

ISSUE 39



SUMMER 2026

THE FAN MAKER

THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FAN MAKERS



THE MASTER PRESENTING HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN WITH
THE CORONATION FAN

MASTER - DINESH NAIDU
FREE WARDEN - CHRISTOPHER TURNER
FOREIGN WARDEN - RICHARD JEFFERY



CLERK@FANMAKERS.COM



@WORSHIPFULCOMPANYOFFANMAKERS



FUTURE EVENTS

22ND JULY 2026

"UNLOCKING THE COMPANY" - OUR CHARITIES

28TH JULY 2026

CHAMPAGNE TASTING - SUMMER SOCIAL

10TH - 13TH SEPTEMBER 2026

MASTER'S WEEKEND IN CHAMPAGNE

21ST SEPTEMBER 2026

"UNLOCKING THE COMPANY" - THE HISTORY OF OUR LIVERY COMPANY AND OUR CHARTER

23RD SEPTEMBER 2026

"UNLOCKING THE COMPANY" - OUR SPORTS SOCIETIES

CONTENTS

CLERKS CORNER	3
MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER	4
FAN FOCUS.....	6
MEET THE COURT.....	7
PRESENTATION OF THE CORONATION FAN....	8
CHARITY NEWS.....	10
NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM.....	11
LUNCH AT GROCERS' HALL.....	12
FAN MAKING AT HIGHGROVE.....	13
THE SHOOTING SOCIETY.....	14
UNLOCKING THE COMPANY.....	15
NEW MEMBERS.....	16
OBITUARIES.....	18



CLERK'S CORNER

I would like to add my personal welcome to everyone reading this Summer newsletter. I have been honoured to attend many events with the Master representing the Company, including a very special Banquet at Guildhall celebrating the Honourable Company of Master Mariners 100th anniversary. The receiving line really did include their Master, HRH The Duke of Edinburgh who shook the hand of every one of the 550 guests attending. Another unusual dinner was with the Society of Apothecaries on the hottest day of the year so far, when the whole dinner was moved outside into their courtyard!



Diary Dates: Plans are well underway for the 2027/8 calendar and many of the key dates are already on the website. Please do make a note of these and we hope to see you. Many other events are planned in addition to the more formal dinners and lunches, so there should be something for everyone. I would urge you to book early, as we are under increasing pressure from venues to confirm final numbers 2 weeks before events.

Finally, if you would like to order a Fan Makers pin badge, cufflinks, tie, scarf, playing cards or many other items, do look at the shop section in the resources section of the members website and email me to place an order.



WhatsApp Group: If you have a partner or regular guest, please encourage them to sign up to the WhatsApp group so they can also keep up to date with our events and activities. All members and their regular guests are encouraged to sign up, It is not a general chat site, so you will not be bombarded with intrusive messages, just the occasional post from the Clerk or Committees.

I would like to wish you a very happy summer break. The office will be open throughout July, but closed for much of August so there may be a delay to my response in this time.

BY CLAIRE CHITTY



MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER

The pace of engagements quickened considerably in May and June, with a full programme that showcased both the traditions and the vitality of the Livery. The first of these was a particularly memorable occasion.

On 7th May, I had the honour of presenting Honorary Liveryman Her Majesty The Queen with the Coronation fan, specially commissioned by the Company, at the Fan Museum. The occasion attracted national media coverage, significantly raising the Company's public profile.



The following day, accompanied by my Consort, Valerie, I attended The King's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace, alongside some seven thousand other guests, all in their finery. The weather was perfect, as was the musical accompaniment provided by two military bands.

A few days later, we attended a concert at Mercers' Hall, where the duo George & The Dragon treated us to music in the style of Noël Coward, Cole Porter, and Flanders and Swann. For me, however, the highlight was their rendition of "The Liveries of London", in which they managed to name all 114 Livery Companies to the music of Gilbert & Sullivan! A recording of the performance can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/-8Ikv6DLgIk?si=NtPZrfkYyf4Cf8tS>





MESSAGE FROM THE MASTER CONT'D

Together with Assistant Gary Blaker, the Fan Makers' Military Liaison Officer, and Wing Cdr Mark Coram, I attended the National Memorial Arboretum for the unveiling of the RAF's II(AC) Squadron Memorial, at which three additional Battle Honours were awarded to the Squadron: Afghanistan 2001–2014, Iraq 2003–2011 and Libya 2011.

The Fan Makers have a longstanding relationship with The Cutlers in Hallamshire, and I was generously invited to attend a White Tie Feast at their stunning hall in Sheffield. The guest speaker was no less than Andrew Bailey, Governor of the Bank of England.

As we moved into June, our Clerk and I were delighted to attend the Freedom of the City of London ceremony for Danielle Hayes. It was a memorable occasion, full of many ancient traditions.

The Summer Livery Dinner, held at Barber-Surgeons' Hall on a very wet June evening, was nevertheless well attended. Although the weather sadly denied us the use of the Hall's lovely terrace, it did nothing to dampen the spirits of those present. Our guest speaker, Greg Moore, Deputy Town Clerk of the City of London, gave a speech that was both highly informative and wonderfully amusing. My modest limerick of thanks, however, could not quite compete with his wit.

The deputy town clerk, taking notes,
Served up his own witty quips and quotes,
With laughter and wine,
The evening was fine,
Our guest speaker received top votes!

BY DINESH NAIDU



FAN FOCUS



WOODLAND GATHERING

We all must be looking forward to some warm summer months, and this fan painted with a woodland party might bring them nearer. The fan is a French one dating to the early 18th Century and is of the type known as a brise fan. It is composed of a carefully placed group of identically shaped ivory sticks: each stick is painted to be part of an overall scene which becomes visible when all of them are linked together. The linking ribbon at the outer edge of the fan is of green silk. Family and friends seem to be enjoying themselves, although the girl in the centre does not appreciate the attention of the jester dancing a jig behind her. To the left, a woman in a cap is drawn to the group by a young man and to the right, companions sit at a table being laid with food. The chinoiserie scene on the sticks below the painting is of companions at a table too. The reverse is painted with lovers seated beside a lake watching people being rowed in a boat across the water.

Often a scene of this type is called a Fête Champêtre. This term refers to an outdoor party, festival or gathering with music, dancing, entertainment or feasting that was popular in France in the 18th Century.

BY ANNE-MARIE BENSON



MEET THE COURT



Jackie was introduced to the Company in 2016 by Assistant Bob Gatehouse. Initially, due to work and voluntary commitments, her involvement was limited to attending dinners and the occasional charitable visit. With an affinity for numbers and having trained as a Chartered Accountant, Jackie spent many years working in the financial services sector in the City of London alongside weekends sailing and racing in the Solent.

Following the death of her husband David in 2022, Jackie found the Company a safe, friendly and supportive forum in the City and began to increase her involvement. Her wish to get involved, her financial background and the start of planning what to do in the future led to her joining the Court of Assistants in 2025 and appointment as Deputy Comptroller. She is now 'learning the ropes' as under-study to the current Comptroller, Judith Mosely.

Not being someone to sit around idle and with retirement at the end of January 2026, an approach by Carole Plant, Chair of the Livery Committee, led Jackie to take on additional responsibility as Lead of the Company's Livery Committee Membership portfolio.

Following her marriage to Michael in April 2026 she is now based primarily in Cowes. From there she is able to juggle her livery commitments alongside nautical based volunteering and, with competitive racing no longer on the agenda, they both actively maintain their shared sailing connections from the shore.

BY JACKIE RILEY



PRESENTATION OF THE CORONATION FAN



The Worshipful Company of Fan Makers has a long tradition of marking important Royal occasions with the presentation of a commemorative fan.

The tradition began in 1897, when Queen Victoria received a fan for her Diamond Jubilee, followed by Queen Alexandra at her Coronation in 1902. More recently, Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester accepted a fan to mark the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.

Following the Coronation in 2023, a new fan was commissioned by Past Master Peter Dove and designed by artist Paul Benney, who was also painting the official Coronation portrait in which the fan appears. Its design features flora and fauna that are especially meaningful to Their Majesties. The fan was made by Frederick Gay, France's Master Fan Maker, and is a token of The Fan Makers' loyal congratulations on the Coronation.

In February 2024, at Clarence House, the Queen was made an Honorary Liveryman of the Company during a special ceremony attended by Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester.



PRESENTATION OF THE CORONATION FAN CONT'D



On 7th May, the Queen visited The Fan Museum to be presented with this new fan by the Master, Dinesh Naidu.

As an Honorary Liveryman, The Queen will be aware that the Company traces its origins to the late seventeenth century, having received its Royal Charter in 1709.

Today, while it remains proud custodian of a distinctive craft tradition, its purpose is also charitable: to support education, heritage skills, and community projects.



A fan is at once practical and ceremonial: it speaks of craftsmanship, patience, and artistry, yet it is also meant to be used and enjoyed.

In that spirit, we offered this gift not merely as an object, but as a symbol of continuity; of traditions carefully handed on, and of public service carried forward with dignity and warmth.

PHOTO CREDIT TO NIKI GORICK
PHOTOGRAPHY LTD.

BY CAROLE PLANT



CHARITY NEWS

MENTORING AT HEADWAY EAST

For several years I have been mentoring the Human Resources Manager, Eve Edy, at Headway East. This has involved monthly and sometimes more frequent conversations on areas of work including employment law, employee relations, policy or problem solving with which she would like some guidance as Eve is in a stand-alone role. Mentoring is a developmental relationship to enable a mentee to grow personally and professionally. The opportunity has been extremely rewarding from both sides, and we are both enjoying the experience which is mainly carried out online, but we will soon be meeting in person. If you are interested in offering your professional background or skills as a mentor in any area, please get in touch. L.mcgarry@btinternet.com



CITY HARVEST



I also wanted to promote an excellent opportunity for Liverymen to volunteer their time. City Harvest is an award-winning London-based food redistribution charity. Founded in 2014, it rescues surplus, edible food and delivers it, free, to hundreds of local community food programmes. Fan Makers took part in the three-year Livery Food Initiative which officially concluded in 2025, but opportunities to volunteer and to support City Harvest are still very much on-going. We will be returning on Thursday, 26th November, 2026 for the day, and if you are interested, please sign up when it becomes available on the events site. For further information please contact me, Lin McGarry L.mcgarry@btinternet.com

BY LIN MCGARRY



NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM



On 19th May, I visited the National Memorial Arboretum together with the Master. We were invited by our RAF affiliate II (AC) Squadron to join them at the unveiling of new battle honours on their memorial known as the Shiny Two Memorial.

I had not been to the National Memorial Arboretum before and I would thoroughly recommend a visit. It is a truly vast and humbling place,

containing over 400 different memorials, to those who have served in the armed services and associated civilian organisations.

We started the day with coffee and this gave us the opportunity to catch up with some of the present and past members of the squadron. This included the current Wing Commander, Mark Coram and Liveryman Steve Cockram who was the Commanding Officer between 2003 and 2005 and who has now returned to the UK after living in Virginia for the past few years whilst working for NATO.

The ceremony involved revealing three new Battle Honours on the plinth of the II (AC) Squadron's memorial. They were for action in Afghanistan 2001-2014, Iraq 2003-2011, and Libya in 2011. It gave us all a chance to pause and think about how important the work carried out by II Squadron is and of course they have been in action recently in the Middle East, dealing with an ever more uncertain world.

Upon returning to the pavilion building, we were invited to lunch which was an upbeat and enjoyable occasion and we both felt very privileged to have been asked to attend this special event. Our thanks as ever go to II (AC) Squadron and we hope to see members of the squadron at Company events later on in the year.

BY GARY BLAKER



LUNCH AT GROCERS' HALL



The Master, Dinesh Naidu, welcomed members of The Worshipful Company of Fan Makers, and guests, to a luncheon held at The Grocers Hall on Thursday, 23rd April. The guest speaker was Brigadier Greville Bibby, who regaled those present with an account of the fascinating history of the five Grocers Halls established since their foundation in 1345. The Company was granted a Royal Charter by King Henry VI of England, whilst that of our Company was granted in 1709 by Queen Anne.

This lunch was well attended and it is to be hoped that more lunches will be organised to enable those who prefer to travel during the day to attend.

The portrait of King Charles II behind The Master, is in recognition of the King, who accepted the unique position of the Sovereign Mastership of the Grocers' Company in 1660.

The Worshipful Company of Fan Makers is very proud to have Her Majesty The Queen as an Honorary Liveryman - an interesting royal link.



BY CAROLE PLANT



FAN MAKING AT HIGHGROVE



In May, the 3rd Fan Making Workshop was held at Highgrove. Beautiful sunshine greeted us as we welcomed the participants to our third fan making workshop at The King's Foundation Workshops at Barley Court where we were allocated a workshop with an outdoor space under a marquee making a very pleasant working environment.

After an introduction to the Company and fans, Sophia Mace gave an introduction to the day after which Helen Marr talked through her display of fans and books to introduce the different types and to give an idea of the range of materials and designs used on fans.

Participants then worked on their own designs and practised the layout before starting to paint their fan leaves and decorate their fan sticks. The designs varied from traditional figures, to flowers to abstract designs resembling raku pottery techniques.

On the second day, the fan leaves were finished following which Sophia Mace showed everyone how to use a pleater to fold their fans. Leaves were stuck on sticks and finishing touches added with the result that several beautiful fans emerged.

Thanks again to the King's Foundation for allowing us to run this course and make use of the lovely gardens in Barley Court.



BY HELEN MARR



THE SHOOTING SOCIETY



Inter-Livery Charity Clay Shoot, West London Shooting School — 14th May 2026

This year, the Shooting Society took a bold step forward and entered not one, but two teams into the prestigious Inter-Livery Charity Clay Shoot at the West London Shooting School in Northolt. Surrounded by fellow Liverymen from across the City, it was a fantastic day of camaraderie, competition, and the occasional clay that somehow managed to escape unscathed.

As for the results — well, let's just say we're firmly of the view that it's the taking part that counts; and we took part magnificently.

Beyond the friendly rivalry, the day was a wonderful reminder of what the Shooting Society is all about: great company, a shared passion, and the unique pleasure of representing the Fan Makers in the wider Livery community.

We have a full season of shooting days planned, and we'd love to see more members of the Company join us. Whether you're a seasoned shot or have never pulled a trigger in your life, you'll be made very welcome.



THE SHOOTING SOCIETY CONT'D



The Master surveys the stand with the steely concentration of a man who has absolutely not just missed the last three clays.



To find out more about upcoming days and stay in the loop, scan the QR code below to join our WhatsApp group — we promise it's mostly shooting chat and only occasionally an argument about the best cartridge.

BY RICHARD LOVELL

UNLOCKING THE COMPANY

On 27th May, the Company hosted the first webinar in a series, entitled 'Unlock the Company'. Master Dinesh Naidu and Immediate Past Master Antony Robson had an online presentation on the duties of a Livery Master. This was intended and designed to throw light upon the roles and responsibilities of an Assistant to the Court as well as the historical mysteries of the Company and its charitable purposes.

I was glad to attend and found the format convenient and easy to connect. The webinar was informative. It was a combination of serious and light-hearted conversation between them both. Afterwards in Q&A, Liveryman Ruth Carter asked some interesting questions.

We look forward to the next webinars on charities on the Wednesday, 22nd July, at 6pm.

BY CAROLYN HUTCHINGS



NEW MEMBERS

NEW FREEMAN

Commander (RN) James Coleman



James is well known to the Fan Makers as the Commanding Officer of 846 Naval Air Squadron. He has recently handed over that role and will be working in London for the next few years. In his most recent post as Commanding Officer 846 Naval Air Squadron, he was responsible for the aviation delivery to UK Maritime Counter Terrorism and was the Training Provider for all Commando Helicopter Force Merlin Pilots, Aircrewmen and Engineers.

Benjamin Onley-Williams

Ben is a serving Petty Officer (Supply Chain) with the Royal Navy. He was on board Westminster when a number of Fan Makers made a trip to Gibraltar and subsequently attended a dinner at Saddlers' Hall. On leaving HMS Westminster, he was deployed again to Bahrain working at the international airport moving freight through customs and supporting the British Embassy, Royal Marines and various other RN and US Navy units in the region. He then went to RAF Marham to join the newly created 809 NAS. His work will shortly bring him to be London based.





NEW MEMBERS

Christopher 'Chris' Wright

Chris is a member of CIBSE, and is currently head of energy, sustainability and decarbonisation at Avison Young. After a number of roles in property, engineering and project delivery, he became head of energy and engineering for the global Tesco business prior to moving to Avison Young to establish his current role. He spent time with Balfour Beatty working on the Chelsea & Westminster Hospital site.



NEW LIVERYMEN



Commodore Tim Green CB CBE

Tim was made an Honorary Freeman in 2010 when serving as the Commanding Officer of HMS Westminster. Now a Regional Commander for the Royal Navy, we are honoured he has decided to join us. Tim and his wife Helen are looking forward to being able to enjoy more Fan Maker events now that he is based in London at HMS President.

Danielle Hayes

Danielle joined the Company as a Freeman in 2024. Having started with Little Barn Owls in 2016 as a nursery manager, she has developed her career to become their finance business partner. She is a member of the events portfolio of the Livery Committee, and is looking forward to being more involved in Company events.





OBITUARY



LIVERYMAN DON LOVE

Liveryman Don Love passed away in February 2026 in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria where he had spent the previous 20 winters. Summers were spent in London.

Born in Greenwich, London, Don became a Fan Maker in 1991 and soon joined the Livery Committee where he enthusiastically arranged many social events, the most memorable being a successful trip to the Champagne region of France in October 1996. At the time, some surprise was expressed by other committee members that Don together with the Company Clerk Ian Green and one other liveryman might need such a lengthy reconnaissance visit to Reims to make arrangements for this visit!

He supported many Fan Maker events with his wife Liz, even in recent years when he continued to attend, often with Liz, at least one dinner a year when resident at their Rotherhithe home.

Don spent his career in the Railway Industry working for British Rail. He was also associated at a senior level with the Channel Tunnel project, including being seconded from British Rail to the TransManche Link (TML) consortium of contractors taking charge of the design of the tunnel's road and rail systems, control, signalling, rolling stock and locomotive design, before becoming operations assistant to TML's commissioning director, preparing for the handover to Eurotunnel. Don had previously served as area manager at Liverpool Street Station. He retired from British Rail in 1992 but continued his work with TML.

Don enjoyed opera, jazz and food and, as was apparent from the numerous tributes made at the recent gathering in his memory at The Parcel Yard, King's Cross Railway Station, not necessarily in that order.

Don is survived by Liz, his four children, five grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

BY JOHN HUGHES



OBITUARY

PAST MASTER LAWRENCE TURNER



Past Master Lawrence Turner died on Tuesday, 14th April, 2026, at the age of 97.

Lawrence was born in Birmingham in January 1929. He attended Moseley Grammar School, began his working life as an apprentice chemical analyst, and during National Service in the RAF trained as a radar specialist.

While working, he continued his studies at night school at Aston in electronic engineering and qualified as a Chartered Engineer.

After an early career with GEC and now married to Jean and with 3 children at private school, in 1964, he had the bravery to found Static Systems — from modest beginnings famously in an old toilet block on a disused airfield — and built it into a substantial and enduring enterprise. Lawrence took real pride in building a British company whose products were sold around the world. When the business was eventually sold in 2020, it mattered to him that it became part of Halma — another British success story with global reach.

Beyond his own business, he gave distinguished service to his profession, including serving as President of the Institute of Health Care, Engineering and Estate Management. One of his proudest moments was receiving the OBE from her Majesty, for services to Industry.

He was deeply committed to the City, membership of the Athenaeum Club and the livery movement, serving both this Company and the Worshipful Company of Engineers. Lawrence joined the Fan Makers in 1986 and served as Master in 2005.

He leaves a great legacy: in engineering, in business, in public service, in family life, and in this Company. But above all, he leaves the memory of a man of real warmth, charm, and generosity of spirit.

He is survived by his children, Chris, Adrian and Sue.

RICHARD JEFFERY



THE NEWSLETTER TEAM WITH COURT ASSISTANTS
JUDITH MOSELEY AND JACKIE RILEY, AND NEW
LIVERYMAN DANIELLE HAYES AT THE COURT ONLY
DINNER AT INNHOLDERS' HALL

NEWSLETTER TEAM: LIVERYMAN ELIZABETH HAYES
AND FREEMAN EMILY BRAY



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