



The Pattenmaker

WEEKLY NEWS FROM AROUND THE LIVERY



Issue 50

Friday 26th March 2021

From the Master Jennifer Bryant-Pearson

When I started this newsletter, I had no idea that almost a year later, I would be typing an introduction to the 50th issue – our Golden Anniversary



I am immensely grateful to our diligent, hard-working and endlessly good-humoured Editor, Liveryman Ian

Balcombe, who remains calm as we make changes, add articles and just about hit our deadlines each week to ensure you receive these newsletters every Friday morning at 8.30am. My sincere thanks also go to our small team of Jane Forman, Assistant Clerk who works with us late on Thursday evenings to design the final version and to our gallant Clerk who unfailingly produces a quirky Quiz, when not engaged in furious correspondence about his errant feathered visitors!

We have been encouraged to continue these newsletters thanks to our superb contributors and the lovely responses we receive from you, our membership, so thank you for your support - please keep in touch with us. We are particularly keen to receive your articles about your pets, garden and any recipes you enjoy making. We are planning two Pattenmaker gifts this year to raise funds for our charities - a gardens calendar, thanks to Past Master Helen Auty, and a recipe book so your help is essential!

So this anniversary edition holds golden nuggets ranging from our 'golden' collection and connections courtesy of Assistant Steve Huxham, Freeman Richard Parlour's Golden Eagle and a first day cover of the Queen's Golden Jubilee to some glorious golden daffodils in Past Master Helen Auty's article on an Australian garden, Cloudehill and of course, a golden Quiz from our Clerk.

We introduce new Freeman Quentin Padgett and remind you of the successful Spring Celebration on St Patrick's day, the recording of which is now available on the website. Future events include the Japanese whisky tasting and our own special Comedy Night. Please sign up immediately for the Comedy Night as places are limited and the offer will be opened up next week to a wider group.

New Liveryman Zoe Chowney covers Easter and other important Festivals and looks back at the famous Panorama April Fool's day feature on the Swiss spaghetti Harvest, which some of us are old enough to remember to this day!

The City of London celebrates its 150th anniversary of the Hampstead Heath Act and also asks for your views on its latest consultation on the future development of the City over the next 15 years – make your views known!

Our letters section has some lively correspondence from Disgruntled of SV with our Avian Correspondent so keep up with D's latest problems!

Happy Anniversary, everyone!



City of London Corporation

Hampstead Heath

A programme of celebrations to mark the 150th anniversary of the Hampstead Heath Act has been unveiled.



The City of London Corporation has managed Hampstead Heath since 1989, when it took responsibility for the care and management of the site from the London Residual Body (LRB), following the dissolution of the Greater London Council (GLC).

Hampstead Heath is a registered charity, funded by revenue generated through services, grants, donations and over £5m a year from the City Corporation.

The City Corporation protects 11,000 acres of green space in London and south east England – including Epping Forest and Burnham Beeches - and over 200 smaller ones in the Square Mile, investing more than £40m a year.

These sites, most of which are charitable trusts, are run at little or no cost to the communities that they serve. They include important wildlife habitats, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, and National Nature Reserves. They are protected from being built on by special legislation



The City of London Corporation has launched a public consultation

for the revised City Plan 2036 and is calling on all those affected – including workers, businesses and residents – to provide feedback.



The plan sets the strategic direction on future development of the City over the next 15 years and includes the vision, strategy, objectives and policies to guide planning decisions.

Recent statistics show that, so far this year, the City Corporation has given planning consent for the equivalent of almost 80% of the total office floorspace it approved for the whole of last year. The City Plan 2036 has been refined from earlier iterations as a result of changes introduced by the Government last year on planning use classes.

The public consultation will run until May 7 before being submitted to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to appoint an independent planning inspector with the final City Plan 2036 expected to be adopted in early 2022.

Chair of the Planning and Transportation Committee, Alastair Moss, said: "This is a hugely ambitious Local Plan for the Square Mile, and it will be key in lead our planning decisions through the COVID-19 recovery and beyond.

"Following Government changes on use class policies we were required to further refine some elements to reflect the new rules. However, core principles such as creating space for business to grow, a unique historic environment and healthy streets with a vibrant culture remain the same.

"We strongly urge those who live, work and visit the City to engage with the consultation – even if the Government's coronavirus restrictions have meant you have had to stay away from the Square Mile over recent months."

Key development guidance included in the City Plan include:

- Encouraging office floorspace that is flexible and adaptable to meet the demands of different types of business occupiers, enabling more incubators, start-ups and other small and medium sized companies to set-up here.
- A policy on urban greening: all new developments and refurbishments will be required to include a greening element to the building or public realm to contribute to improving biodiversity, rainwater run-off, air and noise pollution, temperature regulation, and making the City a more visually desirable business location.
- Developers, along with the transport, delivery and servicing industries will be expected to contribute to freight transport consolidation measures to reduce air pollution.
- Together with the City's first Transport Strategy, there is a greater emphasis on pavement space and prioritisation of pedestrians. Providing pedestrian routes through new buildings is encouraged.
- Additional housing on suitable sites seeks to meet the Mayor's London Plan target.
- Office space will be complemented by other commercial, cultural and retail growth wherever appropriate, adding to the City's vibrant 24/7 evolution.

The City Plan 2036 identifies seven key areas of change, where the City Corporation is promoting continued sustainable growth.

Liverpool Street area will be a thriving retail environment. Significant enhancements at Broadgate, with plans that when combined with 100 Liverpool Street, would match the current retail offer at 1 New Change on the City's 'high-street'.

Smithfield and Barbican 'Culture Mile' plans include the relocation of the Museum of London to West Smithfield, and Beech Street will be transformed into a cleaner and more welcoming food and retail environment.

The Eastern City Cluster will grow to close the gap between the isolated Walkie-Talkie and the rest of the cluster of towers, while introducing

more animated ground floor spaces. Changes will also include pedestrian priority areas, a push for off-site consolidation and the re-timing of freight and deliveries outside of peak hours.

Redevelopment of the post-war sites at Blackfriars provides scope to enhance surroundings including improved access to the enhanced riverside walkway.

The Pool of London is an iconic part of the City's riverside where regeneration plans will boost its attractiveness and vibrancy. Use of the River Thames will also increase significantly if new riverside infrastructure enables it to become a major corridor for the movement of people and the transport of materials.

Aldgate Square will be the focal point between Aldgate and Tower Gateway with plans for better cycling facilities, pedestrian connections and public transport capacity in the area.

Fleet Street; 30 years after newspapers moved out, large 1980s office buildings are reaching the end of their leases, with Deloitte and Freshfields moving elsewhere in the City.

Alongside a potential new judicial centre and the upcoming Elizabeth line, there is an opportunity to refresh the area and property market.

Our History

Golden Moments from Pattenmaker History – Court Assistant Steve Huxham

Our Members know better than anyone that the true wealth of our Company lies not in objects, nor material possessions, but elsewhere in the intangibles that make "us" what we are and are worth more than gold.

Which is perhaps just as well, because when it comes to looking for any actual gold that we have acquired and saved to our Collection during the rollercoaster of ups and down that mark the Pattenmakers historical journey, the pickings are rather slim! We do have some silver to our name, albeit not as much as we did before 1981, but very

little that we can call gold, without something of a “stretch.”

What we do have in the Collection are items such as the rarely seen silver-gilt dinner service presented by Past Master George Lambert in 1881.



At least that is the right sort of colour! In the same theme of silver-gilt, we also have the George V model of the Warwick Vase, the George III Urling Cup - which references Past Master Elisha Urling (1774) - the Company Mace with the “terminal” of it also engraved as being presented by George Lambert when Master in 1884-5, plus of course the Beadle’s Staff.



Urling Cup

In addition to these items we have our Patron’s Badge which has our engraved Arms (and do not forget that in normal depiction they have a golden element to them!) on crystal glass encircled in gold.



Whilst on that topic of badges, we must not forget the Master’s Badge and Chain of office, and also the golden Medals worn by Court members. Is that it?

Well maybe not, if we look further into our other possible “golden” connections? That thought is prompted by the previous mentions of Past Master Lambert’s donations to the Company, for he was actually a Goldsmith by trade, and one of some repute, although a Pattenmaker. His trade is recorded as such in the Admissions Register. Hence, I wondered what other connections could be found? The answer turns out to be quite a few if I am allowed to use some imagination and a bit of creativity.

Firstly, we appear to have had no fewer than six Members who were Goldsmiths by trade, including PM Lambert (Admitted 1877.) The others were:

- John Cade (Admitted 1796)
- Samuel Vardon (Admitted 1800)
- Samuel Jones (Admitted 1802)
- Alfred Skinner (Admitted 1888) – a “Skinner”, Goldsmith, Diamond Merchant, and a Pattenmaker!
- Alexander Clark (admitted 1913)

Then there has been one Member who was a “Jeweller and Gold Worker”:

- George Wirgman (Admitted 1798.)

Furthermore, we have had two Members actually called Gold during our long history:

William Gold (Admitted 1711)
Isaac Gold (Admitted 1820)

Additionally there was one Member named Goldsmith, but not one by profession since he is listed as being a “Yeoman at the Bishop of Winchester’s House.” This was:

John Goldsmith (Admitted 1813.)

Finally on the theme of names and trades, we had a Member who was “in gold” but only because that was his actual surname! This was:

John Ingold (Admitted 1674.)

Moving the theme in a slightly different direction, we have also had as Members no less than three individuals listed in their Admissions as landlords of the *Golden Key* public house in the old Fleet Market, an area which these days is now roughly on the Farringdon Road. These were:

Thomas Edwards (Admitted 1795),
Richard Bradley (Admitted 1815), and
Arthur North (Admitted 1818.)



The illustration shows Fleet Market, the location of the *Golden Key* public house, where Company meetings were regularly held, as drawn by Thomas H Shepherd in c.1827.

We can add to this list one landlord Member of *The Golden Lyon*: Thomas Porter (Admitted 1788) Then there is the landlord Member from another *Golden Lion*: Benjamin Olbic (Admitted 1807)

So much for history, but to finish by bringing our connections right up to date, I must make mention of the Company’s five Golden Bonds, or places, in the London Marathon each year, where our wonderful runners create new history each time by contributing so much to our charity fundraising. Their efforts really are not just golden, but priceless.

I am more than delighted to be able to end this article with the open question and invitation – what have I missed?

Over to you, the readers: what other Pattenmaker golden connections can you think of?

Members’ News

New Freeman Quentin Padgett



Born in Zimbabwe, I grew up in West Sussex and now live near the Oval Cricket Ground in London with my wife Nathalie and three

children Ada, Matilda and Thomas. Outside of work and lockdowns, I have an allotment and spending time taking one of my daughters to play for the under 13s at Wimbledon Rugby Club or with my son at a BMX cycle race tracks in South London.



Brixton BMX Track



Allotments at Rosendale Road

I have been hugely lucky to work in the built environment for the last 25 years, working with wonderful people. After University, I worked for a national housebuilder in the Midlands before moving to London. After a range of facilities management roles, I became Head of Facilities Management at the Labour Party. As well as moving the Party from Millbank Tower, I got to meet a wide range of people, including Mikhail Gorbachev to Mick Hucknall. In 2005 I completed the Masters in Facility and Environment at UCL. Martin Pickard gave at least one guest lecture on the course. I am grateful that fifteen years later, he and David Emanuel introduced me to the Pattenmakers. As a facilities manager, I have been involved in wide range of projects including working on a new build office for CAFOD an international aid agency, the building achieved very high environmental standards and very low running costs. Working at the Alzheimer's Society, I worked on consolidating their London office buildings into one of the first dementia friendly offices.

For the last two years, I have been completing a refurbishment and the facilities and hospitality management for The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologist. The new college building is a short walk from Glaziers Hall in Southwark. The Royal College contains a museum, library, training and conference rooms, commercial kitchens, cafe and offices. The building has been created by bringing together two buildings, a 1850s hop warehouse and a 1980s office. The building completed and all the activity was running well by February 2020. Over the last

year I have been one of the few people using the new facilities, helping three charities working in women's health to move in. Including the Royal College of Midwives, who used the pandemic to redesign the way they work and create a new and very flexible head office.



RCOG, Main Hall



RCM offices



Pattenmakers' Spring Celebration – St Patrick's Day 17th March 2021

Following the reception in break out rooms, the evening commenced with a Fanfare and March past by the Irish Guards



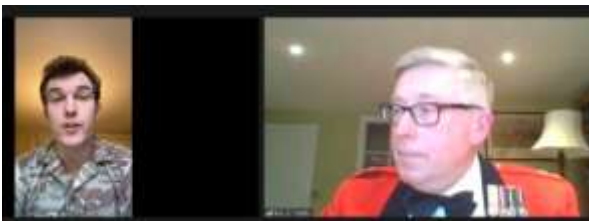


We heard from Freeman Bryan Oknyansky:

We were greeted by the Master:



Who then handed over to Court Assistant Lt Colonel Martin Heffer who introduced us to Warrant Officer Class 1 Darrel Ball Regimental Sergeant Major 101 (City of London) Engineer Regiment (Explosive Ordnance and Disposal) to the left in the picture below, who briefed us on their activities and current deployment.



Freeman Leanne Williams spoke about the Young Managers Award scheme of which she was an Facilities Management Award Winner in 2017.



As a result she was now working to make a sector wide change in the area of the Waste and Renewable Energy Sector.

It was then the turn of the Young Pattenmakers introduced by the Chair Sophia Lee who said that the Pattenmakers was the young persons' choice of Livery Company

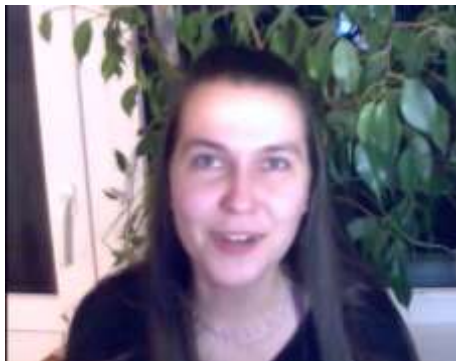
The Pattenmaker

Freeman Wayne Young then interviewed Young Pattenmakers Freya Allen and Gareth Dearden



They summed up the benefits of being a Young Pattenmaker as being Pride, Traditions, Charity, Networking and Socialising.

Freeman Ingrida Kerusauskaite then outlined plans for events.



Freeman Victoria Leijten then told us what the Young Pattenmakers mean to the wider community of the Company.



The Renter Warden Commodore Patrick Tyrrell OBE Royal Navy then gave us the history of St Patrick.



We were then whisked off to the Honourable Artillery Company for a behind the scenes explanation by the Pikemen and Musketeers as they prepared for an event, such as when we see them at the Mansion House.



Past Master Stuart Lamb OBE gave the history of how the Company became involved in the provision of Bespoke Orthopaedic Shoes for Service personnel and contemporary heroes to overcome walking disabilities, firstly at Headley Court and now at Stanford Hall.



He introduced the Clinical Director Honorary Freeman Colonel Rhodri Phillips OBE



The Trade Warden Martin Pickard interviewed Lieutenant Commander Emma McCormick. She told how a completely freak horse riding accident



had cut off the oxygen to the muscle that attached the knee to the ankle. She said that “under emergency surgery I lost the muscle and seemingly the ability to lift my foot properly, balance without support, walk and

go up and down stairs. My little world closed in very quickly and I found myself in a rather sombre mood that I was unable to break” and how when at Stanford Hall was introduced to the Pattenmakers and Liveryman Bill Bird produced a magical pair of boots that have restored her confidence. She also spoke of the importance of the communal area to the rehabilitation process. Martin outlined the plans for the refurbishment to create the escape café, and suggested that those attending may wish to donate the cost of travel and accommodation which they had saved.



Lieutenant Commander Emma McCormick

We were then treated to a musical interlude Irish Ceili



The Renter Warden proposed the toast “The Luck of St. Patrick”



and the Master thanked everyone for attending



A recording of the webinar is available on the website. If you were not able to attend it is well worth watching. If you were there it is well worth watching again.

Events

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 see here [Comedy Night Flyer](#) for more information.

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](#)

12th June 2020 - The Worshipful Company of Glovers is pleased to announce that the Inter-Livery Croquet Competition will be held at Sussex County Croquet Club, (SCCC) Kingston Lane, Southwick, West Sussex, BN43 6YW on Saturday 12th June 2020.



Past Master Alistair Watson-Gandy has asked for an indication of interest so that a Pattenmakers' team can be entered.

**Friday the 26th March at 6pm for 45 minutes
From the Worshipful Company of Carmen**



John Steel, a City of London Tour Guide, as seen on TV's Mysteries at the Museum is doing a tour for us in preparation of our move into our new and own home in Fleet Street in the coming

months. John is a natural storyteller. With outstanding people skills, he creates lasting memories, and does bring the City to life. He has produced a fascinating bespoke tour of Fleet Street, where you will be able to discover some hidden gems and fascinating stories about the neighbourhood surrounding our new home. This is a live event brought to you in the comfort of your own home via Zoom. John will walk us through the tour and will be taking questions at the end.

To join we are asking for a £10.00 donation. You can make your donation via credit card by clicking [here](#) and in exchange we will send you the Zoom link. All donations go to the Carmen Heritage Trust.

Cultural Calendar

Presented by Liveryman Zoë Chowney

There are lots of festivals and upcoming events that results in a very busy Cultural Calendar this week.

27th March to 4th April – Passover (Judaism):



The most widely celebrated Jewish holiday, Passover commemorates the Hebrews' liberation from slavery in Egypt and the "passing over" of the forces of destruction, or the sparing of the firstborn of the Israelites, when the Lord "smote the land of Egypt" on the eve of the Exodus. The festival thus marks the first and most momentous event in Jewish history.

During this time, all leaven, whether in bread or other mixture, is prohibited, and only unleavened bread, called matzo (or matzah), may be eaten.

The matzo symbolises both the Hebrews' suffering while in bondage and the haste with which they left Egypt in the course of the Exodus. Passover is also sometimes called the Festival of Unleavened Bread.

Passover is often celebrated with great pomp and ceremony, especially on the first night, when a special family meal called the seder is held. At the seder foods of symbolic significance commemorating the Hebrews' liberation are eaten, and prayers and traditional recitations are performed. Though the festival of Passover is meant to be one of great rejoicing, strict dietary laws must be observed, and special prohibitions

restrict work at the beginning and end of the celebration.

28th March – Palm Sunday (Christian):



Easter is on its way, along with all the spring decorations, basket stuffers, and beautiful desserts that the holiday entails. But before it's time to bake the ham, there's Holy Week...seven days of religious significance in the Christian faith, and the final countdown to Easter.

Palm Sunday, also called Passion Sunday, is the first day of Holy Week and the Sunday before Easter, commemorating Jesus Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. It is associated in many churches with the blessing and procession of palms (leaves of the date palm or twigs from locally available trees).

According to the World Catholic Library, "Because the palms are blessed, they may not be discarded as trash. Instead, they are appropriately gathered at the church and incinerated to create the ashes that will be used in the follow year's Ash Wednesday observance."

Special ceremonies were taking place toward the end of the 4th century in Jerusalem and are described in the travelogue *Peregrinatio Etheriae* (The Pilgrimage of Etheria). In the West the earliest evidence of the ceremonies is found in the *Bobbio Sacramentary* (8th century).

28th March – Laylat al-Bara'at (Islam):



Lailat ul Bara'h (Night of Forgiveness) is the 15th night of Shabaan and takes place two weeks before Ramadan. It is the time when Muslims seek forgiveness for their sins and believe that on this night one's destiny is fixed by Allah for the year ahead.

On this night, Muslims pray and ask God for forgiveness either at the mosque or at home. Muslims may visit the graves of relatives and the giving to charity is also traditional. Although not a religious requirement, in some parts of the world there are firework displays that mark this night.

28th to 29th March – Holi (Hindu):



Marking the beginning of spring after a long winter, Holi is a two-day Hindu festival that originates in India and has been celebrated since the 4th century.

There are varying accounts of Holi's origin mentioned in several works of ancient Indian literature. According to one popular version of the story, an evil king became so powerful that he forced his subjects to worship him as their god. But to the king's ire, his son Prahlada continued to

be an ardent devotee of the Hindu deity Lord Vishnu. The angry king plotted with his sister, Holika, to kill his son. Holika, who was immune to fire, tricked Prahlada to sit in a pyre with her. When the pyre was lit, the boy's devotion to Lord Vishnu helped him walk away unscathed while Holika, from whom the festival derives its name, was burned to death despite her immunity.

On the first day, people will gather around a bonfire and celebrate good triumphing over evil. But it's the second day that most people will recognise - that's when perfumed powder called gulal is pelted at everyone and made to stick with water pistols and balloons.

Gulal powder comes in many colours and some are thought to signify specific things:

- red = love
- blue = Krishna
- yellow = turmeric
- green = spring

And together, they create a glorious rainbow, usually in parks and public spaces across the globe.

29th to 31st March – Hola Mohalla (Sikh):



In 1701 Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Sikh Guru, introduced this festival at Anandpur in Punjab, India, as an alternative to the Hindu festival of Holi. It was intended for Sikhs to practise their military exercises and hold mock battles; and included competitive displays of swordsmanship, horsemanship, archery and wrestling, together with displays of weapons and symposia of poetry. It was a colourful occasion, particularly for young Sikhs, and was observed on the day after the Hindu festival of Holi.

Today, Sikhs celebrate by watching and partaking in martial arts parades, led by the nishan sahibs of

the Gurdwaras. These are followed by poetry readings and music.

31st March – International transgender day of visibility:



International Transgender Day of Visibility is an annual event dedicated to celebrating transgender people and raising awareness of discrimination faced by transgender people worldwide, as well as a celebration of their contributions to society. The event also celebrates the resilience and success of transgender and gender nonconforming people and raises awareness of transgender rights.

The day was founded by US-based transgender activist Rachel Crandall of Michigan in 2009 as a reaction to the lack of LGBT recognition of transgender people, citing the frustration that the only well-known transgender-centred day was the Transgender Day of Remembrance, which mourned the murders of transgender people, but did not acknowledge and celebrate living members of the transgender community.

International Transgender Day of Visibility focuses on more of the positive aspects of what being transgender means and takes direct action in changing the biases of people who don't understand transgender

1st April – Maundy (Holy) Thursday (Christian):



Marking the end of Lent, Maundy Thursday commemorates the night of the Last Supper which Christians consider the institution of Holy Eucharist, also known as the Lord's supper or communion. It is described in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 22. At the Last Supper with his disciples, Jesus breaks bread, saying, "This is my body," and pours wine, saying, "This is my blood." He then asks the disciples to "Do this in remembrance of me."

The Last Supper is derived from Jesus' Jewish heritage and his observance of a Jewish holiday. The Last Supper was a Passover Seder, the feast of unleavened bread.

Maundy Thursday is also associated with foot-washing. Jesus washed the feet of the disciples, an act described in the Gospel of John, chapter 13, as Jesus teaching them to be servants. It's the ultimate act of "servant leadership." Jesus instructs his followers to love and to serve.

Maundy Thursday has a dark side. Jesus foretells his death, saying he will eat no more until the kingdom of God is fulfilled. It also marks an act of betrayal. "One of you will betray me," Jesus says. Judas Iscariot, one of Jesus' 12 disciples, is pointed out by Jesus as the one who will betray him.

To celebrate Maundy Thursday, the Pope traditionally washes and kisses the feet of 12 people - usually members of the church. In the UK, the Queen takes part in the Ceremony of the Royal Maundy where she gives coins called Maundy money to deserving senior citizens.

The word Maundy comes from the latin, 'mandatum', or 'command' which refers to the instructions Jesus gave his disciples at the Last Supper.

In many countries the day is known as Holy Thursday and is a public holiday.

1st April – April Fools' Day:



On April 1, 1700, English pranksters begin popularizing the annual tradition of April Fools' Day by playing practical jokes on each other.

Although the day, also called All Fools' Day, has been celebrated for several centuries by different cultures, its exact origins remain a mystery.

Some historians speculate that April Fools' Day dates back to 1582, when France switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar, as called for by the Council of Trent in 1563. People who were slow to get the news or failed to recognize that the start of the new year had moved to January 1 and continued to celebrate it during the last week of March through April 1 became the butt of jokes and hoaxes.

These pranks included having paper fish placed on their backs and being referred to as poisson d'avril (April fish), said to symbolize a young, "easily hooked" fish and a gullible person.

April Fools' Day spread throughout Britain during the 18th century. In Scotland, the tradition became a two-day event, starting with "hunting the gowk," in which people were sent on phony errands (gowk is a word for cuckoo bird, a symbol for fool) and followed by Tailie Day, which involved pranks played on people's derrieres, such as pinning fake tails or "kick me" signs on them.

Some of the best April Fools' Day pranks in history include:

The Swiss spaghetti harvest:

During a Panorama programme in 1957, Richard Dimbleby anchored the piece about a particularly bountiful crop of spaghetti in Switzerland.

This was in part due to the disappearance of the pesky spaghetti weevil, according to the report.

They also explained that the uniform length of spaghetti was down to years of skilled harvesting! When viewers contacted the programme to ask how they could grow their own spaghetti trees, they were reportedly told to stick some spaghetti in a tin of chopped tomatoes and hope for the best.

The islands of San Serriffe:

In 1977, the Guardian published a travel guide to the mysterious island grouping of San Serriffe. The two islands, Upper Caisse and Lower Caisse, formed the shape of a semicolon.

Defying gravity

In 1976, renowned astronomer Patrick Moore appeared on BBC Radio 2 and announced that at 9:47am, we would feel what he called the 'Jovian-Plutonian gravitational effect'.

He said that at that exact moment, the planets would align and gravity on Earth would get a tiny bit weaker, so if you jumped in the air at exactly the right moment, you would almost float.

Big Ben becomes Digital Dave

Due to ongoing renovations, it's been a while since we've heard the bongs of Big Ben. However, it's been even longer since the BBC Overseas Service (now called the World Service) tried to convince the world that it would change to electronic beeps.

In 1980, they announced to listeners that not only was the iconic clock face going digital, but that the first people to get in touch could win the hands of the clock.

Unfortunately, this did not go down as well as they'd hoped and the BBC was apologising for weeks after the joke was made. Some people just clearly didn't see the funny side!

Gardening

Cloudehill, An Australian Garden – Past Master Helen Auty

Well named because it's along Fern Gully Road, near a village called Olinda, in the highest part of the Dandenongs, 22m out of Melbourne, and it sees its fair share of cloud cover, in fact it was raining when I arrived but no Brit is daunted by a shower of rain so on we went. At 592metres it often gets several snow showers most years.



Originally this area had been a 'working garden' since the 1890s when George Woolrich cleared the rampant Eucalyptus trees and then grew cherries and raspberries. One son developed Rangeview Nursery on the lower part of the 10 acre site (down in the Fern Gully)



and in the 1920s the younger son set up a 'cut flower and foliage' wholesale business in the upper part of the site. From the beginning the family was very keen on collecting rare and interesting plants and imported trees and shrubs

from all over the world. They had named varieties of beech trees from England (some now almost 100 years old), azaleas from the USA and maples from the famous Yokohama Trading Nursery of Japan. By the 1950s the site covered almost 70 acres. However, both the nursery and the flower farm closed in the 1960s, mainly as a consequence of a huge bushfire which raced through this part of the Dandenongs in 1962. For the next 25 years the flower garden, to quote Jeremy Francis, the current owner, 'gently went to sleep to become a kind of children's fairytale garden' (shades of *The Secret Garden*).



When Jeremy Francis bought the property he and his team had a task on their hands to create the European style garden it is today but, despite 25 years-worth of weeds, there were some real pluses – the wonderful and often unusual trees and shrubs, the bulbs which had long since naturalized in the pasture areas and many interesting plants but usually in the wrong places.....

the wonderful and often unusual trees and shrubs, the bulbs which had long since naturalized in the pasture areas and many interesting plants but usually in the wrong places.....

I visited in early spring, hence the daffodils, narcissi and blue, pink and white bluebells in the meadow areas. There are several spectacular magnolias, 30ft high rhododendrons in shades of almost white to deep pink and red as well as camellias and azaleas all beginning to come out whilst down the hill the B&B at Rangeview is surrounded by the gully full of tree ferns. Being

relatively high up, some of the trees had yet to show their spring leaves so a summer/autumn visit would be beautiful too.

Quite by chance my favourite Australian artist, Sir Arthur Streeton (1867-1943) bought a house in Olinda (Longacres) where he lived from 1921 until his death. I'm really mentioning this because it gives me an opportunity to show you one of his pastoral paintings. On various trips to Australia I have come to know some wonderful painters who are relatively unknown in the UK and Streeton is one of them. It is little known here that there was a whole group of late 19th/early 20th century Australian painters loosely known as Impressionists. And to return to our gardens theme, the links between painters and gardens is indisputable, think Gertrude Jekyll and Sir Winston Churchill for starters.



Arthur Streeton - Butterflies and Blossom

Bird Watch

**Bird of the week is Golden Eagle –
Freeman Richard Parlour**



This is the Golden Anniversary Newsletter! For once with anniversaries, there is a choice as there is a plethora of birds associated with gold, the

goldfinch, goldcrest, golden plover, golden pheasant, golden oriole, goldeneye, all of which are found in or visit the UK, but the bird of the week this week is the magnificent, the majestic, the iconic, Golden Eagle. Throughout history they have been honoured with great care and shown the deepest respect. They represent honesty, truth, majesty, strength, courage, wisdom, power and freedom. The Golden Eagle has been adopted by a number of countries, and is the national symbol of Germany, Mexico and Egypt. In ancient Rome, an infantry unit was divided into legions. A standard bearer carried before the legion a staff with a symbol to lead the troops into battle. The most famous was the aquila, or eagle.

The Golden Eagle is a huge bird of prey, with only the recently reintroduced white tailed eagle larger in the UK. Adults of both sexes have similar plumage and are primarily dark brown, with some grey on the inner wing and tail, and a paler, typically golden colour on the back of the crown and nape that gives the species its common name. At least, the English name. A literal translation of the German name for the bird means "Rock Eagle" and the French name for the bird is "Royal Eagle". It is 75-88cm long, with a wingspan of 204-220cm. The male weighs 2.8-4.5kg and the female 3.8-6.6kg. With its long broad wings and longish tail, it has a different outline to the smaller buzzard.

It likes to soar and glide on air currents, holding its wings in a shallow "V". Golden eagles are sometimes considered the best fliers among eagles. A typical, unhurried soaring speed in golden eagles is around 28-32 mph. When hunting or displaying, the golden eagle can glide very fast, reaching speeds of up to 120 mph. When stooping in the direction of prey or during territorial displays, the eagle holds its legs up against its tail, and holds its wings tight and partially closed against its body. When diving after prey, a golden eagle can reach 150 to 200 mph. Although less agile and manoeuvrable, the golden eagle is apparently quite the equal and possibly even the superior of the peregrine falcon's stooping and gliding speeds. This makes the golden eagle one of the two fastest living animals. Although most flight in golden eagles has a clear purpose (e.g., territoriality, hunting),

some flights, such as those by solitary birds or between well-established breeding pairs, seem to be for play (and why not)?

Golden eagles have a particular tendency for silence, even while breeding. The voice of the golden eagle is considered weak, high, and shrill, has been called "quite pathetic" and "puppy-like", and seems incongruous with the formidable size, nature and cultural reverence of the species. Eagles have traditional territories and nesting places which may be used by generations. They have been illegally killed in the past and are still occasionally poisoned, or have their nests robbed. There are around 440 breeding pairs in the UK. They are listed as a Schedule 1 species.

The golden eagle lives in the wild, open moorlands and mountains of Scotland, favouring islands and remote glens. It is best looked for soaring high over hillsides in the Scottish Highlands. Golden eagles can be seen all year round. Look for displaying birds, with their looping and plunging flights on fine days in winter and early spring.

Adults occupy a hunting and nesting area known as a "home range" all year. Birds can be seen soaring and advertising their ownership of a site at any time, but their spectacular undulating display flight is most often seen from February to May. Each home range contains several night time roosts and often a choice of two or three alternative nest sites, called eyries, usually on cliff ledges. Both adults build the nest, which is a substantial structure of branches, twigs and heather, lined with woodrush and grass, and decorated with green foliage. The eyries are traditional and can be used for many years by the same or successive birds. The eyrie is added to each year it is used, and can end up quite a remarkable size. Cliff nests are 1-1.5m across and up to 2m high, while tree nests can be twice this size. The largest known British nest, discovered in Scotland in 1954, was 4.6m deep and had been used for 45 years.

The female generally lays two eggs 3-4 days apart in March, and incubates them for 43-45 days. Incubation starts with the first egg, and the chicks hatch a few days apart. The first chick to hatch is

dominant over the younger one, which has only a 20% chance of surviving the crucial first weeks. The female does most of the brooding and feeding of the young, while the male provides the female and the young with all the food, especially in the early stages. She broods the chicks almost continuously for the first two weeks. After this, she will regularly leave the nest and share the hunting with the male. The young will fledge when they are 65-70 days old, and will become independent after a further 90-100 days. Juveniles occasionally stay with their parents until November or December but are usually driven away by October. The young birds will breed for the first time at 3-4 years of age, when they can expect a lifespan of around 14 years. It is thought that 75% of young birds die before reaching maturity. The oldest known golden eagle was more than 32 years old. Eagles are monogamous and they pair for life, although if one of the pair dies, the survivor will readily accept a new mate.



Golden eagles hunt over land by flying low and striking with their talons in a brief rush or swift pounce. Only rarely do they stoop from height after prey. They rely on surprise attack and chases rarely succeed. While pairs may hunt co-operatively, it is rare for numbers of birds to congregate at a food source. Eagle diet is principally mammals and birds, taken both alive and as carrion. Main live prey consists of medium sized mammals and birds such as rabbits, hares, grouse and ptarmigan. The diet of coastal birds includes gulls and other seabirds. Larger items are taken as carrion.

The maximum weight most golden eagles can lift is 4-5kg, hence tales of very large animals or even

children being carried away, are to be viewed with scepticism.

In the western Highlands of Scotland where live prey is scarce, the eagles depend largely on carrion, especially during the winter months. The average daily food requirement is 250g. After a large meal, an eagle may not need to eat again for several days.

A handful of pairs survive in south-west Scotland, while in recent years one pair has bred in England, in the Lake District.

Even though juvenile birds range widely, they have not attempted to colonise many of what should be suitable areas in northern England and south-east Scotland. This is thought to be the result of deliberate persecution and incidental disturbance in these areas. Golden eagles were originally distributed all over Europe, but like most other raptors, they were widely killed, which caused serious declines both in their numbers and range. Large-scale land use changes created further problems, and the species became extirpated over large tracts of central Europe in the 19th century. In the UK, the population began to decline in the 18th century as a result of illegal killing by sheep farmers, aggravated in the 19th century by shooting by gamekeepers. The golden eagle was extirpated in England and Wales by 1850, and in Ireland by 1912. Despite this widespread killing, it managed to survive in small numbers in Scotland. In the 1950s and 1960s eagles suffered badly from organochlorine pesticides which concentrated in their bodies causing widespread infertility and eggshell thinning. After the banning of these chemicals, and aided by strong conservation measures, the golden eagle population has slowly recovered in Scotland, although large tracts of its former range are still unoccupied.

A pair returned to breed in the Lake District in 1969, but this nest, despite being reasonably successful until recent years, has remained the only one in England. The disappearance of the female in 2004 left the continued presence of golden eagles in the Lake District in jeopardy. In 2003 there were 431 breeding pairs, all but one in Scotland.

A number of lines of evidence indicated that illegal persecution of eagles, principally associated with grouse moor management in the central and eastern Highlands, is the most severe constraint on Scottish golden eagles. The highest national priority for the conservation and management of golden eagles in Scotland is to tackle persecution in those areas where it still persists. A secondary national priority for restorative management is to promote greater availability of live prey in parts of the western Highlands, potentially through changes in the management of deer and sheep.

If you haven't seen a golden eagle yet, hopefully lockdown will be lifted soon and you'll be able to get up to Scotland to see one. They are a stunning sight, one that will live in your memory forever.

Happy golden anniversary birding!

Letters to the Editor

Freeman Richard Parlour responds to the Housing issue raised by D of SV last week

Fantastic to learn of your assistance in constructing luxury avian accommodation. I guess it must be something to do with your Royal Engineers training! The message is to expect the unexpected. I purchased a three compartment house sparrow box a few years ago, sited it in what I thought would be a suitable location, but instead of sparrows, a blackbird decided to create its own nest on top of the roof of the sparrow box! I also acquired an owl box. Three years later and no sign of use. Some squirrels were seen stuffing it with leaves but when they tried to make themselves warm and cosy inside they disturbed the "cleaning hatch", and fell out of the bottom of the box! The strangest place I have had birds nesting is in a piece of an old tree trunk. I had left a spare paving slab over the top of the tree trunk, and some blue tits decided that a gap at the top of the trunk under the slab would make a great new home. So what to do? Here are a number of hints:

Natural nest holes do not come in standard sizes, so use whatever dimensions you have been given only as a guide. The bottom of an entrance hole must be at least 125 mm from the floor of the nestbox. If less, young birds might fall out, or be

scooped out by a cat. The inside wall below the entrance hole should be rough to help the young birds to clamber up when it's time for them to leave. Drill drainage holes in the base of the box, if it hasn't got them already, and use galvanised nails or screws to assemble the box. It's always best to leave the box untreated. As it weathers, it will blend into its surroundings.

I hear what you say about lining the box with suitable material, but birds will usually like to gather their own moss, lichen, twigs, feathers, etc. and make their own nest. I would not therefore fill a box with anything. They might smell your scent on the filling material, assume that humans can get in, and avoid it as an insecure place. Some birds will love to have a box filled. A woodpecker box, for example, should be filled with a block of balsa wood, rotting log or wood chips, as woodpeckers like to excavate their own nesting cavities.

Be careful where the box is sited. It needs to be out of reach of predators, particularly cats and squirrels, and away from areas trafficked heavily by humans. Keep the hole away from the local prevailing wind. If the box is going to be placed in a location where it will be exposed to heavy rain, it will be useful to cover the top of the roof with recycled leather or rubber. This will provide further waterproofing and extend the service life of the box.

The entrance hole size depends on the species you hope to attract. You can get drill bits or holesaw kits for all these sizes:

- 25 mm for blue, coal and marsh tits
- 28 mm for great tits, tree sparrows and pied flycatchers (you'll be very lucky to get the latter two of these species)
- 32 mm for house sparrows and nuthatches
- 45 mm for starlings

Other species will not want hole entrances and will prefer an open front. A small box with a 100 mm high open front may attract robins or pied wagtails. A wren will need a 140 mm high front panel, while spotted flycatchers prefer a low 60 mm front to the box.

When positioning your nestbox consider:

- Boxes for tits, sparrows or starlings should be fixed two to four metres up a tree or a wall
- Unless there are trees or buildings which shade the box during the day, face the box between north and east, thus avoiding strong sunlight and the wettest winds
- Make sure that the birds have a clear flight path to the nest without any clutter directly in front of the entrance. Tilt the box forward slightly so that any driving rain will hit the roof and bounce clear
- House sparrows and starlings will readily use nestboxes placed high up under the eaves. Since these birds nest in loose colonies, two or three can be sited spaced out on the same side of the house. Keep these away from areas where house martins normally nest (if you are lucky enough to get these)
- Two boxes close together may be occupied by the same species if they are at the edge of adjoining territories and there is plenty of natural food around. While this readily happens in the countryside, it is rare in gardens, where you normally can only expect one nesting pair of any one species. The exceptions to this are house and tree sparrows and house martins, which are colonial nesters. By putting up different boxes, several species can be attracted
- Fixing your nestbox with nails may damage a tree. It is better to attach it either with a nylon bolt or with wire around the trunk or branch. Use a piece of hose or section of car tyre around the wire to prevent damage to the tree. Remember that trees grow in girth as well as height, and check the fixing every two or three years
- Open-fronted boxes for robins and wrens need to be low down, below 2m, well hidden in vegetation. Those for spotted flycatchers need to be 2-4m high, sheltered by vegetation, but with a clear outlook. Woodpecker boxes need to be 3-5m high on a tree trunk with a clear flight path and away from disturbance
- Nestboxes are best put up during the autumn. Many birds will enter nestboxes during the autumn and winter, looking for a suitable place to roost or perhaps to feed.

They often use the same boxes for nesting the following spring. Tits will not seriously investigate nesting sites until February or March

- Clean out nestboxes at the end of summer, but avoid using chemicals to do so
- Do not prune bushes during nesting season as you may disturb a nesting site. The sap is rising at the moment, so now is not a good time to lop trees either
- If you own a cat, put a small bell on its collar so as to give small birds a better chance
- Try looking at the nestbox site from the perspective of the bird, and then from the perspective of a predator, before fixing the box
- If you are putting a camera into the box, remember to bear in mind the length of wiring for the camera
- You can acquire a tunnel to add to the front of a box which is designed to stop predators reaching into boxes, and to stop other birds enlarging holes so they can squeeze in
- Some birds like a perch just below the entrance, others like a bush nearby, from which they can check the coast is clear before entering the box

It will be great to find out how many Pattenmakers have birds nesting in the garden, or an adjacent one. So far I have had blue tits (avoiding the boxes, and preferring the tree trunk/slab arrangement) great spotted woodpeckers (using a tree rather than a box), blackbirds and a sparrowhawk. Coal tits, great tits and bullfinches have also clearly nested nearby, though goodness only knows where! Happy house building!

D of SV writes

The sun came out for half an hour this afternoon so I adjourned to the garden with Mr Wodehouse's Psmith – the P is silent – but was distracted by Tom the blue tit building a nest behind the soffit board. He has lived there the past three years so I don't know what he is doing – maybe his missus wants a new kitchen. Bob appeared and took a couple of sunflower seeds from the table where I was sitting. He then took off, with some elan, to effect his ablutions. I watched avidly - he splashed about like thing

possessed then got out, shook a bit, then went back for a drink (from his bath water – yuck!). The mess he made was extraordinary, water went everywhere, had there been soap I doubt it would have been put back in the dish, had there been towels no doubt they would have been left strewn all over the floor. Who did he think was going to clear it all up?

Whilst I have extended a hand of friendship this season to Bob I fear I am considered merely staff and provider

Where are they bought up? Have they no manners?

I think we should be told



Quiz

The answers to last week's general knowledge quiz were:

1. Antarctic Blue Whale
2. France
3. HRH Prince Louis of Cambridge
4. India Pale Ale
5. Russia
6. Mark Drakeford
7. A Kit
8. 80 minutes
9. Masseter (Main Jaw Muscle)
10. Mango
11. Helium
12. July (2013)
13. Alabama and Wyoming
14. A Poppy
15. Umbrella Academy (still never heard of it!)
(season 2 - 43 million streams)

Please see next page for this week's Golden quiz

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

Well done everyone who entered!

The Quiz – Week 50

The Golden One

Here is this week's **golden** celebration Quiz:

1. How heavy was the largest **gold** nugget found? (to date)
2. What sign is seen outside a pawnbroker's shop?
3. What was the title of Freda Payne's number one hit in 1970?
4. In Cricket, what do you get if you are out first ball of your innings?
5. What is the atomic number of **gold**?
6. How much of our **gold** reserves did Gordon Brown sell off?



7. What is the name of this ship?



8. What is the chemical symbol of **gold**?
9. Who had a top ten hit in 1983 with "Gold"?
10. Who sailed around the world in Q6?



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
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 Freemen events at Guildhall May/June and Oct/Nov