	St Margaret Pattens Church

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