



The Pattenmaker

WEEKLY NEWS FROM AROUND THE LIVERY

Issue 74

Friday 1st April 2022

From the Master, Sarah Leijten



This is our 74th Newsletter, but it is *my* first as your Master. It goes without saying that it is a great honour and privilege to be representing our ancient Livery over the next 12 months, and one which I certainly intend to do to the utmost of my ability. I intend for the coming year to be one focussed on rediscovering our fellowship and friendship, as much as possible in person, and to have fun while we do. The calendar of events can be found on our website and here in our newsletter – and you will see that it encompasses a mix of formal, informal and virtual; ensuring that there is something for everyone. There are two upcoming events I would like to draw your attention to. The first is the virtual Quiz night on April 5th which was a lot of fun during

lock down – so I urge you to sign up; and the second is the Annual Footwear dinner in the Grocers' Hall on 12th May which promises to be a great event. The links for each can be found here:

Virtual Quiz Night - Tuesday 2nd April [please click here](#)

Annual Footwear Dinner - Thursday 12th May [please click here for](#) more information

In addition to the two events highlighted above, we have the first of our annual fundraising activities taking place on Friday 17th June – the annual Pattenmakers bike ride. We currently have 8 riders (if anyone else would like to join in please do reach out to me) and are actively seeking sponsors who would like to have their company logos on our fabulous jerseys (please let me know by the end of April if you are able to or know of anyone who might like donate to such an event).

It also goes without saying that any Master cannot do their year alone, and I have a great team around me with whom to work. This includes our New Wardens:



*Upper Warden Commodore
Patrick Tyrrell OBE Royal
Navy*

*Renter Warden Deputy Keith
Bottomley CC*

*Trade Warden Christopher
Stears*

We, of course, are ably supported by the Clerk, Past Masters and members of the Court for continued counsel and carrying out of activities necessary to ensure the smooth running of a Livery such as ours.



I am delighted to be able to offer our congratulations to three of our members for being re-elected onto the Court of Common Council of the Corporation of the City of London: Past Master Christopher Hayward, Renter Warden Keith Bottomley and Liveryman Wendy Mead OBE. Well done to all of you; it is good to see the Pattenmakers flag flying high!

I am also delighted to announce that five members were clothed in the Livery at the last Court meeting in March. They are all outstanding individuals who have already brought much to the Livery:



Ernest T Bartol



Claire Farmer



Sophia Lee



Ingrida Kerusauskaite



Bryan Oknyansky

The City is definitely back up and running, and since becoming Master I have attended and been invited to a number of events. One of particular note was the 750th anniversary banquet of the Cordwainers. This was a fabulous event held in the Guildhall – not unlike our very own celebration there last year.

The Master and Consort attending the Cordwainers' Banquet



Finally, these newsletters will continue on a monthly basis going forwards, as an excellent way of keeping our membership up to date. There will be the usual excellent selection of articles and pictures ably put together by our wonderful editor, Liveryman Ian Balcombe and Assistant Clerk Jane Foreman, who both do such an amazing job each month; and both of whom, I am pleased to say, have agreed to carry on. My thanks also to Gerald Sharp Photography for kindly supplying images. Please keep sending in any interesting contributions and letters to the Editor letting us know what you think, and we will make sure that as many as possible are included. I hope that you will find many items of interest in this edition.

City of London Corporation

Sheriff Alison Gowman

The Sheriffs' consorts, Glenn and Felicity, are organising a concert in the Grand Hall of the Old Bailey and it looks like it will be the hot ticket of May ([see details at this link](#)). Proceeds are in aid of the Sheriffs' and Recorder's Fund, <https://sr-fund.org>.

Whilst the Lady Mayoress's Sleep Out is imminent and I have reached my fundraising total, I can still collect funds on my Just Giving page for a couple more weeks – in aid of The Lord Mayor's Appeal and Spitalfields Crypt Trust: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/alisongowman>

Guildhall Art Gallery

Guildhall Art Gallery & London's Roman Amphitheatre will reopen on April 8 with a brand-new exhibition called Inspired! after being temporarily closed for maintenance work.

The exhibition draws from the art gallery's permanent collections and will examine ways in which visual artists have taken inspiration from other art forms – poetry, plays, novels, and music.



The exhibition will include paintings, drawings and sculptures which show the variety of inspirations and influences for artists from the 17th to the 19th century, including portraits of writers, actors, composers, and musicians.

The gallery has also acquired an early example of UK artist David Hopper's work, called 'Camberwell Flats by Night'. He is best known for his paintings of buildings, especially tower blocks.

Our Charitable Fund

St Margaret Pattens - The Beadle and Church and Guild Church Administrator Chris Moore

We shall hold the AGM for your Guild Church on Thursday 28th April. It will be held both face to face and online, at 2p.m. If the latter is preferred, please send a request by email to: info@stmargaretpattens.org and I shall have the Zoom link sent to you in good time. The duration is never much over an hour in length and it will be good to have as many join us as can.

Agenda and Minutes along with the Annual Report can be requested electronically and using this method saves a lot on paper and postage.

These should be available around or shortly after 10th April after GCC approval.

From the Editor

Sitting having tea in the Shard, I couldn't help but notice our Guild Church.



Our History

Mary Randall Vickers - **Court Assistant Steve Huxham**

Honorary Freeman John Foxon noticed on the Vickers Oils history page started life as a Pattenmaking concern.

Upon enquiry Peter Vickers, Chairman of Vickers Oils and a fifth generation of the family to head the company, had a search of the archives and has so far been able to provide an image of his great-great-grandmother's business card (shown below). He comments that "as she died in 1826, the card must, de facto, predate that".



Their excellent website states that in 1808, Mary Randall Vickers was left a widow with eight children to raise. She continued the family business of making pattens, and that in 1819 Mary Vickers & Son was one of very few formal businesses headed by a woman. The Limited Company of the same name still exists today.

I wrote to tell him that this simple item is more brilliant to have sight of than he knows. As Liveryman Dr Stephen Cribb will recall, when we were doing research for the History Book, we only managed to find a mere single number of other examples (mostly in the Bodleian Library) which is hardly surprising given the likelihood of such fragile ephemera to survive.



Mary Randall Vickers – from the Vickers Oil Website

Members News

The Court and Livery Dinner

This was held after the Installation Ceremony in the magnificent Vintners' Hall.



The Master proposed the Toasts to The Queen, Royal Family and to the Lord Mayor and the City of London

Liveryman Graham Perry proposed the toast to the Guests, commenting that at a feast in 1363 the Vintners' Company entertained five Kings – Edward III of England, David II of Scotland, Jean II of France, Valdemar III of Denmark and Peter I of Cyprus.



In her response Sonia Jacob, Principal of City of London Academy Islington, spoke movingly of the inspiration that her grandfather who had escaped Nazi Germany had given her, and the value of the partnership with the Pattenmakers who are supportive financially and provide experience in shoe design.

We are saddened to report the passing of Liveryman Ken Lyndon-Dykes (pictured below)



and Freeman Sam Little

Events

Virtual Quiz Night

Tuesday 2nd April

Please [click here for](#) the invite

Annual Footwear Dinner

Save the Date : Thursday 12th May

Please [click here for](#) more information

Pattenmakers' Events Calendar

Please [click here to](#) view

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

Regards,

Ian

Editor

Worshipful Company of Pattenmakers

Tel: 07710 689406

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Our mailing address is:

3 The High Street | Sutton Valence | Kent | ME17 3AG

www.pattenmakers.co.uk

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