



# *THE FAN MAKER*

Issue 29

28th January 2021

## Lessons Learned and Our Future

by the Foreign Warden Peter Dove



### Lessons Learned

Out of nowhere, as soon as we entered the first Lock-down, an Events Group or Entertainment Committee came together and has given Liverymen much joy, cohesion and unity in a way we didn't expect and bringing an intimacy for Liverymen far and wide. Three cheers for those involved in organising this. Moreover, technology has been harnessed for the first time by many, giving a new context to how the Livery might function in all sorts of ways in the future. All meetings have worked virtually very well. We will have on-line elections next month and have had 5 New Liverymen sworn in on-line, another first. The downsides of Covid have been an inability to

meet and share bread together and find new members, or even replace our natural attrition rate.

This will start to become a problem unless we do something about it now.

So what can we learn from this? Firstly, we should find ways to involve as many Liverymen as possible in activities — you don't know what latent talent is out there; secondly, and related to the first point, is that a fresh approach to events and entertainment between the new events group and old and Livery Committee looks like joined up thinking; thirdly we need to really rejuvenate and make it easier for recruitment to rebuild.

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## Lessons learned and Our future (Continued from Page One)

I am convinced that more activity in events in turn encourages recruiting, and feeds directly into our Charity raising too.

Alas we are in a second Lockdown and much of this year looks like it will be a continuation of the past. So let's also use this time to harness ideas and thoughts to build over 2022 and 2023.

One idea I would like to explore is whether it is feasible to set up local networks of members of the livery allowing them to meet up between Dinners. It is early days in my thinking and will explore it with others.

There are other issues and opportunities which the Court will be exploring over the coming months, please do feel free to contact me if you have seen something we can do.

There are many aspects of livery life that might change as a consequence of what we have experienced over the last twelve months. Please let me know if you have ideas about what we do or how we do it. This is not about starting from scratch but making the most of what we have.

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## Fan Makers donate 50 PCs to support education during the lockdown

The Government has made it clear that avoiding closing schools during the lockdowns is its top priority after its public health objectives. At present schools remain largely closed and probably will be during all of February. Teaching by using online techniques is second best.

One of the causes for concern has been that children from poorer backgrounds do not have access to the internet, this opens up a division in opportunity between children from comfortably off backgrounds and those living in financially poorer circumstances.

The Company was approached by both the Lansbury Lawrence School and the Livery Schools Link to help. Our association with Lansbury Lawrence is very long standing and two members of the Court are governors. (Liveryman Geoff Cannell and Assistant Antony Robson).

We have been associated with the Livery Schools Link for a few years, but mistakenly never been a member. The charity offers livery companies a resource to explain the livery movement to a wider audience and the chance to help pupils, especially in inner London, to secure better opportunities to progress.

Faced with an appeal from both the School and the Livery Schools Link we have donated over £10,000 to help them secure tablets and PCs so that all pupils can continue to be educated from home. We understand that will buy 50 tablets or PCs and also some bandwidth for homes which have no broadband.

Hot off the press, the Livery Schools Link has told us that our donation has been allocated to Acland Burghley School in Camden and Oasis Academy Hadley in Enfield.

## Terry Waite leaves Fan Makers spell bound



Nearly 140 members, Masters of other Livery Companies and guests joined the audio visual event which substituted for our Mansion House Banquet. The Master's principal guest was Terry Waite CBE.

Without the constraints of formality and having to leave the Mansion House by 10.30pm Mr Waite was able to speak for over 45 minutes on his life both before his captivity in the Lebanon and what he has done with his life afterwards.

Those present were spellbound by his insights and experiences. Because the format allowed for the extra time he was able to clearly develop the stories he told.

Mr Waite kindly agreed to visit most of the smaller groups for about ten minutes each, thus allowing everyone to ask him the questions that they wanted.

# Getting to know you: Members of the Court and their taste in music

Continuing the series of pen portraits of members of the Court, this week we catch up with Past Master Marshall Blaker and Adrian Laurie

## Past Master Marshall Blaker



Marshall was born and brought up in Hendon, North London and was educated at Orange Hill Grammar School after which he joined the family business of architectural metal fabricators, established in 1948 and still trading 72 years later.

In his youth Marshall was a competitive show jumper at Hickstead and rode to hounds.

Marshall has been involved in the design and manufacture of shop and store fittings, shopping mall balustrading, showcases and displays for many major UK museums as well as work at Buckingham Palace and the Palace of Westminster.

In the past he has collaborated with the leading architects of the time. This has included Foster, Rogers, Farrell,

Stirling, Smallwood and Chipperfield. Marshall also spent many years working on projects at the Barbican Centre with Chamberlin Powell and Bon.

Marshall has also worked on the interiors of many famous clients including, in the music industry, David Bowie, Annie Lennox, The Rolling Stones and Pink Floyd. Clients have also included foreign royalty. He was a pioneer in the design and production of stainless steel and glass staircases, which were particularly cutting edge at the time.

Joining the Fan Makers in 1989, Marshall was honoured to become Master in 2017. He has wonderful memories of many events representing the Fan Makers along with his wife Philippa.

Marshall is a volunteer for a mental health drop-in centre, enjoys collecting 19th and 20th century British art and enjoys going to the theatre and travel.

Philippa and Marshall have been married for over 52 years. They have two sons, Gary a QC, Recorder and Assistant on the Court of the company and Ashley, a television and radio comedy performer, writer and producer.

They have seven grandchildren, all of whom they enjoy spending time with.

My inheritance track

Dance A Cachucha from The Gondoliers by Gilbert and Sullivan by the Glyndebourne Festival Chorus. A much-underrated piece of music. It reminds me of my youth (a distant memory).

## Assistant Antony Robson



Antony was introduced to the Livery by the late John Craig, a wonderful ambassador for the Fan Makers.

He became a Liveryman in 1990. Born in Melbourne, Australia, to British parents posted there by Shell, they returned to London in 1953. His now holds dual nationality, which is particularly beneficial at certain cricket matches at Lords and in his Debenture seats at Twickenham!

In the time before University, he fell in love with motorsport and in particular rallying and as a driver competed in County Championships and the Scottish and RAC Internationals. He is still a loyal member of Goodwood Road Racing Club and the Goodwood Horse Racing Club.

Whilst attending Chigwell School, he played in the First IX football Team which was coached by Tony Brooking and Bobby Moore, both then residents in Chigwell Essex and West Ham players and Captain. Aged 16 in 1966, he

went on the first Public School football team to visit and play in what was then Czechoslovakia. This experience of life “behind the curtain” left a lasting memory of “counting one’s blessings” to have the privilege of living in the “West” and held him in very good stead for all the challenges that arose to marry his wife Albena who was then living in Sofia, Bulgaria. He persisted, as ever, and succeed in marrying Albena in 1973.

He qualified as a Chartered Surveyor in 1974 and became a Fellow in 1983. He served as a Partner in White Druce & Brown Chartered Surveyors in the West End through the mid 70’s to mid-80’s and then for 8 years, with a group of US Partners commuted to the USA monthly, to develop Golf and Tennis Resorts, managed by Four Seasons Hotel Company in Scottsdale Arizona, Hawaii, Mexico, and Puerto Rico. He describes these wonderful experiences not as a job, but as a way of life.

Golf has also been, a passion throughout his life and still is, and had the privilege of playing with Gary Player and Tom Weisskopf at the courses that they designed for Four Seasons.

He is a Member of the Berkshire and Royal Cinque Ports Golf Clubs had the honour to be Captain of the Fan Makers Golfing Society in 2010, which he still avidly supports.

He currently owns and runs Milestone & Collis, Chartered Surveyors in Twickenham still enjoying what is in essence, a “people business”.

His son Jamie is about to embark on a film acting career.

Past Master Doug Clasby introduced Antony to the involvement of the Fan Makers with Lansbury Lawrence School in Poplar, and he has served as a Governor since 2019.

My Inheritance Track:

At school Anthony loved to play the drums and still has the first drum kit of Keith Moon of The Who, which he bought (before they became famous!) through Exchange and Mart. Being a child of the 60’s and Motown music, Mustang Sally always still motivates a dance and Jerusalem sung at Twickenham at an England home game, still produces the goosebumps.

## Update from the Master

May I wish a heartfelt Happy New Year to you and your families, I hope that you all are well.

We live in very uncertain times, the effects of the pandemic stretch well beyond the loss of loved family and friends, the effects of the disease can be long lasting, many are losing their jobs and planning for anything is near impossible.

The Honourable Clerk and I do not lose a chance to ask members of the Company, or indeed other Companies, for their opinion as to when to plan for a resumption of physical meetings. The truthful answer is probably plan, but do not be surprised if the event gets cancelled.

In that spirit, we expect the first physical event to be the United Guild Service on 21st May at St Paul’s Cathedral, but we have no idea about the numbers that will be allowed by social distancing rules at that time. Lunch after the service has been booked at Ironmongers’ Hall. I understand that a decision on go ahead for this magnificent service will be made in early April.

Our first dinner will probably be the Summer Livery Dinner on 10th June, though we may try and amend it to be a lunch. We are considering additional events such as a Livery Lunch in September and an open-air event in August (which may be the event where we will be allowed to have the largest number of attendees.) Please be patient, do not be surprised if tables of six become the norm, achieving good prices from caterers will be interesting!

In the meantime, the wonderful ad hoc Entertainments group together with Livery Committee has organised a programme through to the end of April. I hope that you find a few events to interest you whether it is a conversation with Stewart Parvin on 3rd February, an insight into Japanese Fan Making, a magic show or a walk around Spitalfields (where many Huguenots lived in the 18th Century).

Clearly there is no certainty as to when things will return to normal, I have attended a City event which suggested that it may take until 2023. Whenever it is there are lessons to be learnt from the last twelve months and maybe some changes to how we do things (I suspect the Loving Cup will not be too popular). I therefore welcome the review which the Foreign Warden has started and encourage everyone to support him by debating the ideas which will emerge.

The big news from the last month has been that the Company has donated 50 tablets and PCs for disadvantaged school children to continue to learn during the lockdown. I believe it is so important at present to be kind, especially to those who are not lucky.

Can I thank everyone who supported the 2020 Commemorative Fan appeal, to date we have raised nearly £10,000 for the Lord Mayor’s Appeal. We sold fans all round the world and to members of 47 other Livery Companies, our publicity was certainly noticed. The fan is still available for sale at [fans@fanmakers.com](mailto:fans@fanmakers.com).

Colin Bramall



# The History of the Fan Makers Company in 20 Objects

This month in the age of lockdown here are two objects in our collection that follow the same thread of communication in an earlier time.

## Object no.15 : Silver Ink Stand and Dish



A sterling silver baroque scalloped edge stand, resting on four foliate open bracket feet. Together with two silver topped cut glass bottles and wax candle on stand, each with matched edge. The stand is inscribed:-

*“Presented to The Worshipful Company of Fan Makers by Sir Homeward Crawford on the completion of 25 years*

*membership of the Court of Assistants on the Coronation Year of King Edward VII April 1902.”*

Engraved with the full arms of The Company.

Weight 52 oz.

Hallmarked, Silver, 925 Sterling, London , 1901. Maker/ Sponsor: Barnard family.

## Object no.16: The Conversation Fan



Provenance: English

1744

Double paper leaf

Ivory and wood sticks (2 + 19)

10 inches, 25.25 cm.

The hand-coloured etching on this double paper leaf shows a lady pausing in the leafy countryside for a conversation with a gentleman standing before her. The print is signed to the right *F Chassereau\** According To Act of Parliament 1744.\*\* The reverse is undecorated.

The ivory guards have red lacquer style decoration and the wood sticks are painted in black and gilt. The pivot is in spherical form and there is a mother-of-pearl decorated gilt

metal pin.

*\*Francis Chassereau* was a Huguenot from Niort en Poitou in the western department of Deux Sevres(near La Rochelle). In 1712 he emigrated to London with his parents and brother, joining his uncle and family who had moved to England in the 1680s. He was a talented fan maker and was admitted to the Company in 1721 and was recorded as a member of the Court in 1749.

**\*\*** A similar fan is in the Schreiber Collection, British Museum. Cf. Lionel Cust, *Catalogue of the Collection of Fans and Fan Leaves presented to the Trustees of the British Museum by the Lady Charlotte Schreiber*, 1893, p. 7, No. 29. It is illustrated in C. & Y. Willcocks, *Fans & Fan Makers*, 2000, p. 33.

# Forthcoming Events

As explained in the Master's update there is fluidity in planning physical events, after the United Guilds' Service at St Paul's Cathedral the lunch will be at Ironmongers' Hall on 21st May. As soon as the service is confirmed a notice will be circulated.

**Wednesday 3rd February 7.45pm for 8pm** Stewart Parvin MVO will discuss amongst other things designing the 2020 Commemorative Fan and outfits for HM The Queen and other royalty

**Wednesday 17th February 7.45pm for 8pm** Fans from the Japan two designers from the studio of Freeman Kanji Ishizumi join us from Kyoto to explore the fans of the Court of the Japanese Emperors

**Wednesday 3rd March 7.45pm for 8pm** Tour of Spitalfields by John Steel of Tour de Force London through the eyes of each wave of immigrants moving there, including the Huguenots.

**Wednesday 17th March 7.45pm for 8pm** The Livery Committee invite you to an evening of mind blowing magic by member of the Inner Circle of the Magic Circle Alan Hudson

**Wednesday 31st March 7.45pm for 8pm** To be announced

**Wednesday 14th April 7.45pm for 8pm** The Honourable Clerk and Assistant Honoris Causa Anne Marie Benson will talk about the history of the Worshipful Company of Fan Makers concentrating on the early days

**Wednesday 28th April 7.45pm for 8pm** To be announced

## Court Events and Court Dinners

**Thursday 18th February 3.30pm** Election Court Meeting (Virtual event)

**Tuesday 16th March 6pm** General Purposes and Finance Committee (virtual event)

**Thursday 15th April 5pm** Court Meeting (Virtual event)

**Friday 21st May 11am** United Guilds Service, St Pauls Cathedral **1pm** Lunch Ironmongers' Hall

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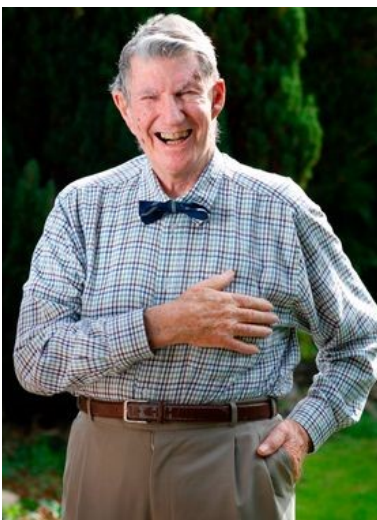


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## Liveryman David Aggett 1930 – 2021



Liveryman David Aggett died peacefully in January. He was born in Deal but ran away to sea and joined the Merchant Navy.

On meeting his wife to be, Jean, left the Merchant Navy and joined the Met where he served with distinction for 30 years retiring as a Detective Superintendent in

the Fraud Squad.

In 1984 just before retirement he became seriously ill with heart disease. Dr Magdi Yacoub performed a heart transplant on him, with a heart donated by a 13 year old girl.

His transplant did not curtail his social activities. He produced a newsletter for other people who had received a heart, it was known as the "Red Wine Drinker"!

David became the world's oldest surviving heart transplant patient. He used this sobriquet to good effect raising vast sums of money for Harefield Hospital.

David's love of the City stemmed from his time with the City of London Police's Fraud Squad. He was a member of the Guild of Freeman, and a liveryman of the Plumbers, Fan Makers and Master Mariners.

Busy in his retirement, he was a Blue Badge Guide in the City for many years. His legacy will be there to be seen for many years to come as he was an avid modelmaker—his models are to be found in many livery halls and clubs. There are a number of models currently on display at HQS Wellington, home of the Master Mariners.

David was a loyal, popular and active liveryman and will be missed by many Fan Makers.