

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

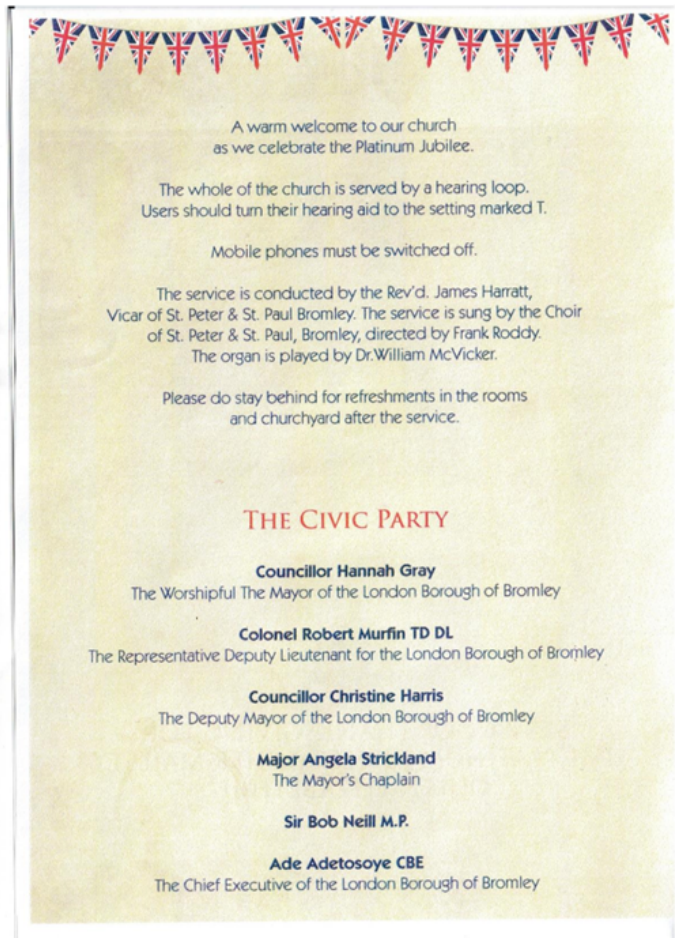
Chamberlain's Court

We hope that everyone enjoyed the Platinum Jubilee weekend! The Court was, of course, closed but our waiting room was in use, helping house those involved in the Platinum Jubilee Guildhall Reception.



The Clerk

in common with a huge proportion of the populace spent most of the weekend watching spectacular events on the television, except Friday, having seen the Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral in the morning I was on parade in the London Borough of Bromley in the afternoon, took the Salute at a marvellous parade and March Past of all the uniformed Cadet organisations in the Borough including a Corps of Drums, followed by our own Service of thanksgiving in Bromley Parish Church



Platinum Decoration

As I left the Savoy recently after the Platinum Jubilee Weekend I noticed the cats were adorned with top hats and vibrant purple neck decorations. I had never before paid particular attention to the topiary gracing the entrance to the hotel as one is usually too preoccupied dodging the traffic on the wrong side of the road (as you are no doubt aware this is the only street in the whole of the United Kingdom that you legally drive on the right).

However, the story, the legend, of Kasper the cat is worth recounting. In 1898 a [dinner](#) party was hosted by a wealthy South African, Woolf Joel. A couple of guests had to cancel at the last minute so the table was set for 13 people. Stories concerning this well-known unlucky number became the topic of conversation during the evening including one superstition that the first person to get up from a table of 13 would be the first to die.

This was laughed at by one and all and as a demonstration of his contempt for such a silly legend the host and got up first and left the table.



Two weeks later he was shot dead.

Obviously this news came as a big shock both to the diners and the staff at the Savoy as you can imagine. It was decided that, to obviate any chance of a reoccurrence, the Savoy would always lay a 14th place which would be occupied by a member of the Savoy staff and served exactly the same meal as the other 13 diners.

This was the procedure for the next 25 years. Aside of the intrusion of an unknown guest at the table the Savoy was also losing a member of staff for the evening as well as the additional cost involved.

During the redecorating of the private dining room "Pinafore" in the 1920s the architect Basil Ionides suggested that he also create a lucky black cat to act as the 14th dinner guest.



Named Kasper he is some two feet tall, carved in wood and joins the table as the 14th guest, adorned with a napkin and is served the same dinner as the other 13 guests. When not "working" he sits in a display case in the foyer. There is a story that Winston Churchill was so fond of Kasper he insisted Kasper joined as a dinner guest regardless on the number dining!

The legend continues . . .

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacon – Liveryman Ian Balcombe

The Rotary Club of London of which I will become President on July 1st together with the City Livery Club arranged the lighting of a Platinum Jubilee Beacon on the rooftop garden of Nomura – the Japanese investment house based in the Ward of Dowgate. The evening included Bollywood dancers and a Duke of Edinburgh Award Winners fashion show. The Deputy Secretary General of the Commonwealth Secretariat, Dr Arjoon Suddhoo, spoke of the Beacons flashing across the Commonwealth Nations. The Lord Mayor lit the beacon at 21.45 and the light shone out across the River and the City, part of a long line stretching the length of the UK





I also visited the exhibition held at Stanley Gibbons on the Strand who had Andy Warhol's picture of HM Queen on display amongst the stamps of course.

Liveryman David Sharp

We were delighted to spend the Platinum Jubilee weekend with friends and family at home in Wells-next-the-Sea.

We greatly enjoyed the early holiday good weather, the wonderfully decorated shops and houses in the town, and the 'fresh air and freedom' (as the Harbour Master calls it) of the beautiful North Norfolk coast. There was consternation on the Saturday evening upon seeing the heavy rain forecast for the street party the following day. However, questions of the organiser were met with the reply: "We're British. Of course it's going ahead."



I'm pleased to report that the Platinum Jubilee street party took place despite the drizzle, opened officially by Baroness Glenconner, former lady-in-waiting to Princess Margaret, who served as a maid of honour at the Queen's coronation in 1953. Much fun was had by all!

Past Master Dr David Best

In the area of Herefordshire where Victoria and I live there is a very active community, who need very little encouragement to arrange a party. It was no surprise therefore that in the Platinum Jubilee "how to take part" guide to Beacons, instructions were included on how to make the Bishops Frome Strawman, that being the name of our local village. From 6 pm a sizeable crowd assembled to take part in "Its a knock Out!" Style games and to await the lighting of the Strawman, shown here.

Within a short time four or more beacons could be seen on the horizon, including to the East the Worcestershire Beacon, and beacons on the hills of Wales seen in the distance in this photo. Pizzas and a mobile bar ensured the party went with a swing and a fifteen minute firework display completed the proceedings. The following day the village hall hosted a party with food, raffles and a bouncy castle, whilst in the market town of Bromyard a Scarecrow festival added to the festivities.

On Sunday our own house party rounded off the weekend for friends and neighbours.

Past Master Raymond Sancroft – Baker

We had over 250 people come to our farm to the beacon lighting event.

We had a bar in the barn as well as serving Jubilee tart and sausages. It really was a memorable evening with good weather and a great atmosphere.



Court Assistant - Steve Huxham

Pia and I were not lucky, nor well connected, enough, to be invited to any of the major London events, but nevertheless we were busy throughout the four days here in Kent. It all commenced with the lighting of the Beacon here in the village on Thursday evening.



Judging by the official maps at least, this appeared to be the only one in the local area, which was a surprise. Maybe we need a name shift from “Royal” Tunbridge Wells to Royal Rusthall?

The town made up for this omission somewhat on Friday with a large parade at the War Memorial in the centre of Tunbridge Wells.

I am pleased to be able to report to fellow Pattenmakers that the Kent Army Cadets contingent was very well turned out and drilled, although the loudest applause was, as would be expected, reserved for the Ukrainian representatives now living locally and included in the parade. Most of the town, ourselves included, then followed the parade back up to Dunorlan Park for a communal town picnic with entertainment provided for the afternoon.



On Saturday afternoon and evening, we went with friends to an excellent production at Glyndebourne of the rarely performed Ethel Smyth opera *The Wreckers*. I believe this is the first time Glyndebourne has featured work by a female composer, and suffice it to say that it should be performed more often! Not exactly a Jubilee connection, but hugely enjoyable nonetheless. The weekend was capped off with another communal party with local friends in a private woodland setting in Tunbridge Wells, where the local roads, whose residents jointly own this delightful setting put on a memorable.



The Upper Warden drank a toast to Her Majesty



Past Master Richard Kottler

As you can see from the photo below, Sonja and I were pleased to have taken part in the main Parade on the Sunday. We were in the 60's section dressed as Mods and had the "joy" of dancing/walking about 8 miles along with 7,000 other volunteers. Unlike me, Sonja had previous experiences this sort of "mass movement of people" having taken part in the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2012 Olympics but I enjoyed my inauguration as a "support artiste!"



It was incredibly well organised and enormous fun to be part of - despite the damage done to an already aching achilles tendon!. There were some great sights to see including the various buses representing the 7 decades of HRH's reign and on the 60's bus there were several personalities who either were unrecognisable or so weathered that they were difficult to identify, for example, Tony Blackburn and Wayne Sleep but clearly the stand out was Basil Brush! We were so fortunate that the weather was kind - no rain and no boiling temperatures - and had the additional bonus of ending up right in front of the stage for the performance of Ed Sheeran and others and had a good

view of the Royals stepping out on the balcony.

All in all, a fantastic day and I might put my hand in the air for the next Jubilee event in 30 years time but I will definitely NOT be wearing pattens.

Liveryman Graham Perry - The Masters' Dinner at London Zoo - 8th June 2022

This year the Members' Dinner took place on the 8th June at ZSL London Zoo in Regents park and what a delightful evening it was. The weather was glorious and so those attending were able to enjoy pre-dinner drinks outside the very beautiful Mappin Pavilion, a Grade 2 listed building overlooking the wallabies and emus in an Australian Outback setting.



Dinner was served in the Pavilion itself and after this we were extremely fortunate to have as our guest speaker the world renowned biologist and conservationist Ian Redmond OBE.

Ian is a tropical field biologist and conservationist, renowned for his work with great apes and elephants. For more than 35 years he has been associated with Mountain Gorillas, through research, filming, tourism and conservation work. His mentor was the late Diane Fossey, who he worked with studying and protecting the mountain gorillas of Rwanda and Zaire. This work also led him into documentary film-making. Ian is the man who introduced Sir David Attenborough to the gorillas in 1978, for the famous BBC 'Life on Earth' sequences, and who taught Sigourney Weaver to grunt like a gorilla in 1987, for her award-winning role in the film 'Gorillas in the Mist'.

Ian is an exceptionally entertaining speaker and after teaching us all to grunt in the same way he had taught Sigourney Weaver he then went on to recount several stories of his life there as well as returning there more recently to observe some of their successes and to talk to some of the poachers who are now game keepers; and their views of him and the trouble he had caused them.

Ian went on to speak about the work he is doing with a charity called The Thin Green Line, <https://thingreenline.org.uk/> an organisation that is dedicated to 'protecting natures protectors'. More than 1000 rangers have died in the last 10 years protecting the animals in their care and the vast majority of these have been killed by poachers. These brave individuals receive no compensation or insurance when this happens and often their families lose their homes at the same time as part of their employment.

The Thin Green Line is working hard to change this situation and get better conditions for future gamekeepers, they are also providing support to the families of these rangers as well as training and equipment to existing rangers to make their jobs easier and less dangerous.

The Master thanked Ian for his most entertaining speech and then presented him with a copy of our book 'Out of the Mud' and its follow up 'Out of the Pandemic' along with a personal donation to his charity. This was followed by an open bar and some musical entertainment before it was time for carriages. A fabulous evening with some delightful company, glorious weather and very entertaining speaker, was an amalgamation of a few of the comments from those who attended.



Prince Arthur 2022 – Liveryman Golf Captain James Turgoose

The Prince Arthur Cup – the most prestigious of the inter livery golf competitions – resumed its normal May slot this year at Walton Heath Golf Club. And for the 2nd year in a row the Pattenmakers were teeing it up.

As always the format was 36 holes of foursomes – Stephen Etheridge and Christian Castle led us out followed by James Turgoose and Mark Jeffrey.



Despite some torrential downpours before tee off, the weather was kind during the day. The format of 36 holes means there is an eagerly anticipated luncheon interval... where the refreshments certainly flowed. Given this it is rather perplexing to say the least that the Pattenmakers played significantly better in the afternoon session!

In the end we finished a very creditable 7th out of the 37 teams who entered. A pleasing result and a substantial improvement on our debut last year when we finished 20th. The winners this year were

the Leathersellers, followed by the Cutlers in 2nd and the Merchant Taylors (who I am told always take it very seriously) in 3rd place.

If there are fellow liverymen interested in golfing then do get in touch.

Liveryman Chau Har Lee



Tom and I had our beautiful baby daughter on 10/05/22. We have named her Yu Fei Lee Baskaya (she will go by Fei, pronounced Faye). We are over the moon and totally in love.

Gardening

The Tower of London Moat - Past Mistress Pattenmaker Sonja Garsvo

20 million carefully selected seeds have been sown in the Tower's famous moat, creating a vibrant sea of flowers which will continuously evolve from June to September, changing colours and patterns throughout the summer. With a planting scheme designed to attract bees, pollinators and seed-eating birds, the display will provide a biodiverse space to support wildlife. The Superbloom will be the first stage of a permanent transformation of the moat into a new natural landscape in the heart of the City of London.



Liveryman Ian Balcombe – Regent’s Park

The usual Floral Elephant has this year been replaced by a Floral Gardener



Meanwhile the Goslings are getting bigger.



Recipe of the Week

Liveryman Ian Balcombe - Laura Bush's Texas Governor's Mansion Cowboy Cookies

On a recent visit to Houston, Texas I was given these homemade cookies – which were excellent

Please [click here](#) for full recipe



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

Copyright © 2020 Worshipful Company of Pattenmakers, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

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

www.pattenmakers.co.uk

IMPORTANT CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

The information contained in this e-mail is confidential and is intended solely for the addressee. Access to this e-mail by anyone else is unauthorised. If you are not the intended recipient, any disclosure, copying, distribution or any action to be taken in reliance on it is prohibited and may be unlawful. Please also contact the sender and delete the material from any computer.

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage subscription](#)

Add your postal address here!