



The GLASS SELLER

Newsletter of The Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers of London

Issue Fourteen

Winter 2005

Brian Rawles Installed as Master for 2004-5



The new Master and Prime Warden

In December Brian Rawles was installed as Master of our Company while Joanna Thomas was appointed Prime Warden. Sadly Tony Hammond was unwell and not being available remains Renter Warden Elect until the next meeting of the Court.

Brian is particularly well known to the members of the Livery because of his many years of enthusiastic service as our Honorary Clerk. This will serve him well in his year of office.

Since he made his plans for his year particularly clear in his speech at the dinner following his installation we decided, with his permission, to print it in full.

WARDENS, members of the Court and Livery, Ladies and Gentlemen. It would be remiss of me if I began in any other way but to thank you for the enormous honour you have done me by making me your Master for the coming year. I shall do my utmost to merit the confidence you have shown in me and together with Katie, to represent the Glass Sellers' Company about the City and beyond to the best of my ability.

Immediate Past Master John Whiteman. In Common Hall earlier, I thanked you formally on behalf of the Company for the service you have given during your Mastership. Now I would like to add my personal thanks for your many kindnesses to me throughout your year.

To which I would like to add the Company's thanks to your Lady, Caroline, for the way she supported you and represented the Company throughout your year.

Next, Past Master Martin Everett. One of the joys of the Company is that whenever there is a problem, there is Always someone who will help. Sir Anthony Hammond who was to propose the toast to the guests this evening telephoned me yesterday to say that he had lost his voice. At least I think that was what he said. One telephone call from me and into the breach – at a moments notice – stepped Martin. What a star. Not only did he save the day - or should I say evening, but he proposed the toast in such a typically elegant manner. Martin, thank you so much.

All Master's have to face crises. I just did not think my first one would come quite so soon!

And then my very dear old friend Philip Willoughby, here this evening in his *alter ego* as The Master of the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers. But of course better known to we Glass Sellers as Master of this Company in 1987, not to mention Honorary Clerk for 17 years. Indeed my predecessor in that office. Philip has had a glittering career in the City Corporation. Not only has he been Chairman of just about every major committee the Corporation has to offer, but also in 1996 was Chief Commoner, the Leader of the Court of Common Council, the City's governing body. He always winces when I tell people that if the Lord Mayor is King of the City, the Chief Commoner is the Prime Minister. If not actually true, it gives you some idea of the importance of this ancient office.

Now why did I hijack this eulogy from Martin Everett? The reason is simple. Philip Willoughby is very special to me. When we first met way back in the early eighties (the last century for heavens sake) in an entirely different environment, he invited me to a Court and Livery Dinner. What's a Livery Company I asked? Who could have guessed where that would lead? First to the Livery. Then the Clerkship for 15 years; and now... Philip, you supported me every step of the way and this is my opportunity to thank you. I cannot tell you the pleasure it gives me to have you here as my guest of honour this evening.

It is an extraordinary thing to go through the process of being installed as Master. For something like 15 years, it fell to me



The Master and his guests from HMS Spartan

as Honorary Clerk to conduct that ceremony. And I can tell you that if there was one thing all those incoming Masters had in common it came immediately after their installation, when as Clerk, I came before them to proceed to the installation of the new Wardens. I quickly learned to pause the proceedings at that point because they all had an expression on their faces, which could only be described as a combination of total disbelief and shell shock. I would leave them for a few moments and then attract their attention by a small but definite movement of my papers, and then proceed with the installations.

I only tell you this because this evening was no exception except that I swear I heard the Honorary Clerk think "Now, you blighter, now you know how it feels".

And indeed I do.

People have been asking me what I want to do. Have I any vast eternal plans to change the Company *and the world*? Well, not really. In the last seven years we have come a very long way in giving the Company an effective management system and we have improved our finances enormously. All that is needed is a policy of steady as she goes, with perhaps just a gentle touch on the tiller from time to time.

So I promise not to pull too many rabbits out of the hat. *Just enough to keep you all interested.*

But there is one matter, which I would like to address, one that is very near to my heart.

Through your Charity Fund the Company looks outward and within the means at our disposal we take our responsibilities to the society in which we live very seriously. We support the City Glass in its various aspects. And education. Together with a number of other projects.

However: What of within our own Company? One of our formal Company objectives is the "Pastoral care of members in distress". And that, of course, is in the charge of our beloved Bishop and Honorary Chaplain, John Waine.

But what of maybe our members *practical difficulties*? The Charity of James Hayes exists to assist members but it has no money – an income of only about £130 per year.

But while we have little money, we do collectively possess a *wealth* of professional skills. We have doctors, lawyers, accountants, property men, insurance experts, retired policemen, even people who know a little about banking – to mention but a few.

What I would like to do is set up a "Skills Bureau". Liverymen who would undertake to offer advice (in a non executive capacity and without responsibility on either their or the Company's part) to other Glass Sellers who have problems.

I know the need exists. As Clerk, I was able to help members – and sometimes the widows of members – in precisely this manner. But they were only the ones that I knew about. I would like to develop this, and make it widely available. We are a fraternity, or we are nothing. At their very inception back in medieval times Livery Companies looked after their members in good times and bad. We should be caring for one another.

Watch this space. You will be hearing from me.

Now having seen Masters of many Livery Companies about the City for a decade and a half, *and listened to the tales their Clerks told about them...* I have made a few rules for myself.

First as I get even older I shall try very hard not to feel that I have to say something on every subject on every occasion. I shall listen to others.

I shall try to be helpful *and not bossy*. Not a bit like when I was Clerk. I do want a few friends left at the end of the year.

In meetings I shall do my best to get to the point and make sure everybody else does too. Especially at Court meetings.

And when my memory of events clashes with the recollection of others perhaps, just perhaps, I may be mistaken. Not often, but just occasionally.

BUT ABOVE ALL, I shall be there for everybody. From the most senior Past Master, to the newest member and I shall do my very best to serve you all.

The New Master

The Master was born in 1934, and after preparatory school went to boarding school for ten and a half years. After a science degree and a very brief National Service, ten years in chemistry finally convinced him that science was not for him.

Changing course in 1967 he was taken on by Midland Bank (or maybe he took them *in*). The Head Office of Midland Bank was a revelation. Not only was it a very civilised environment, it was opposite Mansion House. And it marked the start of his love of the City of London.

He had little to do with actual banking. In those much happier days he never went near a 'proper' branch (except to visit his friends for tea – Liveryman Michael Meads then the manager of Midland's Finsbury Pavement branch being one).

In 1990, the Bank made him an offer it would have been very foolish to have refused. Already Assistant Honorary Clerk in 1988, he became Honorary Clerk in 1989 and relinquished in 2003.

He married Katie in 1967 and has two step daughters, Jane and Anne, the latter now residing in New Zealand.

New Prime Warden

Jo Thomas entered the Glass Sellers Company by patrimony and is the fourth generation of her family that she knows of, to be a Liveryman of the Company. Her father, uncle and grandfather have all been Masters of the Company. The family business T&W Ide Ltd was selling and factoring glass from its works in Glasshouse Fields, Stepney, East London. It is now thought that the first glass house was established there in Medieval times.

Jo is a General Practitioner who after 28 years as senior partner of a practice in Loughton, is changing her career in April of this year. She is increasing her Clinical Governance role with Epping Forest Primary Care Trust, while continuing with a small number of clinical sessions, thereby gaining more time and flexibility to concentrate on other commitments.

Jo is involved with three local charities. She is a director of Chigwell Riding Trust for Special Needs (for those old enough to remember, this was the first ever Riding for the Disabled centre and was where Blue Peter's "Rags" lived and worked). She is President of Loughton

Alzheimer's Association, and is Chairman of St John's, Buckhurst Hill, Church Yard Trust.

Her main leisure activities are riding - currently looking for a new horse after the loss of her old faithful last year; walking the family dogs, who are working gun dogs, and taking them shooting; cooking; enjoying good food and wine; travel; opera. Jo and her husband, Robert, collect antique and modern English glass.

Renter Warden Elect

Sadly, the new Renter Warden, Sir Anthony Hammond, was unwell on the ninth of December and so will be installed at the next Court Meeting.



Tony became a Glass Seller in 1991 and was elected an Assistant to the Court

in 2000. He was educated at Malvern College and Emmanuel College, Cambridge where he read Classics and Law. After a spell as an Articled Clerk in the former London County Council, he qualified as a Solicitor in 1965. He joined the Home Office in 1968 and became the Legal Adviser to the Home Office and the Northern Ireland Office in 1988.

His career has been closely involved with the affairs of Northern Ireland since 1973 and he worked on the various constitutional changes affecting that Province and on anti-terrorist legislation. In 1992 he moved to the Department of Trade and Industry as its Solicitor and Legal Adviser, and in 1997 became Her Majesty's Procurator General, Treasury Solicitor and Head of the Government Legal Services.

Since he retired from the Civil Service he has worked as the Standing Counsel to the General Synod of the Church of England, where his main work consists of drafting Church legislation. He has also conducted several enquiries and investigations for the Government; the most important of which related to the resignation of Peter Mandelson from the Cabinet in 2001 (commonly known as the Hinduja enquiry).

Tony married Avril, whom he met while both were at the Home Office in 1988. Avril takes a keen interest in the Livery and is much occupied with charitable work, particularly the RNLI, being Chairman of its Guildford Branch.

Tony is a devotee of classical music, notably opera and Siamese cats as well as a lifelong passion for Bridge, at which he has represented the Civil Service at County Level.

He and Avril live near Guildford in Surrey and relax, when they can, at their house overlooking the harbour at Fowey, in Cornwall.

A new Assistant to the Court



Guy Harrison was elected as an Assistant to the Court of the Company at the December 2004 Court Meeting. Guy has been a liveryman of the Company since 1987 and has recently been a Trustee and Treasurer of the Company's Charity Fund. This has given him a first hand view of what the Company can do to assist people both in the Glass Industry and in the London area.

Guy is an Insolvency Practitioner of some 24 years standing and whilst dealing with the Insolvencies of both large and medium sized companies, his real interest is

in personal insolvency and helping people wherever possible to avoid Bankruptcy.

Throughout his life Guy has been a keen conservationist and wildlife photographer and has been fortunate enough to travel extensively. A particular interest is India where he loves nothing more than searching for the elusive Tiger.

In 1978 his family founded the Jeffery Harrison Memorial Trust to manage the Jeffery Harrison Reserve at Sevenoaks. This comprises 135 acres and is now not only a beautiful place to visit but also a haven for wildlife. It is considered one of the leading examples of how a previously sterile gravel pit can be converted into a wonderful haven for flora and fauna. The family commenced conservation work on the site as early as 1956.

After his father's death in 1978 the family initiated a fund raising campaign to open the site to the public. The completion was marked by a visit of His Royal Highness Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

In February 2002 the family decided to retire from the management of the Reserve which has now passed to the Kent Wildlife Trust.

Guy was able to combine his interest in the Reserve with his love of painting and very popular exhibitions, notably of Botanical Paintings by some of the Country's Top Artists were organised by him every year to raise funds for the Trust. An annual exhibition of Wildlife Paintings has now also been running for some 22 years.

Guy has just moved to a new house in Ide Hill, nr Sevenoaks and the challenge of the new garden will keep him well occupied for years to come.

The Court, Assistants, and other Officials, 2004-2005

Master

Brian J.Rawles, Esq.

Prime Warden

Dr Joanna E.Thomas, MB BS, LRCP, MRCS

Renter Warden Elect

Sir Anthony Hammond, KCB, QC

Immediate Past Master

Professor John R.White man, BSc, PhD, CMath, FIMA, FRSA

Other Past Masters

*John R.Hitch, Esq., CEng, MIMechE

*Christopher N.K.Tizard, Esq.

*The Right Reverend Dr John Waine, KCVO, Honorary Liveryman

*Robin Long, Esq., FCA

*Eur Ing Kenneth F.Bacon, CEng, FIEE

*Martin T.Everett, Esq., MW

Assistants to the Court

Dr William G.A.Cook, BSc, PhD

Robin G.Arculus, Esq., FCA, MA(Oxon), MIMC, CMC

Richard A.Lawman, Esq., CEng, MICE, MIStructE

Martin P.W.Scarth, Esq., CEng, MICE, MCIQB,

Guy C.D.Harrison, Esq.

Honorary members of the Court

*Michael R.Nathan, Esq., FCA

*Simon Gray, Esq., FCA

*Philip C.Feather, Esq.

*Lieutenant General Sir Hugh Cunningham, KBE

*Leonard, Pagliero, Esq., OBE

*David Williams-Thomas, Esq., MA, DL

*Philip J.Willoughby, Esq., JP, FCA,

*Michael C.Wallis, Esq.

*Robert F.B.Marshall, Esq.

*John F.B.Clark, Esq., FCIM, FSGT

*Oliver C.T.R.Normandale, Esq., FSGT

*Vincent E.Emms, Esq., ACII

*Paul C.Northam, Esq., FIBrew

*John S.Horne, Esq., RIBA, MA(Cantab), BArch(L'pool)

*John G.Thorpe, Esq.

*Robert L.Thomas, Esq., MA, FIA

Lay members of the Court

Nicholas J.T.Gray, Esq., BSc, ACA

Piers G.G.Northam, Esq., BA(Hons, Dunelm), DipISD

Honorary Clerk

Colonel Audrey J.Smith, BA, FCIPD

Honorary Chaplain

*The Right Reverend Dr John Waine, KCVO, Honorary Liveryman

Beadle

Anthony W.Parker, Esq.

Honorary Treasurer to the Court

Robin G.Arculus, Esq., FCA, MA(Oxon)

Trustees of the Charity Fund

*Robert L.Thomas, Esq., MA, FIA

*Michael R.Nathan, Esq., FCA

*John G.Thorpe, Esq.

Michael R.Meads, Esq.

Sir Peter Crill, KBE, CSTJ

Leigh Baildham, Esq.

Guy C.D.Harrison, Esq.,

Honorary Treasurer to the Trustees

Guy C.D.Harrison, Esq.

* Denotes Past Master

The Master, Wardens and other Officials (save the Trustees of the Charity Fund) were elected on the 23rd September 2004, and installed in office (save the Renter Warden who was indisposed) in Common Hall held at Stationers' Hall, London EC4, on the 9th December 2004.

Lay members of the Court are invited by the Court to serve for a term of two years. They may take part in discussion, but not vote.

John Whiteman – A Memorable Year

I wrote in the Glass Seller a year ago that my election to the Mastership of our Company for 2004 was an exceptional honour and a privilege. I have been very conscious of both these things throughout my year. A year that has passed amazingly quickly, far too quickly, perhaps because it was so interesting and challenging and perhaps because Caroline and I have been deeply involved in so much networking to promote the Glass Sellers Company both in the City of London and throughout the wider environment.

A year ago I was conscious that I had virtually no knowledge of how the City of London works. Indeed it brought to mind several times the story of William Makepeace Thackeray, who at one time worked as a journalist for Punch. One evening Thackeray was invited to a party. On arriving he was approached by a fellow guest who said to him “Some very strange people have been let in here tonight, including I understand Mr. Thackeray of Punch.” A year ago I felt that I was one of the strange people that they had let in! Since then I feel I have learnt quite a lot and do now understand some of the workings of the City. In the hope that they may be of interest to members of the livery, I feel that in this piece I should highlight a number of things that took place during my year, so that liverymen can know what this Master did.



Ravenscroft lecturer and Master together with our Beadle Tony Parker and Bill Cook who proposed the vote of thanks

Amongst the most memorable events for me was the Brunel & Ravenscroft Lecture evening, which was held at Brunel University. My purpose in arranging with the University for this joint activity was to have the opportunity to invite all the Masters and Clerks of the several livery companies of the City, as well as members of our livery, to Brunel with the express aim of indicating to everyone the contribution that modelling can make to UK manufacturing industry, and in particular to the glass industry. It was gratifying that so many Masters and Clerks made the effort to travel out to Uxbridge. Of course our Mansion House Banquet was for me one of the evenings of my life; as with all banquets in the Mansion House the evening had a touch of magic! Here again the theme was ‘technology in the modern manufacturing environment’, about which both Lord Hunt and I spoke. I was honoured that the Guild of Glass Engravers should invite me to be one of the judges of the exhibits at their ‘Cutting Edge’ exhibition. Luckily I had two charming, and knowledgeable, Fellows of the



Peter Latham was responsible for the excellent Cutting Edge Exhibition

Guild to guide me through the exhibits, as my experience of glass engraving stemmed from many years previously when I worked in the art department of our glass company; my speciality was to sandblast the words “saloon bar” onto sheets of glass destined to become pub windows! In the judging my colleagues and I found it very difficult both to compare coloured with plain glass exhibits, and to judge the relative merits of the different techniques – engraving, embossing and sandblasting, as well as combinations of these.



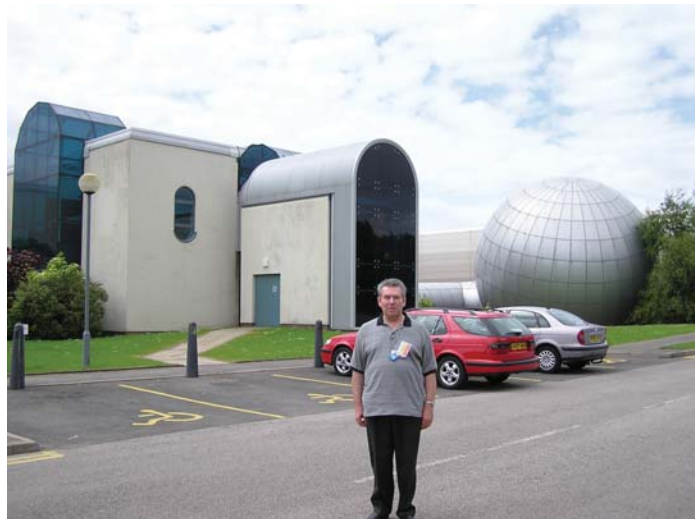
The Glass Sellers Reception raised money for the Charity Fund

The most fun event was without doubt the Lord Major’s Christmas Children’s Party which took place in January, and for which my ‘passport’ to attend was one of my granddaughters, who fell into the correct age group. The high point of the party was when the Lord Major was invited to sing “The Grand Old Duke of York” to the 600 assembled children, words supplied!

The most humbling things during the year were the visits that we made to the various institutions and foundations which are supported by the charities of the City of London and its Livery Companies. It is exceptionally touching to see the effect that this money has on some of the recipients. For example, a grandmother at one of the schools supported by our Charity Fund approached me and told me how her grandson, who had been an extremely difficult boy, had been transformed through the receipt of a bursary that is allowing him to attend the school, so that he had become a model, enthusiastic student. Equally inspiring was our visit to the Treloar School in Hampshire which caters for severely disabled students. The positive attitude of all the students and staff did indeed cause us to feel humble, as did our attendance at the Christmas musical evening put on by the Treloar students at the Glaziers Hall. It was a joy to see so many students singing away and obviously enjoying themselves immensely, as well as doing “rock” movements with their wheelchairs. What is clear from all this is that, although the City gives a very large amount of money

to charities, this amount is never enough. I saw one of my roles as Master to be that of liaising with the masters of other companies to consider how jointly we could make the money that our charity funds give be more effective.

Throughout my time as a liveryman of our Company, and as a result of my background in the British Glass Industry, I have taken the view that it is beholden to the ancient livery companies of the City of London always to strive to be supportive of, and as close as possible to, their relevant industries. As a result of this the most challenging thing throughout my year was to try address the problem of increasing the engagement of our Company with the Glass Industry both in the UK and internationally. As a result of many discussions and visiting various glass companies, I proposed to the December meeting of Court that I should be allowed on behalf of the Company to investigate the setting up of a "Glass Group" amongst the several livery companies who are associated with glass; clearly the Glaziers Company is an obvious company to be involved in this. I am grateful to our Court for accepting my proposal. My view is that collectively companies which are associated with glass could make more impact on all aspects of glass and its manufacture if they acted together. I would much welcome comments and suggestions from members of the livery as



William Browning outside the Windscale Plant during the Summer trip



Summer trip - Bishop John of the Anglican Communion to how in general we might increase the interaction of the company with the glass industry; (01494671009, john.whiteman@brunel.ac.uk).

The year was made memorable through the friendliness and support that I received from all of the livery, for example when I led a group to the Lake District. My thanks go in particular to our Beadle Tony Parker, to our assistant honorary clerk Paul Bowen, and to our learned clerk Colonel Audrey Smith, who steered and controlled me throughout the year. I was conscious that both

Audrey and I jointly underwent twelve months of what these days is called CPD, continuous professional development, so that somehow there were no major disasters! My thanks also go to Sir Anthony Hammond who chaired the Finance and General Purposes Committee in a masterful way, and especially to the Wardens Dr. Joanna Thomas and Brian Rawles for their continuous support and wise counsel throughout the year. Finally I must thank Caroline for her absolute and dedicated support and involvement in much of the planning and organisation of activities for the Glass Sellers prior to and during the year. It is my view that a Master these days



The end of a great year - handing over to Brian would find carrying out his or her duties extremely difficult without the support of a willing spouse or partner!

It was T.S. Elliott who wrote "In my end is my beginning"; this is often misquoted as "to every end there is a new beginning". In whatever form there are two aspects of this here. Firstly, Caroline and I had a fantastic year, which has now ended. Secondly, as happens every year, the Glass Sellers have a new Master, and a new beginning. We are very fortunate to have as our new Master Brian Rawles, who is one of the most knowledgeable persons on the Company and the City that I have ever met. It is my pleasure to give all good wishes to Brian and Katie for what, we know, will be a wonderful year both for them and for the company.

John Whiteman, Immediate Past Master



A memory of the beautiful Lake District

NOTIFICATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED THAT THE FOLLOWING LIVERMEN DIED IN 2004

**Liveryman Edward Cornish OBE, BSc FRICS
Liveryman Doctor Clifford Patrick**

New Development for the Glass Seller

Some of you may be aware that the Company has a number of Treasures which are not only of historic interest but are also very valuable. In some cases they are used regularly and we see them at our dinners. Others are less visible but are still subject to moves from one hall to another over the years. All of this adds up to a significant and specialist insurance risk. For some time now the company has worked in this area with the Specialist Broker Stanford Wood and the Insurance Company Hiscox which specialises in covering valuable and art objects.

These companies have now very kindly offered to help us with the publication of The Glass Seller and in return we will offer them the opportunity to show how the sort of risks to which we are all subject can be sensibly handled. The first case is one any of us might have come across - if we were unlucky.



A high value glass sculpture

Concealing the Evidence

A few years ago my mother announced at a family gathering that my wife – her daughter in law would inherit a fine bone china tea service. Shortly afterwards she decided to pass it onto my wife right away so that we could display the pieces in our new dining room display cabinet. It is a particularly fine tea service, which was a wedding gift to my mother from an elderly aunt. The tea service was carefully packed and delivered intact and I took great pleasure in displaying the pieces in the new cabinet.

The following day we had friends over for Sunday lunch and were proudly displaying the family heirloom in its new enclosure. Excitedly I unlocked the leaded glass door to enable a closer examination of the delicate pieces and the image of what happened next will probably always remain with us. Simultaneous to the opening of the glass door, a number of pieces slipped from their precarious resting place. There was simply no stopping the chain reaction as the weight of the cake plate forced cups, saucers, tea plates and sugar bowl to the floor below.

I was surprised at the reactions of those present. Roger, my guest, roared with laughter. His wife, screamed at him to shut up, whilst my wife merely sobbed. I stood mouth aghast wondering how I would conceal the catastrophe from my mother. I picked up the pieces and fragments which were put into shoe boxes and there they remain to this day - out of sight and out of mind.

You might imagine that, as an Insurance Broker, a claim form was quickly winging its way to the insurance company. I suppose if I had not taken my punishment and ducked from the missile thrown at me, I would instantly have thought to myself “no problem insurers will pay for a new TV”.

It is too late to make a claim now, but this true story raises a number of matters on where *you* might stand should you suffer a similar loss affecting your glass treasures.

▪ **Would I be covered?**

This would depend upon whether you have cover for accidental damage. Some policies today are still issued on the old “comprehensive” basis, which does not include accidental breakage. There might also be an excess of £100 or even £500.

▪ **In what circumstances might I not be covered?**

Usually policies exclude loss or damage occurring whilst items are being cleaned or restored. Cover might also depend on where the item was when lost or damaged. Some policies will only cover the item whilst in the home.

▪ **How much would I receive?**

This is where insurance can become complicated:-

- a) If the article in question is a “valuable” as defined in the policy, then there is likely to be a limit for any one item that is not specified. Perhaps £1,000 or 5% of the sum insured on contents.
- b) The item in question may have an “agreed value”.
- c) You may be penalised if the sum insured on contents is inadequate and insurers proportion the claim.
- d) You may be penalised if an item is one of a pair or a set. Many insurance companies will only pay a proportionate

amount if one of a collection is lost or damaged. We all know that the value of a collection or a pair can often be more than the sum of the parts. Imagine receiving only one 32nd part of a claim if one cut glass piece of a chess set is broken.

- e) What if the treasure could be repaired or restored. Are you going to be completely satisfied if insurers merely pay for the restoration but not the depreciation in its value as a consequence of the damage?

The limitations, restrictions and exclusions that may apply illustrate why it is so important to seek the advice of a specialist insurance broker and an insurance company that is sympathetic to the needs of collectors.

Footnote: Sadly my mother has now passed on. She never found out about the calamity and we keep the cabinet firmly locked.

Anyone who feels concerned about the insurance of valuable items can contact Alan Stanford or Martin Sidaway on 0121 604 1444.

Their address is - Stanford and Wood Ltd

14 St Paul’s Square

Birmingham B3 1RB

e-mail alan@stanfordandwood.co.uk

Do you need to speak to a specialist?

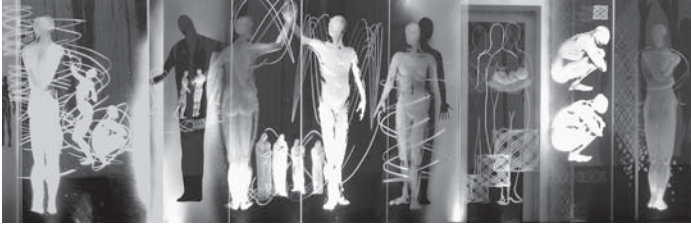
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**HISCOX**

Charity Fund Report



Glass Sellers Award 2004 - Alison Kinnaird's Psalmsong

In recent years the Charity Fund has been gradually concentrating its donations towards fewer projects so that its relatively modest annual income of less than £50,000 can have a meaningful impact. In an article in *The Glass Seller* last summer I explained the support given to St Luke's in Canning Town, a very deprived area of East London. This article explains two of the other programs which the Charity Fund supports. One is the Art & Craft Award and the other is the Glass-in-Society Schools' Project.

One of the Company's aims is to increase its involvement with glass by increasing support for and connections with the glass industry, in its widest sense. For more than ten years the Glass Sellers have promoted & financed prizes for glass artists. With the aim of widening the competition, the Charity Fund has this year significantly increased the value of the prize. The main prize is now £4,000 & the student prize £1,000. This autumn, for the first time, the Company is organising an exhibition of the work of this year's finalists as well as winners from previous years.

A second way in which the Company is increasing its support for glass is through the provision of two bursaries for students taking the international glass course at Dudley College. From this year they have been increased to £2,000 a year. The Company also awards the annual Frederick Stuart Memorial Prize for the best mouth-blown glass art piece produced at the same College.

Another way in which the Charity Fund supports the Industry is through the Glass-in-Society programme. This was initiated in 1990 by the then Master John Clark and was to provide monies to selected schools to carry on a project which would raise awareness of glass. It became incorporated into the national curriculum. Liveryman Leigh Baildham currently organises this programme.

It was clear that whilst new schools should be found each year, one in particular, Ash Manor School in Surrey, had embraced the project and really appreciated what could be done with the money we provide. It was decided to contact them again to ascertain whether they might be interested in working with us on an even more imaginative project than before, and very shortly a submission document was put to the Trustees for approval. The objective of the project was to design and construct a stained glass window for the main entrance of the school. This would involve an entire Year Group and in order to see the project to fruition, the Trustees granted the unusual request to give support over two years. Some 120 students began to look at the medium of glass as part of not only their Art and Technology courses, but also through History, as coincidentally they were studying medieval stained glass in churches as part of the current curriculum.

The project then moved into a design phase with the students creating their own designs on sheets of acrylic. The best were selected for judging and all of these were put together on a series of light boxes that now adorn the walls of the Art Department! The standard of these designs were so high, that it was decided that the best students should win a prize – their own design created in glass by a professional artist.

A competition was held in the school to design the window itself – ultimately a composite was chosen featuring the school badge. The window has now been constructed and Immediate Past Master John Whiteman presented the prizes to the winners last November.'

These projects cost money. The Charity Funds grants to Ash Manor School were £6,000. This year's expenditure on the Art & Craft Awards will be some £8,000 (without the cost of the exhibition, which is not a Charity Fund expense). If the Charity Fund is to achieve its objectives it needs a more income. If any Liveryman is able to increase their Gift Aid donation or leave a legacy to the Charity Fund, it would be very much appreciated.

*Leigh Baildham, Trustee,
Robert Thomas, Chairman of the Trustees*

A REALLY NICE BLOKE

Every year, the Glass Sellers Company makes an award to someone working in the submarine HMS Spartan. The special tankard is given to the person who contributes the most towards the well-being and morale of the crew, outside his professional duties.

December 9th's splendid dinner at the Stationers' Hall saw amongst the guests, the 2005 winner – Operator Mechanic (Weapons SM) Steven Cook, accompanied by his Lieutenant-Commander and 5 of his colleagues.

The citation which had produced the unanimous verdict from the Glass Sellers' most illustrious panel of adjudicators, said that "in these high tech days, driven by performance indicators and assessment criteria, it is still creditable for a submariner to be recognized for being simply "a really nice bloke".

Encapsulating the uncrackable spirit of the submariner, and a credit to the service and all that it stands for, Steven had been seriously worried when his boss got him on his own, and with a serious face – as if he had done something wrong – said he wanted to see him, on his own. Heart pumping, he had the meeting; and discovered that he was this year's winner of the award. "Gobsmacked", is how he said he felt: and at the earliest opportunity, he told his parents in Pontefract (where he grew up) about this unexpected honour. His Mother's pride was demonstrated by promptly bursting into tears!

We were delighted to welcome Steven and his colleagues to the dinner, after which their whirlwind trip to London was evidently going to be busy, packing in a great deal. The plan was to go on to Stringfellows night club after the dinner (still in their immaculate uniforms)...let's hope they were allowed in, to continue the celebrations about Steven's achievement!

And for anyone interested in what's going on in the world of submarines: our very special HMS Spartan has just been to the east coast of America, testing a dry hangar system: a unique capability for the Royal Navy, and trialling it has been very important.

Next year, the submarine is off to South America, the South Atlantic and the Indian oceans..... come to next December's dinner to find out how they got on!

Jane Reynolds



A Glass Sellers tankard for Steven Cook

The City

The new Lord Mayor, Alderman Michael Savory, is well supported not only by his wife, Fiona, but by two small daughters. The first time there has been the patter of tiny feet in the Mansion House for many years.

The members of the Court of Common Council have now come through the first election under the new voting franchise, and are looking at the election in March, when those returned will be elected for four years as in other local councils. However all members will be standing for re-election as in the past.

The Court of Aldermen is going through a period of change and retirements. The resulting Ward elections will be heavily contested- I have heard of up to nine candidates in one ward. This will make the result very open. Let us hope that the right new candidates are elected. Time will tell!

The City, like all Local Councils, is under the financial cosh of the Government, who are intent on pushing the responsibility for inevitable cutbacks onto it. We have already lost £1m of the money required to fund the City Police though the city remains on high alert. The business rate raised by the City is some £610m, of which we retain merely £110m- Central Government gets the rest. No comment.

We work well with Ken Livingston, although he continues to attack the City when he gets a chance- most recently on early morning swimming on Hampstead Heath, where health and safety requires us quite properly to have Life guards on duty at all times. This is an expensive option for one or two people at 0645am. One happens to be the Master of the Rolls! Ken Livingston is saying that if the Corporation cannot afford to run the Heath, he will take it back. Where he will find the money (£5.6m) to run it, he does not say! The City has spent some £72 on running the Heath over the last 10 years and a further £20m in capital costs which should really have been met by the GLC.

Threats continue from him to expand the Congestion Charge and put the price up. He cannot go east because it would be political suicide for him in very poor Labour boroughs. If he goes further west, he will bring in a further 300000 residents, who, if they get the 90% discount, may well consider it viable to drive in, thereby defeating the object! All good fun!

As I said at the Installation Dinner the City needs Freemen to get involved in the management of the City, so that we can continue to be one of the eight highest quality rated boroughs in the country, under the Government Rating assessment. If you are interested please talk to me.

*Philip Willoughby JP Deputy
Past Master.*

An Honourable Clerk's First Year - 2004

It is difficult to believe that it is over a year since I assumed the mantle of Honorary Clerk. While it has been a very busy year with many challenges, it has been exciting, interesting and in the large part enjoyable. As you can imagine, I get many queries about anything remotely relating to glass but I am often asked to confirm that a relative had been a Master of the Company. It is usually someone trying to find out about their Grandfather or perhaps Great Grandfather but in one case it was very exciting as the person had been Master in 1670 and he had been present at the first Court Meeting after the granting of the Charter which was held on 8 December 1664.

The Ravenscroft Lecture which, will be held on 9th February this year, commemorates another fascinating part of our history.

I have continued my mystery tours to some of the unfamiliar the Livery Halls but I am now getting quite confident in finding my way to the ones we use regularly! It is still a delight, to have the opportunity of visiting some of the hidden architectural gems that abound in the city.

Those who have been Liverymen for a while will see that all the venues for 2005 are familiar but you may wonder why some of the favourites of the past do not figure. As the number of Liverymen is rising, those wishing to attend functions is increasing and therefore we have been obliged to use larger halls. We have taken these venues in order that no one will be disappointed and so please play your part by supporting as many functions as you can. It is advisable to return your application as early as possible as even these halls have a limit on the number that can be seated. The Banquet was once again a memorable event but the numbers attending was disappointing. Please put the date in your diary early this year, as we do not want to lose the opportunity of using this magnificent venue.

The forecast that we may reach 200 Liverymen by the end of 2004 fell slightly short of the target but with those in the pipeline we should reach it by mid 2005. The other side of the equation, the loss of existing Liverymen, is always the unknown and therefore we must continue to encourage suitable people to join us. Please do not hesitate to ring me immediately if you think you have identified someone as I can advise you on the procedure.

I am now looking forward to 2005 which I hope will be just as interesting and exciting.

*Audrey J. Smith
Honorary Clerk*



COMING EVENTS

Wednesday, 16th March 2005

Court Meeting, Common Hall,
and Livery Dinner
Barber-Surgeons' Hall

Tuesday 26th April 2005

Golf Day
Beaconsfield Golf Club

Sunday 8th May 2005

Divine Service
Church of St James Garlickhythe
Family Luncheon
Stationers' Hall

Wednesday 8th June–Sunday 12 June 2005

Master's Jolly to Edinburgh

Thursday 23rd June 2005

Court Meeting, Annual Common Hall,
and Livery Dinner
Glaziers' Hall

Friday 24th June 2005

Election of Sheriffs
Guildhall

Wednesday 20th July 2005

Reception in Aid of the Charity Fund
The Terrace of the House of Lords

Thursday 22nd September 2005

Court Meeting, Common Hall,
and Livery Dinner
Apothecaries' Hall

Thursday 29th September 2005

Election of the Lord Mayor
Guildhall

Sunday 16th October 2005

Divine Service
Church of St James Garlickhythe
Family Luncheon
Stationers' Hall

Tuesday 25th October 2005

Annual Banquet
The Mansion House

Friday 11th November 2005

The Silent Ceremony – Swearing-in
of the New Lord Mayor
Guildhall

Saturday 12th November 2005

Lord Mayor's Day

Thursday 8th December 2005

Court Meeting, Common Hall and
Installation Dinner
Stationers' Hall

LIVERYMEN ADMITTED DURING 2005



John Spencer OBE



Paul Miller



Paul Hopkin



Robert Purves

Roy Murphy
John Tudor
John Spencer OBE
Paul Miller
Paul Hopkin
Belle Walker
Ian Pittaway
Keith Percy
Mary Piper
John Stewart

Stephanie Williams-Murray

Barbara Beadman
Charles Cook
Judy Mewburn
William Parker
Robert Purves
Julian Chadwick

THE LATEST FREEMEN (DECEMBER 2005)

David Anderson
John Bennett
Rohan Chanmugam
Peter Evans



Charles Cook



Stephanie
Williams-Murray



Julian Chadwick