Julia Sibley MBE

Installed as Master in October 2015

With both parents and their respective families being so heavily ‘involved in the law’, apparently my sister and I announced from a very early age, that neither of us would ever want to become lawyers! Let me explain.

My father, Sir Max Williams, born in Fishguard, Pembs, having qualified as a solicitor, became the third generation to join the family law firm – Walter L Williams and Sons at 5, High Street, Fishguard. His grandfather, father, uncle, and cousin were all lawyers.

My mother, Jenifer Burgin, was the daughter of the Rt Hon Edward Leslie Burgin, who formed Denton Hall and Burgin, the firm where my father started his career in London, met my mother (who qualified as a solicitor before him) and so married the boss’ daughter. My mother’s brother, Patrick Burgin carried on the family firm, and her elder sister Meg married Bernard Budd QC.

After a short return to Wales, my father joined Clifford Turner. He went on to become President of the Law Society 1982-83 and made history in 1987 by spearheading and creating the merger of Clifford Turner and Coward Chance. In the same year, he also somehow found time to be Master of the Worshipful Company of Solicitors of the City of London. I hope this sets the scene as to why my sister and I avoided the law as a career! After skipping a generation I am delighted to say that my daughter Lucinda qualified as a barrister in 2009.

I followed in my mother and her family’s footsteps by going to St Georges School in Harpenden. This school is a day and boarding school educating students of both genders between the ages of eleven and eighteen, with an emphasis on its Christian ethos. It was founded in 1907 as one of Britain’s first state co-educational boarding schools.

I am delighted to learn that St George’s goes from strength to strength academically and recently the students received some of the best GCSE and A-Level results, significantly higher than the national average. It has also been known for its very good sports men and women and as announced in the press a few weeks ago, we learned that both Owen Farrell and George Ford spent some of their school years there.

In 1979 I married Nick who also went to St George’s. We were lucky enough to be able to get married in the school chapel and the service was conducted by the Rev. Peter Gedge who had been our Headmaster. We then lived in Harpenden for many years, moving slightly further out to

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local Hertfordshire countryside some 30 years ago and I now still live in Datchworth, some 20 minutes from Harpenden.

I have 2 children, James and Lucinda. Both of whom can be seen in the photo with me on my very special day at Buckingham Palace on the occasion of receiving my MBE from HRH Prince Charles. James, a chartered accountant is living in Abu Dhabi at present, and has just joined a newly set up firm that will become the first regulated hedge fund in Abu Dhabi. He lives there with his wife Tanya and the new arrival of my first granddaughter, Annabel, who was born in February.

Lucinda, my daughter, lives in Huntingdon and is going to marry Marcus in May next year. As previously stated, Lucinda qualified as a barrister and now has rather forceful title of Manager – ‘Claims and Inquests’ and works for one of the largest NHS Trusts.

So to my career: apparently I always knew (and announced to my parents) from an early age that hospitality was the career for me and I was interested in the ‘back of house’, i.e. the staff, rather than the ‘front of house’ and working for the guests. Travelling with my parents and staying in many wonderful hotels throughout my childhood only helped to strengthen this wish.

I have been very lucky throughout my career and seemed to have been in the right place at the right time. In 1978 I became the first female to hold the position of Company Training Officer for the Savoy Group of Hotels. This was a fabulous job and I had the privilege of looking after the management trainees who were undertaking the famous 5 year management training scheme. There are still numerous hoteliers around the world who benefited from this very thorough and all-encompassing scheme. Indeed I believe most of them can still recall their first month spent in the infamous Meat Department at the Savoy with Mr Whitlow!!

When I left the Training Centre I founded my own training consultancy in the hospitality industry and have enjoyed over 30 years in very varied training and development situations. From training a new food and beverage team on board a ship that was undergoing a major refit in dry dock in Piraeus, to setting up a School of Tourism for the Government of Gibraltar, to working with many other hospitality companies in the United Kingdom.

I first became involved with the Worshipful Company of Innholders in 2000 when I met Michael Vass who was at the time responsible for the management scholarships that the Company were developing. The Savoy Educational Trust (the charity of which I had become Chief Executive in 1998) was invited to become a joint funder of this scheme. I now know first-hand that the statement ‘there is no such thing as a free lunch’ is completely true!!

Having been invited to a number of dinners at Innholders with Michael, I was asked if I would like to become more involved with the Livery Company. I asked my father, as I knew his knowledge of livery companies was much greater than mine, what he thought and he did not hesitate and said immediately: ‘get involved, they do great work and you will thoroughly enjoy it’. What great advice, and the rest is, as they say, history.

I have been so fortunate with the people I have worked with in my career, and I am very aware that the awards and honours I have been given are due to a tremendous team effort and I am very grateful to them.

I guess I have always been a pioneer and this is no surprise given that my father’s mother, Frances, was a Hillary and was a cousin of the intrepid Everest explorer Sir Edmund Hillary. When my daughter went to Haileybury in 1998, she was one of the first group of 6 girls to begin in the first year and make the school truly co-educational. She asked: ‘am I a guinea pig?’ No, I replied immediately, you are a pioneer!

I think my grandmother deserves a special mention. As an ambulance driver in the Great War she took my wounded grandfather to an emergency field hospital. In the Second World War she became a very senior officer in the WRNS. I remember her saying: “there is no justice. I saved his life and he repaid his debt by marrying me!”

We heard in the installation service that “the Master is robed with the mantle of authority and we ask for guidance that she may rule us wisely, and being vested with the collar of humility she may serve us faithfully” – I am incredibly mindful and conscious of my duty and will do my utmost to uphold the reputation of the company when I represent you for this year. I will also build some fun into it I hope!

I would like to thank everyone for their lovely offers of support, they are hugely appreciated. I am really looking forward to the year. We have a great team for the year with Charles as Upper Warden, Bill as Middle Warden and Keith as Renter Warden, together with Dougal, Gillian, John, Herbert and everyone involved. Thank you in advance for all your guidance and support.

I look forward to my year in office, as a pioneer, and hope that it will not be another 501 years before another female follows in my footsteps.
Reflections on our Quincentenary

The clock stands at a quarter to midnight, and we have just emerged from the trauma theatre. It is late November, nearly eight weeks have passed since the Installation Court of our new Master, and the words of our wonderful webmaster, Peter Dowling, ring insistently in my ears: the Review must be out by Christmas…. The year, long awaited by the Company, has passed in the blink of an eye, and memories are already receding into the mists of time. Life is returning to normal.

But tonight is not normal. It is now a rare privilege for a colleague to ask me to help late at night in this place of shivered brains and shattered bones. While we begin the long task of restoring flesh and function to broken bodies, there is much opportunity to reflect upon our human frailty and fragility. And also upon the curious question of how the candidate least qualified for the role should come to occupy the Chair in this most auspicious year.

Our Quincentenary has been a principal focus of Company activity and planning for as long as I have been on the Court, and probably longer. A key ambition was that we should celebrate our reconnection with Innholding by appointing a Master Innholder to the Chair. A very distinguished candidate, Nicholas Rettie, was selected. But Fortune, as so often in the affairs of men, was to decree otherwise. An irresistible combination of work and family obligations forced him to step aside, much to our collective chagrin. We owe him a huge debt of gratitude for his work with our Administration Review and leading the Catering Committee responsible for the agreement with Herbert Berger and his team. It has transformed hospitality at the Hall - and our finances.

(As quid pro quo, when the fickle finger of fate finally pointed at me, he agreed to write my speeches. So you can be sure where responsibility for them, warts and all, properly lies.)

Planning did not stop there. A Quincentenary year of celebration does not spring into being perfect and complete, like Athena from the head of Zeus. Much hard work is required, and it came - principally from the Clerk's office, and our estimable Beadle, John Cash. To ensure no further hiccoughs, the rules of succession within the Company were changed. Planning for the forthcoming year usually begins in June with a faintly furtive air, because the succession is not established until the Election Court in August. The Upper Warden then becomes Master Elect and has two official months to plan the year. In August 2013, then as Middle Warden, I was elected Master Designate, to allow 14 months of unfettered planning. A Quincentennial Steering Group was mooted, met, declared itself broadly content, and faded from sight. A triumvirate, or perhaps we might say, Dougal, Gillian and myself met monthly for a year, ably assisted by the Mistress Designate, Anne. She is the one from the Innholders’ family: it is more her Company than mine.

The Company history was revised and brought up to date by a team under the watchful eye of Peter Dowling.

Pol Roger were invited to produce our Quincentennial champagne, with the Master represented on the back label. (The precise nature of such representation was a matter of debate. Naturally, the Master favoured an image of monumental effigy in the style of Michelangelo, but was sadly reduced to a signature.)

Carafes were engraved.

The Hall Committee, under Anthony Mellery-Pratt, embellished the Hall with a lovingly restored banner and an Innholders’ star in the empty cupola. Both look so right. It is as though they had always been there. Our Charter was given more prominence, and all shone and gleamed.

Peter Dowling polished the web site so that it shines proudly brighter and much more accessible than almost all those of our sister Liveries. He prepared a Quincentennial Section to allow us to share the good news.

The money men had the hardest part. The Property Committee, under John Edwardes Jones to whom we owe a very great debt and now Tim Mellery-Pratt, the Investment Committee under our tireless treasurer, Tony Lorkin, and the Finance and General Purposes Committee, first under Charles Attlee and then Tom Richardson, both of old Innholders’ families, have juggled our seemingly precarious finances. Very much hard work, expert advice from without and from within the Company (particularly from Sir Robert Finch), and all seems more secure. And money allows it all to happen.
Installation grew closer and there was a growing feeling in the Company that we were all pointing in the same direction. And that it would be a happy and fruitful year. Our theme was to be Celebration with Charity, and so it proved.

Subscription Dinner

The Subscription Dinner at the end of September 2014 fell outside my year but the then Master, Tony Brighton, sanctioned it as prelude. And, no doubt, because he recognised an extraordinarily good thing when he saw one. Jeremy Pope, with his iron grip on the Wine Committee, came together with Herbert to produce exquisite pairings of food with wine from our Company bin ends. An extraordinary evening of celebration raised more than £10,000 for charity. Memories of the evening are sadly scanty, possibly because the bin ends proved more bin hindquarters. Derek Smedley, MW and our Wine Adviser, heroically and single-handedly tasted 105 bottles for the 60 to 70 diners. (He rejected only one: a single bottle of the Langoa Barton, 2001.) And, obviously, he tasted neither the Quincentennial Champagne, nor the Prunelles de Bourgogne.

Jeremy and Herbert together then set the tone for our hospitality through the year, with combinations of food and wine to seduce the most jaded palate. Our reputation in the City, thanks to them, has probably never been higher.

Installation

The Installation Service, a week later, carried the additional excitement of welcoming our new Company Chaplain, The Very Reverend Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark.

(We were not, of course, best pleased to lose the old one: a good runner, perfectly serviceable, and with at least another 4,000 graces still in him. Canon Bill Christianson has been at the spiritual centre of the Company for many years and has brought laughter, joy, consolation, and reflection to our affairs. It may seem strange, in 2015 (although certainly not in any of our preceding centuries), to think that a Livery Company has a spiritual dimension, but, without one, we would be literally as cold as charity. We have welcomed Cannon Bill as Renter Warden, hope to see him through the chair, and will, deo volente, enjoy his counsel and friendship for many years to come.)

St Michael Paternoster Royal has a special place in the affections of our family. It is where Anne and I were married. Liveryman Alice was baptised there. The Church, the Hall, and the Company have been central to many happinesses in our lives. So it was a particular pleasure that it was in this church, and at this service, that Andrew joined us. He has authority, affection, and respect in very large measure. We are exceptionally fortunate that he has found time to become our Chaplain.

Loss and renewal

But as we looked forward to the year to come, we thought first of those we had lost. 5 Senior Past Masters in the preceding year: John Bartlett, Roger Ames, Derek Balls, Stephen Druce, and Howard Harrison. A wealth of knowledge, achievement, and experience. Each one a delightful person. It is invidious to mention only one but we remembered Derek Balls for his vision which lead to the Master Innholders’ Award scheme in 1978. It gave us new meaning and purpose. It was so sad that none of them could join celebrations they would have so enjoyed. But in the wonderful cycle of renewal which has sustained us for 500 years, we were delighted to welcome Derek’s granddaughter, Eleanor Davies, to her first Livery Dinner at the Installation.

Thanksgiving Service and the Robes Project

Our first Royal Charter was signed by the young King Henry in Christmas week, 1514. Not even a cathedral as welcoming and efficient as Southwark could countenance us at that time of the church year. So we opted for the last Saturday before Advent, and it proved unexpectedly propitious. Rose Harding lead us through the essential administration, Canon Bill laboured long on the Service, guided by Andrew Nunn.

It was glorious. The Cathedral was full of people, and more than full of life. The Dean set a warm and welcoming tone. The congregation responded. The choir was outstanding. Bishop Christopher spoke directly to us. Even the nave was suffused with a radiant light – uncommon at the end of November! And the City supported us: more than 60 Livery Companies attended. A shower of heartfelt notes followed.

In preparation, we had learned that the night before our service, the Robes Project was to hold its annual Sleepout to raise money for Winter shelter for the homeless of
Southwark and Lambeth. What conjunction could have been more propitious than thanksgiving for the survival and prosperity of our Company devoted, historically at least, to providing shelter for men and beasts, with a modern charity caring for the least fortunate among us. Five of us joined the Sleepout, and through the generosity of the Company and of friends, raised nearly £10,000.

I hope that our links with Southwark Cathedral, and the wonderful people who work there, will develop and strengthen. I hope too that the Company will continue to support the Sleepout. I guarantee that one night sleeping on a Bermondsey pavement will change forever the way you will look at those people on the streets to whom we give scarcely a thought and rarely a penny.

There was one important misconception about the reception. A rumour has been put about that the Master fell from the podium during the speeches. Nothing could be further from the truth. The swallow dive was perfected over many weeks of practise, under the eagle eye of our outstanding Beadle, John Cash. These desperate measures were required because the Master had innocently enquired of the Clerk whether special mentions should be made in the speech. Dougal’s reply was simple: “it doesn’t matter what you say, no one will be listening”. But after the display of naked athleticism, they hung on his every word.

Company life v City Life

It is the privilege of the Livery, the Freedom, and the Apprenticeship, together with the Court Assistants to enjoy the life and work of the Company, to the extent that time, circumstance, and opportunity allow.

Company life offers opportunities for sport. The golfers and the shooters compete in small numbers on our behalf, and often with considerable success. Sailing in the City Livery Regatta offers “mass participation”, thanks to the enormously hard work of Hugh Evans. Three boats, rather mysteriously, won five cups. More importantly, we cemented our friendship with the Dyers’ Company and involved many of the younger livery.

It is the extraordinary privilege of the Master to go about in the City, and to learn its ways and traditions. In this, no one could wish for a better guide and adviser than our Clerk, Dougal Bulger. This opportunity is sometimes represented as “the number of events attended”, but it is far more. It is an education in the governance of the City, the role, purpose, and function of the Livery Companies all of which are distinctive, and even into the administration of justice. Pari passu is the development of an extraordinary fellowship of Masters and Prime Wardens which, unless we are most unfortunate, enhances all our lives and which, in the words of the winemaker, has great “ageing potential”.

Education and fellowship together create opportunities, either for new ventures, or to develop partnerships to do better what we do already. In the Quincentenary year, we have come together with the Coopers to support their proposed apprenticeships to revive cooperage in England, and with the Pattenmakers, at a personal level, to support the rehabilitation of wounded soldiers. Common purpose for greater good.

It was a particular pleasure, and a tribute to those who have gone before, to discover how well our little Company is regarded in the City. We were made welcome everywhere and the exploration of the Companies, the Halls they use, and the treasures within, to say nothing of their kitchens, caterers and cellars, was absolute delight.

Quincentenary Theme and Company Purpose

The theme for the year was “Celebration with Charity”. Celebration came thick and fast throughout the year and was made possible by all the work that went before. Charitable giving is our core purpose, and we use the return on invested funds so to do. Usually, we give about £350,000 and, for this year, the Court agreed that we should aim to give £500,000 for the 500 years of our first Royal Charter.

Fund raising is more sporadic. The Middle Warden, Charles Attlee, proposed that for this year we should aim to raise £500 for each Innholder, about £130,000 in all, and that
we should use the momentum to continue the fundraising effort, in order to do more of what we do well.

And we did it!

For several years, members of the Company, mostly from the Court, have been making regular and very generous donations which took us almost to £50,000 as the year began, but £80,000 is still a challenge. Much effort was required and it came, in very large part, from Gillian, our wonderful Assistant Clerk.

The Subscription got us off to a flying start, raising £8,720.

We sold memorabilia: carafes, Quincentennial Pol Roger, and our revised Company history raised £1,370. It seems rather little but each was expensive, the margins for charity small, and the histories usually given to members of the Company.

January saw the first Burns’ Night Dinner for many years. Herbert did us proud. David Guild excelled himself with the Address to the Immortal Memory, and we raised £2,250.

Plans for a Ceilidh required a practice. Frank and Susan Hinks allowed us to use their wonderful gallery in Waterloo, the Old Cello Factory. Emboldened, we pressed on with the Ceilidh in May. It was a resounding success, attracted many of the young Livery, and raised £2,505.

The Master Innholders and Quincentenary Fundraising

The Master Innholders supported the Company superbly throughout the year and, without them, we would probably have missed our target. And by a wide margin.

Under the Chairmanship of Jonathan Raggett, and with a very active committee, they do extraordinary things. At the General Managers Conference in January, they presented the Company with a charming piece of plate to mark the Quincentenary. They also raised £5,985 for our charities in a raffle.

Not content, they organised a charity cycle ride to Epernay, and each participant paid £500 for the privilege. So it was that on 11th September 2015, on the morrow of the MI dinner, Herbert’s alluring aromas gave way to the scent of liniment and used lycra. The Hall was filled with packing cases and bicycle parts, and after the proverbial hearty breakfast, they set off for France. They all survived and raised almost £25,000. An astonishing effort.

**Marching with the Master: the Thames Path Challenge**

The MI’s estimate of funds to be raised brought us to within about £15,000 of our target. A last push was required. It came with the Thames Path Challenge: a gentle walk of 25, 50, or 100 kilometres. 19 Innholders set off, on 12th September, as the MI’s were heading to Epernay, for their designated distances. It was a fine, gentle day, a beautiful walk, and we raised £16,668.

The Master suffered on two counts. First, the Assistant Clerk, having completed 50 kilometres turned to him and said: “That was so painful, and I blame you!” Thus creating grave anxiety for the even tenor of life in the final month of office.

Second, he was the only walker who failed to finish the chosen distance. Signed up for 100 kilometres, he developed “shin splints” a week before the walk, and thought he might not be able to walk at all. Quelle horreur! MRI scan excluded bony involvement, and he could plod. So it was tortoise and hare. Starting early, everyone overtook him. A group from the Royal Marsden Hospital did so seven times. But, with Map my Walk reading 72.5 kilometres, it was apparent that he was simply going too slowly, and he jacked. Disgraceful.

Successive scans demonstrated the evolution and resolution of the shin splints over several weeks. The consolation is twofold. First, a publication in the Christmas edition of the British Medical Journal: “MRI evolution of shin splints with continued exercise, and absurdity in the ageing male”. Second, unfinished business for this September.

**Individual efforts**

It may be invidious to single out individual efforts when so much came from the collective. But some individual efforts were spectacular. Richard and Lucy Wylde climbed
Switzerland’s highest mountain, Mont Rosa, and donated a pound for each of the 4,545 metres climbed. Richard also, shortly thereafter, walked a 50 kilometre stretch of the Thames Path. Richard Skelton opted to run 50 k and raised £1,643.

However large or small the sum, we were extremely grateful for every single contribution, and for reaching our target.

Guildhall

The crowning dinner took place at Guildhall, shortly before Waterloo day and under the steady gaze of the Iron Duke. Only Guildhall was large enough for the whole family of Innholders: Court, Livery, Freedom, Apprentices, together with the Master Innholders and the St Julian Scholars, our associated unit, 32 Squadron, Royal Air Force, and distinguished guests, notably from the Meissen Guild in Zurich. Again, we had great support from the City, and more than 400 filled Guildhall.

The Lord Mayor, the Sheriffs, and the Lady Mayoress graced us with their presence.

Cook & Butler, through Mark Grove, fed us royally. The Military Wives Choir sang for us. And the Corps of Drums of the Royal marines beat retreat. No one was in doubt of the significance of the anniversary for us.

Distractions

It is the responsibility of the Master to shed sufficient regular commitment to allow time for the affairs of the Company, and, preferably, for leadership. My plans were well advanced until another conflict broke out in the Middle East in July 2014, and lasted 51 days, leaving 3,000 dead and 10,000 wounded, many of them children. I am trustee of a little charity active in that part of the world since 2009 and concerned with training for treatment of the injured. The government offered aid, and the Department for International Development (DFID) channelled several million pounds through large charities including Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) for this work. But it was our tiny charity, IDEALS, that was appropriately positioned to deliver the government objectives: a detailed assessment of need followed by treatment, training, capacity building, and provision of equipment.

So began an exhausting cycle of monthly visits to the Middle East, with much ‘wash-up’ and planning in between. It was to last until July, excepting only May, and has now begun again less frequently. Each visit involved overnight travel to Israel on Saturday, crossing early into Gaza on Sunday to spend the first day in meetings and delivering a Trauma Training Symposium for up to 64 Palestinian surgeons. Monday was a long clinic, operating and training Tuesday and Wednesday. A final ward round and home on Thursday.

Should a Master Designate have accepted such a distraction? Probably not. Was there choice? Again, probably not. It is certainly true that the horror and futility of war is hard to grasp until one has smelled the wounded, and heard their cries. Very difficult to say that life is just too busy.

It is the role of the Master to shoulder the burden of the Company, but for much of the year, the reverse applied: the Company shouldered my burden and gave me respite, support, and welcome. I could not be more grateful.

Finale

At the Installation we established that the Company was in such good heart that it would make not one jot of difference if, for this most auspicious year, the Chair was occupied by an empty vessel, a sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. In the event, there was something of all three. But no matter, the fundamental proposition was that the strength of the Company is the Company. And so it proved.

My family is my strength. Anne is the Innholder, probably for seven generations, and including at least four Masters on both sides of her family. She is steeped in Company lore, history, and tradition. She has been the most wonderful support, as have Liverymen William and Alice, and Freeman Freddie.

What of the future? In the 501st year of our Royal Charter, we have our first Lady Master, Julia Sibley. As Chief Executive of The Savoy Educational Trust, her professional focus is also our "core business": patronage - the management of charitable funds. As Chairman of our Patronage Committee, she has been superb. Efficient, energetic, effective, widely connected, and with great personal charm, she is just the person to carry our affairs forward.

Behind her lies an array of talent, individual and idiosyncratic (sometimes alarmingly so), but with the interests of the Company at heart. We cannot tell what lies around the corner, but for the moment, we are in excellent heart.

A privilege beyond measure to have been elected Master of such a Company in such a year.
News from the Court

Wardens elected and serving in support of the Master during his year were

Upper Warden
Julia Sibley

Middle Warden
Charles Attlee

Renter Warden
Rev Canon Bill Christianson

James Wates CBE

James Wates CBE, chairman of Wates Group, was admitted as a Court Assistant on 2nd June 2015 and his extensive business knowledge and experience is very much welcomed by the Court.

James joined the family business in 1983 and has held senior positions in companies within the group over the years. He was appointed Group Chairman in 2013. As if that were not enough, he is chairman of the Building Research Establishment Trust, chairman of the Prince’s Trust Built Environment Leadership Group, Vice-chairman of Trustees of Queen Elizabeth’s Foundation for Disabled People, chairman of the Construction Industry Training Board, chairman of Build UK, and a member of the CBI Construction Council.

He follows both his grandfather, Sir Ronald (Master 1978) and his father, Michael (Master 1994) on to the Court and hopes his two sons, both of whom are at Edinburgh University, will also join the Company.

He lives and farms near Godalming with his wife and family. His interests include rugby, golf and sailing.

Short Term Assistants (STAs)

Liveryman Patrick Lorkin completed his period of office as a Short Term Assistant on the Court and Kezia Hanson was elected to fill the vacancy. We bid her a hearty welcome!
News from the Livery and Freedom

12 new liverymen

Eleanor Davies – Grand-daughter of the late S/P/M Derek Balls and niece of Liveryman Richard Balls, to whom she was apprenticed, Eleanor was admitted to the Freedom in December 2009. She read for an MA in Mathematics and Philosophy at Oxford before joining PWC to train as an accountant, where she qualified in 2012. During her training, Eleanor was awarded the national ICAEW prize in Business Strategy. She joined Frank Smythson Ltd as a Financial Accountant/Assistant Financial Controller in December 2013.

Philip Newman-Hall MI – Philip was proposed by the Middle Warden, Mrs Julia Sibley, and seconded by Assistant Nicholas Rettie. He was admitted in January 2012. Educated at Eastbourne Grammar and Eastbourne College, Philip started work in the hotel industry in 1972 and held positions as General Manager in many hotels from the mid-1980s as well as working as a self-employed consultant within the industry between 2005 and 2009. He became a Master Innholder in 2003 during his first period as General Manager at Le Manoir aux Quat’ Saisons, where he returned as Director and General Manager in 2009. He was voted Hotel Manager of the Year in 2011.

Clare Kemp – niece of P/M Peter Denley, who proposed her for the Freedom, seconded by P/M Tim Mellery-Pratt, Clare was admitted in May 2012. She read for a BSc in Environmental Biology at Oxford Brooks University and spent six years as a business development manager in medical communications and publishing. Since 2002 she has been a full-time mother as well as carer for her disabled husband. Clare is one of the Company’s selection team for candidates from LVS Ascot for the 6th Form Sail Training Awards and joined the Charity Committee in October.

David Taylor MI – COO at Starwood Capital and Hotelier of the Year 2015, David was proposed by S/P/M Michael Vass and seconded by P/M Ian White. He was admitted in May 2012. David started his career as a Management Trainee at the Hyatt Regency, Birmingham before moving into mainstream London hotel management with Sofitel, Jumeirah and the Great Eastern. In 2006 he was appointed General Manager at the Hoxton Hotel and was awarded an MI Scholarship in 2008 (Cranfield). He served as Chairman of the St Julian Alumni for 2 years and became a Master Innholder in 2012.

As General Manager of the new London Edition Hotel, he oversaw the conversion of the rather tired Berners Hotel into this extraordinarily successful hotel from concept to opening, achieving their 5-star rating within 6 months.

Simon Johnson – Director of CBRE Specialist Markets/CBRE Hotels. Simon was proposed by P/M Ian White, seconded by the Livery Selection Committee and admitted in December 2012. He was educated in Newcastle and at Huddersfield University and began his career as an equity analyst with Kleinwort before moving to BZW and then UBS. In 2009 Simon moved to CBRE and also worked with Admiral Taverns as the Lloyds Bank representative non-executive director between 2010 and 2012 before the business was sold to Cerberus Capital Management.

Matthew Wright – Matthew was proposed by (then) Assistant Christopher Chaplin and seconded by S/P/M Sir Malcolm Chaplin. He was admitted to the Freedom in December 2012. Educated at Bryanston and City of London Polytechnic (now London Metropolitan University), where he studied accountancy, Matthew qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1993 and a Chartered Secretary in 1995. Having worked in a number of accountancy practices, he became an Equity Partner at Sayers Butterworth LLP in 1997.

Tomas Jones – an Associate Partner at McKinsey and Company, whom he joined in 2011. Tomas is Liveryman Paul Vine’s grandson and was admitted to the Freedom in September 2005. Tomas was educated at Latymer Upper School and the London School of Economics, where he read a BA in Geography and an MSc in Information Systems. He worked with Deloitte Consulting between 2006 and 2011, when he moved to McKinsey as an associate focussing on strategy and digital operation improvement in the financial service sector. Tomas was nominated as Sunday Times Young Entrepreneur of the Year in 2001; in 2007 he was the youngest ever person to win Deloitte’s Consulting Entrepreneur Award and was one of Square Mile Magazine’s “30 under 30” in 2010. Tomas has written articles in the FT, the Telegraph, New Media Age and has been interviewed on Channel 4 News on a range of new media-related topics.

Alexander Hinks – Artist. Alexander is son of Freeman Susan Hinks (herself an artist) and Liveryman Frank Hinks. He was admitted to the Freedom in September 2006. Alex was educated at Kings School, Rochester and did a BTEC Diploma in Foundation Studies, Art and Design before studying Fine Art Painting at Wimbledon College of Art, where he
graduated in 2007. He has worked as a graphic designer and freelance illustrator, and has been working as an Art Handler at both the Royal Academy and White Cube, but is now focussing on his career as an artist. Alex has exhibited in several group shows and three solo shows.

Mark Hewitt – Former CEO of iForce Group Ltd (2005 to 2013), He was admitted to the Freedom in April 2012. Mark read an MA in Theology at Keble College, Oxford and has worked in post-production media, computer games development and was CEO of the UK market leader for on-line fulfilment and returns processing. He is currently undertaking several Non-Executive roles including work with Chrysalis London, a contemporary dance company, and the Tring Park School for the Performing Arts, where he chairs the Finance and General Purposes Committee. He is also Chairman of the St George’s Hanover Square Foundation, a campaign to raise £2.5 million to renovate the historical parish church in the heart of Mayfair.

Kenneth Speirs – Hotel Director at Lime Wood, Hampshire, he was admitted to the Freedom in May 2012. Kenneth gained an HND in Hotel, Catering and Institutional Management from Napier University, Edinburgh in 1990. Since then he has worked in various positions in the hotel industry in London and in 2003 took over as the General Manager of the Halkin Hotel in Belgravia. He left in 2012 to take over as Hotel Director of Lime Wood, a 5-star country house property in the New Forest. Kenneth is married with two young boys. He is a former St Julian Scholar.

Rebecca Rands – Product Marketing Manager at a tailor-made travel consultant. Grand-daughter of the late Past Master Guy Sayer, Rebecca was admitted to the Freedom in May 2012. Rebecca was educated at Waldegrave School for Girls, Richmond upon Thames College and University of Kent, where she read Sociology. She has been working for Flight Centre since 2010, initially as a tailor-made travel consultant with Round the World Experts. She now works in Flight Centre’s head office as Recruitment and Marketing Manager implementing advertising campaigns across all of the Company’s brands.

Lucy Rands – Case Manager for Sova Support Link, working with high risk, high harm offenders immediately pre- and post-release. Grand-daughter of the late Past Master Guy Sayer, Lucy was admitted to the Freedom in May 2012. Lucy was educated at Godolphin and Latymer, and Manchester University, where she read Psychology. She subsequently read an MSc in Forensic Psychology at Surrey University. She started working with ex-offenders in January 2013 as a volunteer and has since returned to work with them professionally as a case manager in North West London. She has travelled extensively throughout Europe, the Middle and Far East.

8 New Freemen

Richard Turner – an hotelier, currently working at the Hyatt Regency London, The Churchill. Educated at Newport Free Grammar School and Robert Gordon’s Institute of Technology, Aberdeen, where he gained a BA in Hotel, Catering and Institutional Management and a Diploma in Marketing in 1989. Richard has worked in several hotel groups, principally in Sales and Marketing roles in London, in Europe and the Middle East. He has been Hyatt Hotels Corporation’s Area Director of Sales and Marketing, UK and Ireland since 2012. In 2010, Richard was presented with an award for “outstanding contribution to tourism in the Ukraine” by the Association of Ukrainian Hotels, while working in Hyatt Regency Kyiv.

Edmund Brandt – Investment Director with JP Morgan Asset Management. Educated at Downside and Durham University, where he gained a 2:1 in Modern History. Edmund started working the financial sector in 1989 with Fleming Investment Management before moving abroad for 5 years as Head of Research for Jardine Fleming Securities in the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Hong Kong. He has been an Investment Director with JP Morgan since 2004. Edmund is a Charter member of the Institute of Certified Financial Analysts. He is married with two children.

Richard Skelton – works as a FX Structurer (financial markets) with BNP Paribas in London. [FX = Foreign Exchange] Richard was educated in south London and joined Citigroup straight from school, working in FX (creating personalised financial products). Over the next 9 years he worked in various FX roles with Barclays Capital, RBS and HSBC, before moving to BNP Paribas in October 2014 as Director of FX Structures. Richard is married with a young son.

Thomas Lister – Restaurant Manager with Village London Ltd. Tom has known the Lorkin family for almost all of his life, having lived next door to them since he was a young boy. Born in Nairobi, Tom was educated at Millfield School and variably at the University of Birmingham, the University of Central England and Middlesex University and has worked in the hospitality industry since 2002 as a restaurateur and venue manager. Leaving Cubitt House Ltd in April 2014, he moved to Village London Ltd as General Manger with a team of over 80 chefs, bar and waiting staff.
Emily Miles – a solicitor working for Thomas Eggar LLP. Emily was at school with Liveryman Alice Groom, who proposed her for the Freedom. Emily was educated at Benenden School, Oxford University, where she took a 2:1 in History, and the College of Law. She had a training contract with DLA Piper between 2011 and 2014 and now works as a corporate lawyer with Thomas Eggar in Crawley. Emily was Women’s Rowing Vice-Captain at Brasenose College and won “blades” in 2008. Her father is Master of the Actuaries’ Company and her mother is a Liveryman of the Educators’ Company.

Amy Bulger – currently working as Assistant to the Librarian at the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths. Proposed by her brother, Liveryman Ruairidh Bulger and seconded by the Master. Born in 1991, Amy was educated at St Mary’s, Calne, and Newcastle University, where she gained a BSc (Hons) in Geography. She started travelling in Europe in June 2013 and worked on the front desk of a hostel in Prague for several months. In February 2014 she went to Australia, where she worked as a sales and marketing representative for an international outsourcing company and then for six months as receptionist in the largest bookkeeping company in Australia, before returning to England in February this year.

Eleanor Hearder – Daughter of Freeman Kate Lovegrove-Ramos, currently a Freelance Illustrator and Graphic Designer. Proposed by Liveryman Marc Sinden seconded by Past Master Edwardes Jones. DOB; 19 January 1992 Eleanor attended Bryanston School, Kingston University, where she took a Foundation Diploma in Art and Design, and the London College of Communication, where she gained a BA in Illustration and Visual Media in July 2014. Since then she has had several short-term engagements until securing a place with Darling Magazine in December 2014 working on design and magazine layout.

Toby Chaplin – Son of Liveryman Nicholas Chaplin and a former family apprentice. Proposed by his father and seconded by his grandfather. DOB: 27 June 1993. Educated at Felsted and currently studying a combined honours degree in Comparative American Studies with Communications and Media at Liverpool University (final year). During his time at university he was working in Events Management, both self-employed, and on behalf of Spotify within the Liverpool student community. Toby is also a qualified ski instructor.

Following the Court meeting held on January 6th, 2 new Apprentices were bound.

William Dowling was apprenticed to his grandfather, PM Peter Dowling and Skylar Hurd was apprenticed to Liveryman Harriet Sinden.

Reflections of a retired Past Master

John Edwardes Jones

First a bit of personal history, I joined the Innholders as freeman, liveryman and assistant clerk in 1971. I was lucky in that a special case was made for me as I was a partner in the firm of Druces and Attlee, which had provided the Innholders’ clerks since 1785. I became clerk in 1980 and then after I retired as clerk in 2000 went onto the Court. I was Master in 2003/4, which was a particularly marvellous year, because Robert and Patricia Finch were Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress and there were a number of special events both inside and outside the Company. But now my time near the centre of the Company has come to an end and I retired from the Court in October.

The strange thing is that although almost everything at the Innholders has changed since I became a member, it remains essentially the same. The two most obvious differences (and certainly improvements) are the introduction of ladies to the Livery and the huge improvements to the Hall which took place in 1989/90. The Hall was almost doubled in size. You can still see the old front door, which English Heritage insisted we retain, attached to the wall on the front of the building.

Up to 1989 the catering was in the hands of Paul and June Marsh, the Beadle/Hall Keeper and his wife. The style was good quality English cooking, the helpings were enormous and we usually had five courses for the formal dinners. The dinners went on for a long time. Two special favourites were cheese soufflé, which of course we still have, and
Caspin, chilled consommé, topped with lump fish roe and then curried mayonnaise - absolutely delicious (Memo to Renter Warden and Herbert, why not try it again?).

The waiters were all male, old, charming, usually ex-servicemen and pretty dodderly. A dinner was considered boring if at least one person didn’t find his food tipped down his back or front.

An institution was the Bin. This was Paul’s office in the basement, which the Master and Clerk would visit after dinner to discuss the evening’s events with Paul and June and put the Innholders and the City to rights - this with the help of several bottles of champagne and the local bobby. He and Paul found it useful to get on well together.

The Master Innholders was formed in 1978. There were some difficulties to start with, but those were soon sorted out and it has given us a special purpose in regaining our links with the trade. There are now 3 MIs on the Court and our new Master is of course very strongly connected with the Hotel trade.

When I joined the Company, the membership came to a great extent from old Innholders families and it took a long time from the time of his application for an outsider to be admitted. This policy changed in the early 1990s and has had the effect of strengthening the livery and, when selection onto the Court was introduced, giving a larger pool of talent to choose from.

If a Past Master from the 1970s were to attend a dinner now, I am sure that he would be pleased with the progress the Company has made. He would no doubt briefly raise an eyebrow at our Lady Master and the number of women at the dinner and be amazed at the improvements to the Hall and delighted with the quality of the food and drink. He would be reassured that the Company is in good heart and remains in good hands.

Caroline and I have had and are still having a wonderful time with the Innholders. We have made great friends, met interesting people, tasted fantastic food and drink and visited lovely places. We are both extremely grateful.

Patronage

Upper Warden (up until 6th October 2015) Julia Sibley reports

As has already been reported elsewhere in this review, the Worshipful Company of Innholders celebrated its quincentennial anniversary in 2014/5. The Patronage Committee were delighted to learn that it was able to acknowledge this unique occurrence for the Company in a very special way, and award £500,000 on some very exciting charitable projects. As reported in previous reviews, the Worshipful Company of Innholders acts as the trustee of the Charitable Funds it has been bequeathed or has acquired in the past. The income generated from these invested funds is awarded to a variety of schemes and projects under the watchful eyes of your Patronage Committee.

Having revised the principles the committee uses when deciding how to allocate these funds, we have had a very good and rewarding year with some excellent results. For the Annual Review this year, we thought we would follow the pattern of recent times and illustrate our work with some examples of the three sectors that benefit from these funds, namely, the elderly, the young, and the hospitality industry. At the same time we will explain how we have allocated responsibility to different members of the committee for the various projects we support.

So, starting with the Elderly, this very important sector is watched over by Bill Christianson, who has just been elected to Middle Warden.

Befriending the socially isolated – The year under review saw the third payment to the Licensed Trade Charity for an innovative project they had developed to recruit, train and manage 24 volunteers to reach 144 people who used to work in the Licensed Trade and who suffer social isolation. Director of marketing and charity services Liz Gaffer reports that: “With a recent BBC News story reporting loneliness as being as bad for health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day, and new powers being created which will rate councils on how they deal with social isolation within their communities, Support & Care believes there has never been a better time for employers to become pro-active in this area.

It is clear that not enough is being done to support people living in social isolation. Our research found that over 4,400 people identify themselves as being socially isolated, but we believe the true figure is far higher because we are reliant on asking people to identify themselves as being lonely and socially isolated. Companies could play a vital role in getting the message to retired licensees, and indeed
those nearing retirement, that there is help and they do not have to live out their retirement in loneliness.

We launched our Telephone Befriending Service, which is generously funded by the Worshipful Company of Innholders, following our research and we currently have four people employed as Befrienders. They offer friendship and support to people by calling them weekly, with calls lasting up to one hour.

The LTC believes the problems associated with social isolation are exacerbated for those retired from the licensed trade, as they usually will have been socially active people throughout their working lives, but due to ill health or bereavement, find themselves alone in later life.

Bill has recently attended a volunteer training day himself with LTC to really understand what is involved. He reported that: “I thoroughly enjoyed a visit to LTC yesterday and sat in on a telephone session of the befriending service. A volunteer, let's call him Roger who gives his time to the charity and to this service was having a conversation with one of his regular contacts when I arrived. I was then able to sit in and listen to a call. Permission to do so had been obtained prior to my visit. From the call which lasted 35 minutes it was clearly evident how much it was appreciated and, I would gauge, the good that it did. The opportunity for the recipient to talk about things concerning him was apparent, and a bond of friendship clearly evident. Roger has a number of people on his call list - I think 5 or 6 and although we did connect with one other during my visit he was unable to take the call at that time. Not only is Roger a very good example of a listener and communicator, it is quite clear to me that the “befriending” supported by us, through the Patronage Committee, is providing an invaluable service and I would most certainly recommend that it is continued.”

**The Young** - Yvonne Burne, former Head of the City of London School for Girls, together with Ian Mullins, Director of Education for the Licensed Trade Charity, look after our young scholars whom we support. Ever mindful of the public benefit requirement the Trustees must satisfy, we make sure that the scholarships we fund (match-funded by the City of London in all cases at CLS and CLSG) are awarded to boys and girls, whom would not be able to benefit from this education if the Company did not provide the scholarships. We were delighted to receive letters from some of the girls at CLSG we have supported recently and here are some extracts from two of their letters:

“Dear Master, I would like to thank you for your sponsorship over the last seven years, which I realise have been invaluable as I reach my final year at City. I would like to follow a career path in medicine after a gap year. Within the field of medicine I hold a specific interest in neuroscience and cognitive behaviour. To this end I am currently in the midst of a research project about the causes of mental disorders such as Schizophrenia and Major Depressive Disorder and how different causation models affect treatment options. Additionally I have undertaken a course in Medical Neuroscience offered by Duke University. ...In my personal time I support my violin teacher to teach violin to younger children at Whitmore High School and volunteer at Arthur House, an elderly home for people with dementia and Alzheimer’s as well as act as a biology and maths mentor in school. I have also volunteered as a helper of year 1 students in Sir John Cass Primary School”.

**Author’s note:** We were delighted to learn that this young lady’s A Level results were as follows: Biology – A: Chemistry – A: Mathematics – A: Physics – B. Following her gap year she will be going to University.

An exciting new project we have supported this year was the awarding of a grant to a charity called Teach First.

Teach First report: “Thanks to vital support from The Worshipful Company of Innholders, we were able to recruit, train, place and support 5 Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) teachers in the 2014/15 academic year. Each Teach First teacher reaches approximately 125 students, meaning that thanks to this support, we have provided 625 secondary school pupils in the Boroughs of Newham, Tower Hamlets and Southwark with highly skilled, passionate STEM teachers.”
There is a critical shortage of STEM teachers in UK schools. In recent years, this shortage has meant that schools in low-income communities have been hit especially hard. The result is that:

- Less than a third of students eligible for free school meals achieve a science GCSE at grade A*-C, compared with 70% of their wealthier peers.
- Fewer than 20 percent of students in England, Wales and Northern Ireland continue with maths after 16, the lowest proportion in the developed world.
- Businesses will increasingly require graduates with the skills that a STEM degree demands. At the moment, 43% of businesses are currently facing difficulties in recruiting STEM graduates, and this is set to increase to 52% over the next three years.

In turn, there is a serious shortage of home-grown STEM graduates, creating a worrying skills gap in the UK. A recent report by the Social Market Foundation warned that 40,000 additional STEM graduates would be needed each year to fill the 104,000 graduate-level jobs our economy will require annually.

Currently, we have 435 STEM teachers in both primary and secondary schools across England and Wales, up from 414 in the 2013/14 academic year. We have increased our 2015/16 STEM graduate recruitment target to 653, which will represent 32% of our total cohort.

In Newham, Tower Hamlets and Southwark, we are aiming to place 30 STEM teachers to start in the classroom in September. Thanks to pledged funding from The Worshipful Company of Innholders, we will once again be able to support the costs of 5 of these talented teachers.

Local Area Context
Tower Hamlets has London's highest rate of secondary school pupils eligible for free school meals (FSM), at 53% (compared to an average of 25.2%). There is a 13.2 gap in GCSE achievement between pupils eligible for FSM and their wealthier peers in Newham. In Southwark, pupils eligible for free school meals achieving level 5+ at Key Stage 3 in Science is just 55%.

We are committed to rigorously monitoring the effectiveness of our teachers and the Leadership Development Programme to ensure we are truly able to help transform the educational outcomes of the pupils across England and Wales.

- Our partner schools see an improvement in grades across the school, equivalent to every pupil improving by one grade in each subject at GCSE.
- Our ambassadors (alumni) are leading change in and out of the classroom; this community includes 14 head teachers and over 550 middle and senior school leaders
- Last year, 99% of our teachers completing their first year achieved 'outstanding' or 'good' in their qualified teacher status grade.

Case Study – Mulberry School for Girls in Tower Hamlets
“I have always been interested in pursuing a career which was more maths-orientated,” she told us. “I enjoyed being a fundraiser but I had the desire to work more on the front line, directly with young people. I had always thought about teaching as an option, but the financial hardship I would have undergone doing the PGCE route meant that it wasn’t possible. The Teach First programme made it possible for me.”

Teaching allowed her to work directly with maths, and teaching in one of our partner schools meant that she was also helping to improve prospects for pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds. She expected a challenge in her first few weeks, and that’s what she got.

“It was as expected: tough,” she said. “There haven’t been many times in my life when I felt so little control. I don’t think anything could have prepared me for the amount I needed to learn in the first two weeks – both subject pedagogy and behaviour management.”

“I now feel that I have my behaviour management under control,” she said, “So my focus is now on improving my subject pedagogy and approaches to teaching different aspects of maths. I’m looking forward to working with my Year 11s this term, I’ve been their teacher since the beginning of Year 10 and we’ve all worked hard, so I’m hoping for some great GCSE results!”

She cites dealing with a particularly disengaged class as the biggest challenge she has faced in her second year. “Their confidence and motivation are low, and they don’t enjoy maths,” she explained.

“The gap between the poorest and richest needs to be lessened,” she said, “Which will only happen if the poorest have access to the same opportunities as the rich – and this will only happen if they are given the same quality of education. A good education is reliant on good teachers.”

“Education is one of the biggest factors affecting social mobility in the UK,” she explained, “So if you feel passionate about social mobility, and giving every child the opportunity they need to succeed, you should support Teach First.”

Looking Ahead
Next year, we will provide over 25% of all new teachers for schools in low-income communities across England and Wales. To help solve the STEM challenge, we need
more of the UK’s best graduates and career-changers than ever to teach these subjects. And we face the greatest challenge yet: by 2015, we aim to recruit and train 653 new graduates to teach STEM subjects alone, reaching nearly 100,000 young people in low-income schools across the country."

This year marked the second year of support for the music tuition of a St Pauls Chorister. We are delighted to learn that our scholar is a very bright boy and is an exceptional mathematician as well as being so good at music. In April 2015, St Paul’s Cathedral Choir undertook a major concert tour of the USA, performing in eight cities across seven States. Audiences travelled great distances to hear the choir perform, and ticket sales exceeded predictions throughout the tour. The 2015 tour was focused on outreach, and the choir had made a commitment to engage with their audiences in new ways. Each concert included insightful presentations on the music programmes by Andrew Carwood and Simon Johnson, and the social media campaign drew thousands into the excitement of the tour.

St Paul’s Cathedral has been central to the ‘special relationship’ since Churchill and Eisenhower planned the American Memorial Chapel which is housed behind the High Altar in the Cathedral. To this day, St Paul’s continues to celebrate and embody the cultural friendship shared between the UK and the USA. St Paul’s Cathedral Choir enjoys a huge following in the States, and the Patronage Committee were delighted to learn that the choir found it a privilege to engage with their many friends. With repeat tours proposed for 2018 and 2021, they hope to build on this friendship still further, and touch people with some of the best choral music to be heard anywhere in the world.

Also receiving funding for a second year is the charity called ‘StreetChance’. StreetChance is the name of a project run by The Cricket Foundation, which uses cricket to engage and educate boys and girls living in areas affected by youth crime and anti-social behaviour in seven cities including London. The Company offered a grant for three years towards the cost of coaching at one specific StreetChance project. This will provide up to 40 children each year with regular cricket sessions.

In this year’s evaluation, we learn that the name has been altered to Chance to Shine Street. There are two programmes: Young Adults, for 16-24 year olds and Youth, for 8-15 year olds. Sessions are held in inner-city areas of Birmingham, Brighton, Bristol, Dewsbury, Hull, Leicester, Liverpool, London and Manchester. Some sessions are held for girls only.

Outcomes in the nine cities for 2014-2015

1,780 Street sessions, each lasting two hours, were delivered in 56 different locations in nine cities, engaging 1,167 regular participants, although impact on the individuals taking part is more significant than the numbers engaged. Each participant had an average of 58 hours contact time with their coach at sessions throughout the course of the year.

64 young participants or volunteers were funded through the programme to follow ECB coach education courses for interest and to help with future employment opportunities as part-time coaches or assistant coaches. A further 32 completed the ECB Cricket Activator course to be able to support younger participants at their local sessions. Supporting young people through training towards paid employment as well as developing young local role models in inner-city communities are key parts of the Street programme.

How the grant from The Worshipful Company of Innholders has been used.

The grant of £2,000 per year for 3 years has been used to support the community project in Merton, which has been running since April 2013. The total cost of running the project over the course of the past 12 months has been £5,835.

In the beginning none of the participants were cricket club members, indicating that the project is reaching the right target groups, offering new opportunities to young people in a deprived area that has one of the highest rates of crime in the country (according to the Office for National Statistics).

The sessions over the last year have engaged 31 boys aged 9-15, with average weekly attendance being 18. There are 7 different ethnic groups involved in the sessions, with 48% being of Sri Lankan descent. Teams regularly take part in inter-borough competitions in each of the six school holidays, most recently in August 2015, when they competed against young people from other community projects across London.

There has been excellent engagement of volunteers, including Richard Woolland a 20 year old student from Mitcham and Tim Redman, who coaches sport in schools in the area and who has recently qualified as a cricket
coach. He now assists lead coach Gavin Reynolds. Gavin Reynolds has introduced a group of participants who have shown an interest in playing more cricket to Mitcham Cricket Club. It is hoped that some might take up the opportunity to enjoy more formal coaching and competition in the club environment as part of their continued cricket development.

Gavin has worked with a local youth worker to run three weeks of workshops around diversity and citizenship, discussing as a group what it means to them to be part of such a multi-cultural community. They have also been given taster sessions of other activities they could enjoy in their community: a local basketball coach came to run a session, and in the holidays Gavin took the boys to their local BMX club.

**Challenges**
The biggest challenge has been the vast age difference in those attending sessions, which can leave some youngsters feeling overawed by the situation and can make sessions difficult to run cohesively to suit everyone.

Another challenge is that the older participants have moved into the senior age group for inter-borough competitions and have been reluctant to compete against older boys of a higher standard, as they fear that they will struggle. Encouraging them to attend competitions as regularly as they previously did is therefore a real challenge, and Gavin is keen for them to overcome this feeling. His aim is for them to understand that winning is not the be-all and end-all; they can still learn and develop just as much from losing games when the standard is much higher than before.

**The Hospitality Industry**

The majority of the giving in this sector goes to the Company’s support for the **Master Innholder Scholarships**. This is jointly funded by the Company, The Savoy Educational Trust, the Master Innholder Charitable Trust and the Lord Forte Foundation. The Master looks after this grant and is part of the interview panel to help select the scholars each year.

In the quincentennial year we awarded £100,000 to these scholarships so that 20 rising stars in the hotel business would be able to attend management development courses at either Lausanne, Cranfield or Cornell. This scheme is aimed at those making, or about to make, the change from assistant management into a general management role. The scholars have formed an alumnus society, called the St Julian Scholars and they are a very powerful network of some 150 young, talented hoteliers who meet twice a year for further professional development and networking.

One other grant that was awarded during the year was to industry charity **Springboard** for their **Kickstart** programme. The following report evaluates the outcomes of the KickStart 2014 programme supporting young people leaving full-time education who, with no clear career projection or employment prospects, are at risk of becoming NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training).

**2014 Springboard / Kickstart Achievements**

In 2014, KickStart was delivered in seven cities (Birmingham, Cardiff, Cornwall, Glasgow, Leeds, London and Manchester) and gave 181 young people the opportunity to gain practical work experience and insight into the real career opportunities on offer to them in the hospitality industry. The young people on the programme each earned their place on merit through an interview-based selection process.

For all young people who took part in the programmes, the following measurable outcomes were achieved:

- 181 young people have benefited from an increased awareness of their own skills and competencies, an understanding of the hospitality industry, and the soft skills required for improving their employability.
- 171 young people have achieved accredited vocational qualifications increasing their employability within the hospitality industry and generally moving them closer towards the labour market.
- 46 young people have moved into employment for a minimum of 16 hours a week, which will enable them to improve their prospects in life. Springboard continues to support these individuals to sustain employment and encourages them to focus on developing their career progression towards better paid roles with greater responsibilities.
- 114 young people have returned to education upon completion of the programme.
- Across all programmes, the average conversion rate into employment or back into education was 94 percent.

Springboard successfully reviewed and developed the overall model of Kickstart to ensure more participants completed the programme whilst ensuring demand and
delivery to the industry occurs. This is demonstrated by the fact that an increased number of participants were offered a place on the programme, completed the programme and achieved positive destinations than in previous years.

The annual £5,000 contribution from the Worshipful Company of Innholders directly helped to fund elements such as the programme materials and training, certification costs, organisation of work placement and employment opportunities, and provided essential mentoring support to ensure the young people had the best possible chance of securing long term, worthwhile employment.

The Company is rightfully very proud of the help and support that is offered to so many people as a result of the schemes it supports. The Patronage Committee in addition to those already referred to above, aided by Graeme Groom, Charles Attlee, John Thurso, Ian Mullins, David Brann and the Clerk, Dougal Bulger, works hard to ensure that best possible use is made of the funds and I am, as always, very grateful to them all. We now say goodbye to David Brann as he has served his term on the committee and I would like to thank him very much for all of his effort and excellent advice and guidance throughout his time on the committee. I also now hand over the reins of the Patronage Committee to John Thurso as I move on to become Master of the Company. I wish the committee well and thank them for all their support during my tenure as chairman of this committee.

Charity Committee Report for 2015 -16

Rev’d Canon Bill Christianson reports

In the year of The Company’s Quincentennial Celebrations the Master and Court agreed to increase, in this special year, the amounts allocated to both the Patronage and the Charity Committees for distribution. The amount available to the Charity Committee was an increase from £35,000 to £50,000. This of course meant the committee was able to increase the number of small grants, ranging between £500 and £2,000 to charities seeking assistance, for new and on-going projects of their own. Most grants are in the region of £1,000, with the highest this year being £2,800 which was made to the Mary Hare School for deaf children in Newbury. (See Clare Kemp’s report of her visit to the school - below). All in all, this past year, we were able to give grants to 52 Charities.

Once again committee members took the opportunity to visit a few of those receiving grants to see for themselves the work being undertaken, and to see for themselves how the grant would be used and help those in need. Jason Essenhigh made visits to 4 Recipients of Grants and his reports are included for your information and interest.

Access Aspiration

Access was founded in 2013 and the charity facilitates tailored and aspirational work placements for sixth form students, focusing on London state schools where there is limited existing provision. During 2014 they assisted 640 young people and organised 341 work placements through 132 supporting companies (including several large firms within the retail and leisure industry).

Jason reported - “I visited Access in February 2015 and met the Chief Executive, Kirstie Sant, and her staff to present the charity with a £2,000 cheque. They intend to use the grant to help expand its outreach to 2,000 young people and 500 work placements. Access also intends to increase the number of guest-speaker volunteers at schools to ensure that young people are made aware of work opportunities in unfamiliar industries. Kirstie would be delighted to hear from Members of the Company willing to speak to sixth form students about their career experience and progression within the hotel and hospitality industry.” Her email is: kirstiesant@accessworkplacements.org

The Queen Victoria Seamen’s Rest

QVSR started life in Poplar in 1843 as the Seamen’s Mission of the Methodist Church and the charity has kept its historical links with the maritime industry by providing permanent accommodation for retired seamen of all faiths. Housing and welfare facilities are also available at QVSR to ex-services personnel and local adults in need.

QVSR is partway through a rebuilding programme that will modernise 170 bedrooms and bathrooms. In February 2015 the Company met the Chief Executive and staff to hand over a cheque for £500 which will be used to
purchase beds, linen and soft furnishings for some of the new rooms. Many of our Members will have first-hand experience of major works projects in the hotel industry and will know how difficult it can be to rebuild bedrooms in an old structure whilst maintaining a fully functioning facility; however we can report that the project is well underway and the first phases have been completed to a very high standard.

Toynbee Hall

Toynbee is a multi-purpose social welfare organisation which provides a range of services to some of the poorest and most deprived communities in the City, Tower Hamlets and more widely across London. The charity assists circa 12,000 people each year.

I visited Toynbee Hall in August and discovered it has a shared connection through Clement Atlee, who was the charity’s secretary in 1909 and an Innholder. After learning more about the history and future plans for Toynbee Hall. A grant of £500 was awarded to support activities to tackle isolation and loneliness of the elderly in the Tower Hamlets area.

UCanDoIT

UCanDoIT is a South London based charity teaching people with disabilities how to use computers, with a particular focus on internet and email skills. ‘Learners’ are taught at home on a one-to-one basis over ten weekly sessions to use their own computers, laptops or devices. The charity assists over 3,000 learners each year and there is currently a waiting list of people who are keen to obtain training.

The Company visited the charity in August 2015 and met CEO Mary Payne and her Development Officer, Patricia Webb. Our cheque for £1,000 will be used to provide additional teaching resource to reduce the current waiting list and get more learners active and on-line.

Volunteer Link Scheme (Ealing)

The charity provides one-to-one volunteer befriending to people within the London Borough of Ealing who are severely isolated and housebound as a result of physical or sensory disability, infirmity or illness. Over 73% of Volunteer Link’s contacts are 75 years or older and each week 56 volunteer “befrienders” visit 70 people for visits of approximately 2 hours duration.

The Company visited the charity in August 2015 and met Volunteer Coordinator, Jill Shaw and learnt that the charity aims to expand its service to assist 100 local people in the near future. Our cheque for £1,500 will be used to provide additional resources to support the volunteers.

Clare Kemp’s visit to the Mary Hare School for Deaf Children.

A grant of £2800 was made to the school for two wheelchair accessible bedrooms in the new Howard boarding House for the year 7s.

The Mary Hare School will shortly be celebrating 70 years since it was named in memoriam of its founder, Miss Mary Hare, and has been based at its current location in Newbury since 1949. It is the largest, non-maintained special school in the country, educating 232 profoundly and severely deaf children from all over the UK. The Mary Hare Foundation, also a registered charity was established in 1991 to raise funds to support the work of the School. The families of pupils do not pay fees for their child to attend but the cost of providing their basic boarding, education and care is met partly by the local authority where they live and topped up by central government.

To celebrate the opening of Howard House a small opening ceremony was held on 22nd September which I attended. Following a tour, which I found inspirational, I was also able to see first-hand that the grant The Charity Committee had made had been well deployed. Guests were shown the new boarding facilities by some of the school’s new year 7s, and then joined for tea by the rest of the year in their new common room. The school is expecting a new resident - a little boy who is not only deaf but also wheelchair dependent - and these wheelchair accessible rooms will make that possible. The highlight of the occasion was a wonderful and emotional speech given by a new boy called Oscar, who is profoundly deaf:

“Hello my name is Oskar. We are lucky to be the first year 7’s in Howard House. My bedroom is nice and our friends come into the common room to watch movies and hang out in the evenings. We want to say a big thank you to you all for providing us with a lovely house.”

During his speech, the headmaster Peter Gale, remembered that in the many years of dealing with the concerns of parents and prospective pupils he had occasionally been asked what would happen if the school did not have enough room for all the children who were eligible to join. His response had always been, ‘We’d rather put up a new building than turn your child away” – the new Howard House honours that sense of commitment. A plaque bearing the Company Name has been mounted
Hall Committee Report for 2015

PM Anthony Mellery-Pratt reports

This has been a relatively quiet year, as all outstanding works were completed in 2014 so that the Hall was in tip-top condition to celebrate the quincentennial.

However, nothing stands still and it became clear early in the year that our central heating boiler, which had been installed when the Hall had a major refurbishment in the late 1980s, was now becoming unreliable. When we considered how much the Hall is now used for outside functions as well as Innholders meetings, it became a priority to get on with the work.

This was all done during the 2 week period when the Hall is closed during the last half of August and the work involved the new boiler and calorifier, together with new controls and exhaust flue, all at a cost of about £35,000. Everything is now running smoothly.

As mentioned in the last report, the security and alarm systems had to be renewed and the opportunity was taken to improve the security as there is so much more use of the Hall. All is now card controlled with considerably more CCTV cameras and many of the capabilities of the system can now be accessed remotely.

Herbert Berger at Innholders Hall

Year 3 report

Time is flying by at an incredible pace and it is hard to believe that we have completed three years at Innholders’ already.

Year three has been a fantastic year, equal to last year; different in many ways, with reality setting in, more business challenges but also very exciting, immense fun and rewarding - living up to all the expectations in the Quincentenary year of the Worshipful Company of Innholders’.

It was an absolute delight, pleasure and an honour to cook for the now past Master Graeme Groom. A great time was had with Bill Christianson the Renter Warden making sure we had befitting menus and ensuring we kept some fun elements like the bobotie from South Africa.

This year we are thrilled and very proud to cook for the first female Master in over 500 years. I am pleased to say that we have delivered some special events for Master Julia Sibley already including milk-fed lamb and her favourite desserts ‘Baked Alaska’, and Sacher Torte.

In our daily business we had an early festive season setback with tube strikes over two weeks in October, which hit us hard. December was a very short month due to the way the Christmas holidays fell. We did recover at the beginning of 2015 and then the Greek crises affected all our clients in the financial sector quite badly. We managed a happy finale to the year and are pleased to be showing a modest growth over the previous year. Having said that, we have set another stiff budget for this year and early signs are hopeful for us delivering on plan.

Our proactive marketing has given us many new clients, from other livery companies, to masonic lodges, private businesses, friends and city institutions. We also held a number of gastronomic events serving up to nine courses of fine food and wine.

To keep our marketing activity current and keep ‘on-trend’ we have decided to build a new website which is SEO driven and more responsive. Early signs are that it is proving to be a good investment. Do please visit our new site www.innholders.co.uk and let me know what you think. We are very pleased with it. As a matter of interest the website was actually built by one of our part-time waiters, Timur. We think he has done an excellent job, and we support real passion and work skills of our casual
staff that understand the ethos and culture of Innholders’ far better than an outside agency.

Ely and myself are now gearing up to attend the BNC (Buyers Networking Club) show again. This year we have our own stand, albeit at considerable cost, though we feel it will be worth the investment for the business.

On another note, this might be of interest to the members: the last week before Christmas is generally very quiet with no corporate events taking place (they all book the first two weeks in December) we are considering opening up the hall for small but pre-booked parties to run like an a la carte restaurant. We are constantly asked by friends and guests if they can bring small groups of family and friends to enjoy the ambience and food. This would enable private parties of 4 or 6 and more to book and enjoy the grandeur of Innholders’. Your feedback on this would be very welcome. It may also be of interest for member’s families and friends to entertain their smaller parties at Innholders’ rather than at a hotel or restaurant. Do contact elena@herbertberger.com for more information.

We still have all my trusted team going from strength to strength and we are delighted to tell you that we have won a special award from the IWFS (International Wine and Food Society) and from the Réunion des Gastronomes from whom we have been awarded the ‘Menu of the year” quite an honour from such a foodie society.

For me personally it was an extra special year as I was made a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Cooks and then I received the Freedom of the City of London. What an honour and what a special day it was celebrating with a lunch for close friends at Innholders’ Hall. I can now appreciate how special it is to sit in that great room and enjoy food, wine and good company within its walls. No doubt this would not have happened without some good words from various important and influential people and had I not ended up at Innholders’ Hall in the first place. What a wonderful journey I have had and continue to enjoy.

Another highlight was the absolutely magical wine trip to Tuscany and I like to thank you all and the Master for having invited Hayley and I who I am now very happy to say is my fiancée! I think it was plain for everyone to see but Tuscany worked its magic on us and we are delightfully happy and will get married in 2017.

I would also like to thank all my team for standing in for me so well professionally and competently whilst I had a full ankle replacement. It was a long and tough recovery period but very worthwhile. Absolutely fabulous what modern medicine can do these days! I also joke that I am worth so much more now with all that titanium in my leg!

We are in our fourth year and business looks better than ever before, we have amazing clients and continue to receive positive feedback. I am pleased to say that we are starting to negotiate an extension of my contract at Innholders’ from 2017 and beyond.

Thank you all and looking forward to another exciting and successful year.

Herbert and the Team.

Roast diver caught scallop, Arbroath smokie Risotto, Thyme and parsley jus

MASTER INNHOLDERS

Chairman Jonathan Raggett’s report 2015

My first year as Chairman has been brilliantly busy and marked by a number of successes. Not the least of these was another excellent General Managers’ Conference hosted by Michael Shepherd at the London Hilton, Park Lane. Once again, we were provided with an entertaining and instructive programme, and I must thank Sue Williams and her committee for their considerable efforts in creating a successful event. As you are all aware, one of our key objectives at the conference is to make a surplus which we can direct to support the Master Innholder scholarships. Thanks to the hard work of Fiona Patrick we enjoyed another year of excellent sponsorship support. This meant that, together with a high number of delegates attending the event, we were able to pass £40,000 to the Master Innholders Charitable Trust. This is in addition to the
£14,000 provided to support the newly-established Derek Balls Scholarship, which this year was awarded to Tim Hassell.

This ability to maintain a high level of financial support towards the professional development of managers within our industry should not be underestimated, and it continues to be an important aspect of our role as Master Innholders. In this regard, it was pleasing to see that 20 scholarships were able to be awarded for this year, and we anticipate a similar number being granted for 2016. I was therefore delighted we could make another large donation to the MICT this year, but we must also remember that access to the scholarships would not be possible without the continued support of the Worshipful Company of Innholders, the Savoy Educational Trust and the Lord Forte Foundation.

The other area of our activity in which I am particularly proud is the continued growth and attractiveness of the Aspiring Leaders Diploma programme. The 2014 cohort of 17 ‘graduated’ in March having been an enthusiastic and engaged group of young managers. The 2015 cohort also numbers 17, and they, too, have demonstrated their gratitude in having been selected to participate this year. They have already completed three of their sessions, and we remain indebted to the host hotels for the generous and hospitable manner with which they receive the cohorts. We do need more volunteers however, to ensure we ease the burden across all our members. If you have yet to host a session, please consider doing so; you will be amazed at the benefits which can arise to you and your property! I have been delighted to engage with the cohorts on a number of occasions, and I know that this is a feeling shared by fellow members of the Executive Committee who have had the good fortune to also meet with them. The enthusiasm of these young managers is inspiring, and I remain convinced that, in establishing the Aspiring Leaders Diploma, the Master Innholders have created an outstanding and unique professional development programme.

Our Spring Meeting this year saw us return to the traditional format held over a Sunday and Monday exclusively for Master Innholders. We were hosted in fine and very generous style at The Vineyard at Stockcross by Andrew McKenzie and his team, and I am most grateful to them for making us feel so welcome. The formal business session of the meeting was particularly well attended, and resulted in a most useful discussion. One key result which emerged was the decision to maintain the Spring Meeting as an important opportunity for all members to be updated on activities. Please therefore note that Rupert Spurgeon has kindly offered to host the 2016 event at Goodwood Park on 17th and 18th April. Please mark the dates in your diaries!

This year we were delighted to welcome the following new members:

- Peter Banks, Rudding Park
- Anthony Cox, Danesfield House
- Marco Gervasoni, Brooklands Hotel
- James Hiley-Jones, GreenClose Hotels
- Stephen Miles, Radisson Blu Edwardian, Manchester
- Andrew Oxley, Down Hall Hotel
- Justin Pinchbeck, The Berkeley
- Robin Sheppard, Bespoke Hotels

We welcome them into our midst, and we look forward to their support over the coming years. Due to the Worshipful Company’s 500th anniversary celebrations this year there was no Court Dinner in early June as this was replaced by the splendid occasion at the Guildhall. For this reason, our new members were welcomed informally at Innholders’ Hall by the members of the Executive Committee and The Master and Clerk of the Company. I have particularly valued the close working relationship which, as Chairman, I have enjoyed with the Master and the Court. In this regard, the Company’s continued support and encouragement to us generally, and to me personally, is much appreciated.

While talking about the Company, I cannot fail to mention the various activities which we and the St Julian Scholars have undertaken this year to mark the 500th anniversary of the granting of its first Royal Charter. At the conference dinner in January on behalf of the Master Innholders I was proud to present the Company with a silver platter to commemorate this significant milestone in its history. In addition, the money raised at the dinner’s prize draw was donated to the Company’s newly-established charitable foundation. A group of Master Innholders, St Julian Scholars and friends are also cycling from Innholders’ Hall to Reims with the express aim of raising money to make a further donation to the foundation. In addition, I know that the St Julian Scholars are launching an on-line auction later in September to raise more money for the foundation. With these combined efforts, and the support of all members of both associations, I feel we have been able to mark in a most solid fashion our gratitude to the Company for its support to us over the years.

In closing this report, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Petra Clayton of Custard Communications who has done so much to improve our media profile, as well as our website and general communications. I must also thank the Executive Secretary and the Assistant Secretary, Gillian Croxford, for their support and guidance during my first year in post. I am also grateful to the members of the Executive Committee for their active and enthusiastic encouragement, without which my task as Chairman would be much harder.
Assistant Richard Ball MI explains

On the 10th September a group of 18 Master Innholders, St Julian Scholars, and two members of the court gathered at Innholders Hall for a fortifying breakfast before setting out on a 300 mile ride to Reims. The sight of 18 innkeepers parading in their finest Sky sponsored Lycra was one of the more unusual events in the Halls long history. Conceived by Andrew Stembridge as a means of raising funds for the Master’s Quincentennial Fund, the group deftly avoided the congestion at Calais with a brave 100 mile peddle across the Surrey Hills to Portsmouth on day one, and then embarked on a two-day ride from Caen to Reims. Each day held a variety of challenges from multiple punctures to the odd wrong turn, and a day of torrential rain and strong head winds in Northern France, but the banter rarely subsided, and aches and pains were soon restored by the warmth of the welcome from Champagne Taittinger when the group finally arrived.

The trip raised a total of £32,000 for the fund.

Compare this worthy biker with the suave MI at the office, shown on the previous page.

Yes, it really is the same man, Jonathan Raggett!

Two Chairmen with their team in College Street at the start.

Ah, now we know why they pedalled all that way - they were looking for a suitable refreshment stop.

ST JULIAN SCHOLARS

Chairman Joanne Taylor-Stagg’s report 2015

I was delighted to be invited to assume the position of Chairman at the Spring Meeting earlier this year. It is a great privilege to be entrusted with leading our growing organisation over the next couple of years. In this regard, I must thank my predecessor, Oliver Brown, for his outstanding efforts in moving the alumni society forward in so many areas during his tenure. He has prepared an excellent base upon which to build, but also a hard act to follow!! Notwithstanding this, I am blessed by having tremendous support from our engaged, enthusiastic and talented committee members. Without them at the helm our society would be much the poorer.

Our Autumn Meeting in 2014 was held at the Shangri-La Hotel at The Shard where we were hosted in style by the General Manager, Darren Gearing, and his team. We had a wide array of speakers who provided some interesting insights to the overall theme of personal well-being. The day was judged to be a great success, and the iconic nature of the venue ensured we had a large audience. Following the meeting we were again hosted most generously by the Worshipful Company for the annual dinner at Innholders’ Hall. For this year’s Autumn Meeting we are moving back to familiar W1 territory, and we are delighted to have persuaded the team at the newly-refurbished Lanesborough to host our event. This prestigious venue has served to attract a large number of our St Julian Scholars, and with its theme of how we should and can engage with the incoming workforce from Generation Z, our day’s programme is set to capture the interest of our members (most of whom are from Generations X and Y!).

Our Spring Meeting this year was held at Wivenhoe House close to Colchester, and home to the Edge Hotel School, and where our host was the immediate past chairman of the St Julian Scholars, Oliver Brown. Given the nature of the hotel’s activity, it was no surprise that the theme of the day was focussed on education. The topics ranged from tips about how best to manage one’s own professional
development to working with and for apprentices. There was also an absorbing presentation about The Clink charity, as well as a panel discussion made up of those who had benefited from the various approaches available to training within the industry. Finally, Professor Peter Jones outlined for everyone how the face of hospitality education in the UK is changing.

We were delighted to note that this year’s scholarship application process has resulted in 18 young managers from across the industry being selected to attend various programmes during 2016. Maintaining this number of scholarships can only be achieved through the tremendous support provided by the main funders of the programme, namely the Company, the Savoy Educational Trust and the Lord Forte Foundation.

Mindful of this, and of our collective debt of gratitude, the St Julian Scholars are making their own contribution to the Inholders’ Charitable Foundation through the medium of creating an on-line auction. With some 40 highly attractive lots donated by various St Julian Scholars we hope to raise a large sum to be presented to the Company to assist it in all its charitable endeavours. Nor should we overlook the various initiatives undertaken by individual St Julian Scholars to raise money throughout the year for the same cause. We hope that these various efforts demonstrate in a highly tangible way, how much we owe to the Company for its unwavering commitment to us, and to those future scholars.

Finally, on behalf of all St Julian Scholars, I must thank the Master and the Court for the continued support we enjoy from all members of the Worshipful Company. This is never taken for granted, and the close ties we enjoy with all at Inholders’ Hall are very much appreciated by all St Julian Scholars.

City Livery Yacht Club Regatta
Cowes 15-17th May 2015

Freeman Kandy Maddock
tells it how it was

Innholder 500: The Master, Alice Groom, Chris Jeffs, Bill Edgerley & Andy Roberts.


Friday 15th May

Swanwick Marina on the Hamble River was where we joined ‘Premier Flair’ the Elan 410 thoroughbred yacht to be named Innholder 502 for the weekend. A keen crew met to use the sail over to Cowes to get used to the boat and think about tactics for the big race day, or merely to enjoy a very pleasant sail and start to a wonderful sailing weekend! Once all the scrumpy and coleslaw had been stowed thanks to Anthony Mellery-Pratt’s interesting shopping list, we were off. Skipper Tim Edom handed the wheel over to Joe Mellery-Pratt who was to be our helmsman the following day. Linda & Tony Brighton proved exceptionally inventive in fender stowage whilst Anthony and I did as we were told! We had a lovely sail across the Solent managing to put up the mainsail and genoa to get our sea legs working and remember how the yacht worked.

It was all going fine until the kettle showed up with its minder - Prime Warden of the Dyers, James Crockatt Ed

We completed a graceful entry into West Cowes Marina just ahead of Tim Mellery-Pratt and crew on the other Elan 410, Esprit, closely followed by James Crockatt, the Prime Warden of the Dyers, on his yacht, both having sailed up from Poole. Once sails had been
stowed and sail covers put on, we disbanded to our land accommodation to prepare for the evening festivities.

Friday evening is traditionally reserved for a joint Innholders and Dyers casual dinner, and once again this year it was held at The Island Sailing Club, brilliantly organized by Anthony Mellery-Pratt. It is a wonderful occasion when two jovial and friendly livery companies get together for a good meal and an inordinately large amount of alcohol. [Editor’s comment: people around me thought it was just about the right amount.]

Dinner started with Grace sung by Adam Crockatt, a Dyer who is a truly exceptional singer; much to the relief of The Master whose delegation skills had been put to very effective use! The Prime Warden of the Dyers, James Crockatt then made a rousing speech congratulating the Innholders on reaching their Quincentennial year and presented The Master with an inscribed Dyers kettle to mark the occasion. (The Prime Wardens kettle, for those lucky enough not to have met it, is used post-race to offer liquid refreshment to all participating yachts. The main ingredient appears to be rum and it has proved the downfall of many an unsuspecting crew!)

The Master reciprocated by praising The Dyers and Innholders bond of friendship and sealed this by presenting The Prime Warden with a special bottle of Innholders Quincentennial champagne. The Master also presented Past Master Hugh Evans with a pair of socks in recognition of the magnificent work he has put in to making our participation in the regatta such an unequivocal success. The reason why he chose socks passed us lower company members by…. (Old Wellingtonian socks – we both went to the same school).

A very fine meal followed accompanied by some skilled paper aeroplane flying. The lighter weights or as we would rather be thought of as the more serious racers (?!?) went home before our full wine allocation had been reached, leaving the younger and more liver hardened liverymen to continue the celebrations.

Saturday 16th May

We awoke to an extremely blustery morning. I think I speak for most of the ‘moveable ballast’ (whose job it was to move from one side of the boat to the other with every tack) that we were mildly worried about the deck angle we would be working on in such conditions! The 9am briefing went well and all the skippers appeared happy with the course but worried about the final leg that was to be a long run with the wind behind us, and was, according to Tim Mallery-Pratt, where the race would be won or lost.

Prior to departure The Master paraded down the pontoon holding the Innholders battle flag aloft claiming it was an oriflame, a medieval battle banner, in order to get our competitive juices flowing.

Innholders had 3 yachts in the race: The Master was on Innholder 500 (alias Jin and Tonic which had been renamed just for the race in honour of the Master’s presence, and part owned by a Goldsmith!), Innholder 501 (alias Esprit owned by Neil Vardy who was the race tactician) and helmed by Tim Mellery-Pratt with a crew of 9 and Innholder 502 (alias Premier Flair) helmed by Joseph Mellery-Pratt with a crew of 12.

Innholder 501 made racing sustenance before leaving port in the form of sandwiches cleverly organized by Amanda Mellery-Pratt. In view of the wind we were extremely grateful to her for her foresight, as no one would have volunteered to go below in those conditions to prepare anything other than a Mars bar! We were an extremely keen crew and flew about the foredeck attaching the genoa and immediately hoisting it only to find we had forgotten to attach the sheets! Slightly red faced and muttering about a poor dress rehearsal we corrected our fault and set out to secure a good start. We later found out that we weren’t the only yacht to have a genoa incident as Innholder 502 had actually taken off their Genoa...
2 and left it on Hugh and Delma Evans’ boat in the marina thinking the conditions were too inclement to use it. They regretted this decision when the wind died!

*Sir Ben was out for a jolly.*

*We heard that he had rather fancied joining our race ..... but had some trouble catching up and missed the start.*

Tim made the most incredible start, so tight was it, we actually thought we’d gone over the line before the gun but he was rightly (as we found out later!) confident that it was fine. We were first over the line and off. We quickly found The Plumbers were the yacht to beat and were on their wake for most of the race until that fateful last leg over the Bramble Bank in the middle of the Solent. Both Innholder 502 and us on Innholder 501 decided to go north of the Brambles hoping for more wind, less tide only to have the wind die away and leave us trailing. This course lost us valuable ground to The Plumbers but was commended by the race officer later at the presentation dinner. We played a dangerous cat and mouse game with The Master who took great delight in overtaking us ‘whilst we were sightseeing on the Brambles!’ and taking photographs all throughout the race.

The weather improved as the race went on with the gusty wind easing away as the sun came out. Perfect race conditions followed, as did tactical debates with self-recrimination when we came second over the line. However Tim MP had beaten his son Joe MP so there was some succour to be had!

Back safely in the marina, The Master took out his new kettle and began pouring out celebratory drinks to all nearby. Sadly he had run out by the time he reached us but did give us the last of his daughter Alice’s birthday cake that had been made by Herbert Berger!

The crews, having disbanded to get into their finery for the evening ahead, met up again at The Royal London Yacht Club for The Master’s Pimms aperitif party. This was a very jolly affair and we were all in good spirits heading off to the Royal Yacht Squadron for the presentation dinner.

There we were treated to a lovely meal in the marquee on the Squadron lawn until night fell and the temperature plummeted. The ‘comfort break’ the Commodore gave us led to an unusual form of pole dancing where the ladies of the company draped themselves around the tall radiators to try and get warm prior to the speeches. Apparently heating in the marquee is ‘extra’ and the City Livery Yacht Club hadn’t specified that we wanted it!

The presentation saw an embarrassingly large haul of trophies for The Innholders;

**Innholder 500:**
Commodores Cup for 3rd place overall
Anne Glover Cup for highest place Innholders boat

**Innholder 501:**
Cowes Cup for 4th place overall
Millenium Cup for “first over the start line in great style”

Tim Mellery-Pratt also won the Field Trophy for first helmsman over the line over 65, (to which he was not sure he should admit).

Well-deserved success to all the Innholders but praise goes to the Lightmongers and Plumbers who came first and second in the race respectively.

Its the glass that gives the game away!
Sunday 17th May

The crews all left Cowes marina around 10 am on Sunday morning heading back to the Hamble, Lymington and Poole. The crew heading home to Swanwick Marina met a rather croaky skipper, Tim Edom, for the sail back to the mainland and, all feeling a bit lethargic after our late nights, decided to motor back! We were delighted to see that the scrumpy and coleslaw were still untouched on disembarking the yacht in Southampton! They’d also had a lovely weekend on the Solent.

Many thanks to Hugh Evans for his wonderful organization, Anthony Mellery-Pratt for arranging the Friday Evening Dinner, The Master for his generosity and wit, Tim and Joe Mellery-Pratt and Bill Edgerley for helming and all fellow liverymen and freemen for their banter and camaraderie.

This is a wonderful weekend to meet fellow Innholders and Hugh in particular would like to urge the younger members to come and enjoy it, as we need to compete with the Dyers’ youth who year on year seem to outlast us in the bar!

[Editor’s note: as a result of most excellent reporting, it can be revealed that KM – moveable ballast in 2015 – has been promoted for the 2016 season to chief genoa trimmer (bit of ground to make up there, Kandy, but hey ho, it’s all in a good cause)]

Golf Report for 2015

SPM Michael Vass

We had a most enjoyable season this year and although we were a little short on numbers it nevertheless all worked well.

Our first game was held in April on the RAC golf course at Epsom. This was quite a special occasion as we were playing our 25th anniversary match against the Master Innholders team for the honour of winning the Martin Williamson cup, an alliance which was initiated by Craig Drummond in 1990 who was at that time both General Manager of the club and also a Master Innholder.

In the early days, these matches were well supported and highly competitive but as time has passed the MIS have had difficulties raising a full team mainly due to work commitments, with the result that we have had to invite guests along to sustain the numbers required by the clubs to keep the fixtures. So on the day WCI fielded the stronger team and retained the cup for another year. Martin presented the cup and also the other prizes for the day which went to William Bullock, Damian Cleary, Gerald McDonald and Craig Drummond.

In July we went to Winter Hill GC near Maidenhead and fielded 16 players. The best score of the day went to Simon Leathes with 39 points with Gerald McDonald only just behind with 38. The Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin prizes went to Charles Attlee and Laurence Beere.

Our September game was played at Woking where David Payne won the best score of day with 40 points followed by, once again, Gerald McDonald with 38 points and the two additional prizes were achieved respectively, once again, by Laurence Beere and Charles Attlee.

The final game of the year is played in November, this is the Dowgate Challenge, a match with the participants being members of the Livery companies located in the Dowgate Hill area of the City of London. This match requires a team of 9 players from each participating company which we will be fielding this year. Charles Attlee will be leading the team at Worplesdon and will be hoping to repeat the result of the inaugural year when the Innholders won the cup. Best of luck to him and the team.

Charles Attlee reports ..............

Winning the Dowgate Cup – the annual competition between the livery companies whose homes are on Dowgate Hill – is a relatively simple task … at least on paper. First, field as large a team as you can as the results depend on the average scores of the best six from a team; secondly, play to something around your handicap as an average of just over 30 Stableford points usually does the trick. The first step was achieved and our team of Nick Chaplin, William Cowpe, Gerald McDonald, Ruth Chaplin, James Wates, Richard Leman, Craig Drummond, Charles Attlee and Richard Norman was as many as we have ever turned out. The second step was more of a challenge as Innholders took the opportunity of good weather and course conditions to investigate some of the less surveyed parts of Worplesdon golf course. Congratulations to Gerald McDonald and James Wates who got into the 30s and to the Fanmakers who were the winners and prevented the Skinners from notching up their third win in a row. It is of course “taking part” that is important, and the format makes for a convivial day in the good company of our neighbours.

This year, organised as ever with impressive skill by James Loch, was no exception and we look forward to the event in 2016.
Turning now to the golfing for next year when there will be a few changes. Jill and I are stepping back from organising the schedule for the whole year and each game played will be arranged by a different member of the group. Gerald will be holding the reins for the RAC game in April and he will be contacting the usual address list of members nearer the time. We will continue to plan the Winter Hill game, scheduled for 6th July and Nick and Ruth Chaplin are searching for a new venue to replace Woking GC, who have been unable to give us a suitable date for 2016, and will be in touch with all when they have more information. Charles Attlee will continue to head up the Dowgate Challenge match at Worplesdon.

We hope that the new organisers will bring a fresh approach to our group and possibly recruit some new and younger players to take part. Personally I now find 18 holes too much of a challenge but would be happy to turn out on the odd occasion with a buggy - assuming that I will be invited along, that is.

Thank you to all the golfers for their support and commitment not only this year but for the past 25.

Livery Charity Clay Shoot

Andrew Ovey reports

The 22nd Inter-Livery Clay Pigeon Shoot saw two Innholders teams compete among 118 teams representing 64 Livery Companies.

After a few years of good progress, both teams slipped down the leader board - perhaps due to internal Father v Son contests. Hugo Chaplin taught dad Nick a few lessons in target practice as Innholders B came in 48th overall. Innholders A witnessed an epic tussle between Marc and Hal Sinden, with Hal taking the matchplay honours 3&2, without overhauling Marc’s strokeplay lead, established with a fine 7 kills from 8 birds on the 7th stand. Damian Cleary and Darren Patt tied as top shots with a 75% kill rate with Stas Anastasiades and Andrew Ovey more than making up the numbers.

Next year’s event is set for Wednesday 18th May. Please contact Assistant Ovey if you would like to take part in a fun day out at Holland & Holland Shooting School.

Editor’s Footnotes

1. The Court has kindly agreed to the creation of a special edition to reflect in words and pictures the happy events of our Quincentennial year. This will be available fairly shortly.

2. I have had the privilege of preparing the Annual Review every year since 2009, when SPM Christian Brann expressed himself as optimistic that I might make a reasonable fist of it - and graciously stepped aside. During that time, the AR has grown from 12 pages to the current 28 and it has been good fun and rewarding. Now I want to quit while I am ahead - the time has come to find a younger editor who will place his or her imprimatur on the AR, and take it forwards. Technically it’s not too challenging and we have a superbly efficient and helpful printer in Hobbs .... so I look forward to hearing from YOU
Our Master has led us bravely and with great charm and skill through the twists and turns of our Quincentennial year, and we owe him and his family a great debt of thanks. It has not been the easiest of tasks, particularly when one remembers the extraordinary dedication and compassion that led him to spend the best part of one week a month throughout his year of office in Gaza. To reprise his own words, “Each visit involved overnight travel to Israel on Saturday, crossing early into Gaza on Sunday to spend the first day in meetings and delivering a Trauma Training Symposium for up to 64 Palestinian surgeons. Monday was a long clinic, operating and training Tuesday and Wednesday. A final ward round and home on Thursday.”

Graeme, we salute you and thank you for your deft leadership in a most memorable year.

*Having said all that, the scurrilous ode above seems slightly out of place ..... or does it?* Ed