

The Lanthorn

THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF
TIN PLATE WORKERS ALIAS WIRE WORKERS

Issue No 23 2023



John and Wendy Swain
Photo: John Canning

The Master writes ...

When I became a Liveryman in 1996 I never believed I would have the honour of becoming Master some 27 years later. It's over 20 years since a wire member (Peter Rigby...another Yorkie) was Master and I am delighted to represent our Company in the City alongside the other 110 livery companies.

It is quite a task to follow on from Erica, without doubt one of the best known figures in the livery world. It is so easy for me to make acquaintances with other City figures – you just mention that you are a friend or colleague of Erica and you're made welcome. She did a wonderful job of representing us at so many functions and enhancing our reputation in the process. Erica also hosted an introductory lunch for future Masters, including me, and from that lunch we are now over 100 strong in the club "Domini 24."

I hope you are enjoying my year as much as Wendy and I are. The Installation Dinner at Mansion House last July was so memorable for us, not only because of the speaker Rt Hon Richard Caborn but because we had a high attendance, including a large group of our family and friends.

I then arranged my Master's Weekend early in my year, to take advantage of the Kynren spectacular in County Durham, and the 40 attending certainly seemed to enjoy it.

Enjoyment is the main driver for me in planning our dinners and I hope you all like the innovation of sending you all home with a smile at the conclusion of our time together. However, I have nearly used up all my appropriate stories! Our committees are busy. We continue to donate approximately £90,000 per annum to deserving charities, and we should not forget the dedication of our Education, Enterprise and Charities Committee members in researching the worthy recipients of the grants. Many members also serve on judging panels, interviews and presentations for our universities and trade contacts. Perhaps we haven't given enough praise in the past to all those giving up their time. It's good our numbers are increasing but so sad that a number of prominent members have passed away in the last twelve months. The Membership Committee has a strategy in place and our recruitment of Yeomen is excellent. Finally, thanks to Neil our Clerk who keeps us all so well informed and certainly looks after our Master and Consort.

John Swain was born and brought up in Sheffield and attended the Central Technical School and what is now Sheffield Hallam University, where he graduated in Business and Economics. After an apprenticeship he joined Tinsley wire company as a market researcher in 1964 and moved to GKN in Wigan in 1972 as product manager. Tinsley took over the Wigan plant in 1985 and John returned to Sheffield, culminating in him being appointed Group sales and marketing director.

He retired from the Tinsley group in 2000 and for a while was a consultant with the Siddall and Hilton group in Brighouse. John was also a non-exec director of the charity, Sheffield City Trust, for 26 years.

John joined the Livery in 1996 and served as Chairman of the Membership and Communications Committee and as a Court member for many years. He is also a Freeman of the Company of Cutlers of Hallamshire. When he was younger, he was a Cub Scout leader and Chairman of Southport Round Table, and is still a member of his local 41 Club. He is a keen caravanner in the summer and a Sheffield Wednesday season ticket holder in the winter!

John has been married to Wendy for almost 60 years and they have two sons, both with their own businesses, and four grandchildren.

2024 DATES FOR THE DIARY

29th February: Rouledge Dinner (Innholders' Hall)

15th March: United Guilds' Service
(St Paul's Cathedral)

18th April: Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch

19th April: Court Dinner (Vintners' Hall)

20th May: Lunch at Ironmongers' Hall

16th July: Installation Banquet (Mansion House)

11th October: Court Dinner (Bakers' Hall)

4th December: Carol Service & Court Dinner
(Drapers' Hall)

Officers for 2023/24



The Master flanked by the Much Honoured Baron of Fetternear MBE (Upper Warden; left) and Captain Chris Groves RN (retired) (Under Warden), July 2023. Photo: Sharp Photography

New Court Assistants

Alexander Dawes, having studied Classics at King's College London, qualified as a Chartered Accountant with Coopers and Lybrand in London. He is now the VP of Tax and Treasury for the international operations of Live Nation Entertainment, based in Farringdon. Alex joined the Livery in 2018. He is married to Vanessa, and splits his time between London and Monmouth. When not acting as a taxi driver for their two children, Alex spends his free time supporting Gloucester Rugby, shooting, wild swimming and campaigning for cleaner rivers. He is a UK Athletics qualified Field Judge.

Leigh Jones is Managing Director of a packaging company, dealing mainly with tinplate and aluminium cans for aerosol, paint and chemicals industries. He has worked for over 30 years in the tinplate industry, being responsible for Northern Europe and most English speaking markets, Barbados being the most exotic. Leigh joined the Livery in 2016, since then his son Ian has also joined. Leigh is married to Sonia, and they live in Surrey. Interests include his classic car collection, cycling, and swimming.

Garth Wilkinson is the fourth generation of the family run, London based, can maker William Say & Co – which also includes his brother and fellow Liveryman Stuart. His father Peter, Past Master, is also part of the business. Garth joined the Livery in 2003. He is a lover of all things outdoors, including hiking, skiing and fly fishing. He is a founding trustee of The Tony Trust, a charity which funds children to attend outdoor activity courses. He is married to Helen, and has a daughter Mariella.



The Master with Leigh, Garth and Alex

We welcome to the Livery:

Since the last edition of *The Lanthorn* we have been pleased to welcome nine new Liverymen.

Mary Burgess is the wife of Assistant Chris Burgess. With a background in teaching and training, Mary is a keen gardener and charity fund-raiser.

John Canning is a physicist by training and a practising engineer, with a keen interest in materials science as well as history.

Robert Fell has many years' experience in the metals industry, and served as the Chief Executive of the MPMA from 2019 to 2023.

Andrew Marsden is the Immediate Past Sheriff of the City of London and an active liveryman.

Angus Murray is a solicitor in the City. In 2010 he helped to start a charity, Suited and Booted, which won our Annual Special Award in 2017.

Simone ten Hompel is a practitioner in metal and silver work and lectures in metal work at the London Metropolitan University.

Angela Taylor has spent most of her career in the metals and metal products industry. She is a director of the British Manufacturing Plant Constructors' Association.

Adam Trow uses metal packaging in his own business, and has a keen interest in promoting apprenticeships in the manufacturing sector.

Martin Van der Zwan is the chairman of Cables Tapes UK Limited

in the Manchester area, and is actively involved with the International Wire and Machinery Association.

During the year we have also been pleased to admit **John Ash, Anne Biggs, Dolores Bray-Ash MBE, Paul Clunn, Dr Fred Cooper, Steve Delisle, Dan Horton, Sarah Lancaster, Jan Roach** and **David Sawyer** to the Freedom of the Company.

As we report on page 7, we have also been delighted to welcome many of our prize-winners as Yeomen.



Dr Fred Cooper, Robert Fell and Martin Van der Zwan, March 2023



Steve Delisle, Dolores Bray-Ash MBE, Angus Murray, Anne Biggs, Sarah Lancaster and John Ash, July 2023.

All Liverymen are actively encouraged to propose new applicants:

- There is no Admission Fee for close family members of Liverymen (including spouses/civil partners, children, grandchildren, nephews and nieces).
- Liverymen who propose someone not a family member may claim a free Dinner when the Liveryman is admitted.

A Master's Year

by Erica Stary, Master 2022-23



Erica Stary

It's been a fascinating year. For me who has found (at my too-old age) that I am normally the first woman to do whatever it is which is the current challenge, it was a real treat to follow such an inspirational leader as Lindsay, our first woman Master in 350+ years. She was a wonderful leaning post in this last year. The other fabulous support has been Neil, our Clerk: fascinated by history and tradition, he has really settled in and has been invaluable. Huge thanks to both.

Whilst the year started and ended badly with the loss of two dear friends, Past Masters Tony Steinthal and Dennis Tapper, I have found the assistance of the Court and members invaluable. I have been particularly impressed by those who work on our various committees. They give huge amounts of their time unstintingly and it's that kind

of giving which I so love about the Company itself, that and the amazing fellowship we have together.

The highlights for me for the year are many but must include the visit to HMS Anson in Barrow in Furness to take part in her commissioning celebrations, attending the Proclamation of our new King with other livery Masters at Royal Exchange, and being invited to a Coronation lunch at Pewterers' Hall (one of the many companies which has our Sovereign as an honorary liveryman). I also really enjoyed visiting the colleges and universities where we make awards for student work. It is very humbling to see just how skilful the young can be, to look at the beautiful and complex creations and hear about their research work together with other skills they have acquired during their tertiary education.



Lunch at Ironmongers' Hall

We also acquired at this year's Installation Court a Canadian Freeman who works as a real tinsmith at the craft museum in Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia. I was lucky enough to be able to spend time with him and his wife in July at our church and at Ironmongers' Hall. A warm welcome to him and to all our other new members.

Another highlight was participating in "Jailed & Bailed", a lovely event in the calendar when Masters from different livery companies raise funds in aid of the Red Cross. Thanks so much to all those who helped raise my bail

money! This year the event raised over £43,000 (before Gift Aid).

Of course, the year is not all "jollies". There is much work behind the scenes with others to ensure that our Company continues to thrive. I consider myself very lucky in that I have a flat in the City, so that it was relatively easy to attend to Company matters without the accompanying commute, particularly in a year beset by train strikes, one of which did prevent me from attending another HMS Anson event in Glasgow. Fortunately, we were very ably represented by Assistant John Miers.

I thank all of you for allowing me this very special and privileged year.



"Jailed & Bailed"

Days out with the Company

During Erica's year as Master there were several trips arranged. In September 2022 several members enjoyed a visit to the **MOD Medals Office** near Cheltenham. The following month saw a most interesting tour of the **Poppy Factory in Richmond**; founded in 1922, the Factory has a delightful museum about the history of the poppy in the annual Remembrance commemorations and it is here where the wreaths are made for the Royal Family each year.



Lord Reed (centre) with the Master Plumber and Erica

March saw the first of two **visits to the Supreme Court**, in conjunction with the Plumbers' Company. We were very fortunate on both occasions to have an introductory talk by Lord Reed, President of the Supreme Court, who had been the principal guest at Erica's Installation Banquet in July 2022. The talk was followed by a guided tour and then a very convivial pub lunch.



Inside the Supreme Court

An equally convivial **Fish & Chip lunch** was arranged at the Little Ship Club in April; this Club enjoys fine views overlooking the River Thames and is now the home of the **City Livery Club**.



A wreath being made in times past. Photo: The Poppy Factory

Then came a delightful **Visit to Lichfield**, the first of the two Master's Weekends held in 2023. Arranged by Erica, the Lichfield highlights were numerous - a guided tour of the magnificent Lichfield



Cathedral (a real hidden gem), a tour of the Erasmus Darwin House (grandfather of Charles Darwin) and a fine dinner in the George Hotel in the centre of the town.

Liveryman Suzy Collins and Revd Jeremy Crossley



Lichfield Cathedral

Days out with the Company (continued)



At the National Arboretum

The following day saw an extensive tour around the National Arboretum in Staffordshire, and a special opportunity to see the new **Submariners' Memorial**, in which our own Chris Groves (Under Warden 2023-24) had played such an important role. The finale was a splendid visit to Tutbury Castle, with its stunning views over the adjoining countryside,



An audience with Mary Queen of Scots



H. Forman and Son

where we were entertained by none other than Mary Queen of Scots.

A further highlight in Erica's year was a visit to **Forman's Smoked Salmon Factory** in London. A true delight for all lovers of fish that is sustainably caught, this trip marked the end of a packed Master's year, so kindly arranged by Erica.

Golf

Another fun year of golf, participating in three Livery golf days. As always we enjoyed great companionship and hospitality that is the hallmark of all Livery events.

In April we played our annual 6-a-side match against the Horners and the Actuaries at Burnham Beeches Golf Club. Unfortunately we could only field five golfers, which put us at a slight disadvantage, and we came third! Represented by Jason Powell, Maura and Robert Spencer, Peter Wilkinson and myself, we battled in some of the wettest conditions ever seen on a golf course, but enjoyed a very good meal afterwards.

The main event in the Livery golfing calendar is the Prince Arthur Cup, played over 36 holes at Walton Heath Golf Club and we were very well represented by Darrell Fox, Robert Spencer, Alex Stuart-Bamford and Matt Sykes. We finished comfortably in the top half of the 45 teams, with a particularly strong performance in the afternoon round.

The Horners held their annual event at Ashridge Golf Club in June and we entered two teams of four players – Nigel Gilson, Nick Mullen, Jason Powell, Robert Spencer, Matt and Sue Sykes, Peter Wilkinson and myself. Whilst not actively involved in the prize giving we enjoyed great hospitality on one of the sunniest days of the year.

2024 should be another full year and I would be delighted to hear from any golfers who are not currently on my circulation list. If you are interested please contact me at m.kempner@btinternet.com

Michael Kempner

The Master's Weekend in County Durham

It is with great pleasure that I report on the Master's Weekend held last September in County Durham. You may be wondering why the weekend was held so early in the Master's term of office? The answer to that is Kynren!

We were based at the splendid Headlam Hall Hotel near Darlington. The weather could not have been better. At dinner on the Friday evening the Master had arranged two speakers - the Mayor of Teesside and then the Archivist of the Fellmongers Company of Richmond. The Mayor spoke passionately about the future of the North East, and then we were educated and entertained about the origins of Fellmongery, an ancient craft and trade made up of skinnners and glovers.



At Headlam Hall Hotel



Beamish Museum

On Saturday we boarded a coach bound for the Beamish Museum, the Living Museum of the North. A fascinating experience of exhibits bringing to life the history of the North East. We enjoyed taking a step back in time to walk through a 1900s pit village, a 1950s town and a 1940s farm, to name a few.

Then to Kynren. Set in an open air amphitheatre, with a lake in the forefront and Auckland Castle as the backdrop, the Kynren



Warship Week

tale takes you through a journey into 2,000 years of British history through the eyes of Arthur, a young boy from a mining family in the North East. We were treated to a sensory overload of battles, attacks, conquests, knights on charging horses, processions of live animals, jubilees and a stunning closing scene celebrating English history. With a cast of hundreds, it truly was a magnificent visual experience.

The conclusion of the Weekend, after a leisurely breakfast on Sunday morning, took our party in different directions. Some headed off for a coach tour around the North East, taking in sights such as the Angel



Kynren

of the North and the Tyne Bridge. Several took the option to spend the morning at the Bowes Museum in Barnard Castle, a beautiful French-style public museum housing collections of art, fashions and design. Others decided to wend their way home, although rumour has it that a select few headed for a relaxing morning at the Hotel Spa and to enjoy the hotel facilities that we hadn't had time to make the most of!

Liveryman Sarah Washington

SUPPORTING EDUCATION, ENTERPRISE AND CHARITIES

Charitable giving, encouraging enterprise and supporting education, particularly when linked to our trades, continue to be at the heart of the Company's activities. The Charity Fund now distributes some £90,000 each year, guided by the **Education, Enterprise and Charities Committee chaired by Assistant Chris Burgess.**

Celebrating our Annual Special Award

Since 2006 our Charity Fund has made an annual award of £10,000 to a charity where our funds will make a real difference. Each year a different charity has been proposed by a Liveryman, and this is the flagship of the Company's charitable giving. This year it went to the **Jamal Edwards Delve** in West London, a grassroots youth work charity delivering weekly, open-access sessions across four youth centres in Acton for young people aged 11-21. The charity engages with 250 young people each year, 80% of whom are from diverse communities and experience multiple inequalities.



Jamal Edwards Delve



Young and Old at Antilles House

Our award has helped them to launch an inter-generational project involving the youngsters in sharing activities with residents of Antilles House, a retirement home in the same neighbourhood for the over 60s, mostly of Afro-Caribbean background. It was the youngsters who initiated the idea, wanting to encourage the different generations to share knowledge, skills and experience and to challenge any negative stereotypes elders may have of young people.

We were very pleased to welcome the charity's Chief Executive, Yara Mirdad, to the December 2023 Court Dinner, accompanied by their chair of trustees, Elly Heaton.

Welcome to our new Yeomen

Since 2019 we have invited all our prize-winners to stay in contact with the Company by becoming a Yeoman. This year around 25 new prize-winners took up this invitation, and we now have nearly sixty Yeomen. They represent a wonderfully diverse group, from Materials Science undergrads and postgrads to Arts students who use non-precious metals in their work, as well as former Metals Apprentice winners who now work with metals in their jobs. The common link is metals, and it is uplifting to hear how their careers develop year by year.

At the Christmas Court Dinner in December 2023 we were very pleased to welcome nine of our new Yeomen – from City University, Imperial College, and from Cambridge and Swansea Universities.



New Yeomen, December 2023. Vivienne Dela Cruz, Ayanna Davis, Sarah Marie Krahl, Arushee Kadam, The Master, Olunibe Morgan, Elli Anemogianni-Sinanadi, Dr Ben Evans, Thomas Richards and Isabelle Thomas

I had the privilege of participating in my university's Artefacts Project this year and I want to thank you for taking such a keen interest in young people and the next generation of Materials Scientists. It means a lot to see this great level of interest in developing our thinking skills and problem solving skills which are so important in the field.

A Yeoman

University Project Awards

Since 2002 and organised by Past Assistant Bev Page, our Charity Fund has been sponsoring Materials Science awards at Loughborough University. We extended this to Sheffield University in 2019 and Cambridge University in 2019/20. The students all work in groups of about five people. After undertaking laboratory or other investigative work each group prepares a written report on the specific topic set by the University. Each group is then required to make a live presentation to our judging panel which, together with the University Staff, selects a Best Presentation and a Best Project. The student groups also produce a poster to describe their project in words and pictures. Several have since joined us as Yeomen.

- At **Cambridge University** the judging of the 2023 Student Alloy Design Project took place in May. Our judging panel comprised Lindsay Millington, Chris and Mary Burgess and Bev Page. The Best Presentation winners were Kevin Chen, Olunibe Morgan, Jessica O'Neill and Reza Sair, and the Best Poster winners were Tom Baldwin, Chris Boon, Mohit Chander and Izzy Thomas.

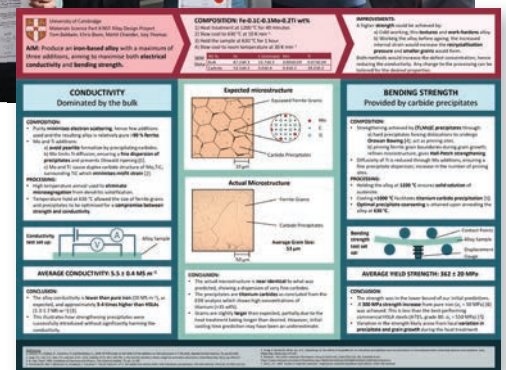


Cambridge prize-winners

- At **Loughborough University** we also sponsored an MEng group award for the first time this year. The winning group comprised Leo Baird, Zachary Morley, James Smith, Sanya Vaswani, Annaliese Hambleton and Ciara Law. Their subject was to find a way of making a matrix out of polymer that could be used in helping to repair the fracture of human bones.



Loughborough prize-winners

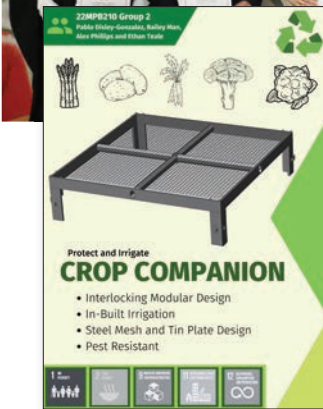


Cambridge poster

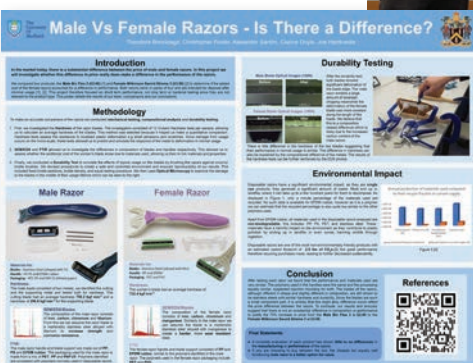
- At **Sheffield University** the Artefacts under examination this year were razor blades and shaving equipment. Groups looked at differences between male and female types, cheap and expensive, electric and hand-held. Our judging panel comprised Chris and Mary Burgess, Bev Page and Erica Stary. The Best Presentation winners were Christopher Foster, Joe Hardcastle, Alexander Santini, Clarice Doyle and Theodora Boncioaga. The Best Poster winners were Morgan Harris, Wan Tang, Joseph Connolly, Giancarlo Cortez and Millicent Evans. The Best Project winners were Coby Ganberg, Alexander Ebdon-Hussey, Ashiilah Suhadi, Toby Pettitt and Kira Dowsett.



Sheffield prize-winners



Loughborough poster



Sheffield poster

When I was standing at the Loughborough University bus stop on my return to the railway station after making some presentations, a parent group, who obviously recognised me from earlier in the day, wanted to pass on their thanks for the good work that the Livery Company does in this respect.
Past Assistant Bev Page

Apprentice of the Year Awards

This was the 24th year of our **Metals Apprentice of the Year Awards**, once again ably organised by Assistant Elizabeth Bonfield and assisted in the judging by Under Warden (now Upper Warden) Martin Thacker of Fetternear. Our trade association partners promoted the Awards widely, which recognise apprentices who have made exceptional progress in their careers to date in the metals industry. The 13 finalists were interviewed at Cutlers' Hall in Sheffield, and the prize-winners received their certificates from the Master at Ironmongers' Hall on the occasion of our May Court Dinner. Elizabeth writes:

Jessica Livings (Maycast-Nokes) won our 2023 Craft Skills Award. A worthy winner, her presentation blew us away. She had obviously had a monumental time since early 2022, as she had been a worthy runner-up in last year's competition.

Jacob Percival (AML Sheffield) won the 2023 Career Development Award. His presentation drew on the responsibility he currently has in his day job. We were impressed with his tenacity, attention to detail, along with examples of where he goes the extra mile for the business.

Runners-up included Jack Ridgeway from Billington Structures in Barnsley, Alex Whall from Adstone Construction in Worcestershire, and Amelia Dartnall from JCB.



Jessica Livings



Jacob Percival



The Metals Apprentice winners and runners-up. Jessica Livings, Jacob Percival, Jack Ridgeway, Alex Whall and Amelia Dartnall with the Master



Wire Link International Exchange



Sam Otter at the Interwire Awards Ceremony

I am honoured to have had this amazing, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, which has provided me with experiences which will stay with me long into the future, both professionally and personally.

Sam Otter

Since the year 2000 we have co-sponsored with Wire Association International an exchange scheme scholarship with US and UK wire manufacturers. Each year this enables a young manager from the wire industry to visit a trade show and wire manufacturing companies on the other side of the Atlantic. This year's scholar was **Sam Otter** from Gripple in Sheffield. Sam writes:

I was looking forward to seeing what others in the industry do, especially those across The Pond. And that experience I got. I met a range of industry specialists who worked in vastly different plants, each of which was a story unto themselves. My hosts arranged



Sam Otter at Bekaert Van Buren in Arkansas

trips to the Battle Above the Clouds, a public memorial to the American Civil War, and then the Jack Daniels distillery. Work visits included Mid-South Wire and Sumiden Wire Products in Tennessee, Bekaert Van Buren in Arkansas (a customer of Gripple), Oklahoma Steel and Wire and Mid-America Steel and Wire and Encore Wire Corporation in Texas (the 450-acre site, 78 of them under roof, seemed to be the size of a small town). Then on to Optimus Steel rod plant, 52 acres! Monday was the start of the expo, and I attended the Interwire 'Fundamentals of Wire Manufacturing' course, which helped me understand the theory behind the different wire manufacturing processes I had seen over the last week.

The 'Clockwinders' – 2023

In 1948, 32 UK wire companies gave an 18th century clock to their US counterparts as a way of thanking them for help given in WWII. The clock is kept at the Wire Association International HQ in Connecticut, and every year since 1948 the 400-day clock has been wound by someone associated with the UK wire and cable industry.

This year it was the turn of Assistant Elizabeth Bonfield to do the honours, hosted by the WAI Executive Director Steve Fetteroll. She was very mindful that the first winder in 1948 had been John Rigby of John Rigby and Sons, Ltd. of Manchester, whose son Peter Rigby (Master 2003-04) had died since the clock was last wound in 2022 (see also page 16), as had Liveryman Peter Siddall MBE. She paid her respects to the two Peters, both instrumental in the wire sector. She proceeded to wind the clock, her hosts noted 'checking several times to verify she was not over-tightening it. Assured that the Clock indeed was ready for the next year, she turned over the key, with a smile that reflected a look of relief that all had gone well.'



Assistant Elizabeth Bonfield with Steve Fetteroll

Travel Awards, 2023

Since the 1990s we have awarded bursaries to enable graduate students at City University to present their research at international conferences.

This year saw **Elli Anemogianni-Sinanidi**, a second year PhD student, receiving the main bursary, enabling her to present a paper at the International Conference on Maritime Autonomy and Remote Navigation in



Elli Anemogianni-Sinanidi

Tasmania. This was the first conference of its kind on this topic, and Elli gave a paper about her work on the design of Autonomous Ships to achieve resilience and safety in operations.

Other travel bursaries were awarded to Hossam Youssef and Dr Benjamin Evans, also both from City University. The bursaries are organised by Past Assistant John O'Shea, and we were delighted to welcome Elli and Ben at our Christmas Court Dinner.

Since 2010 we have awarded similar travel grants to students undertaking Rolls-Royce sponsored research at a range of universities.

In April the Imperial College and Manchester University (Best in Class Students Year of 2022) awards were made at Rolls-Royce in Derby. The Head of Materials gave a fascinating presentation outlining all the major materials-related issues that Rolls-Royce are currently working on, and the Master then presented our awards to Arushee Kadam and Clara Andiazabal (Imperial) and to Jiabin Li Wang and Emily Na (Manchester).



Arushee Kadam



Jiabin Li Wang

I would like to thank you again for the Company's generous support, without which I would have not been able to attend, and present, in the conference in Tasmania. This was my first ever conference presentation, and it truly moves me that it was made possible due to your kindness and generosity.
Yeoman Elli Anemogianni-Sinanidi

Central St Martins Jewellery



Evgenia Zembyla (3rd Year prize-winner)

Evgenia Zembyla was the winner of this year's 3rd Year prize for jewellery using non-precious metalwork (with Jiho Park and Katrina Gostaninan being highly commended).

This year our annual Harold Hobbs Awards for 2nd Years following the tin plate and jewellery project option were awarded to **Roei Palant** (first prize), Saravich Suntrakankul (second prize) and Florence Dighton (workbook prize). Commendations were awarded to Mair

Edwards Williams and Dawn Ndahiro. We were pleased to welcome several of the prize-winners to our Court Dinner at Ironmongers' Hall in May.



CSM and RCA prize-winners, 2023: Sharyn Wortman, Xihao Xiong, Florence Dighton, Saravich Suntrakankul and Roei Palant with the Master, May 2023

Royal College of Art

This year's prizes were again awarded for innovative use of tin or wire in ceramics and glass-making, an option for 1st and 2nd Year MA students. The winners were Zihao Xiong (first place), Sharyn Wortman (second) and Holly Hooper (third).

Our thanks to Past Assistant John O'Shea and Liveryman James Bevan for all they do to arrange the Arts Awards each year.



Work by Zihao Xiong



Work by Sharyn Wortman

Student Art Medal Prize

Our British Art Medal Society Student Medal Project prize for 2023 went to **Megan Avery**, a student at Sheffield Hallam University. It is entitled *Pot and Pan, Bricks and Mortar*, rhyming slang for man and daughter, and it is tribute to her father, who was born in the East End of London, started as a market trader and then worked his way up, hence the staircase (apples and pears) and doorway. A delightful way of acknowledging the history of her family.



Liverymen Peter Collins and Mary Leavitt Bourne and (Deputy Master) Lindsay Millington with Megan Avery, 2nd from left

The BAMS Project was again organised by Liveryman Marcy Leavitt Bourne; it aims to teach the skills of casting, from design to finished bronze medal, using the lost-wax process.



Megan Avery, 'Pot and Pan', obverse



Reverse

Fourth Chamberlain Enterprise Research Project

The Chamberlain Research Project is named in memory of Leslie Chamberlain (Master in 1959-60), a highly successful entrepreneur and a great supporter of the Company. In 2004 the Chamberlain Foundation gave £500,000 to our Charity Fund, encouraging a new focus on enterprise, technical innovation and entrepreneurship. We have since sponsored four PhD students working on groundbreaking materials research.

The current PhD student is **Fateme Amirkhanlu** of Brunel University. She writes:

Approaching the end of my second year, I'm happy to share that the journey has been surprisingly enjoyable, with minimal challenges along the way. Things have been cruising smoothly, thanks to the fantastic support and guidance from my supervisor, who has made this academic adventure a real pleasure.

I would like to express my thanks in being involved in a project that receives support from our commercial partner, Alloyed, as well as the Tin Plate Workers. Collaborating with these partners not only provides valuable support but also opens up opportunities to receive advice that has proved to be a great asset in this endeavour. I really enjoyed being at the Installation Banquet last July, and I thank everyone for their crucial contributions that have made this journey rich and enjoyable.



Fateme

2023 Internship at Tinmasters



Ayanna Davis

For several years we have sponsored an annual internship at Tinmasters in Swansea, an 8-10 week summer placement for a Materials Science and Engineering undergraduate from Swansea University. Tinmasters (previously Afon Tinplate) produces coated and printed tin-plate, and is the largest independent metal printer in the UK; its CEO is Liveryman Richard O'Neill. The internship is generously supported by the Simon Gibson Charitable Trust.

This year's internship was awarded to **Ayanna Davis**. She writes:

My project was to analyse the make-ready performance on all the major production lines on the shop floor, with the aim of finding ways to help maximise operational speed and efficiency. This involved identifying the process steps as well as the time required to complete the different steps.

What I enjoyed the most was learning how a sheet of tinplate can be transformed into a premium package via a range of coating and printing techniques. Not only this but I loved having a go at making ink in the ink room and learning about the colour matching processes. The

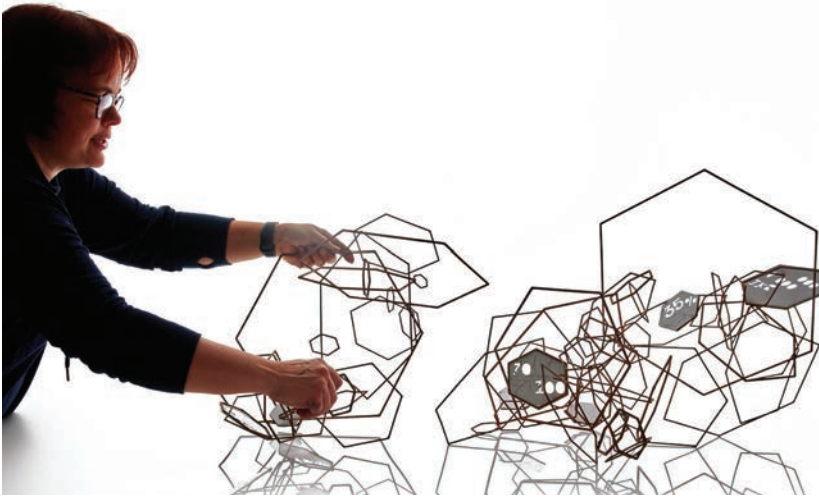
science behind it all attracted me the most. Drawing knowledge from my university modules such as manufacturing technology, functional materials, and polymeric structures, I was able to understand the chemical theory behind how everything works and how they all come together.

I'm incredibly grateful for the whole opportunity and it is certainly one I will never forget. It really made me develop a deeper appreciation and respect for all the tin plate products that reach our supermarket shelves, and whenever I now look at one, I think back to the amazing operatives at Tinmasters.

Ayanna Davis

2022-23 Bursary at Cockpit Arts

Our 2022-23 Bursary at Cockpit Arts in Bloomsbury enabled Yeoman **Jacky Oliver** to pursue her career as a metalwork artist, helping with studio rental costs and supportive start-up training.



Jacky Oliver. Photo: Sylvain Deleu

Jacky creates work for exhibitions, commissions and residencies. Each project is completely unique, drawing from a range of metalwork techniques and processes. The scale of her pieces ranges from small hand held objects to installations and large scale architectural pieces, bringing together narratives from a range of sources, contemporary and historic. Working with others has enriched Jacky's practice, and allowed her to share her working processes with people from all walks of life.

Heritage Craft Awards 2023

In January 2023 Lindsay Millington and John Swain represented the Company at the Heritage Crafts Awards winners' reception, held in the House of Lords. We had made a donation in 2022 for a course they were running on tinsmithing at the Museum of Making in Derby. Heritage Crafts specialise in preserving crafts which are in danger of collapsing or completely vanishing. There are a number of metal products amongst these, including tinplate working.

A highlight for the Master was meeting the new Joint Chair of Heritage Crafts, Jay Blades MBE, a presenter on the BBC programme *Repair Shop*.



The Master with Jay Blades

Supporting the Taxi Drivers' Outing

The London Taxi Drivers' Charity for Children was back in action this year, with 56 taxis taking 200 disadvantaged children for a wonderful day out at the Paradise Wildlife Park in Broxbourne, Hertfordshire. Once again, our Liverymen and our Charity Fund covered the entire cost of the day.



A happy day out



Setting off

A wonderful experience for all, with the Taxi Drivers controlling and arranging such an event to the last sweet, like an army! Incredible caring, talented people who come together to make this a wonderful day. Thank you all for contributing. It is one of our Livery sponsorships where every penny is used for full effect!

Past Master Peter Wilkinson

Celebrating the new Reign

Future generations will remember 2023 for the accession of the new monarch. We were proud to be among the 88 livery companies which contributed to the Anointing Screen, which played a key role in the Coronation in May. The embroidery is remarkable, and the wooden frame is assembled from a fallen tree at Windsor that had been planted back in 1765. There is ornate metalwork too. In October the Master was a guest at Mansion House, in the presence of the King and the Queen, at a Banquet to mark the contributions of the City and the livery companies to the Coronation – all part of a tradition dating back to 1689 and the reign of William III.



The Anointing Screen

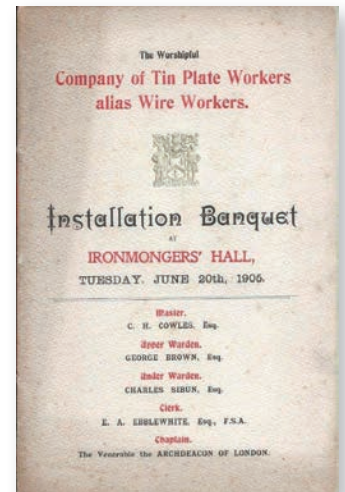


C.H. Cowles (Master 1905-06)

To celebrate the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II seventy years earlier, the Company had held a drinks party on 10th June 1953 on board HQS Wellington, and in July 1953 the Company took its place with other livery companies in the Royal River Pageant. As an aside, the Court also decided that year to raise the entrance fee for new Liverymen from £33 3s to £52 10s.

Looking back

During the year we were delighted to hear from our most senior Freeman, Celia Tinker. She joined the Company in 1959. Her grandfather, Charles Henry Cowles, had joined in 1896 and served as Master in 1905-06. She has sent us a copy of the Installation Banquet



The 1905 Installation Banquet

menu for 20th June 1905, which was held at the old Ironmongers' Hall in Fenchurch Street (destroyed by enemy action in 1917).

The Steinthal Gifts

Freeman Pauline Steinthal has kindly donated to the Company a delightful collection of miniature cups and Lanthorns. These were presented as gifts at various Company dinners in the 1920s. Pauline's father-in-law, Anton Steinthal, served as Master in 1927-28. They make a splendid addition to the archives and are a lovely way of remembering Pauline's late son, Past Master Tony Steinthal, who died in 2022.



Some of the Steinthal Gifts

HMS Anson

Commander Ian Critchley assumed command of HMS Anson early in 2023 and hopes to be able to attend one of our events in 2024. He has joined the fifth and newest of the Navy's Astute Class submarines as it heads into the busy period of sea trials that will demonstrate Anson's full capabilities as one of the most advanced submarines in the world.

Assistant John Miers (Lt Cdr, retd) represented us at Anson's Commissioning Dinner in Glasgow back in May 2023, and we look forward to our continued affiliation in the years to come. Once the sea trials are completed this coming May, we hope to have an opportunity to come onboard in Faslane and witness at first hand this remarkable example of cutting-edge technology.



Metal Packaging News

Welcome Jason Galley



Jason Galley

New Year 2024 kicked off with a new Director and Chief Executive for the **Metal Packaging Manufacturers Association (MPMA)** as Jason Galley took the helm on 1st January, succeeding Liveryman Robert Fell who retired at the end of 2023.

Most recently senior director of Global Innovation, Sustainability and Business Development at Ball Corporation, Jason began his career as a metallurgist at Carnaud Metal Box (now Crown Holdings Inc) and has held senior positions at companies including American National Can, Alcan Packaging, and Aerocan. He brings 33 years' industry experience in metal packaging, working across beverage, food, pharmaceutical, household, and personal care. He also brings a wealth of experience in operations and sustainability.

Shout out for metal packaging

The MPMA team has been out in force at conferences and exhibitions making presentations at the British Nutrition Federation's annual conference; the National Food Waste Conference, UK Metals Expo, where we also had a stand, and The Canmaker Summit in Edinburgh.

Slow progress for legislation

On the legislation front we continue to fight metal's corner. As an election year it will be interesting to see what 2024 holds but MPMA will be keeping its eyes and influence firmly on progress in Whitehall!

Cannedfood.co.uk cooks up record growth

Cannedfood.co.uk (CFUK), has enjoyed record growth in website views since its revamp some three years ago, achieving a 498 percent increase in page views per month, and 601 per cent uptake in website users per month. CFUK now has over 18,000 followers across its social media platforms on Instagram, Facebook, and X (formerly Twitter). Key to CFUK's success has been its work with a host of 'CANbassadors', and TV chef Theo Michaels excelled with some clever new recipes to celebrate the King's coronation.



Theo Michaels



Bug Hotel

Bugs' life in a can

Doitwithcans.co.uk, the MPMA run website packed with great ideas to encourage engagement with DIY and craft projects and celebrating DIY products sold in metal packaging, received nearly 400,000 impressions on the social media platform Pinterest in 2023. Our most popular 'pin' was 'How to DIY a Bug Hotel from cans' - a brilliantly creative and eye-catching creation from 'My Thrifty Life' influencer, Cassie Fairy, while ever popular 'DIY Daddy' Nigel Higgins shared more of his trade decorating secrets.

The top awards go to...

Eviosys scooped two top awards in the MPMA sponsored *Metal Pack of the Year* category of the UK Packaging Awards. The company's Ecopeel™ took the top prize in the *High Volume Food and Beverage* category, with Ardagh Metal Packaging awarded a Highly Recommended for Greene King Brewery craft beers with H!GHEND.



Eviosys Ecopeel™



MPMA Chairman Aidan Ruddock and Theo Michaels with the Officers and Clerk

Eviosys was also awarded the top spot in the *Decorative and Promotional, General Line* category for Celestia candle tin, and Roberts Metal Packaging was awarded a Highly Commended for its Benefit Cosmetics tins. Eviosys then went on to win the metal packaging industry's top accolade - the MPMA Best in Metal Award 2023 - also for Ecopeel.™

And finally...

The metal packaging sector turned out in force for the MPMA's prestigious Annual Dinner at the stunning Drapers' Hall. With traditional ceremony and splendour, and an after-dinner speech from *CANbassador*, Theo Michaels, it was once again a night to remember.

We are sorry to report the deaths of several members since the 2022 edition of *The Lanthorn*: Anne Chapman (admitted in 1999), Robert Jackson (1962), John McCann (2007), Past Master Peter Rigby (1990), Peter Siddall MBE (1997) and Past Master Dennis Tapper (1981). We offer our condolences.

As this magazine goes to press, several obituaries are awaited. They will be published in the Company's monthly newsletter.

Peter Rigby Master 2003-2004

Peter Rigby died in April. This tribute is taken from the May 2023 edition of *Wire Journal International*.

Peter's family ran a venerable wire company for decades which has played a special role with the Wire Association International ("WAI") over three generations. Born in Leeds in 1940, Peter grew up in West Yorkshire, the son of John Rigby, principal of John Rigby & Sons., Ltd. In 1948, his father served as the first-ever Clockwinder, travelling to the USA on behalf of the British wire industry to wind the stately Grandfather's Clock that had been sent in appreciation for help provided by US wire manufacturers during World War II. Peter followed his father's lead, both in the family wire business as well as the Clockwinding tradition, serving in that role in 1979, as chairman of Rigby Maryland, and again in 1998, as part of Handy & Harman (Europe), Ltd. His son Jonathan served as the Clockwinder in 2013, then employed in the USA by Fox Wire Limited.



The 1998 Clockwinding was a special celebration, as Peter noted during his speech at what marked the 50th anniversary of the tradition. "Fighting for liberty had cost a lot of money and a lot of lives. It still does. It is with this background that I think we can safely say why these men gave this clock: in our darkest hour, fighting for our liberty, the United States of America came to our aid, and that is also why it gives the Clockwinders so much pleasure to come here every year to wind it."

Peter enjoyed a successful 40-year career, building and managing the UK's leading stainless steel wire company. He was known for his close ties to his friends and family, his strong sense of civic duty, and boundless enthusiasm. WAI Executive Director Steve Fetteroll writes: 'The Rigby name has meant a lot to the industry over the years. Peter Rigby was dedicated to the wire industry, and he was both a gentleman and genuinely passionate about the wire and cable business. He was also instrumental in continuing the Clockwinding tradition as well as supporting the Wire Link Scholarship programme.'

Peter served as Master of the Company from 2003 to 2004. He is survived by his wife, Sue, and by their daughter Clare and their son Jonathan, and four granddaughters.

We hope you enjoy this edition of our annual journal. Started in 2001, this represents a snapshot of all the Company does each year, from social events to charitable support. In 2023 it was supplemented by our monthly electronic newsletters, but there's no substitute for the printed journal. Many thanks to Elizabeth Bonfield and John Canning for supplying most of the photographs, and to the numerous contributions from other members.