



# The Pattenmaker

NEWS FROM AROUND THE LIVERY

90<sup>TH</sup> EDITION

Issue 90

Friday 10th November 2023

From the Master, Commodore Patrick Tyrrell OBE Royal Navy



I am writing this in the wake of Storm Ciaran; here in the depths of Cornwall, winds were gusting 80 to 90 miles per hour and we lost power for the most of this morning. The storm is now moderating but all trains and roads leading out of Cornwall are, for the most part, impassable. We were scheduled to be calling on the Lady Mayoress at Mansion House but the fates deemed otherwise!

October has now passed; the sixth wettest since records began. A mere twelve months' ago we were looking at depleted reservoirs and were subject to a hosepipe ban!

Since our last Newsletter, we have celebrated a Trafalgar Night dinner at Trinity House. Home of the body responsible for lighthouses and buoys, this was a very suitable venue for our dinner. Between them, the Gallant Clerk and the Head of Catering had transformed the hall into a Naval Mess, complete with serving staff in striped blue and white tops, sprigs labelled with the names of some of Nelson's ships, a menu card with descriptions of the battle and even a tot of rum for those who wished to respond appropriately to the toast to "The Immortal Memory". Admiral The Lord West of Spithead gave an excellent speech on the relevance of Nelson in today's world. Our Company Jongleur, otherwise better known as the Beadle, led the party in a rendition of "What Shall We Do with the Drunken Pattenmaker" and "Rule Britannia" – a fitting end to a wonderful dinner!



That week had been quite exciting for your Master! On the Monday I attended a dinner for the Furniture Makers, on the Tuesday, I was hosted at the Wheelwrights dinner in the glorious surrounds of

Goldsmiths' Hall and on the Thursday, I was entertained at the Tallow Chandlers Lunch. The Wednesday evening was especially exciting: the City of London has, traditionally, held a banquet for a newly crowned Sovereign to demonstrate the loyalty and support of the City for their new monarch. Accordingly, we were summoned to Mansion House for the City Coronation Dinner with Their Majesties The King and Queen. It was a stunning affair and His Majesty gave an excellent speech illumination the qualities he believed our nation possesses, including tolerance, fair play and a great sense of humour. He suggested that we needed such humour when any ink pen we might be using explodes!



*The Master (middle) after the Dinner*



*Presented to His Majesty the King - Past Master Deputy Chris Hayward (left) and Upper Warden Deputy Keith Bottomley (right)*

My year as Master is passing very quickly and this week will see the annual Remembrance Day service at St Pauls and the planting of the crosses of Remembrance. It is a sad thought that we are never far from conflict and it is important that we remember those who gave their lives for our futures. We will also be holding our Master and Clerks luncheon, where I entertain a number of fellow masters and their respective wardens in return for hospitality extended to the Pattenmakers during the year.

On the 10 November, our new Lord Mayor, the 695th, Michael Mainelli, will be installed at a silent ceremony in the Guildhall. The following day he will ride out in the Golden Coach at the head of the Lord Mayor's Show. Originally designed as a way in which the new Lord Mayor was exposed to the citizens of the City, in the absence of any other form of social media! The members of the various Livery companies vied with each other to be as close to the coach as possible and, young men being young men, violence was never far away. In order to bring some order out of chaos, in 1515 the Lord Mayor instructed that Liveries would line up in the order of the receipt of their Royal Charter. This order of precedence is the one still used to this day!

November is another busy month for the Company. I'm delighted to report that the YP dinner on 17th November is very nearly fully booked and I look forward to seeing many of you there supporting our Young Pattenmakers. Our Company is privileged to have a vibrant and successful Young Pattenmakers group – I have tried to join but am told that you have to be under 40!

Another important date for your diaries is the celebration of Evensong on 23rd November at our Livery Church, St Margaret Patten. This will be an informal event at our beautiful church. Refreshments will be provided and we will be joined by our partner Livery, The Worshipful Company of Basketmakers. We need to give our church our full support.

Do make sure your diary is clear Friday 26th January for our Annual Banquet at the Mansion House, when we will be hosting the Lord Mayor Michael Mainelli and the Civic Party in attendance. Details including how

to book will be circulated shortly. Do not delay in responding as this is our most popular event of the year.

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## City of London Corporation

**Past Master Deputy Chris Hayward** unveiling with the Deputy Mayor for Culture for London **Justine Simons OBE** the Foundation Stone of the new London Museum



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## Coronation Screen - Report on the Presentation to the Livery Companies, Past Master Tim Watts

Past Masters Nick Andrews and Sarah Leitjen and I were lucky enough to be attend a presentation about the production of the Screen, given at Drapers' Hall to representatives of all the contributing Companies.



*Photo courtesy of The Press Association*

The most sacred part of the Coronation Service is regarded as the anointing, signifying the gift of the Holy Spirit to guide the Sovereign. This is an ancient ritual as we know from Handel's anthem that "Zadok the Priest and Nathan the Prophet anointed Solomon King" (1 Kings, i, 34). It was the King's wish that, at the point of the Coronation Service where he was to be anointed, this be hidden from view as has been the custom; and not by canopy of cloth of gold used for the Late Queen's coronation but by a Screen.

In that strange way that things seem to work, someone had a word with someone and thus the privilege of designing, procuring, organising and paying for the Screen became the contribution of the City to the Service. The Pattenmakers made a financial contribution, as did 87 other Livery Companies and the Corporation.

The principals in the various disciplines involved in the project all spoke and the Screen was on display in the Court Room at Drapers'. The final design was not completed and approved until Christmas 2022 which left a very little time to make the Screen before 6th May. It will be remembered that there were in fact three screens. The central screen, which faced the congregation, has a design of a tree under the sun (with the King's cypher on the trunk to represent the Sovereign as servant of their people). The design was inspired by the stained-glass window in the Chapel Royal at St James's Place (gifted by the Livery for the Queen's Jubilee in 2002). The two side screens each bore a Cross with the design of that symbol inspired by the pattern of the Cosmati Pavement, which is the very old and delicate floor in front of the High Altar of the Abbey where the King was sitting for the anointing. We heard about the design by an expert in the iconography, the weaving of the material (wool from Australia and New Zealand), the use of digital systems in the machine that embroidered the outline of the tree, the further smaller and more detailed elements (such as the leaves on the tree) which were made and applied by the Royal School of Needlework, the making of the supporting framework and poles (from a recently fallen Oak tree planted in Windsor Great Park in the 1760s) and the bronze eagles (reflecting the eagle on the Ampulla containing the oil) surmounting these poles. Finally, we heard from the Sgt-Major who drilled and commanded the Guardsmen who brought the screen in and out at the crucial point (illustrated by schematics of the drill used, made complicated by the fact that the Sgt-Major could not see the whole squad because some were hidden by the screen!).

The use of appliqué, that is attaching separate elements over the base cloth, will allow appropriate adjustments to be made for the use of this Screen at future Coronations, if that is the Monarch's wish, and so perhaps the Pattenmakers' contribution to the making of this object might be to something that will be used in many such services.



There were a number of questions from the 220 Liverymen in attendance. It was pleasing to hear that there were 1.3m stitches in the embroidery outline and that the whole project, the design, making, transporting and delivering, were within budget. One challenging question was why should the anointing be screened at all and, while the answer might be that the King desired this, the expert in iconography suggested that the motif of a tree with its roots in the earth, its trunk and its branches reaching to the sun (a motif representing Heaven) should inspire those witnessing the event to participate by contemplation of and feeling the uplifting spiritual significance of the anointing.

The Screen was on display at the Abbey after the Coronation, in Buckingham Palace over the summer opening and was now briefly in the City. No decision has yet been made as to where it might be displayed more permanently, although one North Country Master suggested that it should visit Yorkshire soon.

The presentation was followed by the opportunity to meet the designers and makers, to study the screen closely and, obviously being a City event, enjoy a glass wine and some canapes.

For more about the Anointing Screen see [www.royal.uk/news-and-activity/2023-04-29/the-anointing-screen](http://www.royal.uk/news-and-activity/2023-04-29/the-anointing-screen)

#### Footnote:

- *The digital stitching of over 1.3m stitches was completed over one long weekend (the appliqué, leaves etc were all hand stitched after the digital work was completed)*

- *RSN distributed the making of the leaves to embroiderers around the world for production of that county's leaf*
- *For the 3 minutes of activity, the Sgt Major and his team of screen bearers rehearsed for 380 hours, a good proportion being in full uniform*
- *The screen took 23 different trades to produce 184 people to make it (and the frame) and over 4000 hours of production time*

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**Extract of speech to the Rotary Club of London - Environment and Pearl Sword, Upper Warden Deputy Keith Bottomley**



*With Immediate Past President Rotary Club of London and Court Assistant Ian Balcombe*



We exist under a principle of 'prescription', in other words, the City of London Corporation acts as sovereign in the Square Mile. This authority is recognised by the Pearl Sword, which dates back to the reign of King Richard II in 1392. Each time a new monarch enters the City, the Lord Mayor must return the sword and thereby hands back power – which is returned, reaffirming sovereign authority. The ancient Pearl Sword ceremony was re-enacted outside Mansion House on 18th October, so I'm delighted that the City has very recently had its sovereignty reaffirmed by The King!

The City Corporation has a long and proud history of leadership, of driving positive environmental change. Back in the first half of the 1900s, London was often affected by smog. A particularly bad episode in December 1952 – the Great Smog – led to between four and twelve-thousand deaths. In 1954, the City Corporation was the first local authority in the country to designate its whole area a Smokeless Zone. Two years later, Parliament followed our example, and the national Clean Air Act was passed enabling other local authorities to do the same. Today, we carry on that bold and determined environmental leadership. Our work is spearheaded by our ambitious Climate Action Strategy which commits us to achieving net zero carbon emissions in our own operations by 2027. A strategy which I led in the formulation. It is, at my insistence, impactful, deliverable, and funded.

We also aim to become net zero across our investment and supply chain by 2040, and to support the achievement of net zero for the whole Square Mile by the same year. Our Climate Action Strategy makes us the first UK governing body to have a fully funded net zero commitment that covers all emissions – continuing that tradition of environmental leadership. And the overall result is tremendous.

Between 2018/19 and 2021/22, we have cut our annual carbon emissions by 31% and energy consumption by 21% respectively. Shortly, we will be releasing updated figures for financial year 2022/23 and they will also show that we are continuing to take vital strides forward. So how have we done this? Since 2018, we have been using 100% renewable electricity. In 2020, we agreed a £40 million deal with international energy provider Voltalia to buy all the electricity produced by a new solar farm for 15 years. Since January 2023, the facility has been providing over half of our electricity – sometimes 80% – and is saving over £3 million in energy costs per year. We are committed to increasing the City's climate resilience and are reducing the risk of surface water flooding during extreme weather events with sustainable drainage systems in new City buildings and in our streets.

Our new Whole-Life Carbon optioneering planning guidance is aimed at ensuring developers consider options such as refurbishing existing buildings, which can reduce the whole-life carbon of buildings.

Through our Cool Streets and Greening Programme, we are investing £6.8m to improve the resilience of the City streets, parks, and open spaces to the impacts of climate change. We manage 11,000 acres of green space across London and southeast England. They already remove an estimated 16,000 tonnes of carbon from the atmosphere a year, equivalent to 44% of our annual carbon footprint. This transformative package of work recently saw the City Corporation ranked in the top 20 councils in the country for climate action by the independent body Climate Emergency UK.

Knowing that climate action has long been an issue close to The King's heart, I had the pleasure of discussing this with His Majesty two weeks ago. His Majesty mentioned that if we get to number 1, he might present us with an award!

In the City, we have launched the Skills for a Sustainable Skyline Taskforce, which I have the privilege to chair, to help address the green skills gaps across our commercial built environment. The Skyline Skills Taskforce was convened in a response to the stark finding that 91% of surveyed professionals said that Central London's commercial built environment lacks sufficient skilled workers needed to achieve our sustainability targets.

To date, we have recruited over 350 firms to join the Taskforce, and we are working at pace to overcome systemic barriers to action, in order to attract new and diverse talent, as well as upskilling and reskilling our existing workforce. London is the leading global centre for green finance, a key part of the solution to tackling climate change. We are world leaders because of our reputation for innovation, access to a global investor base, and world-class clusters of expertise. The net zero transition towards a low-carbon economy will only succeed if properly financed. However, public money will not be enough. A massive global shift towards private sector sustainable finance is needed – which is where the City Corporation has a key role to play. We are promoting the UK's green finance expertise around the globe as sustainable development climbs up the agenda in international markets with which we partner. That involves extensive work and research all year round ranging from issues including transition finance, greenwashing, and plugging the 'ESG Data Gap'. But two annual highlights are our own Net Zero Delivery Summit which takes place each May and the COP gathering each December.

Having previously identified that the 'COP circuit' lacked a defined mid-point, an opportunity for business to look both back and forward, we stepped into the void. Last year, the City Corporation hosted the inaugural Net Zero Delivery Summit together with the UK COP Presidency. The Summit brought together nearly 200 international guests, including prominent business and public sector leaders in climate finance such as Special Presidential Envoy on Climate John Kerry, COP26 President Alok Sharma, and GFANZ co-Chair Mark Carney. This year, we hosted our second Net Zero Delivery Summit at the Mansion House in partnership with the Egyptian COP27 Presidency. This year's theme was a just transition. The focus was on delivery, promoting examples of best practice from the different sub-sectors of financial services in emerging markets, so that no community, no city, and no country is left behind. It is our hope that the Net Zero Delivery Summit drives the sustainable finance agenda forward and acts as an annual MOT of how the sector is delivering.



### **Guildhall Christmas Market - 27th and 28th November 2023**

On Monday 27th and Tuesday 28th November, Guildhall will be transformed into a luxury shopping experience with over 80 artisan stallholders selling gifts, décor, clothing, and food and drink at London's most beautiful medieval building. Founded in 1961, the Guildhall Christmas Market is the City's traditional Christmas market. It brings the City community together during the festive season, while raising vital funds to help people in crisis. A range of ticket options for the spectacular opening night and market day are available at [redcross.org.uk/guildhall](https://www.redcross.org.uk/guildhall).

At the spectacular opening night, we will welcome the Civic Party's guests of honour, Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester. On market day, you can enjoy a festive dining experience in the atmospheric Crypts—choose between luncheon and champagne afternoon tea. There will also be a street food festival in Guildhall Yard on Tuesday 28th November. Tickets are limited so book now to avoid disappointment

Click [here for more information](#)



**Brigantes November 2023 Newsletter** Please [click here](#) to view Newsletter

### **Brigantes 2023 Annual Winter Gathering and Concert, Friday 15th December in Carlisle**

An invitation to our Master, Wardens and Liverymen of the Pattenmakers who may live in the North West or Southern Scotland i.e. in Cumbria, Northumberland, Durham, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cheshire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester and the Scottish Borders.

Click [here for flyer](#) and booking form

### **Inter-Livery Christmas Carol Service and Lunch, Wednesday 13th December 2023 - The Worshipful Company of Stationers and Newspaper Makers**

The Master and Wardens of the Stationers' Company invite you and your Liverymen and Freemen to join them at Stationers' Hall for Christmas lunch, following a Christmas Carol Service at St Martin-within-Ludgate Church on Wednesday, 13 December 2023. This is a great opportunity for your Company to get together, in the spirit of Christmas, to celebrate with other Livery Companies and share in an excellent Christmas lunch.



#### **Tables**

We endeavour to give Companies individual tables but you may have to share with another Company, depending on your final number. Tables in the Hall can sit 10, 12 or 14 people.

#### **Timings**

Timings are 11.30 am for the Carol Service at St Martin-within-Ludgate Church with drinks being served in Stationers' Hall at 12.30 pm. Lunch will be served at 1.00 pm approximately. Lunch will consist of three courses with red and white wine; a glass of port will also be served.

#### **Cost**

The charge is £72 inc VAT per head. Please do NOT forward individual cheques from your Liverymen. I will invoice your Company for the total amount due immediately after the event.

Please be kind enough to Lucie McCord, Membership Events Manager: [events@stationers.org](mailto:events@stationers.org) your final numbers and any dietary requirements no later than Tuesday, 5th December.

### **Christmas Banquet 2023, Mansion House, Friday 15th December - The Royal Society of St George City Branch - Chairman, Deputy Chris Hayward**

The Chairman, Deputy Chris Hayward, looks forward to welcoming you and your guests at this festive occasion where we will have the attendance of the full Civic Party.

A sparkling wine reception from 6:30pm and a splendid four course meal at 7:30pm with music supplied by The London Banqueting Ensemble and their Post Horn Gallop.

The evening will also include the traditional singing of festive carols with the choir of St Stephen Walbrook.

Click [here for flyer](#) and booking form

### **MUSIC TO DINE FOR | A Christmas Baroque: The Byrd and The Wren - Thursday 23rd November 2023 at 6:45pm - The ArchiCantuar**

### A Christmas Baroque: Festive Songs and Winter Stories

Words & Music from Advent to Epiphany, both sacred and profane, celebrating the Tercentenary of Sir Christopher Wren and the Quattro-centenary of William Byrd.

Join us in the convivial company of just 36 people for this heart-warming series of Celebratory Receptions throughout the year.

Experience the exclusive setting of Sir Christopher Wren’s Temple Bar, the 350 year old upper room dating from 1672, at Paternoster Lodge, Paternoster Square, London EC4M 7DX

Tickets £100 per person by email reservation or online  
For more information, [email archicantiores@hotmail.com](mailto:archicantiores@hotmail.com)  
or book at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/archicantiores](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/archicantiores)

Click [here for flyer](#) and for more information

### Gemma Waugh PLT Project Co-ordinator

We would like to thank you for your support of Pollinating London Together so far. As part of our membership and growth we have attached a membership certificate



## Our Charitable Fund

Friends of St Margaret Pattens, Sung Evensong Service, Thursday 23rd November - Past Master Jennifer Bryant-Pearson

Dear fellow Pattenmaker

The Friends of St Margaret Pattens will be holding an extra special Sung Evensong service at 530pm on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November followed by drinks at 6pm in the church of St Margaret Pattens

We will be joined by Sheriff Bronek Masojada, the Master Pattenmaker and the Prime Warden Basketmaker along with other Wardens and Civic Officers on this special occasion

There is no charge for this event as we would like Pattenmakers and their family and friends to join us, together with the Basketmakers, for an evening of music and fellowship over drinks

It is an opportunity to view the wonderful architecture of Sir Christopher Wren in the company of Pattenmakers, Basketmakers and neighbours from nearby offices

We are proud to have St Margaret Pattens as our Guild church and would be delighted if you can come and see the splendid collection of pattens and historic items on display in the Pattenmakers' case in the entrance hall

**Please let us know if you are able to join us so that we can organise appropriate catering. RSVP to**

[friends@stmargaretpattens.org](mailto:friends@stmargaretpattens.org)

The Friends and our Honorary Chaplain, Rev Andrew Keep, look forward to welcoming you to St Margaret Pattens

Best wishes



Jennifer Bryant-Pearson

Past Master Pattenmaker

Chair, Friends of St Margaret Pattens

Want to find out more about becoming a Friend of St Margaret Pattens Church?

[Click here for more information](#)

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## Our History

### The Old Cobblers Shop - Past Master Tim Watts

After a pleasurable visit to the Museum of Cornish Life, I wrote to the Museum -

One display particularly caught my attention. In the display of things from the Cobblers Shop, you showed three items that I would call Pattens and I wonder if you have any information about the these overshoes (where made, date, was this a common design and so on).



I received a response -

*Unfortunately the pattens we have in our display have not got much information recorded about them in our museum records. Both sets of pattens were donated to the museum collection in 1954 and the information*

*recorded regards the materials and designs but not when they were from, who made them or where.*

*We have that two are wooden-based pattens with leather toe and heel pieces, a brass hinge at the base and a steel loop at the heel.*

*The other set have two wooden platforms on a circular metal base and one which is composed of a wooden base with leather heel and toe pieces with a hinged piece. Additionally, the two on the circular metal base have a floral design on their straps.*

*Any information you or another member of the Worshipful Company of Pattenmakers can provide about the pattens in our collection would be very valuable. We are always looking to update our museum records to provide more information about the objects in our collection.*

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## Members News

### Introducing our Clerk Designate Claire Hobson



A former senior civil servant, Claire began her career as a radiocommunications engineer with the Radiocommunications Agency, an Executive Agency of the Department for Trade and Industry. Following her initial training, Claire conducted interference studies and represented the UK at meetings to determine international agreements radio spectrum usage. She moved to the main department in 2000 to develop her policy and leadership skills, working on various projects including the first inquiry into mobile phones and health and the breakup of BT into Openreach and BT Retail. She also supported the mobile and fixed telecoms sectors in their dealings with Government.

In 2008 Claire moved to UK Trade & Investment to lead the promotion of UK-based financial services and encourage inward investment from the sector. Claire worked closely with the City and the Lord Mayor's office and Mansion House, supporting the Lord Mayor's role as ambassador of UK-based financial services. This was where she developed an interest in the City, its traditions and status as a global centre. Claire was fortunate to travel with the UK delegation on overseas visits to countries including Japan and India.

On promotion to the Senior Civil service, Claire led the work to increase the profile and improve the regulatory environment for socially responsible businesses including employee owned and social enterprises. She supported the Government's Women on Boards initiative – to reach 25% women on FTSE100 boards by 2015 – led by Lord Mervyn Davies.

Since leaving the civil service in 2016, Claire has worked for two different membership organisations, most recently for a charity supporting doctors improve their leadership skills and build confidence as leaders in the NHS, which evidence shows leads to better patient outcomes.

Claire lives in west Hertfordshire with her husband of 26 years, two grown up daughters, one dog and two cats. In her spare time she enjoys reading, watching cricket and discovering good food and wine.

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### Election of Renter Warden David Miller

I was admitted to the livery in January 1984 by patrimony, following my father and grandfather, both of whom were long-standing members of the Pattenmakers. My grandfather, Edward Miller, who was Master in 1970 and my father Anthony (Tony) Master in 1995.

I recently retired from over 40 years in various city roles, starting my career as a blue button on the floor of the London Stock Exchange again, following both father and grandfather!

For the last 20 years I remained in stocks and shares working at Invesco in Henley, which is where I live.

I have two daughters, both of whom have attended their first livery dinner, hopefully the first of many!



Any downtime I may have spent trying to stay fit, cycling and walking the leafy lanes of South Oxfordshire. Away from the Livery, I am a Parish Councillor and work with Readibus, a community transport charity based in Reading.

I am very excited to have been elected Renter Warden of this great Company and look forward to serving you all in the years to come. I know both my father and grandfather would have been thrilled to see me in the role.

### New Court Assistant Ian Balcombe



I was admitted to the Livery in 2000, my wife's late uncle Paul Ziff having proposed me when he was Master in 1999. I am originally from Cheshire and moved down to London in 1982 originally for 6 months to see if I liked it to my family's company of Public Insurance Loss Assessors. I was elected to Barnet Council from 1986 to 1990 and was Chairman of the Governing Body of 3 Schools in Barnet. I am a Life Member of the MCC and a member of the Royal Philatelic Society London and serve on its Governance Committee.

I am married to Gillian and we have one son Jamie, who is a Senior Engineering Consultant in Cambridge.

I have just finished a year as President of the Rotary Club of London – the first to be Chartered outside North America in 1912. This involved visits to Milan, Amsterdam and Guernsey to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of their Clubs.

Having stopped working full time after 40 years, I offered my services to then Master David Best and undertook to resurrect the Newsletter and produce one every 3 months. During Covid his successor Jennifer Bryant – Pearson asked if it could go to weekly during Covid, which it duly did. The then Master Sarah Leijten allowed me to revert to monthly editions. I am pleased to continue to edit the newsletter under our current Master and he we are on edition 90.

I am thrilled to have admitted to the Court as an Assistant and look forward to continuing to serve the Livery.

### New Liveryman



*Liveryman Brian de Bell*



*Liveryman Lucy Reece-Raybould*

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### Visit to our Patron HRH The Duke of Gloucester, KG - Liveryman Jamie Ingham Clark

As some may know, I am a trustee of the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group, something I feel is an enormous privilege to do. The Hospital is in fact a group of hospitals in the West Bank and Gaza, so is now taking up more consideration in these difficult times. The Hospital is part of the Most Venerable Order of St John of Jerusalem, where our Patron goes by the title of The Grand Prior and who runs the Order on behalf of our Sovereign Head, King Charles III. As an order of chivalry, we use ceremonial symbols in our processions at grand events, just as many liveries do and the City does at Mansion House and Guildhall.

To this end I have been working on a project to provide the Hospital with its own ceremonial sword, to represent the temporal authority of our Sovereign Head at investitures held in Jerusalem. Time was when we could take out a sword from London, but those days are long gone!

The whole project really got into gear when I was asked to attend the University of London Air Squadron dinner on behalf of the Pattenmakers. I was sat next to Sebastian Pooley from the Air Pilots and Navigators who mentioned his father, Robert, had taken over the Wilkinson Sword business of making swords when they decided to concentrate on razors.

That set in train a design meeting at the Pooley Workshop in Shoreham by Sea, which enabled me to set a target for fundraising and getting the sword manufactured.

As a last link in the chain, before getting it transported to Jerusalem, where it will be kept in a suitably secure display case, I thought it would be a nice touch to have it presented to our Grand Prior. I therefore approached his private secretary who got a 'Yes' from our Patron, so the arrangements were put in hand. It was a bright sunny day and the Grand Prior agreed to a photo as below. He did comment that the inscription was an essay, but I didn't see how it could be shorter!

The visit was two days before life in the middle east changed, but the world still goes round. Its journey to Jerusalem will no doubt be delayed, but I have no doubt it will be a graceful addition to the chivalric traditions of the Order and hopefully encourage us to further our efforts in providing much needed eye care services in that part of the world.

Please do contact me if you want any more information about what the Hospital does or go to the website <https://www.stjohnehospital.org>.



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All contributions are welcome – please send to the Editor Ian Balcombe [ianbalc@gmail.com](mailto:ianbalc@gmail.com)

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**Our mailing address is:**

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

[www.pattenmakers.co.uk](http://www.pattenmakers.co.uk)

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