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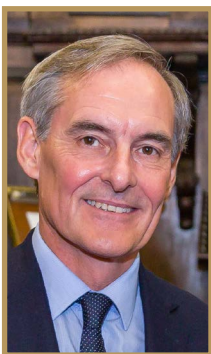
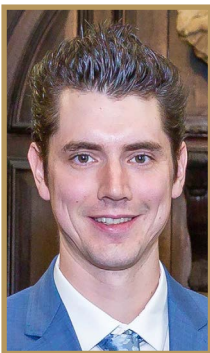
# MASTER & WARDENS

The newsletter of The Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers

## BRIGHT PROSPECTS

Admitted to Freedom on 17 October 2019, they come from different backgrounds and countries, they represent 12 professions and there is a 50-year age gap between youngest and oldest. So what brings such a varied and interesting group together? A commitment to vision, just like thousands of Freemen before them.

*Welcome to the Company, new Spectacle Makers!*



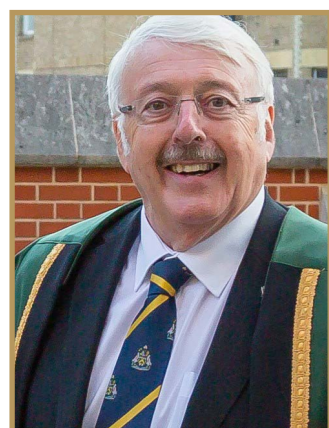
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# PRIVILEGE, PRIDE AND HONOUR



John McGregor OBE  
Deputy Master

Now that my year has come to an end, it has been a humbling experience to reflect upon my time as Master, an experience that I consider to have been a great privilege.

Central to the role of Master is the responsibility for promoting the Company name and upholding its reputation throughout the City. Different companies install their Masters at different points in the year and we should not forget the Masters and officers of

companies and guilds who join us from other cities too - Bristol, Sheffield, Edinburgh, Glasgow, York, Exeter, Worcester and Shrewsbury. With new faces appearing throughout the year, there is a regular need to present afresh the Company and what we stand for.

It is a delight to meet other Masters and their consorts and learn of their Companies' work. One swiftly learns that many have deeper pockets than we do and use their wealth in stunning fashion. However it is also reassuring that, despite our modest funding, we do very well in support of education and charity. Of course, if we enjoyed greater reserves we could do so much more but we should be proud of our history in support of outward facing activities. We also need to maintain our focus on supporting optics to ensure our continued relevance to the professions, industry and vision sector.

A steadily growing aspect of the Master's year is the involvement of consorts in the Livery world and I am indebted to Gloria, my "Mistress", who has thrown herself into the role and has projected the Company with great vigour, together with promoting awareness of the issues facing the hearing impaired amongst us. Gloria said that she would support me in anything I wished to do and she has done so admirably.



Gloria McGregor hands over to Gaynor Foulkes-Taylor

As Master, "working the room" can be a challenge but a great introduction tool is our Master's Badge. It may not be the most expensive Livery badge but it is certainly a show stopper and attracts attention, starting conversations wherever one goes. It has been an honour to wear it and I am pleased that the decision has been taken to remake and strengthen the badge in its current design, so that the real risk of the badge collapsing will not haunt future Masters.



I have always found the Livery movement to be welcoming and without divisions. Alongside the individual traditions and heritage of each Company, there is a great commonality of purpose in fostering education, charity and supporting the pillars of Livery, City, Charity, Craft and Fellowship. Meeting so many people from other companies and other organisations within the City has broadened my knowledge significantly, extended the recognition of the Spectacle Makers' Company and widened our circle of friends.

The Master's Badge

Talking of friends, I have been delighted by the number of Freemen and Liverymen we have admitted during the year. I am sure we will all look forward to welcoming our new members. I am also encouraged by the steadily growing number of Freemen who have expressed their intention to go onwards and progress through to becoming Liverymen. That includes several who originally joined the Company many years ago but, for various reasons, didn't get round to taking Freedom of the City. It is never too late and I would encourage anyone who wants to get more involved to take this step. A phone call to the Clerk, or a few minutes on our relaunched website [www.spectaclemakers.com/membership](http://www.spectaclemakers.com/membership) is all that is needed to find out more.

I was especially honoured in June to admit both my daughter and my son as Liverymen on the same day, an event that may not be unique but must be very rare. It was a wonderful occasion for me, filling me with pride.

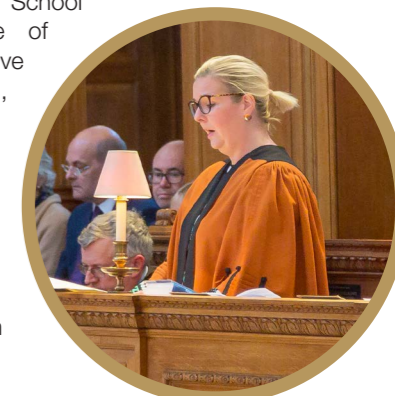
My year has been punctuated by attendance at more meetings, lectures, lunches and dinners than I ever expected. I have taken great pride and enjoyment in accepting the many invitations received on behalf of the Company. I am often asked "What has been the most memorable event of your year?" There cannot be just one.



As Master with daughter Julie and son Rob

From a Company perspective, memorable events must include our Service of Remembrance and Rededication, both at the start and at the end of the year. Our service has to be one of the most moving and memorable in the City and my particular thanks go to Reverend Canon Dr Alison Joyce, the Rector of St Bride's, and all her team for hosting this occasion, with especial thanks to the choir for fulfilling my wish to hear the "Nunc Dimittis" in memory of Spectacle Makers who have gone before us but continue to inspire our work.

Two visits to Treloar's School to meet with some of the students have proved inspirational, as has witnessing the stunning work of our very own Liveryman Pretty Jetwani and her colleagues in helping students with vision impairment to find ways through many difficulties.



Solo soprano sings the Nunc Dimittis

Spreading and emphasising the message of the WCSM to graduands at the ABDO graduation ceremony in Canterbury Cathedral was also most memorable and November proved to be a particularly busy month with our involvement in the Lord Mayor's Show. I went from the privilege of being able to witness the intricacy of acceptance of the position by the incoming Lord Mayor at the Silent Ceremony, to pride in our Company's hugely enthusiastic and colourful involvement in the following day's parade, which was a real showcase for us and an opportunity to raise awareness of optical health.

On the personal front, as the new Master also notes, watching the convoy of London Taxi Cabs carrying seriously ill children to Disneyland Paris is a truly moving event and a real demonstration of the power of the City to do good.

My thanks go to everyone who supported me being Jailed and Bailed in support of another charity, the British Red Cross. The work of the Red Cross within our own communities sometimes gets lost and the experience of fundraising in this way was both fun and rewarding. I was charged with various offences, even the calumny of serving drinks in too small a glass, which I continue to contest most vigorously. What is true is that our group of "Felons" raised more than £43,000.

It was a personal thrill to represent the Company at the unveiling of the newly repositioned London Stone by the Lord Mayor and, together with the Master Mason, launch a new "tradition" of processing to the Stone each year to ensure its protection and preservation and enjoy an informal but convivial lunch afterwards. I look forward to that occasion in May next year.

Last, but by no means least, it was my enormous delight to host the Master's Weekend at Cringletie House in the Scottish Borders, the birthplace of my grandfather.

Much fun was had by everyone, from conversation in the bar and lounge at 7.30pm in the evening to croquet at 7.30am the next morning (for some!). The competitive nature of so many Spectacle Makers during the mini Highland Games became apparent and even a cause for some concern as spectators had to take flight from flying wellies and Liverymen tossing cabers!

Whilst Masters come and go, the Learned Clerk not only remains but annually has the task of guiding the new Master through the myriad of meetings, functions, protocol and practice and I am indebted to our Clerk, Helen, for her patience and her attention to detail. The single difficulty I have found has been always preceding the Clerk when, as any gentleman is aware, ladies should always go first. I think it took this Master the best part of the year to get used to that.

I am deeply grateful to the Wardens and to all the members of the Court for their support, to Christine Smith, my Chaplain, to the Committees, their various Chairmen and volunteer members for all their hard work and to all the members of the Company who give their time, and whatever contributions they can make, to supporting this Company. My thanks go to you all.

Serving as Master has been the pinnacle of my 45 years in, or, should I say, associated with, the optical sector. I have been always somewhat on the fringe as an optical materials manufacturer and I cannot express enough how immensely proud and honoured I have been to have been afforded the privilege of being, for one amazing year, the Master Spectacle Maker.

**John McGregor OBE**



*Masters are Jailed and Bailed*



## A SILVER JUBILEE YEAR



*The New Master, Mr Huntly Taylor*

Little did I imagine when I started my optical career, doing such highly technical jobs as making the tea and cleaning the frames and trial lenses, that I would eventually end up as Master of this wonderful Livery Company. Of course, back then I knew nothing of any Livery Company! So much has changed since I became a Freeman. I'm amazed to see from the membership records that it was actually 25 years ago, so this year will be for me a sort of "Silver Jubilee" year.

You'll see on page 7 a report on our Annual Service which was followed, this year, by an Installation Dinner. It was certainly a very busy day and ever since that wonderful Evensong service at St Bride's, it has been full on. Never was there better advice than the Clerk's recommendation to get a second dress shirt!



*The Master's Medal Winner, Daniel Asfaw*

My first official and very pleasant duty as Master on 2 October was to present the Ruskell and Master's Medals to Kanmin Xue and Daniel Asfaw respectively. These awards are much coveted and show to the world the Company's continuing commitment to rewarding advances in vision science.

The Master's Medal was awarded to Daniel Asfaw of City, University of London for his investigation using infrared eye tracking to show how glaucoma produces changes in natural eye movements.

Between 2014 and 2018, the Ruskell Medal winner, Kanmin Xue, held the post of National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Academic Clinical Lecturer at the Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences in Oxford, conducting laboratory and clinical research into gene therapy for inherited retinal diseases, robotic eye surgery and artificial retinal implants with Professor Robert MacLaren. He then undertook a vitreoretinal fellowship in Melbourne, Australia before moving back to the UK in September, to my home town of Brighton. He is just one example of eye health crossing international boundaries.



*The Ruskell Medal Winner, Kanmin Xue*

And talking about international crossings, looking back through Master's articles from the past a recurring theme is how the Magical Taxi Tour from London to Disneyland Paris has provided a hugely inspirational and memorable start to their Mastership. I can absolutely concur with that. Organised by the Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers' Charity Trust, I defy anybody not to feel moved or even shed a tear at the sight of some incredibly sick but excited children embarking on what is probably the highlight of their short lives.

The Spectacle Makers sponsor two taxis but with police outriders, medical teams, the AA and 130 cabs all needing to get to the Dover ferry by 8am, the Mistress Spectacle Maker and I could only manage to get a few minutes to talk to one of the families. The young girl that we spoke to had been chosen to take part in each of the previous five years but on each occasion had been too unwell to go. This would be her last chance. It makes you think how lucky we are.



*Magical Taxi Tour send-off*

I am proud that the Company and the Charity sponsor the two cabs for this wonderful event. Charitable giving is something that we wish to expand as a Company and the year 2020 is a good point to look to the future. We are preparing to merge the

current two charities, The Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers' Charity and the WCSM Education Trust into one single charitable organisation that we hope will make a real difference to people's lives. The new unified Spectacle Makers' Charity will be set up to play an important role, increasing awareness of the Company and extending its influence through positive charitable engagement.

The value to society of charitable giving, pro bono work and volunteering by the 110 Livery Companies and their members has recently been calculated at around £67 million every year. We may be a very small player compared with some of the wealthy older Liveries, but we know that we can make a very valuable contribution in our own field. Ros Kirk has set up a Charity Showcase event at the Henley River and Rowing Museum on Sunday 3 May 2020 and we will look forward to telling you more at that event and through updates over the coming months. I urge you to make 2020 the year in which you think about your vision for the Company's future and how you could help.

One of the great successes of our charitable giving has been the awards of bursaries by the Education Trust to first year students starting out in optometry, orthoptics and dispensing optics. The bursaries are available to people involved in apprenticeships and recognised optical training for technicians too, at level 4 and above. A separate scheme makes travel awards to ophthalmologists in training to help them present papers and national and international conferences.



Bursary winner, Matthew Spiers

It was a real pleasure to present Matthew Spiers, one of our 2018 bursary award winners, with a special gift from the Company and the Norville Group at our Presentation Ceremony in October. Matthew is studying for a BSc (Hons) degree in Ophthalmic Dispensing delivered by ABDO College in conjunction with Canterbury Christ Church University. He received recognition for having written the best account of how the bursary had helped his studies.

At this year's Presentation Ceremony, as well the award of certificates and diplomas and admissions to Freedom of the Company, we were delighted to welcome the first cohort of apprentice technicians from Specsavers who, having successfully completed their 2-year apprenticeship, chose to have their certificates presented by the Master Spectacle Maker.

Although a very successful and happy day, it was tinged with a little sadness. The gradual withdrawal from qualifications activity means there will be many fewer certificates to award in future. However, as one door closes, another one opens. The enthusiastic participation of this year's group of new Freemen

shows the importance of a good introduction to the traditions and fellowship of our Company. We hope the Specsavers apprentices will recommend their experience to others and we are also in the process of extending our links with our affiliated 31 (Middlesex Yeomanry and Princess Louise's Kensington) Signal Squadron. We will be putting in place a programme of recognition for reservists who progress through technical training. There will be a special annual award for personal development, unrelated to any military promotion, and we hope that award can be presented in public. We are also considering new prizes and awards for achievement in a range of optical professions. I am confident that next year my successor will still be hosting some form of ceremony and the spirit of the occasion will be just as warm and welcoming as it was this year.

We are known in the City for our friendliness. On behalf of the Company I have to thank John McGregor for maintaining that reputation and for his stewardship of the Company over the past year. Having deputised for him on a couple of occasions I know the high regard in which he was held by his fellow Masters around the City. Gloria has supported him all the way and made her own mark in organising her own special event to highlight deaf awareness. Our thanks go to them both.

Felicity Harding has exchanged her Deputy Master's badge for a Past Master's one. As she stands down from Court we thank her for her time as Master and her years as Chairman of The Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers' Charity. We also congratulate her on being awarded the Order of the British Empire in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for her services as an ambassador to the Samaritans, the charity her father Chad Varah founded in 1953.



Felicity Harding receives the OBE award from the Queen

As well as the advice over the dress shirts I must thank our Clerk Helen Perkins for all the help she has given Gaynor and me so far. With her guidance the year ahead beckons with great anticipation.

Looking ahead to that year, here are some dates for your diary. The Livery Dinner will be on Monday 20 April in the splendour of Plaisterers' Hall. September 18-20 will be my Master's Weekend in Newmarket. Amongst other things we will go horse racing on the Rowley Mile followed by a Gregorie Dinner in the magnificent Jockey Club on Saturday 19 September. Costs and arrangements are now being finalised. When the application forms come out please do book early. It will be a busy racing weekend. I look forward to seeing you at those events and many others throughout what will be for me a very special year.

**Huntly Taylor**



# FREEDOM AND LIVERY NEWS

## THE COMPANY WELCOMES AS NEW FREEMEN:

Lyndon Howard Bird  
Laura Isabel Devine  
Robert James Devine  
Haydn Roger Dobby  
Francis Drasar  
Robert Dufton  
Michael James Gilhooly  
Edward George Guciewicz-Baillie

Karina Mary Hay  
Amanda Lesley Hodgson  
Joanne Teresa Holmes  
Anna Mary Horwood  
Anisha Jit  
Beverley Anne Kettell  
Harro Peter Lotz  
Michel Michaelides

Tara Moore  
Rosemin Mussa  
Sunni Raman Patel  
Catherine Scott Frances Pavely  
James Harry Sheldrick  
Eleftheria Amy Thanawalla  
Mark Turner  
Alexandra Louise Webster

## NEW LIVERYMEN CLOTHED ON 4 JUNE 2019



Mr Martin Allen



Mr Eric Bernabel



Mrs Naomi Bowman



Mrs Julie Galvin and Mr Robert McGregor



Mr Malcolm Maciver



Mr Peter Reeve



Ms Saskia Stepper and Mr Hans Stepper

## IN MEMORIAM

Roger Amey  
John Patrick Conway  
Shelagh Christine Hardy  
Robert Charles Christian Parkinson  
Isobel Rothbart

## LONG SERVICE

The following members are congratulated on achieving significant anniversaries of their admission to the Freedom and receive our thanks for their continuing support:

### 60 YEARS

Barry Stephen Blackman  
Patricia Harris  
Roger Crockford Mills  
Michael John Stenning  
Robin Charles Henry Weathersbee  
Philip James Fox Wilson

### 50 YEARS

Lesley Elizabeth Bill  
Michael Seymour Ivor Crombie  
Philip John Simon Enderby  
Paula Lesley Foster  
Colin William Fowler  
Susan Celia Haine  
John Adrian MacDonald Jennings  
David King  
Sandra Mary Moon  
Kenneth Alfred Nichols  
Michael Nightingale  
Alan Pattinson  
Paul Wavell Severn  
Neil William Percy Smith  
Peter John Smith  
Peter Leslie Smith  
David Edward Vince

### 40 YEARS

William Michael Barton  
Christopher Mark Gould  
Caroline Margaret Frances Hurst  
Michael Jowett  
Clifford Tarbet Rees  
Martin David Reynolds  
Judith Soraya Watson

### 25 YEARS

Harold Barnaby  
Michael Geoffrey Falcon  
Amanda Diane Gilbertson  
Abigail Frances Green  
Andrew James Stevenson  
Huntly James Russell Taylor  
Jennifer Margaret Weathersbee



# ONE FINE DAY

Common Hall to Installation Dinner, all in one day!

A change in the City of London's calendar, to accommodate the Jewish festival of Rosh Hashana, presented a slight problem for Spectacle Makers. The Charter of 1629 says that each new Master and Wardens must take office on the first Wednesday after the feast of St Michael and All Angels but how could they be in St Bride's on the morning of Wednesday 2 October when the Election of the Lord Mayor was scheduled to be taking place at exactly the same time in Guildhall? And not just any Common Hall election, but one in which a Spectacle Maker Liveryman was named on the order paper and would be speaking about his just-completed Shrieval year.

Spectacle Makers may, across the years, have manufactured telescopes, specialist lenses and OCT machines but none has yet managed to bring to production a JK Rowling-style time turner. The answer to the conundrum was provided by St Bride's, who readily swapped a morning service for Evensong and by our landlords, the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries, who kindly agreed not to return to their own Hall after Common Hall so that we could hold an afternoon Court meeting there before returning, after the Service, for an Installation Dinner, with a full house of 150 guests.

Sure enough, the day got off to a flying start and the Master, Court members and Liverymen duly exercised their voting rights at Guildhall in beautiful sunshine.



*The Master in the procession to Common Hall*

Just a few hours later, the Master could perhaps have been excused for thinking he was seeing and hearing things when a lone piper appeared above him at the approach to St Bride's churchyard – but it was true. With pipes specially dressed in muted McGregor tartan, former Black Watch Pipe Major Charles Mackie appeared to “pipe out” the Master, a secret well kept by the Wardens and the Clerk.



*The Master and the Piper*

As always, the St Bride's choir was stunning, the music picking up personal references as well as bringing into clear focus the themes of remembrance, re-dedication and thanksgiving. The themes were brought together in the address of the Honorary Chaplain. She talked about the “glory” of sight and of those who deliver eye care and compared Livery life today with the experience of Ben Sira, who lived around 2200 years ago and whose words were chosen by the Master for his reading – “Let us now praise the famous, our ancestors in their generations”.



*The Master's reading*

The new Master and Wardens made their Declarations in accordance with the Charter and were gowned and badged with the help of the Beadle. It was indeed still just about light when we poured out of the church back to Apothecaries' Hall, there to meet and celebrate as Liverymen, guests, research medal winners, family and friends. It had been a very long day indeed, but what a day!



*The new Master is badged*



*Assistants Mike Harris and Rupal Lovell-Patel with Clare and Andrew Carr-Locke*



*Past Master Chris Hunt and Chrissie Jenkins host the Master Farmer and her Clerk*



*Full House for Dinner*



*Visiting Masters enjoying a joke with the Beadle*



# NEWS FROM THE COURT

Supporting the Master this year are Upper Warden Nigel Haig-Brown and Renter Warden Ian Davies.



The Master and Wardens

Nigel Haig-Brown, the Upper Warden is an accountant and has chaired the Company's Finance Committee for the last 3 years.

The new Renter Warden is Ian Davies. Ian is an optometrist by training and a Freeman of the City of York as well as of London. Following his retirement from Johnson and Johnson, he has set up his own consultancy business and is a sought-after speaker (if you want to see why, come to watch his session on "Communication...it's not what you say" at 100% Optical, 3pm on Saturday 25 January 2020).

As noted in the Master's introduction, Felicity Harding OBE completed her year as Deputy Master in October and has stepped down from the Court. David Baker is taking a break following completion in June of his three-year term as a Senior Assistant. David continues as the Company's representative, and co-Chair, of the Optical Sector Steering Group and is our link with the Livery Companies Skills Council.

Also in June, the Court expressed its gratitude and bade farewell to Past Master Christine Tomkins after more than sixteen years on the Court. There is no time for a rest, however. Christine now embarks on a year as Mistress Lightmonger, supporting our former Chaplain Father Peter Harris. We think it's a first for a Past Master Spectacle Maker to become a Mistress to a Catholic priest!

To fill the vacancies, two new Assistants were admitted to the Court on 2 October 2019: Mrs Fiona Anderson FBDO and Mrs Elizabeth Shilling.

Fiona's passion for optics was born as an 11 year old astigmatic myope. On receiving her first spectacles her life was transformed and her aim throughout her career has been

to bring better sight to her patients and information and education to her colleagues.

Fiona is proud to be a Dispensing Optician. Following qualification in 1986, she remained with her pre-registration employer for 25 years and held various roles as a Practice Manager, Area Manager and Training Manager. Fiona obtained a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration in 2003 and a higher level qualification in Refraction in 2009. She also achieved the industry "Gold Standard" SMC(Tech) Diploma in 2012.

Fiona joined Ythan Opticians in June 2012. The practice is in the commuter town of Ellon, north of Aberdeen in Scotland. Her role there sees her responsible for all aspects of dispensing, including a sizeable paediatric clinic and complex dispensing service.

In addition to her time in practice Fiona is a theory & practical examiner for ABDO, a workshop support lecturer for ABDO College and an examiner for two papers in the WCSM Level 4 Diploma for Optical Assistants.

Fiona is well known for her active role in ABDO, firstly as an Area representative, then as an examiner & CET/CPD author & presenter and then a Board member from 2010. She was ABDO's President from 2016-2018. She is a member of the Board of Trustees of the European Academy of Optometry and Optics, a Fellow and on the management board of ECOO and is currently President of the International Opticians' Association.

Elizabeth (Liz) Shilling has been a strong supporter of the Company since first attending a Court Dinner in 1996. She has served as a Trustee of the Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers' Charity, a member of the Spectacle Makers' Society Committee and recently joined the Board of Trustees of the WCSM Education Trust, alongside her fellow new Assistant Fiona Anderson. She was Mistress Spectacle Maker in her husband John's Master's year in 2009/10.



Fiona Anderson



Liz Shilling

At work, she is best known within the world of orthoptics under her maiden name, Liz Tomlin. She studied Orthoptics at Moorfields Eye Hospital and in 1992 started work at St Thomas' Hospital, London. She has always enjoyed being part of, the ophthalmic multidisciplinary team and the challenges of clinical work associated with a major London teaching hospital. She has championed the extended roles of orthoptists, ophthalmic nurses and optometrists in glaucoma, medical retina, uveitis, neurology and numerous other specialist clinics. She developed the role of the ophthalmic technician at St Thomas's and developed the St Thomas' squint course for ophthalmologists. Liz and her department run clinical placements for undergraduate orthoptists and post graduate optometrists. Liz also practises at The London Clinic at 119 Harley St.

Liz is on the committee of ESONT (the European Society of Ophthalmic Nurses and Technicians) and is an active member of the British and Irish Orthoptic Society, serving on their neuro-orthoptic and private patient special interest steering groups.

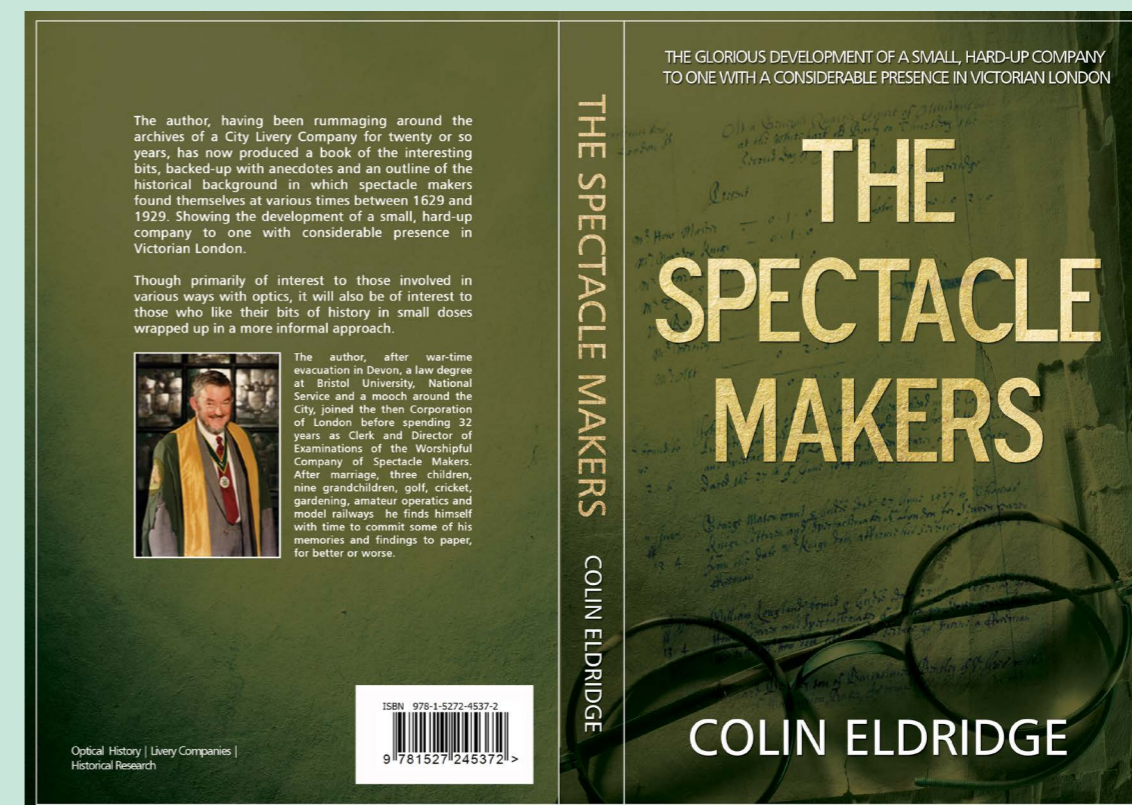
The full list of Court members from December 2019 is:

Master	Mr Huntly Taylor
Upper Warden	Mr Nigel Haig-Brown
Renter Warden	Mr Ian Davies
Deputy Master	Mr John McGregor OBE
Past Master Assistants	Dr Robert Chappell OBE
	Professor John Marshall MBE
	Mr Chris Hunt
	Mr Don Grocott TD
Senior Assistant	Mr Michael Harris
Assistants to the Court	Miss Karen Sparrow
	Mr Paul Ursell
	Dr Natalie Briggs
	Mrs Rupal Lovell-Patel
	Mr Marc Bennett
	Ms Hayley Wainer
	Mrs Fiona Anderson
	Mrs Elizabeth Shilling

In the office, we bid farewell to Nickie Chapman after two years' service as Administrator. We hope to welcome a new Administrator early in the New Year.

## LOOKING FORWARD TO CHRISTMAS

Finding it difficult to buy a present for a Spectacle Maker? Past Clerk Colin Eldridge may have the very thing for you. As the 22nd known Clerk, Colin served for 32 years and knows everything there is to know about how the trade developed and how being a Spectacle Maker became the fastest route to Lord Mayor. His new book "The Spectacle Makers" covers the first 300 years of the Company in minutes (that is, Company minutes). It is now available via Amazon, priced £8.99 for the paperback, £4.49 for the Kindle version. Go to [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk) and type *The Spectacle Makers* into the search box.





# HONORARY CHAPLAINS

As one processes out, another gallops in.....



Rev Christine Smith leaves St Bride's

'What does a chaplain to a livery company *do*?' a bemused friend would occasionally ask, seeing the smart luncheon or dinner invitations on my mantelpiece. Had they been able to look into the Apothecaries' Hall, or the Guildhall or any of a number of sumptuous City venues, they might have been forgiven for thinking not very much. Say a brief grace, enjoy fine dining and lively conversation. Repeat at regular intervals. And all courtesy of the generosity of the Company and its Master.

But, like much priestly work, the work of a chaplain is not primarily about doing. Priests (or, at least, most of them) don't necessarily go around persuading people to become religious or trying to make things holy. They recognise and name the grace and goodness that is everywhere present already - not only in good times, but in challenging ones too, where the important work is to clear a space to provide a different perspective. So it's more about paying attention and listening. With that as the starting point, a chaplain to a livery company will always receive more than he or she gives. This one certainly did.

At the end of my time as Chaplain, I look back with immense joy and gratitude: joy at the warmth of the friendships begun, joy at the breadth of skills and the dedication that cause miracles to happen every day as improved sight changes lives for the better, joy because hope becomes reality as new treatments continue to be found. So much grace, so much goodness can be found every day in the work of the Spectacle Makers.

And I'm so grateful, firstly to Felicity Harding for inviting me to become Chaplain and introducing me to the Company, to John McGregor for the gift of enabling me to stay for a second year and to begin to feel like I belonged, and to the Clerk for her continual support. I lost count of the kindnesses shown to me by members of the Company and enjoyed myself more than I can say. So thank you, Spectacle Makers. I know you will welcome your new Honorary Chaplain, Simon, just as warmly and I know that I will enjoy taking my part in that welcome as a Freeman of the Company. I am delighted to be one of you.

I am Simon Bailey and I was thrilled to be asked by the new Master, Huntly Taylor, to be his Chaplain for the coming year - especially as we enter 2020. Imagine all the vision jokes that raced through my mind, only to be told that 20/20 is not used in optical practice in the UK. I promise to steer clear of such quips from now on.

Those of you who know his love of sport will not be surprised to hear that I met Huntly for the first time on a cricket pitch in Newmarket. Spectacles and cricket go back a long way for me. Many an opposition bowler would question my eyesight as I played and missed another delivery. Lo and behold, they were proved right when I had my first eye examination at 17 years of age (!) and it was confirmed that I couldn't actually see very much at all.

Fast forward to 2018 where I gained a new friend in Huntly. Our cricketing heydays are far behind us but we've still got the ability to continue with what's important in life. They say it's not the winning but the taking part in sport that counts. That's a load of rubbish. Our team won the game in 2018 and that made the day worthwhile. But, even if we had lost, our friendship would have lasted. Cricket has a habit of providing life-long friendships. I gather the Spectacle Makers' Company is just the same.

My "day job" as Chaplain to the horse racing industry began in 2014. One of the reasons I enjoy the part I play in racing is down to the wide and varied support that the charity Racing Welfare offers to stable, stud and support staff, across the country, young and old. My previous positions in Arbroath and London have given me experience in pastoral care and I also have experience in the drug and alcohol addiction sector through the organisation Crossreach in Scotland. I've seen for myself that injury and illness don't need to stop people from succeeding, even against all the odds and in spite of the circumstances they are up against. And a listening ear is something everyone values at some point in their lives.

It's a privilege to be here to serve you all as Honorary Chaplain this year. Please do come and say hello. I look forward to meeting many of you at forthcoming events.



Pastor Simon Bailey



# IT'S TIME TO TALK...

**"Livery? I didn't know you had a horse...."**

**"A Worshipful Company? Oh, that's like the Masons, isn't it?"**

**"I guess that's one of those weird British things: lots of old men sitting around drinking port."**

How often have you been asked questions like this? What is a Livery Company? What is the Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers all about? Are only certain people allowed to join? Can you make me a new pair of spectacles that doesn't cost a fortune? We've all had this experience.

A recent study across all Livery companies has shown a real need for much better communication of what we do and what we stand for. Institutions of all types are under greater scrutiny than ever before. Together with new, instant means of communication and a 24-hour news cycle always keen for stories, it has never been clearer that a reputation can take many years to make but only a second to break. Across the general public, a low level of knowledge about livery companies means that misunderstandings and wrong impressions can easily take hold.

The Livery has existed for hundreds of years. Yes, we are part of the fabric and pageantry of the City of London but that's a very small part of livery life. Livery companies in the modern world are a valuable part of society, helping many people fulfil their potential and contribute to their community. However, this message isn't clear to all and members of the public can confuse us with gentlemen's clubs or other organisations with very different ways of operating.

What happens within one livery company is understood to be the same for all, despite the fact that each of the 110 current liversies vary considerably in their purpose and history. For example, livery companies are not just ancient. They are still being formed today. The Guild of Nurses are hoping to become a Company in the very near future and whilst we have celebrated our 390th anniversary, the Worshipful Company of Arts Scholars have completed just five years as a full Livery.

We have members in Europe, the United States, Australia and New Zealand, and right across the company, not just in London and the fact that there have been women Spectacle Makers for hundreds of years still comes as a surprise to some people.

There is a real risk that the very valuable work done in charity, educational and community support across the Livery world could be under threat if we do not work harder to communicate. Every member of every Livery Company is being asked to do their bit to help. When any member is asked about the Company, we want them to feel confident about describing who we are and why we are relevant in the 21st Century. This is not a sales campaign, just an effort to be open and honest about what we do, how we do it, and why it is important today.

To help members of all Livery Companies, a Pan-Livery Communications Group has produced a series of "Talking Points", designed to give all members some clear and consistent messages they can pass on to anyone they meet. We have added some specific examples for the Spectacle Makers' Company but this is really just a starting point.

The Spectacle Makers' Company is not an anonymous, faceless institution. It is made up of more than a thousand individuals, out in the community, each with their own story to tell about how and why they became a member and what it means to them. Those individual stories can make a huge difference to how our Company, and the wider Livery movement, is perceived.

We hope you are proud of your membership and we encourage you to tell as many people as you can about the friendship, range of professional interests and commonality of purpose you find within the Spectacle Makers' Company and help defeat some of those outdated and misguided perceptions.



Bursaries to encourage future professionals



A heritage to share



Promoting accessibility through charitable grants

©Manuel Harlan  
Velveteen Rabbit,  
Unicorn Theatre



Events combine fun and friendship with tradition and ceremony

# Pan-Livery Communications Group: Talking Points

## What are Livery Companies?

Livery Companies exist to help people fulfil their potential. That was true hundreds of years ago, when the first Livery Companies supported people working in specific trades. It's true today through the personal and professional development that Livery Companies help provide to hundreds of thousands of people

in the UK and beyond. Each Livery Company is unique, but philanthropic endeavour and the support of others, particularly the next generation, has always been, and will always be, at the heart of what we do.

Attribute	General Livery talking points	Specific examples & evidence
<b>Our professional support</b>	We're a springboard for people entering work and a foothold for small businesses starting out. Many Livery Companies support apprenticeships, training and professional development in their associated trade.	<p>The Spectacle Makers' Company has supported training and development throughout its history, at different times providing hands-on training, running professional examinations and more recently supporting the establishment of in-house training and multi-disciplinary team working. The Spectacle Makers' Company is a community for sharing experience and opinions. We are unique in our support for all optical disciplines and we promote discussions and debates at trade events and international conferences.</p> <p>We support those seeking to prevent sight loss and those working on new therapies. Our Gold and Silver Medals recognise life-long and ground-breaking work in scientific research. Our bronze Ruskell and Master's Medals encourage the publication of research papers by people at an earlier stage, whose work in vision science could bring about new discoveries and new treatments for eye conditions.</p>
<b>Our personal support</b>	Livery Companies provide support for people to develop and improve their lives – from running schools and providing educational bursaries and scholarships, to helping vulnerable people play an active role in society, and supporting them when times are toughest.	<p>It has been calculated that the value to society of charitable contributions and pro bono work by Livery company members is more than £67 million every year. Projects range from setting up academy schools to work with the victims of knife crime.</p> <p>In the last year Spectacle Makers' charities made grants worth around £90,000 in the form of grants to organisations increasing accessibility and improving life for vision impaired people and bursary awards to new students starting training in the UK in optometry, dispensing optics and orthoptics. We also help ophthalmologists in training with the costs of travel and accommodation to conferences at which their work can be presented.</p> <p>For many members, Livery company membership has brought life-long friendships. Our Spectacle Makers' Society programme provides social events where members can get to know each other better. It's an opportunity to bring friends, family members and colleagues along to share in the fun and enjoy locations and experiences which might not otherwise be available to the general public.</p>

Attribute	General Livery talking points	Specific examples & evidence
<b>Our future</b>	We want to be around for as long as people need our help. We manage our assets thoughtfully so we can use them to continue helping people well into the future. Each new generation of members evolves their Company, so we find new ways of helping people.	<p>Many of our Liverymen were able to receive grants to fund their studies but this is no longer the case. Students face leaving university or college with substantial debts and many students on optical courses have to fund travel and accommodation for block training weeks or placements. Our bursary scheme was launched in 2016 to try to help this next generation.</p> <p>In 2019, we began a project to merge our two existing charities into one single Spectacle Makers' Charity. There are already many small charities within the optical world and we see good reasons to consolidate effort, reduce duplication and increase the help we can give to beneficiaries. The new charity will have very clear objects and we hope it will gain support from donors within and outside the Company.</p>
<b>Our history</b>	We've existed for hundreds of years and are part of the City of London's colourful pageantry. We started out by developing trading standards, training tradespeople and helping workers who'd fallen on hard times.	<p>The first historical record of a Livery Company recorded was the Weavers – in 1155. The Spectacle Makers' Company's foundation as far back as 1629 comes as a surprise to many people as they assume our connected trade is a modern one. In fact we are the oldest optical body existing in the world.</p> <p>Our history is bound up with that of the City of London in the protection of the public. In 1672, the Lord Mayor authorised the Master Spectacle Maker to take defective spectacles found in a haberdasher's shop and smash them on London Stone. We believe this was done in a public meeting place to uphold the authority of recognised skilled and trained people and highlight the importance of maintaining high standards.</p> <p>The role of ophthalmic and dispensing opticians was recognised formally in the Opticians' Act and optometry and dispensing then became, and remain, regulated professions. From 1898 until 1978, the Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers was one of three organisations qualifying opticians. The Company played a central role in bringing the three examining bodies together to found the College of Optometrists (1978) and was then instrumental in the discussions leading to the incorporation of the Association of British Dispensing Opticians in 1980.</p> <p>Almost 400 years of history mean that we have gathered a great deal of experience which can benefit those who come after us. We take the best of our history and traditions and use it to promote the very relevant and contemporary cause of better eye health.</p>
<b>Our purpose</b>	Each Company is unique and independent, focusing on areas where they can be most helpful. But we're all united by a shared desire to help people, particularly those who are vulnerable and struggling.	The Company was so named because there was little that could be done in the 17th Century to improve sight other than to make a pair of spectacles. In fact, the purpose of the Company and its members has always been much wider - to support the prevention and treatment of vision impairment in as many ways as we can.

Attribute	General Livery talking points	Specific examples & evidence
<b>Our philanthropy</b>	Philanthropy is, and always has been, a central activity for the Livery. Many Companies are responsible for charities that work for the public benefit. And many Livery members give their time and experience to help others – Liverymen overall volunteer tens of thousands of hours to good causes every year.	<p>As well as our own charitable giving, Company members are themselves involved in supporting charitable work and promoting teaching and learning all over the world, particularly in areas where eye care is at best inconsistent and at worst simply not available.</p> <p>Our Freeman and Liverymen are part of their local communities, not shut away. Privately and professionally, they help other people every day.</p>
<b>Our members</b>	We're member organisations full of people who feel fortunate to be able to help others. We meet and form professional and personal relationships and enjoy social occasions with a wide range of people.	<p>Any person over the age of 18 who is committed to the cause of eye health can apply for Freedom of the Company. Those who are optically qualified can do so by right, without needing a formal proposer and seconder. The Company is currently around a third female, two thirds male. Women have played a critical role in optics right from the earliest times. We know that there were women training apprentices and continuing business in the City from the earliest formal records of our Company, dating from 1666. We do not discriminate by age, disability, race, religion, gender or orientation. Membership information is available to all via our website and we communicate via social media too to extend our reach.</p> <p>There are many optical bodies in the UK representing different professions and different viewpoints. We are apolitical and independent, the only optical body which brings together people from right across the sector with other professionals.</p> <p>Non-optical professionals have been part of the Spectacle Makers' Company since 1759. They give us a wider perspective and an extra channel for communicating the importance of eye health and the developments in treatment and therapy that really are reducing avoidable blindness.</p> <p>In our Company, a young lab technician may find themselves sitting next to an international research scientist; a charity CEO may find encouragement from fellow members in finance and legal professions and eye health professionals can compare experience covering the whole patient journey.</p> <p>Only a small proportion of our members actually make spectacles. Those that do stand alongside manufacturers of contact lenses, intra-ocular lens materials and technical equipment, optometrists, ophthalmologists, dispensing opticians, orthoptists, ophthalmic nurses and technicians and optical technicians and assistants, laser surgeons, genetic research professors, teachers, charity workers and many many more.</p> <p>There are Spectacle Makers working in local communities all over the UK, as well as members in Europe, Australia, New Zealand and the United States. Wherever they are, they are part of our community and all share the common purpose of better vision, for life.</p>



# THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY 2019

There was a real excitement about the Presentation Ceremony this year as Apothecaries' Hall opened its doors to 19 successful students at Levels 2, 3 and 4, 3 prize winners, 9 newly-qualified Specsavers technician apprentices, 16 new Freeman and plenty of friends, family and employers.

The Master reminded all those present that their qualification was not the end of the journey. With new technologies affecting everyone in optical practice and more opportunities to work in multi-disciplinary teams, the need to carry on learning has never been greater.

A quick show of hands revealed that around a quarter of those present had actually made a pair of spectacles. More hands went up when we asked how many people were involved day to day in eye health care; even more were added when we asked who cared about better vision. By the time the new Freeman

were introduced individually, it was clear to everyone that not all Spectacle Makers make spectacles. They work in many different areas, as has been the case since 1759.

Everyone was encouraged to go and speak to someone they had never met before and many did just that, soon realising that behind the gowns and speeches were real people with years of experience to share and great enthusiasm about the future of eye health care. The party continued late into the evening for some, finishing with a pizza at Harry's, the traditional refuge of Spectacle Makers before a long train journey home.

One of our visitors commented afterwards "I didn't really know what to expect. I've never been anywhere like this before and I couldn't believe how friendly everyone was. I met some really interesting people and they were so welcoming. Thank you for a fabulous day!".



The Master opens the ceremony



Sam Pitchford SMC(Tech) receives her Level 4 Diploma



Harro Lotz enjoys his first event as a Freeman



Scottish prizewinner Frances Hannah and her employer Pam Gray meet new Freeman, international solicitor and attorney Laura Devine



# MEET A MEMBER

MEET A MEMBER

## Senior Alderman Below The Chair, Alderman Vincent Keaveny

### Q. Alderman Keaveny, you are a City solicitor. How did you come to be a Spectacle Maker?

I am a solicitor by training and the City Solicitors' Company is also my "mother Company". I am very proud to have been Master Solicitor in 2014/15. I'm also a member of the Woolmen, the Distillers' and Stationers' Companies and I've acquired a couple of other Honorary Memberships in the last year as a Sheriff of the City of London.

I was first invited to lunch with the Spectacle Makers at Apothecaries' Hall in 2013 when Chris Hunt was Master, soon after I was elected as Alderman for the City Ward of Farringdon Within. It quickly became an annual invitation and when I was asked in 2016 if I would be interested in joining the Spectacle Makers' Company, I didn't hesitate.

I remember that was the year when Apothecaries Hall had a roof problem so I was actually admitted at Skinners' Hall. I dashed across from a meeting of the Court of Aldermen at Guildhall. Most guests for the Court Luncheon had already arrived so the Stewards looked after them whilst members of the Court, the Clerk and I quickly convened in a side room for my clothing as of the Livery.

There are nine livery companies based within my Ward. They are all very different but the Spectacle Makers have always seemed to me to be a very friendly Company, combining the ancient with the modern. The concern for eye health is just as relevant now as it would have been when the Company was formed. There always seems to be a very modern outlook when I come to Company events, setting a great example of a City livery company engaging with a professional and business community across the country.

I am very pleased and proud to be counted as a full member of this Company.

### Q. Has it made a difference to you to be involved with the Company?

Apart from the very welcome start to the Christmas festivities that attendance at the December lunch has become for me, I really enjoy the diversity of the Spectacle Makers' membership. I often refer to the Spectacle Makers when I speak about the way livery companies must respond to the challenges they face in the 21st century. The Spectacle Makers combine ancient livery traditions with a strong and vibrant connection to the eye care professions. That means getting people involved in the livery that would not otherwise have any City connections. As the husband of a nurse, I know how important those links can be - the livery is a great way to shine a light on the good things about a profession and you do that very well. I have learned a great deal too, particularly about the challenges in healthcare presented by our aging population.

On a personal note, through my membership of the Company I got to know Helen, our Clerk. When the office of Honorary Ward Clerk of Farringdon Within fell vacant last year, I had no doubt at all that Helen was the person I wanted in the role. I was delighted when, with the support of the Court, she accepted.

### Q. What can you tell us about your year as Aldermanic Sheriff?

It is an extraordinary year, in the literal meaning of the word: you step out of your ordinary life for a year and throw yourself (and your partner) into a whirlwind of activity. Most days had three or four engagements, sometime rising to six or seven, often involving a speech. Amanda and I lived in the Sheriffs' rooms in the Old Bailey during the week, and over a number of weekends throughout the year. This made managing the number of commitments a little easier - we became quite accustomed to three or four changes of outfits a day! It was great too to spend the year living in the heart of my Ward - that experience certainly deepened my knowledge of life in the Ward.

The real star of the show in the Old Bailey was our labrador, India. There were tears on our last day in the Bailey, not on our account of course - we had no doubt that India was the one that was going to be missed!



The role entails a close relationship with HM Judges of the Central Criminal Court, supporting them in the work they do and in the charity and community outreach with which many of them are engaged in response to what they see in their courts every day. As the Aldermanic Sheriff one spends a great deal of time with the Lord Mayor too - it is a unique way to get an understanding of the demands of the Mayoral role. Alongside all of that I managed to get into the office almost every day so that my colleagues and clients did not completely forget about me!

### Q. And now you are the Senior Alderman Below The Chair. What does that involve?

The year as Senior Alderman Below The Chair - better known as SABBAC - is all about planning and preparation. It is the unglamorous stuff that is essential to a successful Mayoral year. I will be developing my Mayoral theme, planning the programme of international visits, being briefed on a range of political, economic, social and international affairs, working on plans for a number of fundraising events for The Lord Mayor's Appeal and bringing the Lord Mayor's Show together. I will probably join the Lord Mayor on a couple of his overseas trips during the year as well. Emphasising the continuity of the office, even if its occupant changes annually, is vital these days, especially internationally.

### Q. What skills gained as a solicitor are most useful to you in City life?

Many of the skills I use on a daily basis as a City solicitor have proved their worth in my Civic role. Whether it is the prioritisation and juggling of competing demands, running meetings, analysing issues and developing a plan to resolve them, life as a City solicitor provides a good grounding in all of these and other areas. My knowledge of the financial services sector, developed over my (nearly) 30 years as a lawyer working in the City, is also hugely valuable. And having great people around you helps too. The depth of knowledge of the sector in the Court of Aldermen is astonishing and lies at the heart of the continued value and success of the office of Lord Mayor.

### Q. Are Livery Companies still important?

Absolutely. The 40,000 or more Liverymen provide a very important link between the City and towns and cities all over the country. Livery companies are watchwords for trust and respect and pass on those important values to generation after generation. The weight of history gives us stability and continuity, despite the sometimes frantic pace of life and that is an important factor in bringing investors into the City. It also allows us to step back and take a longer term view. And of course, the votes of Liverymen at Common Hall are essential in putting into office the Sheriffs and the Lord Mayor, who will represent the City nationally and internationally.

### Q. What do you hope to achieve over the next couple of years?

At the moment I am not looking much further forward than 2020/21 when, all being well, with the support of the Livery and the Court of Aldermen, I will serve the City in the office of Lord Mayor. It is a daunting prospect - having seen up close in my Shrieval year the demands made upon the Lord Mayor, I know how great a challenge this is. But by the time I take office I will have a well developed theme and programme and intend to do all that I possibly can to make a great success of the year, and to have fun along the way. If you are enjoying the challenge it is so much easier to bring people along with you!

### Q. How will members of the Spectacle Makers' Company be able to support you?

There will be lots of opportunities for the Company to get involved in my Mayoral year. I am really looking forward to the Company's entry in the Lord Mayors' Show in 2020. I am sure it will be fantastic! There will also be a number of events for The Lord Mayor's Appeal and I hope that members of the Company will be able to support some of them. But most importantly this is a great moment for members of the Company to celebrate their link with the Company and the Civic City - talk to friends and colleagues about it, get them along to some of the special events that are planned and perhaps get them involved in the Company too! This is a welcoming Company and I want people to feel welcome within the Livery and in the City as a whole.

### Q. If you could wave a magic wand, what would your wish be for the City of London and for the Livery Companies?

There are just so many good things going on within the City and within all the Liveries and Guilds that people don't realise. I really wish more people knew about what we do, how many people are involved, how much the City and Livery Companies do to help others. If we could get more people to understand better what goes on and how initiatives starting in the City can benefit so many areas of life, that would be great. With Freeman and Liverymen all over the country and a growing number of international members, this Company has a fantastic reach into local communities. Please, please, talk to everyone you meet about the Livery's support for young professionals, the help we provide in the fields of charity and education and the very important and continuing relevance to the modern world of the skills and standards that all livery companies champion. Let's be proud and spread the message at home, at work, wherever we are. Less of a magic spell, perhaps; more like a New Year's Resolution. 2020, here we come!



# SPECIAL DAYS FOR SPECTACLE MAKERS

SPECIAL DAYS FOR SPECTACLE MAKERS

## A LIVERYMAN'S MASTERPIECE

When Liveryman Chrissie Jenkins made the decision to retire from optical practice, the one thing she looked forward to most was having time to nurture her flower garden and pursue her passion for flower arranging. She had enjoyed some success at county shows and co-ordinated the local village church flower festival brilliantly but nothing could have prepared her for the invitation that dropped onto her doormat just a couple of months ago. She was asked to dress the High Altar at Westminster Abbey, in celebration of its 750th Anniversary, an occasion to be attended by Her Majesty the Queen.



Chrissie Jenkins in Westminster Abbey

Chrissie takes up the story,

*"After the elation of having been selected for such a prestigious undertaking, the scale of the task kicked in! I was to produce a pedestal arrangement eleven-foot-high, whilst not treading on the protected ancient 'pavement' in front of the altar or interfering with the altar cloth or furnishings. Being a mere five feet tall myself and without the aid of steps this was to be a daunting challenge.*

*The setting for the arrangement was truly awe inspiring and although I had not realised it before, my work in progress was to be closely examined by hundreds of curious tourists. It was also the first time I had ever had to work with flowers not chosen by me and only seen that morning.*

*However, it all went according to plan and as I stood reflecting on the momentous historical events that have been played out where my display stood, I felt really rather proud to be a Spectacle Maker of London producing my very own masterpiece and to have been able to enhance the magnificent 'spectacle' of the Abbey interior on such an auspicious occasion."*

From floristry to forests and the Spectacle Makers' Shooting Team regrouped in Surrey to celebrate their victory over four strong teams, including sharp-shooting cadets, in the 2019 "Ex-Tiger Shoot" Clay Pigeon Shooting Competition.



Past Master Don Grocott presenting the trophy to triumphant Liverymen Tony Botten, Barry Covill and Emma Covill with Rumun Todorov and team mascot Perseus in the presence of David Gibson, Secretary of the Middlesex Yeomanry Association.

There was sporting success too in Golf. Ian Davies won the Master's Cup at the Company's annual golf day at Burford and Past Masters Mike Barton and Gordon Jones won the team event but the Golfer of the Day was Nikon UK's Parm Bhachu who managed a hole in one!



Hole in one: Parm Bhachu at the SMC Golf Day



The Rt Hon the Lord Mayor Alderman Peter Estlin and Lady Mayoress Mrs Lindy Estlin

Finding a free date in the calendar of the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress is always a challenge but this year has proved harder than most with the Lord Mayor spending much time promoting the City of London internationally and supporting overseas trade delegations. Nevertheless, the date agreed for presentation of the traditional gift of the craft, courtesy of Liverymen Ivan and Hayley Wainer could not have been better. Friday 27 September fell within National Eye Health Week and provided an ideal opportunity for both Mansion House and the Company to "tweet" about the importance of eye health and the need for regular eye examinations. It was also a special presentation for Ivan and Hayley, whose practice, Hawkes and Wainer, celebrates its centenary this year. Whilst the Lady Mayoress chose a Lindberg frame, the Lord Mayor opted for Oakley sunglasses, which were of great benefit during his visits to Australia, India and Pakistan.



## THE FOUR LIVERIES' LECTURE 2019

### "The Tailor of Ulster, Bacterial Scissors for Designer Genes and Restored Sight"



The Master with Professor Tara Moore

Professor Moore explained how research into inherited diseases and possible gene therapies has pushed across boundaries over the last ten years. Yes, it could really be possible, she thought, in future to give an apple some of the characteristics of an orange; perhaps, even, to recreate the genetic profile of long-extinct species such as the mammoth. More importantly, in terms of the subject of the lecture, it will be possible to take action to stop inherited diseases in their tracks and prevent transmission to the next generation.

Using CRISPR (Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats), an enzyme that naturally occurs in bacteria, scientists can remove, alter and rewrite gene mutations and reverse, or prevent, inherited disease. This is highly personalised medicine in which an error or mutation in genetic material can be specifically targeted, something that simply would not have been possible even 20 years ago.

Once discovered and proved to be suitable for humans, CRISPR immediately was used to correct a gene mutation in some cystic fibrosis patients. The potential applications are numerous, including inherited skin diseases, haemophilia, Duchenne muscular dystrophy and Huntingdon's disease.

For those interested in hearing more, Professor Moore gave an interview after the lecture to colleagues from "Optometry Today".

See [www.aop.org.uk/ot/science-and-vision/research/2019/09/18/personalised-medicine-developing-gene-therapies](http://www.aop.org.uk/ot/science-and-vision/research/2019/09/18/personalised-medicine-developing-gene-therapies).

An evening discussing gene therapies for inherited retinal disease enthralled the audience when Professor Tara Moore of Ulster University, presented this year's Four Liveries' Lecture, held at Painters' Hall on Thursday 12 September 2019.



## A NEW CHARITY FOR 2020

We are delighted to announce that a new, single Spectacle Makers' Charity will be launched in 2020. We started the work well ahead of time, having heard of potential delays at the Charity Commission but our worries were unfounded. The Spectacle Makers' Charity now been formed under registration number 1186122 and work will now begin in earnest to make sure everything is ready for consolidation during 2020.

The two existing charities, the Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers' Charity (registered number 1072172) and the WCSM Education Trust (registered number 1135045) will be around for a while yet. They still have work to do in terms of ongoing grants to vision charities and the 2019/20 bursary and travel awards programme. It's important to know too that they will be placed on a historical register so any bequests and legacies made in the past and already included in wills will still be able to find their way to the right place, at the right time. Gifts already included in wills and letters of wishes can still be received and used as intended by the donors. The 100 Club and standing orders already in place for making regular charitable contributions will need to change, but not yet.

Two specific purposes written into the new constitution replicate the work of our existing two charities:

- 1) the relief of those in need by reason of vision impairment and/or sight loss; and
- 2) the advancement of study, knowledge and education in the field of optics for the public benefit, including the promotion of research in the field of optics and the publication of the useful results.

"Optics" is very widely drawn and covers studying for, working in and researching into the correction, treatment and management of vision.

A general power to support other charitable purposes, as agreed by the Trustees, will give the new Charity flexibility to continue to support causes such as the Magical Taxi Tour, the Lord Mayor's Appeal and the United Guilds Service. It also means the new Charity will be able to work with, and potentially take over responsibilities from, other optical charities if this would be in the best interests of all involved.

There is still much more work to do and we will keep you updated as plans progress. We hope you will be excited by the new impetus for our Company's charity work going forward from 2020.

## 2019 WCSM EDUCATION TRUST BURSARY SCHEME NOW OPEN!

The first students helped by the WCSM Education Trust bursary scheme qualified this summer and are now out in the world of work, as orthoptists, dispensing opticians and pre-registration optometrists.

One wrote "Once again I cannot express enough the thanks I feel for the financial help in my first year. Without it I may not have been able to continue with my studies. I am so grateful and wanted everyone to know how valuable the contribution to students is, and the difference it makes. You have played a great part in helping me qualify."

The 2019 bursary scheme is now open for applications from any first year student enrolled on a training course at a UK institution designed to lead to a career in optics. That includes degrees in orthoptics and optometry, foundation degrees and diplomas in optical dispensing, Level 4 courses for optical assistants and technicians and Level 4 apprenticeships where employer funding does not cover all the costs involved for students. Application forms and full details are on our website at [www.spectaclemakers.com/charity/the-wcsm-education-trust](http://www.spectaclemakers.com/charity/the-wcsm-education-trust). The closing date is 20 December 2019.

## RECENT CHARITY GRANTS

Two grants were made in September, to Deafblind UK and Fight Against Blindness.

Deafblindness is especially difficult for those who lose sight and hearing after leading very active lives. Approximately 75% of deafblind people are aged over 70. Deafblind UK offers free membership and a range of complimentary services. The grant we made has been used in their 'Connecting Lives' project, aimed at improving the lives of deafblind Londoners through digital technology. Over the last few years, this project has been very successful in showing deafblind people how to use accessibility features on tablets and smartphones, to use email and social media and to access online shopping, banking and medical applications. Over 1,000 deafblind people have participated and there have been some life-changing results: "Today I was shown how to use the scanner reader...it's the first time I have been able to read in 4 years."



Learning to use an iPad's accessibility features

Fight Against Blindness is a small charity which seeks to help children with blindness and sight loss to achieve their full potential. There is a growing awareness of links between a diagnosis of significant sight loss and mental health difficulties and the charity has for several years been funding professional cognitive and behavioural therapy for children with retinal dystrophies and sight loss in hospital eye clinics in Cambridge, Southampton, Oxford and Bristol. This work is now being extended to the North, starting at St James's Hospital in Leeds.

## REPORTS FROM CHARITY BENEFICIARIES - GOALBALL UK

The Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers' Charity is now two thirds of the way through its three-year support for Goalball UK. The funding provided by our Charity was intended to promote the sport across London and use any lessons learned around the country. Sport can make a huge difference to the self confidence and independence of those with vision loss. Getting people interested is the first, vital step. In July, Goalball UK, in partnership with Metro Blind Sport, hosted a multi-sport visual impairment taster day in Hounslow. The day was a great success engaging 12 new visually impaired participants.



Goalball VI sports day

In Hackney, summer holiday sessions were delivered in partnership with the Royal Society for Blind Children to 11 young visually impaired participants aged 8 - 25. The sessions were run by a visually impaired coach with the support of a current player. And in West London, Goalball sessions will be up and running in February 2020 at the newly built Gunnersbury Park sports centre.

Significant progress has been made at all levels, even just over the last 6 months. October saw the launch of the first ever London Goalball League with 3 divisions: Junior, Development and Elite. Fixtures will take place between now and July 31st 2020. Following on from the success of the first London Goalball Cup in June 2019, the event will be repeated and the date has already been fixed for 6 June 2020 at Trinity School Sports Hall, Croydon. All are welcome!

Goalball UK is hugely grateful to the Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers' Charity and all Company members for their continuing support. Particular thanks go to Liveryman Roger Skan for encouraging a special grant from the Howard Victor Skan Charitable Trust.

## BALUJI MUSIC FOUNDATION



An Inner Vision workshop, Milton Keynes, 2019

The foundation has received very positive feedback from participants at free workshops conducted in Manchester (in association with Henshaw's), Southampton (with Blind Veterans UK), Norwich, Buckinghamshire and London. The sessions are led by members of the Inner Vision Orchestra, the only blind ensemble of its kind in the UK. They encourage blind and vision impaired people of all ages and backgrounds to socialise and get involved in making music.

## NORTHERN BALLET

Over the last six months, Northern Ballet have delivered a further ten Access Days for blind and vision impaired ballet lovers, in Leeds, Sheffield, London, Leicester, Edinburgh, Milton Keynes, Salford, Southampton, Cardiff and Belfast, 136 people benefited from touch tours and audio-described performances, provided by VocalEyes and Northern Ballet dancer, Pippa Moore. This approach is unique to Northern Ballet. No other UK ballet company uses a former dancer as an audio describer. Pippa's knowledge and understanding of the artistic process offers patrons a unique insider's view and gives the audience a deeper connection with the production.

"Recovering from an injury in 2017, I had time to participate in the Touch Tour Insight workshops for visually impaired patrons held at the theatres before Audio Described performances. I found these experiences transforming and it eventually led me to being trained and mentored by VocalEyes. I now lead the Touch Tour Insight workshops for every Northern Ballet performance. I also write the audio description scripts for the productions and deliver them live during the performances. I feel very privileged to share the beauty of advance in this way, making it accessible to everyone."

As a dancer, I loved the drama and emotion of portraying the ballet's characters and I find that I'm still telling stories now, a little differently but in an equally rewarding and fascinating way".



Pippa Moore



The Master and Wardens were delighted when Alderman Vincent Keaveny suggested that the Spectacle Makers might like to visit him at home during his year as Sheriff. For the Sheriffs, "home" is The Old Bailey and this provided a unique opportunity to hold an event especially for Freemen. For those travelling in from outside London and keen to see a little more, the Clerk provided a free self-guided walking tour from the Spectacle Makers' office up Fleet Street and round to Old Bailey. We were pleased to see many Freemen who had not been to a Company event for some time alongside newer members and some of "the great and the good" of optics.



Alderman & Sheriff Vincent Keaveny welcomes Freemen



...and receives a birthday toast

Old Bailey's fundamental purpose remains very firmly the administration of justice and this is very much a working building. The building contains 18 courts, hearing cases from across Greater London and others likely to have national significance. In the days leading up to our visit, the inquests into the deaths of both victims and perpetrators of the 2017 London Bridge attack had taken place. They were scheduled at Old Bailey not just because of the international aspects of the attack and the competence of those working on the case but because of the strength of Old Bailey's expert family and witness support service.

Unless you are up before the beak, or a witness or a legal representative, you would not normally get to see the fantastic mosaics and artwork in the Grand Hall of the Central Criminal Court. The murals depicting scenes from the first and second world wars were completed by one man and he even painted

himself in to one of them, though it takes a while, and expert guidance, to find him. The staff of Old Bailey all have their own tales to tell and delight in pointing out small features, such as a large piece of glass embedded in an inside wall which serves as a memory of damage caused by a 1973 IRA bomb.

It was certainly an experience to sit in the famous Court No. 1, the location for the trials of, amongst others, Oscar Wilde, Dr Crippen, Ruth Ellis and the Kray twins. The Sheriff said that he is always interested in seeing which visitors are desperate to sit in the dock. They are always the ones likely to be the most trouble! In our case, the most enthusiastic "miscreants" were Past Masters...

Spectacle Makers were also able to visit a modern, high-tech Court in which screens outnumber legal tomes and high-security prisoners are completely enclosed in the dock to prevent anyone getting out, or anything getting in. Photography is forbidden, as it is in all working Courtrooms.

The Master led a rousing vote of thanks to Sheriff and Alderman Vincent Keaveny. Not only had he given up a whole evening from his very busy diary to entertain us - it was actually his birthday!



Guests in the Grand Hall



Old Bailey WW2 mural

## VISIT TO THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF OPHTHALMOLOGISTS' MUSEUM

On 16th July 2019 a select group of Spectacle Makers visited the Royal College of Ophthalmologists (RCO) near Euston. Mr Richard Keeler (yes, as in the well-known brand of ophthalmoscope) gave us an engaging and entertaining tour and explanations of the RCO artefacts which have been collected from acquisitions and donations from around the UK and internationally.

The museum collection is now of world-wide importance. We viewed the most wonderful antiques for measuring vision and ophthalmic conditions as well as wonderfully preserved teaching aids and historic surgical instruments. Some of the old operating instruments were pretty frightening. A spring-loaded cataract knife? No thank you! We were even able to view some mystery objects and historic books which Richard has been able to collect. His enthusiasm for his subject is infectious and a fascinating time was had by all.

If this has spiked (ouch!) an interest in history, on 4-7 June 2020 the 33rd Annual Meeting of the Cogan Ophthalmic History Club is meeting for the first time in the UK at The Royal Society of Medicine at 1 Wimpole Street and 23-26 April 2020 sees a joint meeting in London of the Ophthalmic Antiques International Collectors' Club with the American-based Ocular Heritage Society. Neil Handley, Liveryman and Curator of the British Optical Association Museum at the College of Optometrists will be the first non-American President of the Society.

See [www.cogansociety.org](http://www.cogansociety.org) and <https://oaicc.com/> for more information.



Richard Keeler explains an ophthalmotrope

## GLORIOUS GOODWOOD

On a beautiful sunny day in August, 35 Spectacle Makers met for a private tour of Goodwood House and afternoon tea. It was fascinating inside and even more to see outside. On the race track there were lots of time trials going on but it was in the air that there was most excitement.

Firstly, one of our Freemen flew especially from her home on the Isle of Man just to join the tour, so it was great to see her land at Goodwood. And then, at the aerodrome, they were preparing for a Spitfire to take off on a round-the-world tour.

Over the last two years, more than a dozen specialists have worked to restore an original Spitfire Mk IX aircraft, which was originally built in Castle Bromwich back in 1943. Spectacle Makers were among the lucky few able to wave off the carefully restored and polished "Silver Spitfire" on its unprecedented circumnavigation. It is due to arrive back at Goodwood in December.



Silver Spitfire at Goodwood, August 2019





# THE MASTER'S WEEKEND

## CRINGLETIE HOUSE, BORDERS

THE MASTER'S WEEKEND

With Spectacle Makers heading north by car via Derbyshire, the Lake District and Yorkshire, by train from London King's Cross and by air from New York, it was a gradual start to the Master's Weekend as we gathered at the glorious estate of Cringletie House Hotel. Now a very comfortable country hotel, this imposing baronial house dating from 1860s has had an interesting history, none more so than for the Master, John McGregor, for it was here that his great grandparents worked and this was the place where his grandfather was born.

Our first evening was a relaxed buffet which was a great opportunity to mingle and meet friends old and new. The room was a-buzz with wine and laughter and there was much discussion about the format of the following day, including a nature walk, a tasting of local produce and, later, the Highland Games. It was not clear at that point whether we had been entered for the professional games taking place down the road in Peebles but some folk were obviously taking it very seriously. At least one of our number was spotted jogging around the park before breakfast, by our charming four-legged guest, Bertram.



Bertram

On Saturday morning we divided into pre-arranged groups. Some opted to learn more of the estate and environs, enjoying a talk followed by a walk around the parkland. The others had chosen "a Taste of the Borders" session, which turned out to be a full-blown demonstration by the head Chef, of dishes made from local salmon and venison, complete with accompanying iced vodka cocktail and local beers. At 10 o'clock in the morning, it was difficult deciding between a "Foxy Blonde", a "Game Bird" or a "Dark Horse" and several gentlemen needed to taste all three, just to be sure.

After lunch came The Highland Games. With some fear and trepidation we gathered on the lawns to be organised into "Clans". It quickly became clear this was no spectator sport. Each team rotated through five separate Highland games events under the careful but highly amused supervision of local stewards!



Out on the nature walk



It was amazing to see the strength of competitive spirit among some usually fragrant, apparently fragile types. The Mistress had obviously been practising her wellie throwing-but I can't say who could possibly have been her usual target. The Clerk, however, was nowhere near as accurate with her aim. In fact those of us in her Clan learned very quickly to take flight when Helen was about to throw anything. "Lucky Luke" turned out to be Nora Hutchinson, who amazed the stewards by landing her horseshoe perfectly round a metal stake and notching up a cool 15 points for her Clan.



Stay well clear of the Clerk

No one was left out. We all tried "weight for height" (throwing a large log with a string handle backwards over a bar, well suited to ladies who mistreat their handbags), putting the stein (stone), wellie-throwing and, of course tossing the caber. Of all the activities this raised the most laughs and proved far more technical than any of us realised. We were all grateful that the cabers chosen were only as tall as ourselves and none of us managed to hit the glass windows of the bungalow behind the field of play. Felicity Harding took the individual prize for rolling her haggis closest to a rather large bottle of whisky, generously shared with her table later at dinner.



Fran Pavely tosses the caber

After changing into our finery, we approached dinner via a red carpet greeting from a piper in full dress. The Selkirk Grace got us nicely in the mood and we relaxed over fine food and wine.



The Master and Mistress are piped into dinner at Cringletie House

Our guest speaker was the food historian Ivan Day. Ivan has an extensive knowledge of British and European cuisine and is a renowned writer and broadcaster on the subject of historical food and feasts.

Ivan's sense of humour was evident immediately as he showed us the notes for his talk written in the form of an eye chart! He'd certainly got our measure! We learnt of the feasts of old held in the inns of the City of London. Meals included meats and birds of every size from swans to larks usually with elaborate decoration in the form of real beaks and feathers. The inclusion of owl was thought to have been good for the eyesight but was not universally favoured as an ideal dish for our next Livery Dinner.



Guest Speaker Ivan Day

Competition was evident again the next morning, as Avi and Daniel Baker took on the Clerk and Edward Kettell in a very early morning game of croquet. At 7.30am on a Sunday morning, the estate was wreathed in mist and dew still lay heavy on the ground, but the reward was a new skill in the technique of "roquet" and an astonishingly large plate of pancakes for breakfast. All too soon, the boys joined the bus full of intrepid alpaca-trekkers and the next part of the journey began for those taking the opportunity to see a bit more of the country before returning home.



Croquet in the morning mist



David Baker struggling with "Dark Rum"

Many congratulations to John and Gloria McGregor and our thanks for all the work they put in to creating this memorable weekend in the Borders.

Wendy Allen



# EVENTS CALENDAR

## COMPANY DATES 2020

Saturday 25 January, 3pm	"Eye to Eye" session at 100% Optical, ExCel Centre
Tuesday 10 March	Court Luncheon at Apothecaries' Hall
Friday 27 March	United Guilds Service at St Paul's Cathedral
4-6 April	Optrafair Exchange at the NEC, Birmingham
Monday 20 April	Livery Dinner at Plaisterers' Hall, London
Sunday 3 May	Charity Showcase Event, Henley, River and Rowing Museum
Tuesday 12 May	Procession to London Stone, followed by an informal lunch with the Masons' Company at Bow Wine Vaults, London EC4
Thursday 4 June	Court Luncheon at Apothecaries' Hall
Wednesday 24 June	Election of Sheriffs at Common Hall
Friday 18 - Sunday 20 September	Master's Weekend and Gregorie Dinner at the Jockey Club, Newmarket
Monday 21 September	Four Liveries Lecture (hosted by the Scientific Instrument Makers) at Glaziers' Hall
Tuesday 29 September	Election of the Lord Mayor at Common Hall – all Liverymen are encouraged to vote
Wednesday 30 September, 11am	Annual Service of Thanksgiving, Remembrance & Rededication in St Bride's, and then the Court Luncheon at Apothecaries' Hall
Friday 13 November	Silent Ceremony (Lord Mayor takes office) – applications for tickets can be made individually in August through the City of London Corporation website
Saturday 14 November	The Lord Mayor's Show – Spectacle Makers will be taking part!
Tuesday 8 December	Court Luncheon at Apothecaries' Hall

## SOCIETY CALENDAR 2020

January (Monday 20th)	Tutankkhamun exhibition, London (SOLD OUT)
February (Monday 17th)	Visit to the Metropolitan Police Museum, London (SOLD OUT)
March/April (TBC)	Tour of Lambeth Palace and Gardens / Sanders Shoe Factory, Northampton
May (Wednesday 20th)	History of the Eye Lecture by Joanna Bourke, Gresham Lecturer, in London
June (Saturday 13th)	Family day at Harlow Town Park, Essex
August	Herstmonceux Castle and Gardens and The Observatory Science Centre, East Sussex
September (Tuesday 8th)	Diamond Light Source, the UK's national synchrotron facility, Oxford
October	Visit to Warwick Castle
December	Christmas theatre

Where dates and times are not yet confirmed, further details will be distributed by email. Please make sure we have up to date email addresses and phone numbers so we can contact you.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## SAVE THE DATE..... SPECTACLE MAKERS FAMILY FUN DAY

*Presented by The Spectacle Makers Society*

**SATURDAY 13TH JUNE 2020 AT  
HARLOW TOWN PARK**



Expect a petting zoo, bee keeping, historical walled gardens, guided walks, pond dipping, bug hunting, inclusive play areas, cherry orchards, lots of fun games and much more!

**Details and how to  
reserve activities for all  
the family to follow in  
early 2020**