



The Pattenmaker

NEWS FROM AROUND THE LIVERY

Issue 80

Monday 31st October 2022

From the Master, Sarah Leijten



I hope that many of you have been enjoying the unseasonal warm weather. The much needed rain, at least here in West Berks, has been very welcome and my lawn is starting to look less like the Kalahari.

This edition of our newsletter is our 80th!! What a milestone, and in it there is much to celebrate and mention; including memories from some members of her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Many highlights are included below, but please do click through to find out more where there is further detail.

On the 2nd October participants of the London Marathon included 4 individuals running on our behalf; Scarlett Pickard and her mother Penny, Daniel McCann and Will Jeffery (pictured on the left here running across Tower Bridge!) - all sporting the Pattenmakers' jersey.

They did amazingly well on a day that was bright, and despite the train strike the day before, saw large numbers of spectators cheering all runners on. All four did amazingly well and should all be justifiably proud not just for completing the course but also for the times they ran it in. Our fundraising total keeps on rising – so thank you to everyone who has contributed.



We had our Autumn Court and Livery Dinner in the wonderful Cutlers' Hall on the 6th October, where we heard from our guest speaker Zoe Snelgrove. Representing a charity called 'I Choose Freedom' which provides shelters and places of safety for those feeling domestic violence. Zoe spoke so eloquently and movingly about the plight of such individuals and their children. It was very sobering to hear that these women were all at risk of being killed, and that still today shelters are having to turn away 5 out of every 6 women needing refuge. The Master's Discretionary Fund for the year was presented to them, going towards shoes or welcome packs.



At the same dinner it gave me great pleasure to present the Pattenmakers' award for the most outstanding Cadet of the University of London Air Squadron to Emma Lloyd, who attended the Dinner with her Commanding Officer. As a Livery, we pride ourselves on the many affiliations we enjoy with different areas of the armed forces and in particular where we are able to make a difference to young people. This includes our support for the Kent Cadets which allows children, who may not ordinarily be able, to attend the annual summer camps.

At the Court meeting, prior to the dinner, we admitted three new Freeman: Scarlett Pickard – daughter of Liveryman Martin Pickard, John Hooker – the CEO of SATRA and main sponsor of our Footwear dinner, and Michael Bodsworth. We also clothed two new Liveryman: Geoff Prudence and Brett Skipper.

On the 18th October we held our annual Facilities Management Trade Dinner, this time in the Apothecaries' Hall. It was superbly organised by Liveryman Mike Packham, thoroughly enjoyed by all attendees and, by all accounts, a huge success. The guest speaker was Samantha West, who gave a pre-dinner talk on her journey to her transition into a woman. This was both thought provoking, courageous and interesting. She continued on the theme of diversity in action and how important it is during her talk after dinner. Samantha was great company and we loved her sense of humour which was obvious throughout the evening. She was presented with a copy of our Company's' history book by way of a thank you.



As your Master I have been out and about this month. Philip and I have attended the Art in The City exhibition at the Painters' Hall; we were personal guests of the Master Loriner at the Loriners'

Autumn Dinner at the Ironmongers' Hall and the following day were guests of the Master Framework Knitter at their Annual Banquet at the Plaisterers' Hall; at which the Right Honourable The Lord Mayor also attended.

Philip as my Consort has, I think, nearly received more invitations than I have! According to the Clerk's grapevine this seems to be a theme for the Consorts this year! He had a lovely opportunity to join the Glovers' Consorts lunch which afforded those attending, to view a number of projects presented by students of needlework and from the London School of Fashion. I was lucky enough to have been given an invitation to tag along.....

Looking ahead myself, the Upper Warden, Trade Warden and Beadle will be flying the Pattenmakers' banner in the Lord Mayor's Show on the 12th November as we process as part of the Ancient Livery Float. There is an opportunity to lunch at the Apothecaries' Hall, as well as use their Hall as a base for the day, for those who might wish to show their support. [Please click here for the flyer and booking form](#). We have our ever-popular Young Pattenmakers' Dinner on the 18th November at the Saddlers' Hall, which I believe is already almost sold out. The Champagne tasting is on the 1st December at the Guildhall – about which a flyer will follow very shortly – and which I can highly recommend.

November looks to be another busy month for Livery activities, interspersed with train strikes which will make it rather interesting from a logistics perspective for anyone attending events! I wish all those of you who will be out and about good luck and look forward to seeing many of you soon.

City of London Corporation



12 November from 11am



THE LORD MAYOR'S SHOW 2022

lordmayorsshow.london



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LIVERY COMMITTEE

Please [click here](#) for the October version of the Livery Briefing newsletter, which will also shortly be available on the Livery Committee website at www.liverycommittee.org.

Quit Rents Ceremony

The Sheriffs have an important second part to their installation which is the ancient Quit Rents Ceremony at the Royal Courts of Justice where the approval of the Monarch is given to the election of the Sheriffs by the Livery. The ceremony is preceded by a river trip from Tower to Temple Pier.

Liveryman Ian Balcombe attended the ceremony and took the photograph of Non-Aldermanic Sheriff Andrew Marsden together with Renter Warden Deputy Keith Bottomley who as Chairman of the City of London Port Health and Environment Committee had accompanied the Sheriffs on the river trip.



Memories of HM Queen Elizabeth II

Past Master Stuart Lamb, MBE

Jean and I were very fortunate in being selected to be introduced Her Late Majesty the Queen at one of the Buckingham Palace Garden Parties in my year as Master Pattenmaker.

As this was most unexpected we hurriedly gave very brief notes to the Gentleman Usher who would accompany HRH on her walk to meet those of us lucky enough to be selected.

Having a short bout of nervousness I was trying to work out what my response to questions about being the Master of one of London's ancient Liveries might be or perhaps my involvement in the footwear industry.

However, Her Majesties first words (and most of the conversation thereafter) were addressed to Jean when she said "I understand you like gardening, have you had chance to look at my roses? What do you think to them this year?" There then ensued a technical conversation about various species, their care and types of soil which suits them best which all went entirely over my head!

It was such a privilege, so memorable and I was completely mesmerised by the Queen's absolutely radiant smile, her twinkling eyes, delightful sense of humour, and the perfect way in which she put us both at ease. A wonderful meeting we will never forget.

Past Master Richard Kottler

I had the honour and pleasure to meet Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth twice, in 1990 and 1991. At that point I owned H&M Rayne through which I held the Royal Warrants to make shoes and handbags for both the Queen and the Queen Mother. The Warrants which are personally granted to providers of products or services were originally granted to Past Master Sir Edward Rayne - a great link to the Pattenmakers. The shoes and handbags were made in the UK in our factory in Tottenham as is required by the Warrants.

On both occasions, I was invited along with the skilled shoemaker, who actually hand-made the shoes, to visit Her Majesty at Buckingham Palace in order to discuss her requirements. I remember arriving at the side entrance to the Palace and being surprised that security in those days was virtually nonexistent, despite the cobbler having a bag of tools - knives, hammers etc - it was not examined at all!

We entered the Palace via the staff tunnel which contains offices and store rooms and a noticeboard (with the Buckingham Palace football team sheet on it) and its very own little post box. We were escorted upstairs by an uniformed flunkey and placed in a waiting room and offered tea served on the finest China. Next door was the visitors' loo which was distinguished by a wooden double-seater toilet! The walls were covered in original paintings and sketches by the likes of Heath Robinson. From this vantage point one could see into the inner lawns and watch the corgis being taken for a walk by a few servants.

We entered the Queen's boudoir and she was there just by herself. Her sideboard was covered with photos and pictures (none of which I could remember much to Sonja's annoyance). I have to say that I was nervous. The first time you address a Royal you have to say 'Your Majesty' and each time after that you have to refer to her as 'Ma'am'. However, she was so friendly and natural that on one occasion I inadvertently called her 'Mum'.

We examined her existing shoes and she told us that my predecessor had tried to get her to wear more fashionable, narrow toed footwear, which clearly had not been worn. The Queen reminded us that she could be wearing a pair of shoes for 10-12 hours at a time and needed comfort as much as style and hoped that we could revert to her previous more comfortable last! As this was effectively a Royal Command we readily agreed to do this and she selected several pairs in her traditional design all in black. Much to our surprise Her Majesty also told us that she had had a few pairs repaired where a strap had broken or come loose, we were amazed how frugal she appeared.

The time went so quickly (and due to my nerves) I did not really take in the detail of her apartment so I disappointed the many people that quizzed me on the set up in her room, the colours, furnishings, trinkets etc. We were eventually escorted out by the same flunkey and everyone was so charming and relatively informal.

Once the new shoes were ready we returned to the Palace and again surprisingly no real security - which was a real contrast to when we visited No 10 a few weeks later to take an order for footwear from Mrs. Major. Here we were nearly strip searched and certainly were not allowed to take in anything sharp or potentially a weapon!

On our subsequent visit to Buckingham Palace all went well, It was very informal and there was less pressure. And again the Queen commented on how crucial a comfortable pair of shoes was to her ability to last the days and nights of constant standing, walking and having to cope with several changes of her clothes for the day and evening.

Afterwards having been left to wait for some time in the adjacent room I worked out that we had been forgotten by the flunkey, and decided to find our own way back to the exit. So for the next half an hour, we wandered the Palace, getting lost, going into ballrooms, state rooms and corridors - still with a bag of lethal weapons! Eventually we found someone and was guided back to the entrance - via the staff tunnel of course. I doubt that degree of complacency would be allowed these days.

Jump to the Summer of 2017 and as Master Pattenmaker we were invited to a Buckingham Palace Garden Party and on this occasion entered by the front gate! While we did not meet her Majesty personally we were able to see her, Prince Phillip (his last Garden Party) and most of the Royal Family at close quarters. And of course take a good look at her shoes, which looked very familiar. She clearly had decided not to experiment with style, colour or leather type - unlike the Queen Mother who was far less risk averse!

Past Master Dame Heather Steel

In December 1993, I went to Buckingham Palace to receive the badge and star of my Damehood from HM the Queen. To be alone with her in her drawing room for the twenty minutes of the private audience was perhaps the greatest privilege of my life. Having received the insignia from her, I was invited to sit and talk to her. She was warm, kind and wise. It was a joy to be with her and the occasion was unforgettable, She was a wonderful monarch and woman who had a beautiful smile. I share the love and respect for her which has been demonstrated by millions worldwide who now mourn her and celebrate her life.

Liveryman Martin Finnerty



My partner, Catherina Casey, was invited to meet the Queen at Buckingham Palace in 2011 at a reception for leaders of the Irish community in Great Britain to celebrate the first state visit by a British monarch to the Republic of Ireland. It was a significant bridge-building visit and heralded as a huge success in helping to heal the hurts of the past and carving out a future path for the progressive growth of the relationship between the two islands. A truly wonderful memory and example of Queen Elizabeth's use of soft power to effect real, impactful change.

Members' News

Member Lucy Reece-Raybould

Lucy is CEO of the British Footwear Association and was awarded her Freedom of the City of London. She commented on LinkedIn "Extremely proud (today) to receive the Freedom of the City of London. It's an incredible honour to follow in the footsteps of Florence Nightingale, Theodore Roosevelt, Winston Churchill and Ed Sheeran.

"I'm sad my lovely father isn't with us, he would have burst with pride.

Such a very special day, I am incredibly grateful to fellow Pattenmakers' Annette Cove and Jane Wilson for their nomination"



Liveryman Ian Balcombe as President of the Rotary Club of London was pleased to host Roger Harper MBE in his last week as Prime Warden (Master) of the Worshipful Company of Basketmakers. Roger spoke of his 20 years as a voluntary steward at Glastonbury and wore his T shirt under his chain of office.



Events



Royal Society of St George. City of London
Branch – Annual Banquet at Mansion House
16th December.

An invitation is extended to join this event –
[please click here](#) for the booking form.

Pattenmaker Calendar

Please [click here](#) for the Pattenmakers' Calendar

Pets' Corner

From the Clerk

My mate Bob supervising production of the FM
Dinner seating plan.



Letters to the Editor

From Past Master Dame Heather Steel to the Clerk

The Pattenmaker- Issue 79.

Truly a bumper edition! So much of interest and achievement going on and lovely to read of the participation of so many.

An excellent read. Best wishes to all.

Our 80th Edition



Stamps to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Birth of her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

With thanks to the Editorial Team, Contributors and Readers.

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

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