



from the

MASTER & WARDENS

The newsletter of The Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers

Spectacle Makers on Parade





SPECTACLE MAKERS ON PARADE

With the best weather for a Lord Mayor's Parade since 1634 (apparently), the Spectacle Makers made their own splash in this year's Lord Mayor's Show Parade this year with a very important message: **LOOK AFTER YOUR VISION!**

Taking part in the Show is not something any Livery Company does lightly. Creating designs for the Show is an industry in its own right and the most ambitious floats can cost as much as £25,000. We are certainly not in that league! The Court agreed in May that it would support the proposal to enter a float but with a tightly controlled budget and an eye health message.

So a small planning group got to work and out of our membership emerged some wonderfully creative people. Freeman Tom Broughton and his team at Cubitts designed over-sized Snellen charts and Ishihara boards spelling out "WCSM". Liverymen Mo and Tim Webb procured a giant Mascot Lemtosh spectacle frame, professionally made by an ex-film set designer to resist wind and water. There was a more "Blue Peter" approach to the accompanying eyeballs, made from nylon lampshades with laminated blue irises, sewn into place and taped by the Clerk and a Senior Court Assistant less than 24 hours before the show.



Bright green and yellow sweatshirts bearing the Achievement of Arms were sponsored by Nikon UK and brought everything together. But it was our umbrellas that really caught the eye. With blue or brown irises on the outside and an OCT retinal image on the inside, the umbrellas reflected the new Lord Mayor's wish to see digital technology featured in the Parade to align with his theme, "Shaping tomorrow's City today".

The stars of the Show were undoubtedly our 50 valiant volunteers. From all parts of the country, across many professions, Freemen and Liverymen offered us their time and energy. The names were drawn out of a hat and what fantastic representatives they were! One of the greatest pleasures of the day was seeing 5 student winners of WCSM Education Trust bursaries and travel awards walking alongside experienced ophthalmologists, optometrists, dispensing opticians and orthoptists and going home enthused, engaged and feeling part of one amazing team.

Thank you to everyone who took part, those who watched and waited for us along the route - those cheers really carried us along - and all those who supported us from home or work. The day was summed up by a special message from the Lord Mayor's Office:



Trainee Ophthalmologist Dr Yan Ning Neo with student orthoptist Chioma Ezenwoye (behind the eyeball)

**"WOW - A FANTASTIC
SHOW-AND WELL DONE
TO ALL!"**

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The 691st Lord Mayor, Alderman Peter Estlin



A MASTER'S PROGRESS

As my year of office as Master of this wonderful Worshipful Company comes to an end, it is salutary to think not just of endings but also of beginnings.

I felt both excited and nervous at the challenge of representing such a distinguished and revered body. In such a situation one draws on the strengths of others, the multiple skill base of our members, the wise, guiding hand of our Clerk, the legacy of previous Masters and, of course one's own experience of sometime managing a personal social services department and chairmanship of a sight saving international charity, Vision Aid Overseas, which served as my entry point to the Spectacle Makers' Company.

Let me begin with the Masters. I owe each of my predecessors a large debt; they were all different in style, approach and humour but all were dedicated to the Company and mentored me through my membership of the Court and particularly as a Warden. I want to mention one Master in particular, the late Brian Mitchell. I first met him many years ago as a Trustee of Vision Aid Overseas. His contribution to the Spectacle Makers' Company, his work in establishing a firm footing for our charities and his reputation as a most committed and devoted Past Master still lingers in the memory of many. With other liverymen whom we have lost this year, we remembered him in our Annual Service of Thanksgiving, Rededication and Remembrance, at which I was proud to read again the familiar but ever-relevant story of The Good Samaritan.



Reading the Lesson

I mentioned at the December livery lunch some words of President Obama to his then teenage daughters which can best describe my experience of working with our liverymen – 'be kind, be useful and have fun.' The abundance of talent we have in our membership has been exemplified during my year in the work of the committees and the fruits of the labours of all those who serve the Company. We thrive through the generosity of so many who give their time and expertise freely.

Knowledge of what we do has been expanded through Facebook and Twitter, through the awarding of bursaries and grants by the WCSM Education Trust and the development of

a three year grant by the Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers' Charity; the first recipients being Goalball UK. Goalball is an absolutely terrific sport designed specifically for vision impaired people and one about which we shall hear much more in the future.

The participation of many Freemen in events this year was a real joy. It shows how the Society really does extend the hand of friendship and fellowship.

A particularly special event for me and my family was the display of my late brother Andrew Varah's work at a joint evening with The Worshipful Company of Furniture Makers in their modern, graceful Hall.

The comments of valued outsiders after our events are always enjoyable to read.

I particularly recall a letter after the Livery Dinner which said "You can tell when a Company is happy and thriving. No one at last night's dinner could have been in any doubt about the health of The Spectacle Makers". That is also borne out by the number of recent applications we have had for membership. The Clerk admitted 43 Freemen in my year as Master and the Court has clothed 18 new Liverymen. This is wonderful but our efforts must continue, to keep new life flowing into our Company.



Alderman and Sheriff Vincent Keaveny

We are immensely proud that Alderman Vincent Keaveny, one of our Liverymen, was elected Aldermanic Sheriff in June 2018, taking office at the end of September.

We congratulate him and will offer him our wholehearted support; equally we congratulate our learned Clerk who has accepted his invitation to serve as the Honorary Ward Clerk for the Ward of Farringdon Within.

We hope to continue to strengthen our connections in the City of London, not with the aim of beating the 19th Century record of Spectacle Maker Lord Mayors, but to be the voice of optics in the City, and remind those we meet of the importance of eye health.

In admiration and gratitude for what has happened in my year of office I should also mention the kindness of friends. The Reverend Christine Smith, the Company's first female chaplain, not only blessed our tables of food and wine with especially composed graces that seized the moment, but has lightened our lives with humour and warmth. I know she is delighted to have accepted an invitation to continue as Honorary Chaplain to my successor, the inestimable John McGregor OBE.

Throughout this year I have been buoyed up by the encouragement of both John and Huntly Taylor as my Wardens. Their continued support has meant so much to me as has that of our Clerk, Helen, with her characteristic diligence and helpful companionship through many of the Master's official engagements.

So, having recorded my gratitude for the hard work of so many and the support I have received, what have been the highlights of my year?

Firstly, I feel fortunate to have engaged the friendship and backing of the Lord and Lady Mayoress in 2017/18. The Spectacle Makers' Company was much appreciated by them both and not just for the traditional gift of spectacles, though Samantha Bowman did tell me that her life as Lady Mayoress was indeed made easier once she could "walk down the stairs safely and read the tube map and the adverts!"



The presentation of spectacles to the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress at Mansion House, May 2018

We have contributed to the Lord Mayor's Appeal, we have supported City events and we, like many other liverys, are keen to promote the interests of young people.

Secondly, it is worth recording a year of memorable celebrations. We recalled with pride the hundred years of the RAF, with two of our liveryman who are currently serving in reserve squadrons.

It was also 100 years since the first votes for women. As part of the commemoration of the suffragette movement, the Master Educator and I were asked by City University to celebrate International Women's Day by talking about the role of female Masters in livery companies.

There are 110 Livery Companies and there were 14 Lady Masters appointed in this last year; there are indications that the number will grow in years to come. The Spectacle Makers can be justifiably proud of their record and we have appointed two more female Court Assistants in this year.

I was very fortunate to see the installation of the first female Bishop of London, The Right Reverend Dame Sally Mullally, in a service that was diverse, inclusive and cosmopolitan – an inspiration to us all.



The Installation of the Bishop of London

The setting of the Guildhall Crypt for our Livery Dinner in April allowed us to be immersed in the history of the place from Roman times to the 21st Century. Geoffrey Munn, the Faberge expert from the Antiques Roadshow dazzled us with his wit and erudition.

As, indeed, did another friend, Peter White, the BBC's presenter of "You and Yours" radio programme and the BBC's disability correspondent, who was the guest of honour for my Master's Weekend Dinner in Winchester in September.

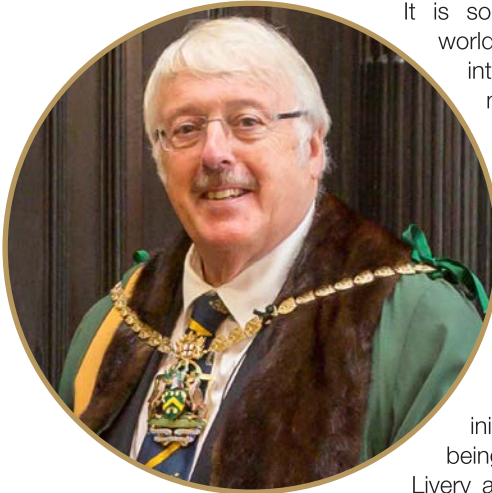
As I've indicated, serving the company as your Master has been one of the most momentous years of my life, so far. It has been such a privilege at many different levels. If I have achieved anything in this year I might modestly refer to a few lines from TS Eliot's 'The Love Song of J Alfred Prufrock'. He talks about 'an attendant Lord, one that will do to swell a progress, start a scene or two.' Yes, swell a progress, I'll settle for that!

Felicity Harding



THROUGH A DIFFERENT LENS

John McGregor OBE, Master 2018-19



It is so refreshing in this world to be welcomed into a non-political, non-partisan community. Drawn together by a common thread, it has members from diverse backgrounds, making for such an entertaining and eclectic group. That was my initial reaction upon being admitted to the Livery and that feeling has been maintained ever since.

Now, following my installation as Master, I have met a greater number of Liverymen, Court members and past and present Masters of other Liveries than ever before, and my initial reaction has been reconfirmed. This a great livery company.

I am aware that, as the temporary custodian of the office, I have just twelve months to sustain the efforts of Past Masters whilst reinforcing our drive to strengthen the Company and support new initiatives. I am charged with ensuring that the Company is stronger at the point I step down than it was when I was installed, that the challenges during my term of office have been addressed and that my successor is well placed to continue the tasks in hand. That certainly makes you think.

At least any such challenges will be made a little easier by knowing that I have such a dedicated and knowledgeable Court and there are expert committees providing the machinery that drives this Company forward. Both the committees and the Court have benefitted in the last year or two from having new members and I hope that the process of involving more members in the day to day running of the Company will continue. The contribution of our staff, our committee members and Chairmen, the Society Committee, our Stewards and so many individuals to this Company's progress is vital to our success, so thank you all.

I have attended the installation of several Masters and each time the service combining Thanksgiving, Remembrance and Re-dedication has been beautifully conducted and enhanced by the bright and peaceful surroundings of St Bride's Church. Accompanied by wonderful music, everything combines to provide the perfect start to a Master's year.

My installation was no different and I am delighted that The Reverend Christine Smith has agreed to serve for another year as my Chaplain. I know that her care, concern and her listening ear are gladly extended to Liverymen and Freemen just as much as to the Master.

I am often asked if I am an optometrist, dispensing optician or even an accountant and indeed on occasions it would be advantageous to say yes, but this is not the case. In fact, my

background is on the periphery of optics. I have spent the past forty years developing materials for contact lenses, intra-ocular lenses and other implantable devices.



The Master with the Honorary Chaplain

It was a delightful surprise when I learned that the late Sir Harold Ridley was awarded the Spectacle Makers' Gold Crook Medal for "research instituted to recognise those whose lifetime has been marked by outstanding contribution to the understanding or improvement of vision". Sir Harold Ridley invented intra-ocular lenses and developed the surgical techniques for their implantation. He suffered much hostility to his work which of course pioneered what is now thought to be the most commonly performed surgery in the world and he had to wait until he was ninety-three before receiving his knighthood. I am proud to be remotely associated with him.

The list of Past Masters who have gone before me is most impressive and without exception they are tough acts to follow. With that in mind I express my indebtedness to Felicity Harding as she now takes on the mantle of Deputy Master. Felicity has proved to be a bit of a whirlwind and she now joins the ranks of those many other Past Masters who have contributed so much to this respected and ancient Company. Thanks are also due to her Consort, John, for his unfailing support.

My wife Gloria has undertaken to do everything she can to help the Company and me, as Master, during the coming year. In turn I have encouraged her to take every opportunity she has as Mistress Spectacle Maker to highlight the impact of hearing loss on so many members of society. Vision and hearing are inevitably closely linked and we will work together to help spread the Company's wider message of not just better vision, but also better senses, for life.

I am still in the very early stages of my Master's year but already I have had the delight of witnessing a number of amazing events alongside other livery companies. The most moving came in the form of the early morning send-off for the Magical Taxi

Tour to Disneyland Paris, organised annually by the Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers. Many of these children will be setting off on the greatest treat of their short lives, and the expression on parents' faces is something I will remember for a very long time. This year was of particular significance as 2018 marked the 25th year of the Magical Taxi Tour.



Our sponsored taxi heading for Disneyland Paris

Upon being admitted to this Company it was made clear that it was incumbent upon me to embrace that other pillar of Livery, Charity. Charitable support is something that all livery companies are dedicated to, regardless of size and craft. Our two charities are managed by trustees who carefully examine requests received for help before making grants. I have looked back through past articles and noted that, as far back as 2006, Past Master John Baker and every Master since has appealed for everyone to contribute a greater amount, and regularly, to

help our charitable work but I note with regret that we still have not yet won the hearts and minds of many members. We will be working on this during the coming year to find ways to help make it easier for everyone, from the newest Freeman to our long established Liverymen, to give something back.

We are very grateful to those who have given up time over the last few months to produce our entry in this year's Lord Mayor's Show. This was a great example of everyone working together, demonstrating engagement with eye health, inter-disciplinary co-operation, diversity, friendliness and fun, all characteristics of this Livery Company. Senior Court Assistant Ian Davies and his team are to be congratulated for putting on a cost effective entry which carried such an important message "Look After Your Vision" but also conveyed a bright and lively image of our Company to the wider world. You have only 25 seconds to make an impact in the Lord Mayor's Show Parade but those 25 seconds take months of work beforehand.

I was thrilled to stand and watch the team coming towards me with smiling faces and a very clear message about regular eye examinations. A very big thank you to all involved. You did so well and we will very much value your input for the next time we enter the Show.

It was a particular privilege for me as I was invited to form part of the Guard of Honour that received the new Lord Mayor upon his return to the Mansion House following the Parade. I am so pleased that our Company was able to take its place at the heart of a ceremonial day in the life of the City of London.





Dr Lindsay Rountree, Court Assistant Karen Sparrow and BCLA's CEO Cheryl Donnelly compare notes

Bringing together all sorts of people and organisations is something that has always been true of our Company. One of the aims for my year is that we will strengthen relationships within the Company, across the optical sector and across the City. I love this photograph which I think just captures what can happen within the Spectacle Makers' walls. Here is Dr Lindsay Rountree, the winner of our bronze Master's Medal for first published research, fully engrossed in conversation with

Court Assistant Karen Sparrow and Cheryl Donnelly, CEO of the BCLA. Who is learning from whom? We will never know.

Putting self aside, using individual experience to help the team and working towards a common goal are all themes which, unsurprisingly, were brought into sharp focus by one of my most recent duties as Master, commemorating 100 years since the Armistice. It was an immense privilege to honour those who served their country and the principle of service to others is something I hold dear. I believe it runs across the Livery movement and through the hearts of all health professionals.

I hope that you will share my pleasure at the number and variety of new applications for membership we are receiving, which reflects our willingness to be open to new ideas and tell the world about what we do. I do hope you will all do your best to introduce and welcome new members and tell everyone you meet about the work we do in charity, education, upholding standards and encouraging young people into enormously worthwhile careers.

Perhaps you might bring along friends or colleagues to a Society event? There are some great plans for the coming year, in different parts of the country and there is a list on the last page of this journal. I hope that you will join me for my own Master's Weekend in the glorious Border Country of Scotland, I can promise you wonderful scenery and a great weekend with opportunities to do things you may never have done before, lots of fun and wonderful food. Just watch this space!

John McGregor OBE



The City remembers, 11 November 2018

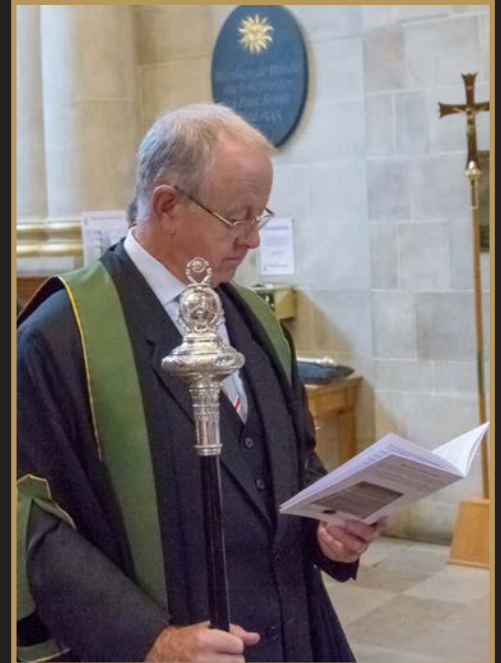


THE ANNUAL SERVICE

Once again, the church of St Bride's Fleet Street resounded to beautiful music as the Spectacle Makers' Annual Service of Remembrance, Re-dedication and Thanksgiving took place on Wednesday 3 October. The hymns and the reading were chosen by the outgoing Master, Felicity Harding, evoking memories of her family, school and charity involvement. "Be Thou My Vision", sung to a modern setting by contemporary composer Bob Chilcott, marked the point of transition from one Master to the next.



A welcome from the Stewards



The Beadle prepares



A Master's final procession



The Clerk administers the Declaration



A solemn moment for the new Master and Wardens



The new officers celebrate back at Apothecaries' Hall

Next year, as a result of changes in the City of London's calendar which will place the Election of the Lord Mayor at Common Hall on the morning of Wednesday 2 October, our Annual Service will move to the late afternoon of that day and take the form of Evensong, to be followed by a celebratory Dinner at Apothecaries' Hall.





THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY

There was a full house in Apothecaries' Hall as successful examination candidates and their friends, family and employers, along with tutors, examiners and exam staff, joined a bumper group of 14 new Freemen of the Company for this year's Presentation Ceremony.



Apothecaries' Hall - Presentation Ceremony 2018

"I thought we would just be coming to a hotel" said one recipient. "I had no idea we would be in such a fantastic place".



Abbie Skene receives her Diploma and Level 2 prize

Abbie Skene came down from Scotland to receive the Spectacle Makers' Prize for the best performance in the Level 2 Diploma, accompanied by colleague and fellow Level 2 certificate-winner Tanya Monaghan.

Level 2 Certificates were also received by successful students from Pen Optical and a group of ladies from Leightons Opticians, whose training is carried out in the workplace over the course of around 9 months.



Leightons ladies

Rudi Mifsud Bonnici travelled from Malta to collect his Level 3 Diploma in Optical Support and Freedom of the Company.



Rudi Mifsud-Bonnici is admitted as a Freeman

The Arthur Sinclair Prize for the highest score in Year 1 of the Level 4 Diploma for Optical Technicians was earned by Chris Sewell. The prize for the highest score in the final theory papers Year 2 was awarded to Michael Kent, and the Wiseman Memorial Trust Prize, for the best results in the practical assessments, was won by Daniel Hunter-Pike. All three technicians work for Specsavers.



Prize winners Daniel Hunter-Pike, Chris Sewell and Michael Kent

There were also celebrations for ABDO College's own in-house technician, Mark Turner, on achieving his coveted SMC(Tech) Level 4 Diploma.



ABDO Vice President Jo Holmes congratulates Mark Turner SMC(Tech)

A special award was made by Professor Chris Hull, Chairman of the WCSM Education Trust, to Summaya Ali from the University of Bradford. Having been awarded a bursary of £1,000 at the start of her optometry degree course last October, Summaya wrote the best report on the progress of her studies and so earned the right to join Trustees at lunch following the Ceremony.



Summaya Ali bursary winner with Professor Chris Hull, Chairman of WCSM Education Trust

The 14 people admitted to Freedom included 3 successful students, established figures from the world of optometry and dispensing and professionals working in vision charities as well as in lighting design and the property sector. There was an international dimension as Kim Worrall, from San Jose received her certificate before going on to admission as a Freeman of the City of London. Kim was following in the steps of her ancestor, Alfred Durnford, a coffee house keeper who became a Freeman of our Company in 1851.

It was on 27 December 1759 that the Court decided to open up membership of the Company to those outside optical professions and it seems that the message is at last getting through! 48 new Freemen have now been admitted in the last 12 months, with 27 different job titles between them.

Livery companies can appeal to different generations; they can be forward thinking and dynamic and they continue to grow in number, as the Master pointed out in his speech. The Spectacle Makers have an ancient heritage but a modern and continuing purpose. Each certificate awarded is something to display proudly, a sign and symbol of commitment to improving vision and, no doubt, a starting point for many interesting and inspiring conversations.



Kim Worrall from San Jose follows in her ancestor's footsteps



The New Freemen



NEWS ROUND-UP

The Four Liveries Lecture

This year's Four Liveries Lecture, given by James Simpson of the Lightmongers' Company, took us on a trip into the future of theatre lighting design. Living in London but want to see a live performance of Tosca in Milan? Virtual reality will help to make it happen within our lifetimes, he argued.



James Simpson delivers the Four Liveries Lecture

Next year's Four Liveries Lecture will be hosted by the Spectacle Makers and delivered by Professor Tara Moore of Ulster University. She has promised a lively debate, suitable for experts and lay people alike. The lecture will take place on Thursday 12 September 2019, at Painters' Hall, very close to Mansion House station in central London.



Many congratulations to Liveryman Lavinia (Livvy) da Souza and her husband David Dorman on the birth of their daughter Theia on 14 August 2018.

The Williams Review: A Discussion Evening

The Williams Review was commissioned in February 2018 by former Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt. Its aim was to consider the wider patient safety impact of concerns among healthcare professionals about the risk of prosecution for gross negligence manslaughter, particularly in the context of broader system failings. Following its publication in June, the Government accepted all of the recommendations made in the review, which include improving consistency in the use of experts in such cases, driving up the quality of local investigations, and changing the powers of regulators.

Past Master Don Grocott organised a special discussion with Professor Sir Norman Williams and Ian Stern QC, authors of the review report, on 24 October 2018. The event was co-hosted by AOP and took place at their offices, with a specially invited list of guests from ophthalmology and more general medicine, optometry, dispensing, pharmacy, regulatory bodies, expert witnesses and lawyers. The review panel foresaw a key role for healthcare representative bodies and defence organisations in putting these changes into practice. There was a very open and honest discussion about the challenges of doing so and the issues facing healthcare professionals.



Past Master Don Grocott chairs the Williams Review discussion



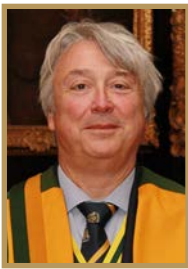
FREEDOM AND LIVERY NEWS

The Company welcomes as new Freemen:

Mr David Bonellie
Mr Rudi Mifsud Bonnici
Mrs Nichole Emily Chapman
Ms Jillian Claire Flaherty
Dr Josie Caitlin Forte
Mr Frederic Roger Heathcote
Mrs Mary Syme Heathcote
Ms Lisa Jean Hopkins
Mr Robert Alan Kronman
Mr Kieron Paul Mallon
Dr Peter Morgan-Warren

Miss Sarah Jane Morris
Dr Joy-Belle Myint
Mr Barry Peter Popplewell
Mrs Claire Deborah Ranger
Mr James William Anthony Richardson
Mr Robert Paul Stanley Ridgeway
Mr James Alexander Gillespie Sangster
Dr Mary-Ann Sherratt
Dr Ahmed Zimar Sivardeen
The Reverend Christine Mary Smith
Mr David Andrew Woolf

NEW LIVERYMEN CLOTHED ON 5 JUNE 2018



*Eurling Simon
Bartley OBE*



*Mr James
Conway*



*Professor Leon
Davies*



*Mrs Vicki
Derry*



*Ms Rowena
McNamara*



*Mr Christopher
Simmons*

LONG SERVICE

The following members are congratulated on achieving significant anniversaries of their admission to the Freedom:

70 YEARS

Leslie Arthur Bailey

60 YEARS

Brian Henry Ellis MBE
Leslie Antony Marcus Hubbard
Francis John Petticrew
Hugh Seymour
Peter Edward Wood

50 YEARS

Judith Lorna Bristoll
Richard Howard Reeves Broughton
Robert Montague Frith
Stephen Howard Grimley
Martin William Haynes
Robert Edward Lloyd
Neil Macdonald
David Ivel Rees
Valerie Joan Scarr
Derek David Spivack
Keith Charles Waring

40 YEARS

Charles Stuart Amster
Angela Margaret Hickman
(anniversary achieved in December 2017)
Geoffrey Kelvin Watson

25 YEARS

Howard Spencely Bainbridge
Jane Olwyn Beaton
Eleanor Margaret Leech
Jonathan Roger Bedson Leech
Anthony Patrick Macpherson
Anthony Michael Kirk Newland
Sarah Frances Peeters
Deborah Jane Prescott
Roy Maurice Walters

RIP

Susan Jane Grayson
Kenneth George Love
Anne Macintosh
Kenneth Maskery
Roger George Gullock Payne
Daphne Ellen Grace Thorpe
Marion Joyce Delaforce Williams



NEWS FROM THE COURT

The members of the Court for the year from 3 October 2018 are:

Master	Mr John McGregor OBE
Upper Warden	Mr Huntly Taylor
Renter Warden	Mr Nigel Haig-Brown
Deputy Master	Mrs Felicity Harding
Past Master Assistants	Dr Robert Chappell OBE
	Professor John Marshall MBE
	Mr Chris Hunt
	Dr Christine Tomkins
Senior Assistants	Mr David Baker
	Mr Ian Davies
Assistants to the Court	Mr Michael Harris
	Miss Karen Sparrow
	Mr Paul Ursell
	Dr Natalie Briggs
	Mrs Rupal Lovell-Patel
(from December 2018)	Mr Marc Bennett
	Ms Hayley Wainer

After completing his year as Deputy Master, Mr Don Grocott TD has stepped down from the Court. The Court has expressed its deep gratitude for the eight years of service he has given to the Court, and his previous leadership of the Membership Committee.



Renter Warden Nigel Haig-Brown

The traditional role of the Renter Warden was to collect rents and fines so it is appropriate that the Renter Warden, Nigel Haig-Brown, has been a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England & Wales since 1974 and has served on the Company's Finance Committee over two separate terms.

He spent most of his career in the City, working initially in audit and consultancy before switching his focus to the international dry-bulk shipping trade. Now, in retirement, he is an independent local Councillor in his home borough of Elmbridge.

Nigel became a Liveryman in 1993 and was appointed as Finance Committee Chairman in November 2016.

Nigel is married to fellow liveryman, Sue. Between them they have 3 daughters and 5 grandchildren, all of whom conspire to separate them from long distance walking, skiing and sunny holidays.

Introducing the new Wardens



Upper Warden Huntly Taylor

The Upper Warden, Huntly Taylor, qualified as a Dispensing Optician with Rayners in 1971. Within a year, he was managing three of their practices in different parts of London and his knowledge of the London transport system has proved useful ever since, particularly in the last year or so when he has regularly been trying to find ways of simultaneously attending Company meetings in London, organising events for the Spectacle Makers' Society, managing the sale of his practice and house in Brighton, playing golf and getting home to be with wife and fellow Liveryman Gaynor in Newmarket.

Huntly is well connected in the optical sector. He was a founder director of the Eyecare Trust, served on ABDO's Council for ten years and was a Trustee and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of ABDO College until May 2016. He remains a Trustee of the WSCM Education Trust.



BRONZE MEDAL AWARDS

There was a “first” in 2018 as the Ruskell Medal was awarded jointly, to two eminent vision scientists, Professor Lyndon da Cruz of Moorfields and Professor Pete Coffey of University College London, for their work on genetic therapies for age-related macular degeneration. Their research has resulted in the development of innovative stem-cell therapy which could have a significant impact in reversing some forms of AMD. The therapy involves taking a single stem cell from an embryo and growing it into a “patch” of cells that can be transplanted into the eye. The technique has already been used for a small number of patients and the results indicate both that this new therapeutic approach is safe and that it provides good visual outcomes. It is hoped that, after years of background work, significant benefit could be delivered to many more patients in the future.

The 2018 Master's Medal was won by Dr Lindsay Rountree of Aston University for her paper “Optimising the glaucoma signal/noise ratio by mapping changes in spatial summation with area-modulated perimetric stimuli”. This was a first publication, undertaken during research for her doctorate at the University of Cardiff. This work will make a major contribution to diagnosis in glaucoma.

The Professional Committee, headed by Past Master (Assistant) Professor John Marshall MBE, will open the competition for next year's medals in the New Year.



Dr Lindsay Rountree is awarded the Master's Medal

The Ruskell Medal is awarded to Professor Pete Coffey and Professor Lyndon da Cruz





CHARITABLE WORK

Goalball UK

The Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers' Charity's first year of funding for Goalball UK is well under way and already providing benefits. The grant of £10,000 for 3 years is intended primarily to help set up new clubs in London, the first being in Tower Hamlets. Taster sessions are being offered at the London Elephants Club, at Elephant and Castle.

At a special event at the English Institute for Sport in Sheffield, Goalball UK's base, in September, Charity Trustees were able to meet the men's Goalball squad before they headed out to Poland for the European championships. Both the men's and women's teams have a real chance of reaching the Paralympics within the next few years, if excellent coaching and an overwhelming team spirit count for anything. The team of young men explained how Goalball participants treat each other as family. They look after each other, meeting at central stations before making their way together to sports venues. Chain hotels are apparently ideal, being both cheaper and always laid out to the same pattern, but the costs of travelling by train around the country are a challenge for many.

It was only perhaps when the time came for volunteers to try playing Goalball for themselves that the speed and expertise needed really came home. The new players were given a special eye shield and were shown how to use the goalposts

to gauge their position on the pitch, but they suddenly realised how difficult it was to work out not just where they were but where the ball was coming from. Thankfully the ball was being thrown with considerably less power than in the previous international-standard training match.

Goalball are keen to recruit more volunteer helpers ("Activators") around the country. A couple of hours at a weekend from time to time would be very much appreciated and full training can be given. Please contact Steve Cox on steve.cox@goalballuk.com



Anita Lightstone, Trustee, with Goalball UK staff



Northern Ballet

For almost 50 years, Northern Ballet has been bringing world-class dance and storytelling to communities across the UK. Northern Ballet delivers a diverse education programme to over 60,000 people of all ages, means and abilities every year. In addition to productions at over 40 venues nationwide, the Company's learning team work offer a wide range of accessible resources, workshops and activities, from wheelchair dance training courses (In Motion), to hospice projects enabling children with life limiting conditions and their families to enjoy dance together.

Our Charity's grant of £5,000 will help to fund Access Days in Nottingham, Sheffield, Newcastle, Hull, Woking and Leeds for vision impaired people. These days involve a free Tourh Tour. Participants can hear a description of the scenery, feel the props and costumes and discover the shapes and quality of movement from the ballet with the aid of Company dancers.



Baluji Music Foundation

Founded in 2008, the Baluji Music Foundation is a charity which facilitates blind and visually impaired people's participation in music making. It provides workshops and performance opportunities and supports blind musicians seeking to advance a career in music. The charity was established in 2008 by prominent blind Indian musician Baluji Shrivastav OBE together with musician and writer Linda Shanson. The Inner Vision Orchestra, the UK's only blind orchestra, has performed in venues across London and is providing accessibility to music for more vision impaired musicians, giving them confidence and promoting a positive attitude to disability.



Have you joined the 100 Club yet?

This is a really easy way to make an ongoing contribution to the Charity and have a great chance of winning a prize yourself! The principle is straightforward – a maximum of 100 shares can be issued, so you know you are always in with a good chance. Shareholders pay £100 per year by standing order. Once you've set up the arrangement with your bank, the hard work is done. Each share has a number allocated to it and if your number is drawn out, you win a prize. It's a bit like the Lottery, but with much better odds!

There are two draws each year, in June and December with six prizes of £250 each. In December there is also one star prize of £1,000.

Even if you are unsuccessful in the draw, you can be content in the knowledge that you are supporting our own charity and enabling the Trustees to continue their programme of grant giving to help people with vision impairment and their families.

Buy your share now by emailing Ros Kirk at kirkopticians@btconnect.com



WCSM EDUCATION TRUST 2018 BURSARY WINNERS

The WCSM Education Trust has made its third award of bursaries to new students starting optical training courses which will lead to a career in eye health. Students had to present a budget showing their expected income and expenditure and justifying how they would use a bursary. Award winners must present a report in April confirming their progress.

Here are this year's winners:

Name	Course	Institution
Azima Adam	Optometry	University of Manchester
Suleman Ahmed	Diploma in Ophthalmic Dispensing	Bradford College
Amber Ashfaq	Optometry	City, University of London
Balpreet Bains	Orthoptics	University of Sheffield
Rebecca Barton	Optometry	University of the West of England, Bristol
Matthew Collin	Optometry	University of the West of England, Bristol
Catherine Hayes	Diploma in Ophthalmic Dispensing	ABDO College
Rena Hilmi	Optometry	University of Hertfordshire
Nabila Hussain	Optometry	City, University of London
Mahirul Islam	Optometry	City, University of London
Tasnia Kalam	Optometry	City, University of London
Hanan Kanso	Optometry	City, University of London
Ayesha Mahmood	Optometry	University of Manchester
Saniya Makkan	Optometry	University of Manchester
Fatima Mangera	Optometry	City, University of London
Agarshana Manoharan	Optometry	City, University of London
Celina Murray	Optometry	Ulster University
Lucy Peart	Optometry	Plymouth University
Victoria Preston	Orthoptics	University of Liverpool
Daisy Scoltock	Orthoptics	University of Liverpool
Matthew Spiers	Foundation Degree in Ophthalmic Dispensing	ABDO College
Julia Trella	Optometry	University of the West of England, Bristol
Kelly Swoish	Optometry	Plymouth University
Yahya Yusuf	Optometry	University of Manchester

We were delighted to be joined by five recipient of WCSM Education Trust Awards in the Parade on Lord Mayors Show Day. Thank you to Chioma Ezenmoye, Kamila Krawczyk, Avneet Gill, Hanan Kanso and Dr Yan Ning Neo.

Contributions to the work of The WCSM Education Trust (Charity No. 1135045) are always gratefully received. A standing order form and Gift Aid declaration can be found on the website.

<https://spectaclemakers.com/Files/WCSM-Education-Trust-standing-order-and-Gift-Aid-forms.pdf>

GIFT AID REMINDER

Remember that if you are a taxpayer and are making an individual donation to either The Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers' Charity or The WCSM Education Trust, the charity can reclaim an extra 25% on your donation from the Treasury if you have completed and signed a Gift Aid form. Contact the Office to obtain a form or download and print one for yourself via the website: <https://www.spectaclemakers.com/Charitable-Work/>

Gift Aid cannot be reclaimed on 100 Club payments, corporate donations or gifts received from outside the UK. Individuals making a Gift Aid Declaration must be paying income and/or capital gains tax at least equivalent to the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all donations they may have made in that particular tax year.

CALL FOR TRUSTEES



The WCSM Education trust is looking for two Trustees. Details have been sent out by email through the MailChimp system.

Our Friends at the Institute of Optometry also have vacancies for three new Trustees, with legal, financial, community work and /or estate management skills. Contact Judith Moms for more information: jmoms@ioo.org.uk



THE SPECTACLE MAKERS' SOCIETY

Roaming in Roman Chester

A great day was had by all on the Society away day to Chester on 11th July. Although planned as just a day trip, several of the group had decided to stay over for 2 days making a lovely "weekend" of it, and why not? The weather was exceptional, beautifully sunny and warm.

On the actual day of the trip, we met with tea/coffee and pastries to welcome any new guests. It was great to see members who cannot often come down to London joining us at the gorgeous riverside Boathouse Inn. Our boat trip took in the Duke of Westminster's estate and lasted 2 hours with a fantastic two course buffet lunch and bar facilities on board.

As we disembarked we were met by our guide, a Roman Centurion specially transported to the 21st Century and magnificently dressed, who took us on our tour of the old Roman city, after which we retired for refreshments in The Grosvenor Hotel. As an extra treat, there was a football match that evening. The result? Spectacle Makers 1, World Cup success for England, 0.

A Trip Down the Sewers



When my Spectacle Maker friend invited me down to Brighton, I thought we would be on the beach, enjoying the sunshine on what was, after all, one of the hottest summer days on record. But no, a trip down the sewers was the plan for the day.



Sue Haig-Brown, Society Chairman, emerges from a Brighton manhole

An opportunity to see Victorian gothic splendour underground proved much more interesting than I would ever have imagined. Protective gloves kept us away from stuff we would not want to mention and the hard hat was a fashion accessory of note when emerging into a Brighton public park at the end of the trip. No one can say the Spectacle Makers never get their hands dirty, but next time we might wait for a somewhat cooler day to enjoy our fish and chips on the pier.



Past Master Christine Tomkins regrets wearing white trousers!

Let the weekend be-GIN!

The party really started on Friday 16 November when Spectacle Makers boarded trains and headed for the picturesque villages of Micheldever and Overton, there to board a special bus taking us to the famous Hampshire Bombay Distillery. Originally built as a paper mill, the site combines ancient and modern, just like the Spectacle Makers, 18th century buildings and 19th century stills sitting happily alongside the amazing glasshouses designed in 2014 by Thomas Hatherwick (of the London 2012 Olympic flame cauldron).

We looked for butterflies in the glasshouses and otters along the riverside, we listened to the facts about the production of Bombay Sapphire, its predecessor blends and the startlingly expensive “Star of Bombay”, variant, now on sale for Christmas, which comes complete with a small sapphire for a cost of only around £1,000. We took our turn in distinguishing floral, spicy, citrus and pine smells in the Botanicals Room and touching gnarly orris root, dried lemon peel, coriander seeds, angelica and of course juniper berries which are the essential ingredient of gin. That’s four out of five senses so what am I missing – oh yes, TASTE!

The tour finished with a special cocktail, designed to appeal to your own taste preferences, with the option for anyone driving of a soft drink and a special sealed package, containing a double gin and tonic, to take home.



Spectacle Makers outside the Glasshouses



SOCIETY NEWS

The Master's Weekend in Winchester



Winchester Cathedral

The Master had certainly picked her time to take us to Winchester. The first weekend in September coincided with the most wonderful Flower Festival, based in the Cathedral. The colours were amazing, inside and out. There were so many visitors enjoying the City and with so much to see and do, this was a popular Master's Weekend.

After golf and a pub supper on the Friday evening, the weekend really set off at pace on Saturday morning with a walking tour of the City. Our Master's Consort was clearly misplaced in his job as a Chief Probation Officer – he could have earned a fortune as a tour guide. Expert, witty, full of interesting anecdotes, the party were completely under his spell.



John Harding takes a tour

There was hardly time for a quick drink before the next event, with Spectacle Makers and friends choosing between the Master's visit to the Cathedral, transformed by flowers, or a trip to Winchester College and its Treasury. It was hard to believe that the school was occupied and continuing its normal life until a scholar appeared in his gown, casually crossing from one corner of the medieval courtyard to the other. We were asked not to talk to the students but given the explanation of the different words ("Notions") used with the College, it was probably best not to try.

Evening brought a black tie dinner for 90 guests in Winchester's own Guildhall. An interesting building in its own right, it was clearly suffering the effects of having many tourists in town. "Are you sure this isn't the Cathedral?" asked one visitor reaching the top of the steps just as we were leaving at 10.20 pm on Saturday night.

The highlight of the evening was undoubtedly the after-dinner speech given by Peter White.

Peter is a consummately brilliant speaker. His stories of causing mild chaos on the London underground with a non-existent guide dog, and dealing with optometrists' efforts to encourage him to try reading letters on a chart when he has been blind since birth, proved both entertaining and instructive. He is a fine example of someone for whom blindness has been no barrier to ambition, success or happiness.

He also confirmed, just in case there was any doubt, that the examples of Ray Charles and Stevie Wonder do not mean that all blind people can sing.







Peter White, a master story teller



Winchester Dinner 8 September 2018

For those who stayed on to Sunday morning, the weekend was rounded off by a walk in the sunshine to St Cross, ably led by Liveryman Helen Short and her husband Martin Keys.

Thank you, Master, for inviting us to Winchester.



Walk to St Cross



GOLF

The Spectacle Makers' own Golf Day was held on 21st June at Burford, the Cotswold course.

This parkland course was again in marvellous condition and enjoyed by the 18 golfers who attended, including some new members of the Company.

The Society Trophy was won by Brian Collison and Nick Georgovic with 22 points.

The Master's Trophy was won by David Kirk with 36 points, Ian Davies was second with 35 points and 33 points gave Mike Barton third place.

It was unanimously decided to return to Burford for next year's Golf Day which will be held on Thursday 20th June 2019. All are welcome. Contact David Kirk (kirkopticians@btconnect.com) for more information.



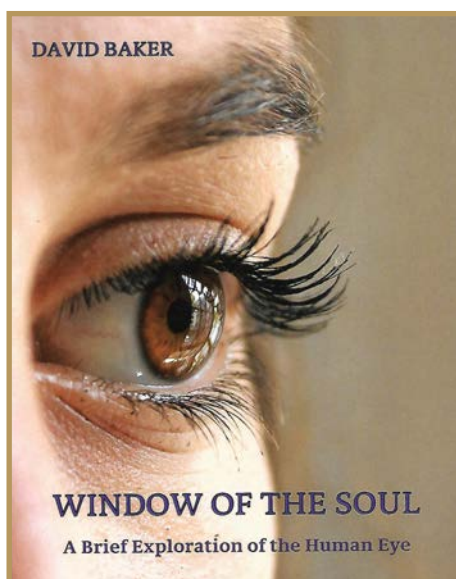
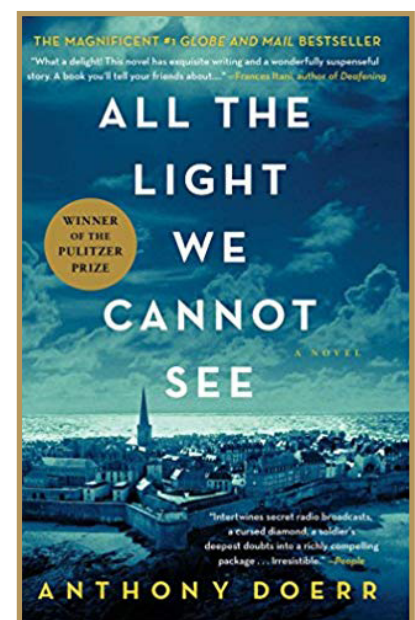
Past Master Clive Stone awards the trophy to David Kirk



BOOK CORNER

'All the Light We Cannot See' by Anthony Doerr.

This book was a major theme for the Honorary Chaplain in her address at this year's Annual Service. It is a remarkable novel which won America's premier literary award, the Pulitzer Prize, in 2015. Set during the Second World War, the story revolves around two teenagers. Marie Laure is French and in childhood lost both her mother and her sight. Her father does everything in his power and imagination to give her a world filled with beauty and love. Werner is a German orphan, whose prodigious talent with radios attracts the attention of the Hitler Youth who commandeer his skills but, as a child, he had once found and mended a broken radio and its influence remains with him. The book points to a world in which even enemies can find ways to be good to one another.



"Window of the Soul" by David Baker

Senior Court Assistant David Baker's second book, available online from Amazon for £6.99, traces the path of light through the intricate structures of the eye and explains the wonders of the eye and its connections to the brain, via some eccentric characters including Leonardo da Vinci, vision scientists and professionals across time. Myths are exploded and explanations provided in a clear and interesting way for all those questions you always wanted to ask about how we see.



AND FINALLY.....

'THE LORD MAYOR IS MY SHEPHERD'

"I know my rights".

It's always the naughtiest pupil in the class who says this. It almost made me feel reluctant to assert mine when it came to driving sheep over London Bridge, the historic right (most people think) of all Freemen of the City. It turns out the organisers of this event, the Worshipful Company of Woolmen, are a naughty lot. Their origins are lost in the mist of time but the first surviving record of the Company is of them being fined in the reign of Henry II for doing something without his approval. How fitting it is then that, since 2013, they have overseen the revival of this mass assertion of rights each September. I doubt it will go down in history as much as the mass trespass on Kinder Scout in 1932, especially as they keep to the pavement and traffic flow remains unimpeded, but judging by the comments of those to whom I mentioned my participation, driving sheep across a 1970s road bridge counts as a pretty radical act. It also raises a decent sum for charity.

You'll note that I did not refer to driving 'my' sheep over the bridge. In fact the rules of the event expressly forbid it. Participants have to borrow a small flock (mine came from Bedfordshire) and you don't so much drive them as shuffle along in a group behind them whilst experienced shepherds and shepherdesses walk backwards in front of them, occasionally tempting Larry, Sean and Dolly with an ovine treat. I wasn't sure whether to look at the row of sheep's bottoms corralled in front of me, or the official photographers who were also walking backwards ahead of the sheep so as to capture every possible image of Alan Titchmarsh

MBE. It was as close to being the target of celebrity paparazzi as you'll ever come, unless (like our Master and Wardens or many of the Spectacle Makers featured in photos in this journal) you are in fact already a celebrity.

We were also issued with lengthy health and safety instructions of a sort that I doubt ever troubled young David, the shepherd boy who slew Goliath. We were warned of the dangers of falling over a sheep, of eating food without washing our hands first and we were instructed to remember that sheep are not 'inanimate objects'.

After only a few minutes of shuffling, and with sadly only a quarter of the bridge traversed, it was all over until next year. It was time to wipe one's shoes and retreat to the pub beside the Monument where the chef's special was - yes, you've got it - Lamb Pie!

So crossing the bridge with a bunch of (shepherd's) crooks hadn't been quite what I was expecting, but it was all in a good cause so I didn't feel fleeced. Baa-ing any obstacles I'll be back to do it again another year.

(Editor: We're sure ewe will).

Neil Handley



Sheep Drive



EVENTS CALENDAR



SOCIETY EVENTS FOR FREEMEN AND LIVERYMEN

2019

EVENT

Monday 28th January	Postal Museum and The Mail Rail, Mount Pleasant, Clerkenwell, London (Sold out)
February/March, dates TBC	Spectacle Making Class at Cubitts, King's Cross, London
Wednesday 20th March	Trip to Media City and BBC Studios, Salford
April, dates TBC	Matthew Green's Medieval Wine Walking Tour, City of London
May - August, dates TBC	Plans include a weekend in Portmeirion, outdoor theatre in Leicestershire and a pop-up picnic in a park
Fri-Sun 6th-8th September	The Master's Weekend, Scottish Borders
October, dates TBC	Ceremony of the Keys at the Tower of London
Sat 16th November	The Purcell Club musical evening visit to Westminster Abbey

KEY COMPANY DATES

2019

Sunday 13th January, 12.45pm	Eye to Eye with Professor Susie Downes at 100% Optical, ExCel
Tuesday 12th March	Court & Court Luncheon at Apothecaries' Hall
Friday 29th March	United Guilds' Service at St Paul's Cathedral
Sat 30th March-Mon 1 April	Optrafair Exchange at the NEC
Tuesday 23rd April	Livery Dinner at Goldsmiths' Hall
Tuesday 4th June	Court & Court Luncheon at Apothecaries' Hall
Monday 24th June	Common Hall – election of Sheriffs
June/July, date TBC	Freemen's Drinks at Old Bailey, London EC4
Friday 6-Sunday 8 September	Master's Weekend, Scottish Borders
Thursday 12th September	Four Liveries Lecture at Painters' Hall (Spectacle Makers hosting)
Wednesday 2nd October	Common Hall at Guildhall (Election of the Lord Mayor) 5pm Evensong Service of Thanksgiving, Remembrance & Rededication in St Bride's, Fleet Street, followed by Installation Dinner at Apothecaries' Hall
Thursday 17th October	Presentation of Certificates at Apothecaries' Hall
Saturday 9th November	The Lord Mayor's Show
Tuesday 10th December	Court & Court Luncheon at Apothecaries' Hall

2020

Tuesday 10th March	Court & Court Luncheon at Apothecaries' Hall
Monday 20th April	Livery Dinner at Plaisterers' Hall
Thursday 4th June	Court & Court Luncheon at Apothecaries' Hall
Wednesday 30th September	Court, followed by the annual Service of Thanksgiving, Remembrance & Rededication in St Bride's, and the Court Luncheon at Apothecaries' Hall
Thursday 22nd October	Presentation of Certificates at Apothecaries' Hall
Tuesday 8th December	Court & Court Luncheon at Apothecaries' Hall

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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