



from the

MASTER & WARDENS

The newsletter of The Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers

Navigating the C's



Life in a Livery Company revolves around the "C"s. There are Ceremonies to conduct, based on the original Charter incorporating the Company by order of Charles I. We clothe new Liverymen in Court, day to day business rests with the Clerk, each year we commemorate those who have gone before us in our Annual Service in Church and we celebrate fellowship during the Livery Dinner with a Loving Cup.

The Declaration made by every new Freeman confirms an individual's obedience to the Crown, their willingness to defend and contribute to the City and their obligation to maintain the weal (the health) of the Company and obey the authority of the Master and Wardens. Like every Livery, we ask all our members to think of others too by contributing to Charity.

At the heart of each Company is its own particular Craft. We have maintained for many years that our name is misleading.

Despite the recent resurgence of bespoke spectacle making, only a small proportion of our members are actually involved, day to day, in making spectacles.

We are called "Spectacle Makers" because that was the only thing which could be done in the 17th Century to help those with vision problems. As the scope of prevention and treatment of vision impairment has expanded and the number of optical professions has grown, our Craft has developed. Our purpose remains the same but there are now more opportunities for extending awareness, encouraging those promoting better eye health and improving accessibility for those who need our help.

Crown, City, Company, Craft, Contribution, Charity and Community – see the threads intermingle as you navigate the articles in this edition of the Newsletter.



THE STEWARDS' ENQUIRY.....

It seems only fair that the first article in this edition should be handed over to the first faces many people will see when they come a Spectacle Maker event – our Stewards.



The hard working team before the Livery Dinner

In the last year, Ron Gosling and Valerie Boud retired and we have appointed new stewards, Wendy Allen and Mark Bateman. We also have two current “Stewards in Training”, Edward Kettell and Sue Rees, who have joined the team in the last few months.

It's not an easy role. Stewards have to be sociable but they must also aware of City and Company protocol and, most importantly, be ready for anything! At every Company function, our Stewards meet and greet, introduce official guests to their hosts and help conversations to flow. They see the Company from the inside and have a unique perspective on our relationships with others. Let's introduce them.

I was a Court Assistant and I was Mistress Spectacle Maker for 2 years. When I was invited to become a Steward, I realised this role suited me perfectly as I had become very familiar with events and knew lots of fellow Spectacle Makers.

Hello, I'm **Sheila Hope.**

I first became involved with the Company through my work with the Association of British Dispensing Opticians (ABDO), where I produced “Dispensing Optics” for nearly 27 years. I love the splendour, ceremony and history of the City of London and it is always a pleasure to be involved in City events. It is a truly marvellous role and a real honour to be serving the Master and Wardens of the Court. It helps that I love chatting to people and am rather bossy! My favourite event? I especially like the annual Service of Rededication at St Bride's Church.

I'm **Christine McLaren.**

I joined the Company as a Freeman in 1972(!) when I obtained my FSMC professional qualification, though it took another 11 years before I became a Liveryman. I have been active within the Company for many years in various roles: I've chaired the Society Committee, I founded and captained the Golf Society,





My name is **Mark Bateman** and I've worked in the City, Central London and Docklands for more years than I care to admit. Whilst I should have been a 4th generation optician, instead I became a **Chartered Surveyor**. I was the Surveyor to the Worshipful Company of Cutlers for 12 years and currently provide strategic advice to large corporations on how they can control and manage property costs. I joined the Company

through Patrimony in 1985.

"How would I describe myself?" says

Wendy Allen. "Well, maybe, open, friendly and usually smiling - or on some days shy and retiring!! As well as having an ability to smile and help make fellow Liverymen, Freeman and guests feel welcome, we need to keep our eyes open. I think it must be very useful for members of Court to have a group of people they can ask to do things or help them out. With such a lot of people wanting to come to our events, it can get very busy."

Mark sees a real benefit from the mix of people who come through our doors. "I think the Company generates great strength through diversity as well as creating the conditions for fellowship with others outside optical professions." And there are some memorable moments: "At one event I noticed a worried looking gentlemen staring at a sign outside the Gents,

saying "Wet Floor". I thought it helpful to explain that it was a warning, not an instruction."

"The best event for me is the Livery Dinner which, whilst challenging in terms of logistics and people management, is always a stunningly impressive occasion." The worst bit, all the Stewards agree, is desperately looking across a sea of faces to try and locate a particular Member of Court who has instantly become invisible in a crowded room!

A regular highlight for all is the admission of new Liverymen. Putting people at ease and calming nerves are very important – and one of the lovely developments over recent years has been the encouraging round of applause with which a newly clothed Liveryman is greeted on their return from the Court room.

Stewards have more opportunity than most to assess the Company's various roles. Christine McLaren says, "To me, supporting the Craft is most important. The preservation of vision is what we are about. Eyesight is such an critical sense but one which many people take for granted - until they experience a problem.

Sheila's long involvement with the craft has been enhanced and rounded by her experience as a Liveryman and she really values the sense of community. "In my time on the Society Committee, we have raised thousands of pounds for our Company's charitable work. So, while we enjoy ourselves at the many Society events, we also raise money which makes all the hard work worthwhile."

A long family connection with the Company gave Mark one of his proudest moments, watching his elder daughter being admitted and having a family photograph of three generations in the Courtyard at Apothecaries Hall. He would like more people to have that opportunity. "So much has changed and is changing. The Company works hard to ensure that individuals are able to catch glimpses into an immense world of traditions".

Wendy sums it up beautifully: "I love the City, cherish the Community, am supportive of the Charity and I'm very proud of our Craft. I am always looking forward to the next event."

A big thank you to all our Stewards. Look out for them next time - they will be looking out for you!

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FAMILY VALUES

by The Master



One of the Master's responsibilities is to maintain and extend the relationship between the Spectacle Makers' Company and other Liveries and exercising that responsibility has brought me into close contact with many Masters and Courts. In my initial few months as Master I have learned so much. I have had the honour of hearing about other companies' history and practices and considering if there is anything we might learn from them. The range of work undertaken within the Livery world is inspirational. Not only have these meetings confirmed my (OK, slightly biased) opinion that we are a great livery company but it has reinforced my sense of family throughout the livery world.

Families can be competitive, of course, but fiercely proud of their members' achievements. They go through times of great celebration and times of sadness and loss. There are periods too when life is challenging and there is a huge comfort from being there to support each other and find new ways forward. The sense of "family" I have experienced is quite profound. It is a most rewarding feeling to be in the company of so many people with similar values.

I am often asked what "so far" has been the most memorable event that I have attended thus far during my time as Master Spectacle Maker. It's hard just to pick one.

The departure of the magnificent Magical Taxi tour to Disneyland has to be one of the most moving sights Gloria and I have ever witnessed. I think that waving those children off on what might well be the highlight of a very short life is something I will never forget. It made us so thankful and proud that our Company's Charity contributes to that special event.

Another unique event was the Lord Mayor unveiling London Stone following its re-siting in a new building opposite Cannon Street Station. The idea of relocating London Stone in or near Apothecaries' Hall was instigated by Past Master John Marshall and it would have been wonderful if his ambition were to have been realised but at least in its new home London Stone is suitably protected and its history is accessible via a new website:- www.londonstone.org.uk.



London Stone

I was proud to have represented the company and John on that occasion and we will continue to celebrate in a short annual ceremony and informal lunch with the Worshipful Company of Masons, starting next May.



Addressing the ABDO graduands from the pulpit of Canterbury Cathedral must be one of the highlights of every Master's year and mine is no exception.

More recently, accompanying the Lord Mayor on his annual visit to Treloars School in Hampshire was another event I shall never forget, linking Company, City and Charity. You can read more about that on page 14 of this newsletter.





The Mistress Spectacle Maker explains her hearing loss

My wife, Gloria, took her opportunity as Mistress Spectacle Maker to gather together one hundred other Mistresses (together with a few curious accompanying Masters, like me), the Lady Mayoress, the Sheriffs' Consorts and other City representatives for a meeting at Bakers' Hall and a presentation addressing the issue of Deaf Awareness.

The afternoon also included two charming young lady musicians who are both deaf and who later entertained us again at the Livery Dinner at Goldsmiths' Hall. The presentation was a great success

and opened up much conversation about awareness of others' needs more generally within Liveries. Are we Vision Aware, Deaf Aware, Dementia Aware? This afternoon of friendship has had long lasting results, as well as enabling Gloria to continue the promotion of our Company.

And so to challenges.....

We have been advocating proper recognition and training for optical support staff for many years, most recently in conjunction with ABDO College. Changes in Government training objectives and funding have affected many areas of education and have forced many organisations to review their position – and we are not alone in regretting the increases in bureaucracy and the lack of support for high standards of professional craftsmanship which have led to our withdrawal from offering accredited examinations.

We were obliged to react to changes in market demands and we are grateful to ABDO for their ongoing cooperation during the transition period. Considerable effort has been made to try to ensure that no students currently engaged in training towards a nationally recognised qualification are inconvenienced or become obliged to curtail their studies. The career path to higher level dispensing courses will be maintained.

Change can, of course generate opportunities for the future. The foundation of both the College of Optometrists and the Association of British Dispensing Opticians came out of changes in the profession in the late 1970s and 1980s. We cannot tell yet what may lie ahead. We hope that members in practice will want to train their staff to high levels and that investment in training by larger organisations will continue – but it is already very clear that the way we work and the way we train will be very different in future. We will continue to maintain our reputation for supporting optical training and education as we have done throughout our existence, but with a careful focus on value for money and seeking the best outcomes from our limited means.

The WCSM is subject to market forces like everyone else and increases in rent, rates, insurance, utility bills and food costs affect our budget just like any other family. I can only assure you all that the various committees consider the costs of every event and activity most carefully when planning it and are well aware of the financial pressures we all feel. We are not a wealthy institution and we have a collective responsibility to maintain the financial viability of the company

If you are of a like mind to me you will have given some thought to the future and may have considered making some provision for the remembrance of your name through a legacy or bequest. Remembering The Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers in your will is one way of continuing support for the Company's purpose of helping those who prevent and treat vision impairment and will ensure that you name lives on, as all such donations are recorded in our Book of Benefactors.

Bequests assist the Company to continue to make its contribution to optics. It need not be thousands – every little counts. And for those who support, or have supported, the Company in many ways, by attending events, paying Quarterage or giving valuable time and experience as a volunteer, we are truly grateful too.

I am incredibly grateful to all those who continue to support me as I represent the Company in its dealings with other Companies, the City and our wider community of vision. Throughout our 390 years of history so far, we have benefited from the contribution of so many able, professional and experienced people. Long may that continue.



The Court 1978



The Court October 2018



FREEDOM, LIVERY AND COURT NEWS

The Company welcomes as new Freemen:

Professor Robin Raihan Ali
Professor James William Braithwaite Bainbridge
Ms Paula Jane Baines
Mr Eric Michael Bernabei
Mrs Naomi Bowman
Mr Matthew Robert Broom
Mr Stuart Burn

Mr Kristopher Paul Collins
Mrs Gwendoline Dalton
Professor Susan Melissa Downes
Dr Lucy Elizabeth Gelling
Mr Neil Michael Hanley
Dr Andrew Hepworth
Mr David Hutchfield

Dr Keziah Jane Cameron Latham
Mr Daniel Simeon Morris
Mr Kerry Pullin
Ms Anna Margaret Tylor
Mrs Sandrine Westcott
Mr Mark Keith Winder
Mr Andrew Frank Yorke

NEW LIVERYMEN CLOTHED ON 11 DECEMBER 2018 AND 12 MARCH 2019



*Mrs Heather
Bailey*



*Mrs Ann
Fried*



*Mr Robert
Petarca*



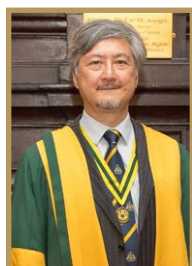
*Professor Mandeep
Sagoo*



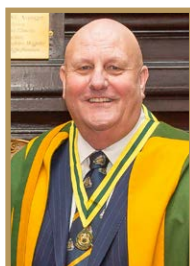
*Dr David
Woolf*



*Mr Alan
Honeybone*



*Professor
Christopher Liu
OBE*



*Dr Robert
Ranger*



*Dr Ahmed Zimar
Sivardeen*



*Mr Keith
Valentine*

NEW COURT ASSISTANTS



*Mr Marc
Bennett*



*Ms Hayley
Wainer*

Two new Assistants were admitted to the Court in December 2018 – Mr Marc Bennett and Ms Hayley Wainer.

Marc Bennett FCA is a practising Chartered Accountant. He was instrumental in negotiating a fair deal with HMRC in the 1990's enabling opticians to reclaim back overpaid VAT. He has been a financial consultant to the BCLA since 2008 and has wide experience valuing optical businesses and advising their owners on a variety of tax matters.

Hayley Wainer is a practising Optometrist. She is a director of Hawkes & Wainer, located in Leadenhall Market and now celebrating its 100th year serving the City of London. Hayley went to her first City event at Mansion House when she was seventeen, accompanying her father Liveryman Ivan Wainer. She has worked in the City since 1990 and many of her patients are Liverymen.

LONG SERVICE

The following members are congratulated on achieving significant anniversaries of their admission to the Freedom and receive our thanks for their continuing support:

60 YEARS

Ian Hunter
Charles Ingram McPherson
Michael John Revell

40 YEARS

Helenmary Nisbet Attewell
Roger Neil Backhouse
Ian Michael Chalmers
Evelyn Joyce Connaghan
Janet Marion Davies
Andrew Robert Franklin
William Macallan Glennie
Linda Gosling
Kevin James Hamilton
Michael Peter Harris
Anthony Mervyn Hughes
Graham Jones

Ian Patrick Lucas
Christos Charilaou Marcou
David Philip Marsh
Andrew Robert Edward Mason
Roderick Leonard Mason
Marion Brice Nicholson
John Dixon Salt
Hazel Ellen Smith
Paul Edward Toleman
Fiona Caroline Elizabeth Watt
David Stuart Webster
Raymond David White
Joy Margaret Woodhouse

25 YEARS

Nicholas Peter Bateman
William Thomas Green
Philip Alastair Hammond

IN MEMORIAM

Philip John Cole OBE, first President of the College of Optometrists
Keith Lonsdale White

VOLUNTEERING

Are you outgoing, sociable and interested in building fellowship within our Livery Company and attracting new members?

Look out for vacancies arising soon on the Membership Committee and Society Committee, which will be advertised by email.

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Do you know a gap year student or recent graduate who is looking for part time work experience? We have a vacancy for someone to provide additional support within the Spectacle Makers' Office, looking after our social media feeds, photo libraries and general PR activities, checking and working with databases and broadcast email systems and dealing with some of the enquiries relating to our charitable work, including administration of bursary applications and enquiries.

Candidates must have excellent communication skills for written assignments, telephone and email correspondence and be fully up to speed with IT systems used in a modern office. As much of our work requires close attention to detail and an appreciation of the Company's heritage, an "A" level in English or History would be helpful.

The intern will work at least one day per week in the office, supplemented by home-based work if needed. The overall commitment would be 8-16 hours per week to suit the candidate. We pay London living wage rates.

Enquiries about this role should be directed to The Clerk by telephone (020 7236 2932) or email (clerk@spectaclemakers.com). We hope to fill this position as soon as possible.



OBITUARY

DR PHILIP JOHN COLE OBE FCOPTOM



The Company joined with representatives of the College of Optometrists and practitioners of many generations at the start of the year to pay tribute to Dr Philip Cole OBE, who died, aged 100, on 11 January 2019. Dr Cole was the first President of the College of Optometrists, and a leading figure in the development of optometry as a modern healthcare profession.

Philip Cole was born in 1918, just as the First World War was coming to an end, and delighted in the reminiscence that his parents hid him under the staircase while the last Zeppelin raiders flew over Essex en route to attack London. After being medically discharged from army service part way through the Second World War, due to a problem with his ears, he studied ophthalmic optics at the Northampton College in London through evening classes, partly on the recommendation of a friendly optician in Ilford, and partly because to qualify in dentistry would have taken an extra year. He was the oldest student in a class of just four. Graduating in 1943, he obtained professional qualification certificates from both the British Optical Association and the Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers, as was common at the time.

He gained his first refraction experience with Bethell & Clark in Colchester. From 1944 to 1952 he was a Lecturer in Clinical Practice at the West Ham College of Technology, leaving that role to develop his individual practice, Cole Martin Tregaskis in the High Street, Brentwood in 1947. The practice continues today, led by Liveryman Professor Bruce Evans.

In due course Philip Cole was invited to be an examiner for the Spectacle Makers' Company, and then took over Chairmanship of the Board of Examiners during the often fractious negotiations over first, a joint examination, and subsequently, the establishment of the British College of Ophthalmic Opticians (as it was originally named). After much discussion and negotiation the College of Optometrists came into being and he was chosen as the first President. He said it was because he was 'the least awkward'. He remained on the Council of the new unified qualifying body until 1996, was appointed a Life Fellow of the College in 1996 and was co-author with the late Martin Lynch of the first volume of the College History, covering the years 1980-1998. Since 2013 the College has named its Philip Cole Award for practice-based research after him.

In addition, Philip Cole was a council member of the Association of Optical Practitioners from 1960 until its change of name in 1987 and then a Life Member of the AOP. He was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Science from Bradford University in 1983. When awarded the OBE in June 1987 for services to optometry, he always considered that he had accepted the honour on behalf of the whole profession.

Having been admitted to the Livery in 1977, he served on the Court of the Company from 1982 to 1997. The Company believed him worthy of the highest honours – but recognised his need to prioritise his family above Mastership. His only daughter Alison was seriously ill with leukaemia for many years and her death in 1990 seriously affected both Philip and his wife Ruby.

Something of an elder statesman for the profession, he remained interested and in touch until the end. When the Clerk called to leave a message on what she thought was an office number, just before his 100th birthday, he responded in person, very keen to confirm that yes, indeed, he was very much still alive and cards would certainly be welcome, particularly from The Queen.

He lived out an active retirement in the Essex countryside, employing a personal secretary, Mrs Paula Loven, to ensure he remained on top of correspondence and a driver to ensure he enjoyed regular outings.

A gentle, humane man, with a keen sense of humour, but with sharp edges when required, he led the examining bodies through a difficult process of amalgamation and reconciliation. He deserves the heartfelt and genuine thanks of the profession for his unfailing sense of duty and fairness which helped to put the profession into the strong position it finds itself in today.



MEET A LIVERYMAN

ALAN HONEYBONE



Alan Honeybone with son, James

After almost 35 years as a Freeman, Alan Honeybone was clothed as of the Livery in March 2019. We caught up with him after the Ceremony to ask a few questions....

Alan, how did you first hear about the Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers?

I started training as an optical technician in the early 1980's and took the Company's exams. At that point, I had no idea what being a Freeman or a Liveryman meant but I spoke to other Freemen during the course and thought I could learn a lot from them. When I qualified as SMC(Tech) in 1984, I became a Freeman at the Presentation Ceremony.



A 1980s spectacle making class

So, after such a long time as a Freeman, what made you want to move up to the Livery?

Winning the draw for tickets to last year's Livery Dinner reminded me of how much the profession has given me and how much I love tradition. I am delighted to be accepted into the Livery. I feel it is a 'badge of honour' and recognition for a long career in optics as a spectaclemaker. It feels great to be part of such a long but living tradition and to have the chance to meet so many new, different and interesting people, all with an interest in vision.

What would you say to someone who is thinking about being a Liveryman?

I would tell them to go for it, absolutely, join in and be a part of this great Company. The ceremony itself was very enjoyable if a little daunting because of the grand surroundings of Apothecaries' Hall but my son James and I were made very welcome and soon our nerves disappeared. James represented Team GB at the London 2012 Olympics in the Men's Sabre event (fencing) so he is used to large events, but this was something unique for him too.

What are the 4 C's for most Livery Companies – and which is most important to you?

Community, Craft, City of London & Charity. For me Craft comes first as I can (and do!) manufacture spectacles although running my large practice in Cornwall means that it is no longer my main occupation.

The other three still have meaning for me too though. I received Freedom of the City shortly after my admission to the Freedom of the WCSM. The certificate hangs on the wall and always raises questions. As one spends longer on this planet, you become even more aware of the needs of others and Community and Charity come to the fore.

How do you describe the Company, and your status as a Liveryman, to someone who has not heard of us?

I describe being a Liveryman as being a part of a greater organisation, joining in with something which has been going on for hundreds of years but is relevant today. If you look past the, dare I say it, sometimes old fashioned and traditional facade (which I love!), there is a modern organisation doing great work and I am proud to be part of that. Long may we keep those traditions alive!



THE 2019 LIVERY DINNER

It wasn't just the display of modern plate and the gilded ceilings of Goldsmiths' Hall that dazzled at this year's Livery Dinner. There were plenty of oohs and aahs as guests mounted the marble staircase and even more as we moved into the Great Hall, to dine by the light of hundreds of candles in glittering chandeliers. As the Renter Warden noted in his welcome to the guests, not only were we reducing our energy consumption, but candlelight hides the wrinkles. As usual, we were joined by the Masters of other "health" livers – the Apothecaries, Barbers, and also, for the first time, the Master of the Guild of Nurses, as well as Alderman and Sheriff Vincent Keaveny, sporting the Spectacle Makers' shield on his shrieval chain.

The theme of the evening was that of promoting access. The Principal Guest, Alderman William Russell, spoke of the City's role and the support of Livery Companies in offering opportunities for social mobility. Training and prize awards to promote excellence and, charitable support for the wider community are ways of increased understanding and inclusion. Eloise Garland and Ruth Montgomery showed that deafness is no barrier to a professional career in music and the Master led the room in British Sign Language thanks and applause.



Alderman William Russell speaks



The Renter Warden raises the toast to our guests



Eloise Garland (violin) and Ruth Montgomery (flute)



Applause in BSL for the musicians



Commanding Officer and representatives from 16 Medical Regiment



Assistant Michael Harris with Major Phil Jones and Lt Col Scottie Rankin



Tying up a white tie



Where am I sitting?



Official Guests



EDUCATION

QUALIFICATIONS UPDATE

All members of the Company should have received a copy of the press release issued on 30 March 2019 confirming that WCSM will withdraw from offering nationally-accredited qualifications.

This has been a difficult decision but one which the Court felt was unavoidable given the substantial changes in the marketplace and in the educational environment.

The last main series of WCSM examinations in England and Scotland will be in December 2018 but candidates will have at least three further opportunities to resit units and complete their qualifications. As a reminder, the current Level 2 Certificate is equivalent to a GCSE, a Level 3 Certificate to an "A" level and the Level 4 Diplomas for Optical Assistants and Optical Technicians are accepted as broadly equivalent to the first year of a degree. If a student has passed certain optional units at

Level 4, they can claim some exemptions from elements of coursework in the first year of the FBDO diploma in dispensing offered by ABDO. We are urging all current students to complete their examinations and achieve their awards. The Presentation Ceremony will go ahead as usual in October 2019.

From September 2019, ABDO College will be offering a non-examined introductory course for optical assistants. Completion of the course may be accepted by some organisations as evidence of learning to allow access to higher level courses. Online training will be supplemented by optional practical workshops at the ABDO National Resource Centre in Birmingham. Level 4 courses for optical assistants and optical technicians will continue. Those who register as new entrants from September 2019 will receive their diplomas from ABDO when they pass, rather than from WCSM.

THE MASTER CERTIFICATE SCHEME

The Master Certificate Scheme came out of the Livery Companies Apprenticeship Scheme and was designed to encourage career progression in skills identified with City of London Livery Companies. The number of participating companies has been growing and the Spectacle Makers were delighted to award their first Apprentice Award Certificate this year to Gavin Hughes, the only one of our LCAS apprentices to complete their training. Gavin qualified as SMC(Tech) by passing the last of this theory and practical examinations in December 2019.

In a ceremony held at Carpenters' Hall in March, the Master introduced the nomination before Gavin's certificate was presented by The Rt Hon the Lord Mayor, Alderman Peter Estlin. There were congratulations too for Gavin's employer, The Norville Group Ltd.

We expect to put forward more candidates for Master Certificate awards in future. Nominations will be sought later in the year.



Senior Assistant David Baker, Gavin Hughes with his father, The Master and Past Master Frank Norville OBE



The Master with Gavin Hughes and The Lord Mayor



EDUCATION

TRAVEL AWARDS 2019

Spring saw the second award of travel grants by the Trustees of the WCSM Education Trust. Details of the award winners and their areas of research appear below.

The awards are designed to help ophthalmologists in training whose research has been accepted for presentation at a national or international conference. This scheme is open only to ophthalmologists in specialist training years 1-7, during Out of Programme Research or as part of a Fellowship post ST7 and is more restricted than the bursary awards offered by the Trust to help new students in dispensing optics, optometry and orthoptics.

As with the bursaries for new optical students though, the process is competitive, the budget is limited and the Trustees can only make awards those who they feel will most benefit from the experience of attending the conference. All award winners have to produce a written report on their return.

Presenting at the North American Neuro-Ophthalmology Society 2019 (NANOS) Annual Meeting in March:



**Dr Michael Gilhooley
of Merton College, Oxford**

"Melanopsin: targeted ectopic expression for woptogenetic visual restoration".

Many congratulations to Dr Gilhooley for winning a NANOS Award for this paper, voted as Best Abstract by a Resident.

Presenting at the Joint Meeting of the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery and American Society of Ophthalmic Administrators in May:



**Dr Mukhtar Bizrah
of Western Eye Hospital, London**

"Intracameral Phenylephrine to arrest intraoperative intraocular bleeding"

Presenting at the Royal College of Ophthalmologists' Annual Congress in May:



**Dr Peng Yong Sim,
of Western Eye Hospital
and Charing Cross Hospital,
London**

"National survey of the management of eye emergencies in accident and emergency departments by junior doctors: has anything changed over the past 16 years?"

Presenting at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) Conference in April:



**Dr Ishani Barai
of Imperial College Healthcare
NHS Trust, London**

"Characterising retinal microglia: a novel three-dimensional spatial statistics approach".



**Dr Liying Low,
Fight for Sight Clinical Fellow
at the University of Birmingham**

"Nanopore sequencing for rapid diagnosis of microbial keratitis".



**Dr Mital Shah,
University of Oxford**

"Investigating the clinical use of adaptive optics scanning laser ophthalmoscopy in patients with Stargardt disease"



CHARITABLE WORK

SUN SHINES ON TRELOAR'S

An abundance of sunshine and smiling faces greeted the Lord Mayor and guests on Wednesday 27th March as Treloar students and staff welcomed The Rt Hon the Lord Mayor of London, Alderman Mr Peter Estlin, and The Lady Mayoress, Mrs Lindy Estlin, to the campus in Holybourne. Accompanying the Lord Mayor were Sheriffs Vincent Keaveny and The Hon Liz Green, as well as Masters and Prime Wardens of 50 Livery Companies. With over 100 attendees, including the Master and Mistress of the Spectacle Makers' Company, this was a hugely welcome and successful visit.

Treloar's provides education, care, therapy, medical support and independence training to young people with complex physical disabilities from all over the UK and overseas. Some of the original funding for a Vision Impairment adviser was given by The Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers' Charity and the specialist orthoptist, Pretty Jetwani, is a Liveryman of our Company.

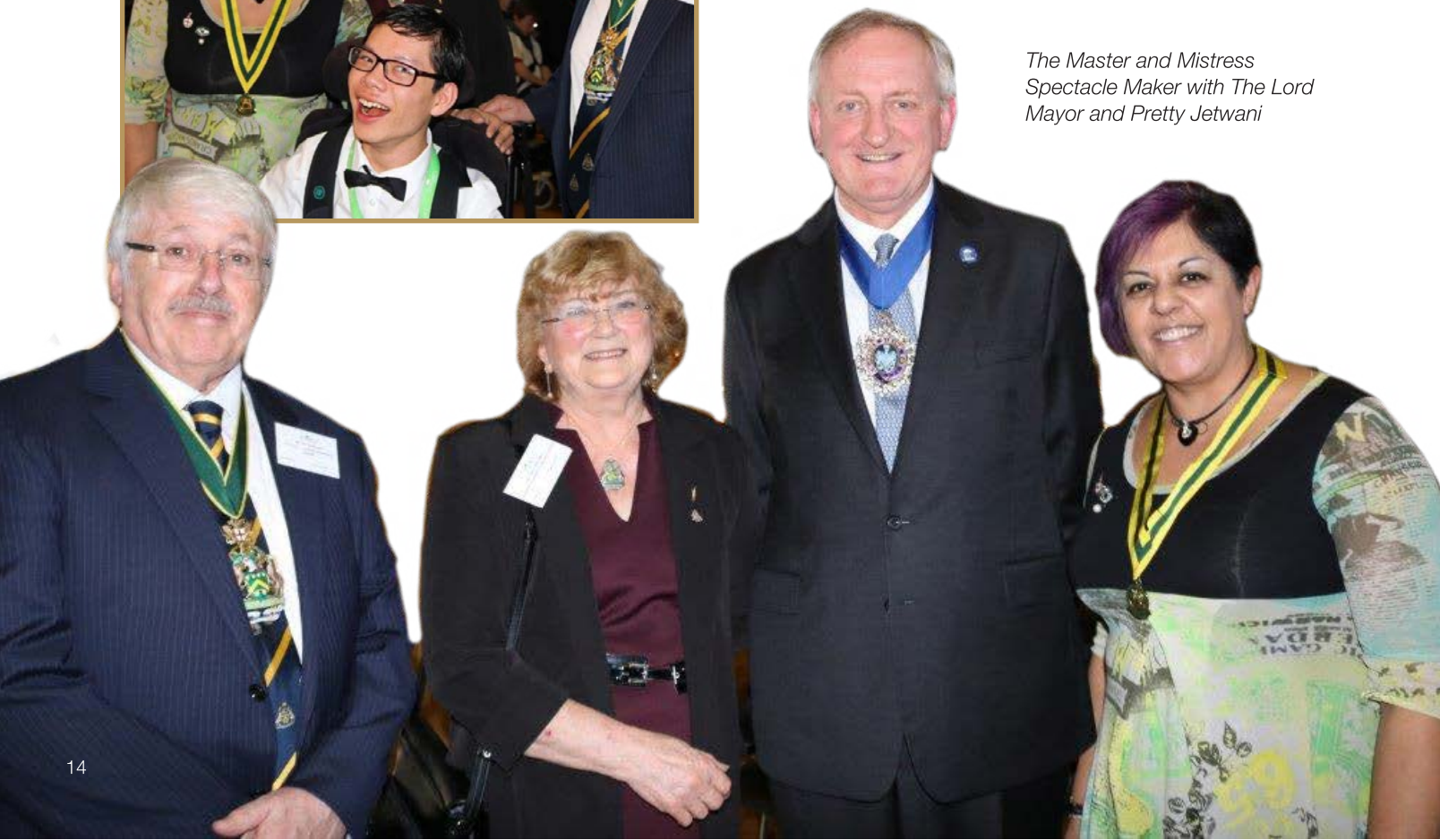
This annual event is an opportunity to celebrate the founding of the school in 1908 by the then Lord Mayor Sir William Purdie Treloar, and to thank those attending for their support. Visitors were given the opportunity to tour the campus and were able to visit classes in session, the specialist therapy rooms and the residential accommodation provided on the campus.

After lunch, patrons and guests were treated to a screening of "The Story of Treloar's" a film produced by Treloar's students. The film documented the founding of Treloar's and how Sir William used his connections within the Livery movement to make his dream a reality. The day finished with a musical performance of Pachelbel's Canon in D by the Treloar Open Orchestra.

The Master Spectacle Maker, John McGregor, commented "This was my second visit to Treloar's and it was just as inspirational as the first time. We were very impressed by the way technology is being employed to the students' advantage but most of all by the incredible application and devotion of the staff. Staff like Pretty make a positive contribution every day to the lives of these students".



With Leo Carstensen, a member of the Treloar Open Orchestra



The Master and Mistress Spectacle Maker with The Lord Mayor and Pretty Jetwani



THE SPECTACLE MAKERS' CHARITY

It is a great thing that there is a direct link in the Spectacle Makers' Company between having fun and helping others. One way in which this happens is the gathering up of any "roundings" from the cost of Spectacle Makers' Society events. Once there is a reasonable sum, the proceeds are donated to help the Company's charitable purposes. In December, Society Chairman Sue Haig-Brown presented a cheque for £4,000 to the Chairman of the Charity, Court Assistant Dr Natalie Briggs.



Sue Haig-Brown presents the Society's cheque to Dr Natalie Briggs

At the same event, Dr Briggs made a presentation to Goalball UK Chairman, John Grosvenor and CEO, Mark Winder, as part of the 3-year commitment to help fund more Goalball clubs in London and, from there, to help expand the sport in less privileged areas of the country. Despite Mark's wide experience in sports, charity and education management, he had never before realised the scope of charitable work done by Livery Companies. He is now a Freeman of our Company.

The association between WCSM and Goalball UK has delivered benefits to both sides. We have been able to see in action the inspiration given to vision impaired children and adults through sport and more people have become aware of the role Livery Companies play in supporting charities.

Goalball was invented in 1946 by Austrian, Hanz Lorenzen, and German Sepp Reindle, in an effort to help in the rehabilitation of blinded war veterans. It is now recognised as an international Paralympic sport. The Inaugural London Goalball Cup was held in June and the Spectacle Makers were thanked by all participants and supporters for their help this year.



Winchester on their way to winning the Junior Cup

The Charity's grants to other organisations helping vision impaired people have also continued. In the last year, the Charity made awards to 9 different charities working in the UK and overseas, ranging from funding for eye health training in difficult and remote areas to touch tours bringing to life performances at the ballet and opera.

Is now a good time to review your charitable giving? All new Liverymen are asked to make a commitment to give regularly - an important principle of all Livery Companies - and many people set up standing orders, but just don't get round to reviewing that regular donation. A donation of £10 per month is equivalent to just one regular take-away coffee a week (in most areas of the country). If you would like to discuss your charitable contribution or set up a new standing order, please contact the Office on 020 7236 2932 and we will be delighted to help. All enquiries are treated confidentially.



BCPB Project in Tanzania - red reflex testing



THE SPECTACLE MAKERS' SOCIETY

FUN FOR FREEMEN AND LIVERYMEN

WILTON'S MUSIC HALL

Following the Court Luncheon on 11th December the Society organised a group outing to see Wilton's Music Halls' production of "The Box of Delights", a play based on a children's book by John Masefield. 34 Freeman and Liverymen ventured out to London's oldest music hall, refreshing themselves with more fantastic food and wine before the production, which had some quite scary moments!



MAIL RAIL

The London Postal Museum opened a couple of years ago and so many Spectacle Makers sought to cast away their January blues on the Mail Rail that we had to run three separate trips. It was amazing to be taken back in time to where it all began and watch how mail found its way all over London (much more efficiently than today's collection and delivery service to Apothecaries' Hall!) We had excellent guides and the highlight was travelling underground in the old mail train. The taller people amongst us could identify with letters being folded into slightly too small envelopes as they were sitting with their knees under their chins.



First Class passengers



The Society Chairman and team at the Postal Museum

HOUSEHOLD CAVALRY MUSEUM

In February, 26 Spectacle Makers visited the Household Cavalry Museum. Stars of the show were some of the magnificent black horses used for ceremonial occasions and guarding at Horseguards' Parade. We were fortunate too to witness the Changing of the Guard.



On Horseguards Parade

BBC MEDIA CITY TOUR

Salford has changed a lot in the last 10 years and now boasts a wonderful waterfront complex of museums, galleries and restaurants with the BBC right at its centre. From children's TV to sport and the BBC Breakfast sofa, it's all here and it was a beautiful sunny day as 22 of us enjoyed a tour of BBC MediaCityUK in Salford Quays.

We took a peek behind the scenes and walked in the footsteps of some of our favourite celebrities!

Our well-informed and friendly tour guides, David and Matt, entertained and surprised us as we walked through the Radio 6 studios and told us how radio actually works. In the CBeebies Studios Les Hubbard, Martin Keys, Sue Haig-Brown, Joyce Gatoff and Alan Foster read an amusing radio play and Janet Hanley created the sound effects, all to critical acclaim. There were new Spectacle Maker hosts for BBC Breakfast too!



A Hopeful start to the day



Radio play



Janet Hanley in action



Salford Canal View 2019

MEDIEVAL WINE WALK

On 8th April, 32 of us met at the Guildhall for a Medieval Wine Tour with historian Dr Matthew Green. Dr Green really cheered us up with the news that the Black Death in 1348/9 halved the population of London to 40,000, with bodies being layered in burial pits. Cheapside, the widest road in the medieval City, was a hub of activity with frequent jousts, until the traders succeeded in having them stopped because of the damage they caused.

Medieval life might well have been nasty, brutish and short but there were some compensations. We stopped in three places to taste wines from today with flavours similar to medieval wine, much of which came in barrels from the Aquitaine region of France. Gentry even produced their own wine from vineyards in London as the weather was relatively warm. There were about 350 inns, and harsh penalties were imposed on those who sold bad wine. We had no such problems and finished the tour at the Northbank Bar where we enjoyed a fine (21st Century) lunch.



Sampling wine with Dr Matthew Green



Medieval Wine Tour

PORTMEIRION

There was a return to the North in mid-May, to North Wales in fact, for a special Spectacle Makers' weekend in Portmeirion. With Gaynor Foulkes-Taylor on hand to translate, we were in good hands and what a fabulous weekend we had in the Italianate village created and built by William Clough-Ellis.

For those who remember the 1960's TV series called "The Prisoner," starring Patrick McGoughan, it was filmed here and they still have a special souvenir shop and a "Prisoner" convention every year.

Saturday saw us taking a trip up Wales's highest mountain, Snowdon. Not being intrepid mountaineers, we took the diesel train from Llanberis station and the scenery was magnificent.... until we started the serious climb and the mist came rolling in. Even with the best lenses in the world, no one could see a thing but the camaraderie was fantastic.

When the train arrived, some of our party did actually queue the last few yards to climb to the actual pinnacle; others were content simply with a cup of tea in the cafe before descending through the mist again – at least we do have such beautiful mist in Wales!



Snowdon steam railway



MODERN OR CLASSIC ? – SPECTACLE MAKING CLASS

by Pretty Jetwani and John Hudson



Pretty measures up

Frames, made the traditional way....modern or classic?

Which would suit us and how would we measure up as craftsmen, having had no previous experience? And what exactly would we be doing on a Friday night in a basement in King's Cross?

We jumped at the chance to create a completely unique spectacle frame with skilled assistance and under the watchful eyes of the team at Cubitts, in

a spectacle making class organised specially for the Spectacle Makers' Society. Bespoke spectacle making is a speciality of Cubitts and their passion for educating others really came across, not to mention their extreme patience and a lot of good humour.

Before we started, our homework was to submit our measurements and provide a choice of frame style and colour. Even that was a challenge for some but an ingenious website link enabled us to try frames online and view the front and side profiles by using the camera on our computers.

As we entered the shop, we were greeted by the familiar faces of The Clerk and The Society Chairman, Sue Haig-Brown and there were new introductions to make too in a small but very friendly group of Freeman and Liverymen.

We were given an enthusiastic talk about the history of spectacles by Freeman Tom Broughton and Charlie Ingham. They reminded us that, often, made-to-measure and bespoke spectacles are crucial aids to those not able to wear standard frames because of facial disfigurements or asymmetry.

Health and safety is always with us, so we duly signed our declarations of workshop etiquette and were then led down to the basement workshop. There lay an array of craftsman's tools and a small workbench for each of us. School woodwork and metalwork was never this exciting!





The class in action

As we only had two hours available, our chosen frames had already been etched into acetate for us. Step by step, guided by the expert staff Matt Havercroft and Romain Caillaud, we carefully sawed, filed and bevelled our individual frames by hand including the process, remembered by one or two former students of a certain generation, of “bumping the bridge”.

The experience was surprisingly informative, enjoyable and therapeutic. For some of us who had never thought they were creative, there were surprises in store. Who knew that the Renter Warden would turn quite so wonderfully from mastery of accounting policies to precision filing and milling?

We look forward to showing them our new frames to our friends, families and colleagues and will be able to proudly say that, at least in a small way, and for a short time, we have truly been “Spectacle Makers”.



Rounding off the edges

Tuition for Joanne Abbot from Charlie Ingham



THE LOST MASTER

by Colin Eldridge

I know it's not easy to lose a Master - they tend to have gowns on with flashy chains - but it happens. John Hart got stuck in the lift in Guildhall during the 350th celebrations, and we lost a Master going to Cutlers' Hall, Sheffield. But I'm going back nearly 400 years and he wasn't so much lost as never found.

Perhaps I should explain. If you look in our records we weren't even sure the name of the first Master, was it Gregory or Gregorie and who was he? As he came to us, together with Thomas Fisher, a Warden and Francis Best, via the Charter, it was assumed that they were perhaps royal appointments or of some other distinguished background. Perhaps Gregory was being awarded with a "monopoly" as was a custom of the time. Searches were made amongst the courtiers of Charles I, Members of Parliament and citizens of London. The problem being all along that if we found a Gregory or a Fisher, how could we tie them to the Spectacle Makers?

I had rather given up the quest until Adrian Finch, who has been doing some work on the Clockmakers Company, emailed the Clerk to say "Do you know that your first Master, Edward Gregory, was a Freeman of the Goldsmiths' Company?" No we didn't. Sensation in Apothecaries' Hall!

The facts still needed double checking so, having approached the Goldsmiths' Company, the position appears to be as follows. An Edward Gregory, whose Master was James Duhamwell and whose father was Jerom Gregorie, Yeoman of Kineson(?), Oxfordshire, was admitted to the Freedom of the Goldsmiths' Company in 1606, after an 8 year apprenticeship. There is no record of his occupation or location. Gregory took a number of apprentices, but the one who is of particular interest to us is Samuel Blaksley, for when his apprenticeship is recorded on the 25th September, 1611, Gregory is described as "spectaclemaker". None of his other apprentices are known to us as spectacle makers, but Francis Perkins, 30th April, 1630, came from Shepshed, already known to be a hot bed of spectacle makers.

There are other connections for when Edward Merson, another of Gregory's apprentices, is made Free of the Goldsmiths, after Gregory's death in 1631, his service is testified by Gregory's widow, Martha. When Edward Gregory's son, Jeremy, comes to be admitted in 1647, the witnesses are "John Alte Spectaclemaker in Paules Chayne and Thomas Copeland Spectaclemaker Sermon Lane" both well known to us. Lastly when a William Bailey, the last of Gregory's apprentices, is admitted to the Freedom in 1650, his service "was testified by Martha Alte, late wife and executrix of Edward Gregory", ie Martha, having lost husband Edward, had moved straight on to the chap we assume to have been his Upper Warden, Robert Alte. That's what you call keeping it in the trade!

It's also interesting to note that Martha is herself listed as a Master in some of the apprenticeship records. (The information from the Goldsmiths' Company comes from the "Mitchell Merry Goldsmiths' Database 2016".) Whilst the foregoing is not absolutely definitive in itself there must be a very strong possibility that Edward Gregory of the Goldsmiths' Company should be considered as our first Master. The links between the Goldsmiths, the Spectacle Makers and the Clock Makers appear to become closer with each new digitisation of historic records and manuscripts.

For further confirmation, whilst checking if any of Gregory's apprentices were spectacle makers, I found myself looking through the *"Middlesex Sessions of the Peace and Gaol Delivery for 1615"*, not so much because I was expecting spectacle makers to be natural law breakers but because they are a treasure trove for contemporary background.

I came across the following: "...for Thomas Fysher (Fisher) *spectaclemaker* and William Hudson, *taylor*, both of the same (of St. Clement Danes) for striking and wounding John Thomas of St. Giles in the Fields, *drayman* and of William Wase of St. Clement Danes, *taylor*, for the said John for abusing and reviling George Etheridge (Eldridge) and Thomas Johnson, two of the constables of the Liberty of the Duchy of Lancaster, in the execution of his Majesty's service". Fisher is a fairly common name, but I think it reasonable to assume that this is the Thomas Fisher referred to in our Charter. The fact that he was involved in some kind of fracas with one of my no doubt distinguished ancestors (the brackets round the name are in the original report), can be overlooked on this occasion.

From the foregoing it would appear that Gregory and Fisher are spectacle makers and are probably named in the Charter for no better reason than because a Master and Wardens needed naming in such a document. It may also be because they were not in the Brewers' Company as were the other originals. That just leaves Francis Best to find and it seems likely that he will prove to be a spectacle maker as well.

It must be remembered that at this time, there were very few spectacle makers in London, or indeed in the country. The initial company was very small and insignificant and owed its existence to the enthusiasm of a handful of men rather than a national movement. The Livery and ensuing City fame were 200 years away but it somehow seems right that our Company should have been founded by members of the trade or craft rather than as a Royal pawn or political bauble.



GREGORIE OR ALT(E)?

by Helen Perkins

As my esteemed predecessor, the 22nd Clerk, explains in the previous article, it was indeed something of a sensation when apprenticeship records came to light indicating that Edward Gregorie was, in fact, a Master Goldsmith. For many years, Gregorie Dinners have been held in cities outside London using his name, but without knowing very much at all about him. Even at the last Gregorie Dinner in 2016, when our Guest Speaker was a 17th Century specialist, she could provide us with no substantial clues.

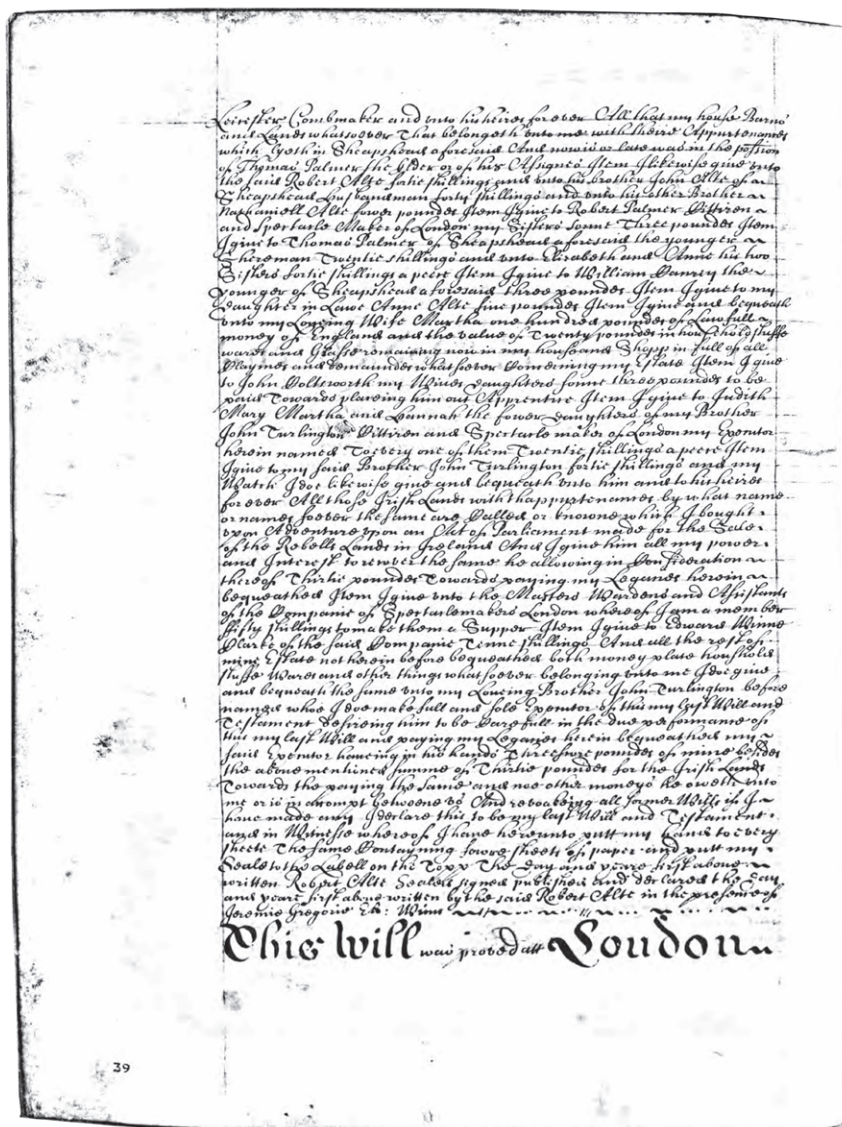
Yet now, more is becoming clear. Edward Gregorie, as we have heard, was apprenticed to a Master Goldsmith, James Duhamwell and Duhamwell himself is described as "Spectacle Maker" in the baptism record for his son Leonard at St Andrew's, Holborn, in 1615. The early days of the spectacle making trade in London are perhaps even earlier than we thought.

And we can see that this was a certainly close-connected group. After his death in 1630, the will of "Edward Gregory, Cittizen and Goldsmith of London" (sic) was overseen by Robert Alt (or Alte). Robert Alt was the first named of the petitioners

for incorporation of a Spectacle Makers' Company in 1628, one of the first Wardens and the most likely successor to Edward Gregory as Master. We also now know that on 22 January 1634, at the church of St Dunstan-in-the-West, the widowed Martha Gregory married Robert Alt.

Robert Alt, Citizen and Spectacle Maker, died in October 1655; Martha in 1661. Both were buried in the churchyard of St Ann, Blackfriars, built on part of the site of the Black Friars' monastery and, coincidentally but most fittingly, only steps away from the Spectacle Makers' current home at Apothecaries' Hall.

So perhaps the time has now come to rename the Gregorie Dinners? In Gregorie's will there is no mention of spectacle making at all but Alt made specific provision for his colleagues, bequeathing "unto the Master, Wardens and Assistants of the Companie of Spectacle Makers of London whereof I am a member, fifty shillings to make them a Supper". He knew that 17th Century Spectacle Makers would appreciate his legacy – and remember him fondly over food, wine and fellowship.





EVENTS CALENDAR

2019

Monday 1st July	Freemen's Drinks Party at Old Bailey (SOLD OUT)
Thursday 16th July	Society visit to The Royal College of Ophthalmologists
Monday 5th August	Society visit to Goodwood House
Friday 6th-Sunday 8th September	Master's Weekend, Scottish Borders
Thursday 12th September	Four Liveries Lecture at Painters' Hall (Spectacle Makers hosting)
Sunday 29th September	Freemens' Sheep Drive across London Bridge (organised by The Woolmen's Charity)
Wednesday 2nd October (am) (5pm)	Common Hall – election of the Lord Mayor at Guildhall (Liverymen only) Evensong Service of Thanksgiving, Remembrance & Rededication at St Bride's, Fleet Street followed by Installation Dinner at 6.15 for 6.45pm at Apothecaries' Hall. Carriages 9.15pm.
Thursday 17th October	Presentation of Certificates and Admission Ceremony at Apothecaries' Hall
Wednesday 20th November	Help Musicians UK Festival of St Cecilia Service at St Paul's Cathedral
Tuesday 10th December	Court & Court Luncheon at Apothecaries' Hall

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR YOUR DIARIES:

A clash with the date for this year's Election of the Lord Mayor means that we have had to move our Annual Service, including the Declarations of the new Master and Wardens, to the evening of Wednesday 2 October 2019. There will be no Court Luncheon on this day. Instead, there will be a service of Evensong at 5pm at St Bride's Fleet Street, followed by an Installation Dinner at Apothecaries' Hall, for which the dress code will be business dress. Dinner will finish by 9.15pm. This is for one year only and we will revert to the usual pattern of a morning service, followed by Court luncheon, in 2020. The invitation to apply for seats at the Service and Installation Dinner will be sent to all Liverymen by email in July.

2020

Saturday 25th January	"Eye to Eye" session at 100% Optical, ExCel Centre, Docklands
Tuesday 10th March	Court & Court Luncheon at Apothecaries' Hall
Friday 27th March	United Guilds Service at St Paul's Cathedral
Monday 20th April	Livery Dinner at Plaisterers' Hall
Thursday 4th June	Court & Court Luncheon at Apothecaries' Hall
Wednesday 24th June	Common Hall – election of Sheriffs at Guildhall
Sunday 27th September	Freemens' Sheep Drive across London Bridge
Monday 28th September	Common Hall – election of the Lord Mayor at Guildhall
Wednesday 30th September	Court, followed by the annual Service of Thanksgiving, Remembrance and Rededication in St Bride's, and then the Court Luncheon back at Apothecaries' Hall
Saturday 14th November	The Lord Mayor's Show – Spectacle Makers will be on Parade!
Tuesday 8th December	Court & Court Luncheon at Apothecaries' Hall

REMINDER

Invitations to Company and Society events are now sent out only by email. Please help us to keep in touch with you by contacting the office (by telephone, email or letter) to let us know if your email or postal address or contact telephone numbers change.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Editor would like to thank all those who have contributed to this edition - including Mark Witter and Clive Hanley for their photos of Company and Society events.