



The Pattenmaker

WEEKLY NEWS FROM AROUND THE LIVERY

Issue 64

Friday 13th August 2021

From the Master Jennifer Brytan-Pearson



We have a range of photographs today from our first event since lockdown, a great summer dinner at Merchant Taylors' Hall.

We have a very special celebration coming up with the postponed 350th anniversary of the granting of our Royal Charter and we will be joined by the two other companies who share the same anniversary, the Wheelwrights and the Tin Plate Workers. There will be a banquet in Guildhall on 21st September, book your place and join us for this historical event.

We have the first article from one of our new Freemen, Robert McCarthy today and he has very kindly offered to produce our Pattenmakers' Recipe Book, incorporating the delicious recipes provided in our newsletter over the past year by members. This will make a great Christmas present but we need more recipes please.

. . . so send us your favourite family recipes and tell us why they are special and they will then be included in our publication, all the proceeds of which will go to our charitable fund.

An important part of the Master's year is the nomination of the Master's Award which goes to a Freeman or Liveryman who has made a special contribution that year. I was absolutely delighted to present this prestigious Award to Liveryman Ian Balcombe for his incredible dedication, commitment and enthusiasm as Editor of our newsletter, The Pattenmaker.

When I started producing this weekly newsletter, I imagined it would be for just a few months whilst we were unable to meet. Those few months turned into 17 months to date and although we have recently moved to bi-weekly, that is 63 issues so far!

When I first asked Ian if he would get involved, he accepted immediately not knowing this was going to be a lifelong commitment!

I am so grateful to him, as we all are, for ensuring that each week you receive news about our membership and information about the City of London, events to attend, recipes, stories from our history, garden photographs and fascinating insights into our bird population plus all the other snippets that appear.

I thank all our contributors, without whom we would not have such a wonderful newsletter, but Ian has been an absolute star and a deserving winner of the Master's Award.

Finally, please look at the calendar at the end of this newsletter as we have a terrific variety of events for you to attend

It's such a treat to be able to meet again and enjoy the Pattenmakers' renowned fellowship – come and join us!

City of London Corporation

From the Office of the Rt Hon The Lord Mayor

[Please click here](#) for a copy of the Lord Mayor's Summer Bulletin to the Livery, which comes with the Lord Mayor's best wishes for a good summer break.



Our Charitable Fund

The Pattenmakers' Certificate in Bespoke Orthopaedic Shoemaking – Liveryman Bill Bird

The first training weekend: 7th & 8th August

After the successful completion of the first year of the two year Pattenmakers' Certificate in Bespoke Orthopaedic Shoemaking course, six of the seven students plus myself, as course leader, were finally able to meet in person for the first time for a training weekend at Holmes Park in Leicester. Up until the 1990s, before finally winding down in the early 2000s, Leicester had as many as 150 footwear factories producing ladies' fashion footwear. Many of those factories employed over a thousand people and produced 15,000 pairs a week. Unlike the Northampton high-end men's' industry which is still going, the Leicester factories are all gone.

The weekend course was led by Phil Stewart who brought his 52 year's experience in footwear design and pattern-making in the Leicester industry to us, together with his 18 year's experience as the senior tutor in the De Montfort University footwear design and illustration department. He really is a patient, articulate and knowledgeable teacher as any of the 2,200 students who have passed under his wing in the last two decades will testify.

Punctuated only by short lunch breaks the two seven hour intense training sessions concentrated purely on pattern-making. The first day reviewed the basic, fashion industry technique for converting the 3D surface of a stock last into flat formes before creating the half-mean which combines and averages the inside and the outside formes. We then produced a working standard in thin card from the half-mean form. Each student had a copy of the same single, high-heeled ladies' last and a single larger, low-heeled men's' last

We then went on to design court shoes from the high-heeled last and Oxford and Derby shoes from the low-heeled last. The second day, we learned how to use the same basic industry techniques to make bespoke formes and patterns from very distorted bespoke orthopaedic lasts. I didn't think it possible to be able to do that with lasts as pictured here. What Phil was able to show us however, was that although the inside and outside formes of these lasts were different to an extreme, a half-mean line could still be found for the fronts, the bit that gets most seen.

Having played with the techniques, I agree with Phil, that the half-mean line does indeed make up into an upper that looks miraculously straight, even though the shape of the foot being fitted was hugely distorted. A picture of a left last, the formes, the half-mean and the two working standards all lined one above the other, are shown here for the many footwear members of the livery who would understand these things.

All of the students have at least three year's experience in orthopaedic shoemaking under their belts if not many, many more. Emily Dee was in the last cohort to pass out of the degree course at the Cordwainers' College in Mare Street, East London before it got swallowed up into the London College of Fashion around 2002. She has been with Bill Bird Shoes since 2005. Matthew Bleasdale has been in the industry for 11 years and is now the factory manager at Reed Medical, an independent NHS footwear supplier with an output of about 200 – 250 pairs of modular and bespoke orthopaedic footwear a week. Matthew's skills were much more akin to Phil's than the rest of us, who still work by hand, in the traditional bespoke methodologies.

This was a pilot training weekend both for the Pattenmakers' Certificate Course and for Phil to run his first independent training outside of the university. All who attended were very grateful and felt very privileged to have such close attention and access to the wealth of skills that Phil brought. The course content will provide a unifying adhesion to the course-work as a whole for the second year which begins in October. The students were also immensely grateful for the funding provided by the Pattenmakers to cover the cost of this pilot course and the accommodation needed on the Saturday night. Without the support from the Pattenmakers, this programme would not be happening.

The facilities at Holmes Park, the home of the Leicester and Rutland County FA, of which Leicester City are a part, provided an adequate and economical venue. It was spacious and well ventilated, important in these times of Covid. We were all able to keep safe for and from each other whilst also having a sense of being able to work closely together on our collective mission, that is, to re-build and re-enliven the bespoke orthopaedic shoemaking industry for the next generations to come.



Left to right: Emily Dee, Phil Stewart, Bill Bird, Charlotte Duff, Chris Thorne, George Paish, Matthew Bleasdale and Rebecca Thorne.

Phil is senior tutor in the DMU footwear department. Matthew is factory manager at Reed Medical. Charlotte is a shoemaker at The Cordwainer. Emily, Bill, Chris, George and Rebecca are all shoemakers at Bill Bird shoes.

Emily Dee and Phil Stewart, discussing the finer points of making a pattern from a pair of lasts for a person with very swollen feet. Matthew Bleasdale is working in the foreground.





A left last for a severely sub-luxed foot. Shown next to it are the formes created by covering the last in masking tape, then splitting the resultant skin down a centre line before peeling the covering off and flattening it. Below the formes, is the half-mean forme. Below that, the inside and outside working standards from which the patterns can be designed and made.

The venue was spacious and airy. There was plenty of room for the students to do their work whilst remaining Covid safe and yet able to share ideas and examples of what they had produced.



Our History

Out of the Mud 2 – Past Master Richard Kottler

On the back of the success of the Company History book – “Out of the Mud” - the Court has decided to publish a follow up.

This will be in the form of a small booklet recording and celebrating how the Pattenmakers have managed the extraordinary experience of the last 18 months or so of the Covid-19 experience.

We will set the story in the context of what was happening internationally, nationally and within the City. It will capture the ways in which the Livery has continued to manage its day-to-day business as well as the popular social and formal events we have been able to run on a virtual basis.

It will highlight the central role of the Newsletter which has kept us all informed and has opened up information about the aims and workings of the Livery and the City in ways never achieved before.

We wanted to do this before we all forget about how the Company has responded to the crisis and has emerged stronger, better informed and with new Freemen and Liverymen to bolster our membership.

The Booklet will be compiled by Liveryman Dr Stephen Cribb and myself and will feature vignettes from key Livery members. It will be available by the end of this year and will be distributed **FREE** to all those members who bought "**Out of the Mud**".

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Firstly, we are looking for members to let us know any personal reminiscences (and photos) of interesting experiences during the pandemic. Please send them to stephen.cribb9@gmail.com.

Secondly, we would invite Liverymen to suggest a title for the booklet. The publication itself will be in the same style as "**Out of the Mud**" with articles and pictures but it does need a title that binds the two together whilst being snappy and interesting. Again all suggestions to Stephen Cribb please.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Members News

Summer Dinner at Merchant Taylors' Hall - The Master

Our first event since lockdown. It was so wonderful to be able to meet again in a superb Livery hall and see members of our company in person, rather than on screen

Following a receiving line where we bowed to each other, we moved from the drinks reception into the hall for dinner and were treated to an enchanting sung grace by our linked Pattenmakers' chorister who joined us with his parents for the event.

We had further music at the end of the evening with a selection from Mozart and Puccini operas as well as 'Tonight' from West Side Story, performed by three very talented students from Guildhall school of Music and Drama, the final piece being 'Jerusalem' which we all joined in with great enthusiasm

Our Pattenmaker linked chorister from St Paul's Cathedral sings Grace



My guest speaker was General Sir Tim Granville-Chapman who, together with the late Duke of Westminster, fundraised and built the superb new Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Stanford Hall, Loughborough.

The General described the philosophy behind the new facility and the importance of supporting our injured servicemen and women through their rehabilitation programme.

Our special charitable project this year, with the huge support of the General, is the refurbishment of the Café there to make it a welcoming and calming place in which the patients can relax with colleagues in between treatments , rather than a grim and grey corridor.

You have all heard about our plans and we are so grateful for the many donations received already but a special fundraising event will take place on 13th October at the Reform Club in Pall Mall, London so please keep the date free and invite friends to join you there for a gala evening with choristers, pikemen and musketeers and a grand auction, quite apart from the VVIPs who will join us that night.

*The Renter Warden Commodore Patrick Tyrrell OBE
Royal Navy and Commander James Taylor Royal
Navy Commanding Officer 824 NAS*





The editor Liveryman Ian Balcombe, his wife Gillian and Sheriff Past Master Christopher Hayward



The Renter Warden, Chaplain, Trade Warden, The Speaker, The Master, the Sheriff, Upper Warden, The Sheriff's Consort and Clerk assemble before the Dinner.



The Pattenmakers and guests enjoy the Reception.

*All photographs courtesy of Gerald Sharp Photography.
Link to all photographs <https://sharpphoto.co.uk/p454438049>*

The Pattenmaker's Charity Champagne Tea, Fortnum & Mason - Liveryman Lesley Exley, Chair of the Fundraising Committee

Fortnum & Mason was the perfect backdrop for the Pattenmakers' first Charity Champagne Tea in aid of the DMRC Café at Stanford Hall.

I was pleased to welcome the assembled throng, and introduce the cause célèbre of the afternoon, the DMRC Café. The mission and purpose of the DMRC had really resonated with many of our guests and was one of the reasons why more than half the attendees were non Pattenmakers. Indeed, Lucy Jaynes converted 3 guests on her table who wish to continue their support the Pattenmakers Charitable causes, by asking to attend the October 13th Gala Evening.



The Private Diamond Jubilee Tea Salon, Fortnum & Mason with Happy Pattenmakers and Guests

The four-course F&M tea was beyond splendid! The beautifully cut crustless sandwiches; fresh scones with jam and cream; and the tiny, wonderfully calorific cakes, specially baked strawberry tarts and Battenbergs were mouth wateringly fabulous. And there was plenty of everything! The guests even took home mini food goodie bags!

Liveryman Lesley Exley, and Liveryman Keith and Audrey Glennister



The Pattenmakers had a wonderful time, and we had some fabulous guests, including Alan Pascoe, a veteran British Olympian, 400 metre hurdle Gold medallist, who had been awarded by the International Olympian Committee, the day before our tea, the honour of being an “Olympian for Life”. The Master, Jennifer, and the Consort of the Sheriff, Alexandra Hayward, were on fine form too.

Peter Williams, Chair of Specsavers, and former CEO of Selfridges and former Chair of Boohoo, and of Superdry, had stepped in brilliantly to replace Eve Pollard, who had had a last-minute emergency operation. Peter regaled us with a well-informed overview of the history of department stores and retailing, as well as his thoughts on the challenges ahead for the retail sector. A lively Q&A ensued.

The Raffle was very successful. George Lambert won the Fortnum & Mason Hamper, and, as he is already a fan of this brilliant specialist department store, he and his family returned home very happy indeed. Sophia Lee, our leading Young Pattenmaker, was the recipient of one of the Elemis Beauty prizes – so she can look forward to perfect skin for life! One of our other guests from Chiswick won the Elemis Spa prize.



The Raffle – L to R Helen Russell, Liveryman George Lambert, Freeman Sophia Lee, and in the foreground Alan Pascoe

We raised £2,700 from the afternoon's event – which hopefully will help to pay for one or two elements in the creation of the DMRC Café in the Autumn of this year.

A big thank you to Helen Russell from Exley Hervey for helping to organise this Event with me. She is the best Search Executive Assistant ever!

New Freeman Robert MacCarthy

I was born in Ireland and have lived in the UK for the last thirty nine years; primarily in Warwickshire, Oxford, then London for fifteen years and for the last four years the 'north west frontier of the Cotswolds' in Beckford on the Gloucestershire/Warwickshire border, where I live with my Madeirense-born wife, Mafalda, and our six year old daughter, Luiza.

Having read History at the University of Durham, I trained with Vodafone as a management accountant in industry. Quickly my career evolved to general management and I have lead eCommerce and commercial teams at John Lewis, Direct Wines, an independent antiques auction house, Waitrose and currently WHSmith, where I am eCommerce Director.



Over the years I have done some volunteer work, including at Oxford's Oxfam bookshop as an antiquarian book valuer; trustee of the Victorian Society; member of the Parochial Parish Council of St Pauls, Covent Garden; member of the Church Committee of St Johns, Beckford and trustee of the Beckford United Charities.

My interests are architecture and buildings, largely Victorian, although I am a member of The Georgian Group and the Irish Georgian Society; gardening, growing vegetables, keeping chickens and attempting self-sufficiency; antiques, in particular mahogany furniture, eighteenth and nineteenth century portraits, porcelain plus silver, mainly Irish; steam trains, models and full size; visiting battlefields all over the world; plus buying, collecting, reading and sharing books.

I look forward to being part of the centuries of history, tradition and good works that the Pattenmakers represent.

Events

350th Anniversary Banquet - The Master

*The Master and the Master
Wheelwright*



We have a very special celebration coming up with the postponed 350th anniversary of the granting of our Royal Charter and we will be joined by the two other companies who share the same anniversary, the Wheelwrights and the Tin Plate Workers. There will be a banquet in Guildhall on 21st September and as places are limited, Liverymen and Freemen and their partner/guest will have first option on tickets at a subsidised price of £100. Additional tickets will then be offered for guests at £125. Book your place now for this historical event [Click here to book.](#)

Finally, please look at the calendar at the end of this newsletter as we have a terrific variety of events for you to attend.

It's such a treat to be able to meet again and enjoy the Pattenmakers' renowned fellowship – come and join us!

Pattenmakers' Calendar

To find out about all our up and coming events please click on the link [Pattenmakers Events Aug-21-Mar-22.pdf](#)

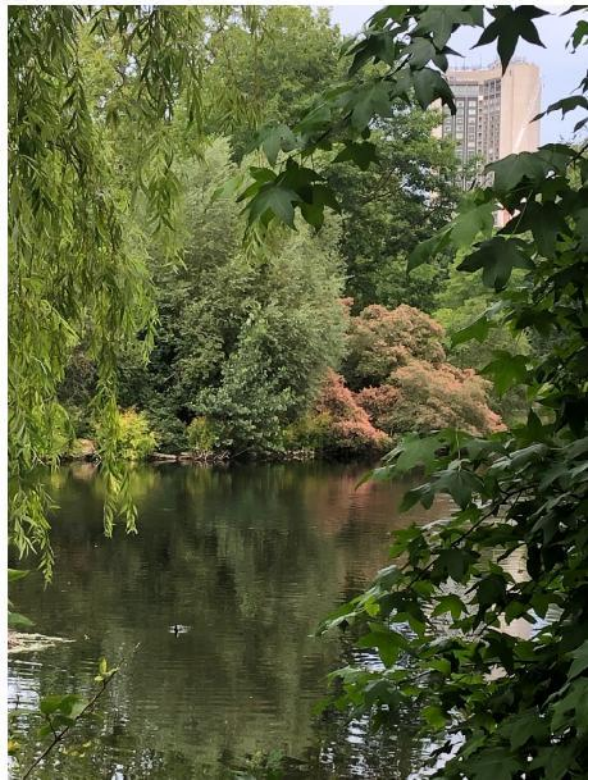
Cultural Calendar - 13th August - 23rd August 2021

Please click link to [Cultural Calendar](#)

Photo of the Week

Buckingham Palace Garden - Liveryman Ian Balcombe

I was very pleased to obtain tickets for the opening of the Garden and visited together with wife Gillian before recent period of deluges. We had a guided tour of the area which was not open to the visiting public and where photographs were not allowed. I was surprised to learn that there are only 7 full time gardeners, who of course do a magnificent job.



Letters to the Editor

From Freeman Sophia Lee

Issue 63 - Just wanted to say that the new format looks amazing! Really accessible and digestible. Really enjoyed the read

Quiz - The Clerk

Advertising Slogans - Round 2

There was much amusement and head scratching at the bottom of the centre sprig at the Merchant Taylors' Dinner when we tried to remember these products – we all knew the tunes! [Answers to Quiz 61](#)
How many did you get?

[And following a good response to the last quiz, here are another 20 – Enjoy! Click here and see how many you can answer](#)



I hope you enjoy the newsletter. Would you like to contribute? If so, please email ianbalc@gmail.com

Regards,

Ian

Editor

Worshipful Company of Pattenmakers

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