



A Message from the Master



We are having a very busy year! I, and/or the Mistress, have attended many events held by other Livery Companies and by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress. We have dined at the Mansion House and Guildhall, and been to the races with the Lord Mayor, a garden party at Buckingham Palace and to Ironbridge. And the Mistress has learned to basket weave.

We have also had our own very enjoyable Company events, which many of you have supported. Without exception these have gone very well, thanks to the efforts of our Clerk, Biagio Fraulo, and John White, together with our 'events management team' Robert and Jacqui Sliwinski.

Our Spring Luncheon was held on HQS Wellington, one of my favourite venues. The luncheon was well attended, both by our Company members and by the Masters and Clerks of twelve other Companies. Our speaker was Captain Flavian D'Souza, the Master Mariner – the Mariners being the first of the modern livery companies.

The Master's Lecture in April was given by Peter Rees QC, to a full house at the offices of Simmons and Simmons.

The lecture on *"Arbitration – Elastic or Arthritic"* was very well received. My grateful thanks to Peter Rees for giving such an excellent lecture.

The highlight of the Company year, and definitely for me, was our Charter Commemoration Banquet. Held at the Mansion House on the 15th of May, we were honoured to have the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress in attendance and Sir Peter Coulson as our guest speaker. Their speeches were first class, and it all went very well. I hope that everyone enjoyed the evening as much as I did.

I have recently returned from a few days at sea with HMS Mersey, accompanied by Senior Warden David Wilson and Biagio our Clerk. We were transported by power boat out of Falmouth Harbour, having donned full waterproof gear, to meet the ship offshore. Mersey's Captain, Lieutenant Commander George Storton, was determined that we would enjoy our voyage, and had organised an action-packed programme for us. We were able to see just about every aspect of the operation of the ship and life on board. We were allowed onto the bridge and were able to observe Mersey in action, patrolling our fishing

areas and deploying their extremely fast boats to board fishing vessels and inspect their catches and equipment.

We were also allowed to take the helm, although our somewhat erratic steering prompted a call of complaint to the bridge from the galley where they were preparing our evening meal (Beef Wellington). The food was first class, and included fresh scallops procured from a convenient scalloper. We were very impressed by the professionalism, commitment and unfailing good humour of the officers and the crew. All credit to the Captain. We landed at Portsmouth two days later, having been on the bridge to observe the Captain bring the ship in to harbour. All in all a tremendous experience.

We are very much looking forward to the next Company event, which is the Master's Weekend in September. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at future events.

Matthew Bastone, Master



The Clerk, Master and Senior Warden in front of the Bridge of HMS Mersey with HMS Mersey's Captain, Lt Cdr George Storton



Mersey's sister ship, HMS Tyne, leaving Portsmouth

The Master's Ridgeway Walk

The Master and Mistress are continuing their walk of the Ridgeway, to raise funds for the WCA's Charitable Trust. Following a route used since prehistoric times, the 87 mile long Ridgeway passes through ancient downland, secluded valleys and woodland.

The Ridgeway runs from Overton Hill, slightly east of Avebury, one of the finest prehistoric sites in Britain, and finishes at Ivinghoe Beacon in Hertfordshire. Please help Matthew and Sue to reach their fundraising target by sending a cheque to Matthew Bastone, Strawberry Lee, White Street, West Lavington SN10 4LW or visiting their Just Giving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/>

Pupil Library Assistant of the Year Award

As part of its support of Literacy and Reading for Pleasure in this Master's Year, the WCA Trust agreed to award prize money of £500 to the winner of the Pupil Library Assistant of the Year. This is awarded to the student who contributes most to their school library by helping others and encouraging information skills and reading for pleasure. This year's winner was Victoria Langford from St. Hilda's C.E. School, Liverpool. Victoria was delighted to receive a cheque from the Mistress Arbitrator at the Award Event held at Portcullis House in March.

For more information on this award visit their website:

<http://ibpupilarward.wixsite.com/home>



The Master's Weekend

Dartmouth
15th-17th September

The Master and Mistress are greatly looking forward to the Master's Weekend in Dartmouth, from 15th-17th September. The weekend will include a tour of the Naval College and a visit to Greenway, the Devon home of Agatha Christie. Booking is now closed and full payment must be made by 4th August. If you have any queries please contact the Mistress by email to: s.bastone@btinternet.com.

Sir John Soane's Museum Tour & Supper



On a chilly May afternoon, a very keen group of Company members met for a private tour of this little known, fascinating museum, the former home of distinguished 19th century architect Sir John Soane. Our Guide was extremely interesting, and gave us a history of the man and his museum before we spent a pleasant hour or so exploring it for ourselves.

We then repaired to Brasserie Blanc for a convivial evening. Unfortunately, the Master had to attend another dinner, otherwise he would have much preferred to stay with us!

Ladies' British Library Visit and Afternoon Tea

A very convivial afternoon was enjoyed by the Ladies of the Company at the end of April. As a librarian herself, the Mistress was keen to show off the Treasures of the British Library, and we had a fascinating tour with a very enthusiastic guide. There wasn't enough time to see all the wonderful treasures before the ladies headed to the wonderful St Pancras Hotel next door for probably the best afternoon tea ever eaten, but many plan to return to the Library for a future visit.



Burn's Night Supper

We also belatedly report on our Burn's Night Supper, which was held, as one would expect, on 25th January. A jolly group of 20 met at 1 Lombard Street for a traditional Burn's Night Supper. The Master had discussed this supper with Past Master James Mackie, who sadly passed away before the event, so we were determined to raise a toast to him which we did with our very own Master's Malt. The food, music and pipers were excellent, to say nothing of the convivial company of course.



The Master's Hay Festival Weekend



A merry band of eight couples joined the Master and Mistress for one of their favourite weekends of the year – the annual Hay Festival.

We stayed at the beautiful Castle House Hotel in Hereford, and arrived in lovely warm sunshine. Hereford is a charming city and our short walk to the Cathedral across the Green was delightful, as was our tour of the Cathedral, the Chained Library and the Mappa Mundi.



The Master's Champagne reception took place on the hotel terrace overlooking the moat of the original Castle, followed by an excellent tasting dinner prepared by the hotel's superb chef.

Despite a thunderstorm on Friday evening, the Festival site was not muddy, something dreaded by the Master. We arrived in plenty of time to explore, before attending three events. We then headed into

the picturesque town of Hay on Wye, to visit the numerous bookshops.

We were extremely pleased that everyone enjoyed the Festival events, with many particularly enjoying Horatio Clare on the Myths and Legends of Wales. Several of us bought the lovely book and had it signed.

It was a tiring day, and we were all ready for a snooze and bath before another excellent dinner!



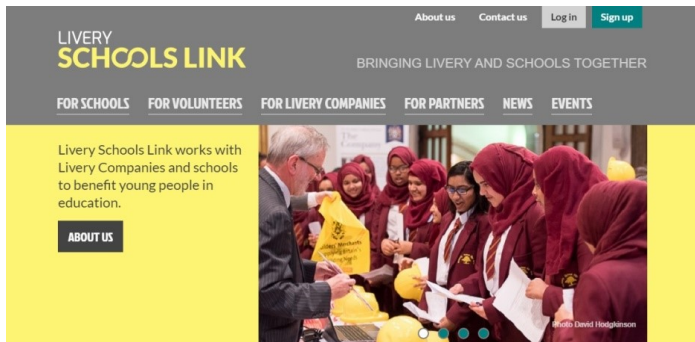
We were delighted that our guests enjoyed the weekend, and the Hay Festival in particular. Many intend to visit again, which was our hope.

Thank you for being such a convivial group – we enjoyed hosting you, and the hotel commented on what a lovely buzz there was.



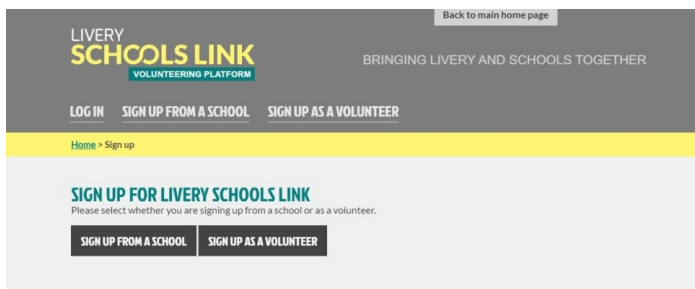
Livery Schools Link website and online volunteering platform

www.liveryschoolslink.org.uk



Livery Schools Link's new website is now up and running, along with its online volunteering platform. The brainchild of Liveryman Simon Underwood when he was Chair of LSL, its aim is to make it as easy as possible for members of livery companies to volunteer in schools. Volunteers can easily identify volunteering opportunities, and it enables schools to find volunteers.

The process is simple. Go to the LSL website at www.liveryschoolslink.org.uk, and click on the link to sign up as a volunteer.



You will then be invited to agree to LSL's safeguarding code of practice, a prerequisite to volunteering. Having done so, you enter your name, contact details and your livery company. Before approving a volunteer's application to register, LSL checks with a designated representative of that company that the applicant is indeed a member. This is to ensure, so far as possible, that all volunteers on the platform are members of the livery. You also have an opportunity to describe your experience in trades or professions, and provide any other information which may help schools to assess whether you are likely to be able to assist with a particular volunteering opportunity. You create your own password, and then receive an email to confirm your email address.

A registered volunteer can search the platform for volunteering opportunities and offer to take part. There is no compulsion to accept any opportunity. You can always discuss it with the school before deciding whether to take part. Every volunteer can choose how much time to offer and how frequently. As more schools sign up, there will be a huge range of levels of engagement, from one-off events to regular programmes and roles as school governors: something to suit everyone's availability.

Several of our liverymen have already signed up to the platform. Support for education is an important objective of our company and I invite all members to consider registering, please.

David Steward



Past Master Karl Davies R.I.P.

As this newsletter was being edited, we learned with great shock and sadness of the death of our dear friend and greatly valued colleague, Past Master Karl Davies. Master from 2012–2013, Karl was a man of great warmth and humour whose company was enjoyed by those who had the honour to experience it. Neil Stocks, a long-term close friend and associate of Karl's, is supporting his Consort Joy at this difficult time. We have also offered the Company's condolences and support, and Company members will be informed of any funeral arrangements as and when we receive them. A full obituary will follow in the next newsletter.

Dates for your Diary:

- **15th-17th September** : Master's Weekend in Dartmouth, Dart Marina Hotel
- **29th September** : Election of Lord Mayor and Lunch, Guildhall and Stationers' Hall
- **24th October** : Court Meeting, Installation and Installation Dinner, Skinners' Hall

Congratulations to Company Member **James Bridgeman SC**, who has recently been called to the Inner Bar in Ireland, the equivalent of 'taking silk' in the UK. This is an admirable achievement, and James may now use the letters SC (Senior Counsel) after his name.

The Worshipful Company of Arbitrators
Incorporated by Royal Charter

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