

JOURNAL OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF STATIONERS AND NEWSPAPER MAKERS

# Stationers' Hall in Lockdown: Splendid Isolation



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**STOP PRESS:**  
HALL MODERNISATION  
GIVEN GO-AHEAD

# Vision 350 Project gets the go-ahead



By the Clerk, **William Alden** MBE DL

The Court of the Stationers' Company took an historic, once-in-a-generation, decision on 9 September that the transformational Vision 350 project should be started in November this year. At a cost of £7.5 million, this will be the most important refurbishment of Stationers' Hall, since it was rebuilt after the Great Fire of London, almost 350 years ago.

The Vision 350 Steering Group, chaired by Past Master **Nigel Stapleton**, produced a detailed report setting out the reasons for its recommendation that the Company act now. Somewhat ironically, given the damage that the COVID-19 virus has wreaked on the UK economy and the short-term fortunes of the Company, the repercussions of the virus have presented three significant reasons for why we should delay no longer.

- Firstly, conservation building contractors are in a hurry to rebuild their order books; so in this highly competitive environment, the tenders received have come in substantially lower than had been first expected and the timetable for the work is three months shorter.
- Secondly, the opportunity costs of closing the Hall will be around £500,000 lower because the Hall will be closed at a time when demand for hospitality space is extremely depressed and for a shorter period.
- Thirdly, although it is extremely hard to predict what life will be like post-COVID, more accessible and more flexible venues, with modern air circulation systems, are certain to be attractive for hospitality and business purposes.

These arguments, ratified by both the Finance and Resources and the Master and Wardens' committees, convinced the Court that the Company should underwrite the balance of funds required for the project. Thanks to the loyalty of our membership, almost £ 1 million has been raised in membership loan notes. This contribution, combined with incredibly generous donations to, and funds already held by, the Stationers' Hall Charity is enough to enable the Company to bridge the gap from its reserves. Of course, in these uncertain times, we need to minimise any drop in reserves; so, the fundraising campaign will continue and the closure date of the loan-note scheme has been extended

into October. Now the decision to go ahead has been taken and those whom we have approached can see the work taking place we expect the momentum of support to build further.

The Company's focus must now shift to the management of the project. The Court has set up a new committee, the Hall Project Executive Committee, under Court Assistant **Paul Wilson**. Reporting to the new Clerk Designate (see page 3), the Company has engaged Richard Carter as our Client Representative to help liaise with the contractor, the architect and the various consultants. The Clerk Designate is drawing up a plan for relocating the Company's offices and finding alternative venues for Company events whilst the Hall is closed.

Company life is certainly going to be different in 2021. However, we are determined to make it as rewarding as it has always been. Thanks to a series of online meetings, events and webinars, we have kept the membership engaged throughout the lockdown and, once COVID-19 restrictions have been relaxed, we will follow this up by developing an exciting programme of events for members at a number of other Livery Halls. It will be wonderful to be back enjoying each other's

company and sampling the delights of different Halls that we might not otherwise visit. At the end of the process, Stationers' Hall will be transformed. Whilst retaining its unique 17C historic grandeur, it will have disabled access to all the main function rooms, additional smaller and more flexible space available for hire, a second entrance and modern COVID-friendly air cooling. We are confident that this will make it better for members and for clients and be reflected in rising income year-on-year, which will rebuild our reserves and strengthen the Company.

Commenting on this momentous decision, the Master said "This landmark project will transform Stationers' Hall by making it significantly more accessible, comfortable and safe. These three benefits will have a major impact on the future of our Hall, making it truly fit for purpose in the 21st century."

The great strength of the Stationers' Company over the centuries has been its ability to adapt to change and to embrace changing technology and working practices in the communications and content industries. How fitting it is that Stationers' Hall should play its part in this process of continuous development. ❖



Artist's impression of Stationers' Hall exterior: new second entrance on the garden

# A New Clerk Designate

It has been common knowledge for some time that the current Clerk will be retiring at the end of March 2021; however, we have had to wait to know who was going to succeed him. Until now!

**The Company is delighted to announce that the Deputy Clerk, Giles Fagan, has been chosen as the current Clerk's successor and appointed Clerk Designate with effect from September 1st. We know that this will be a very popular appointment with the membership of the Company, the staff at Stationers' Hall and in the wider City of London.**

Giles was appointed after a robust selection process chaired by Past Master **Christopher**

**McKane**, with the interview panel led by the IPM, **Trevor Fenwick**.

Giles is exceptionally well-qualified for the role of Clerk to the Stationers' Company. He has worked for the Company for the past 10 years, first as a consultant looking at the hidden nooks and crannies in Stationer's Hall, then full time as Events Manager and for the last eight years as Deputy Clerk. For the last four years, Giles has focused on Hall development, successfully managing the creation of the Tokefield Centre and leading



the planning for the Vision 350 project, which is just about to start (see page 2). So, no one knows better how the Company works and what the role of our Clerk involves. Giles also knows the City of London well. As Deputy Clerk, he has been our representative within the Fellowship of Clerks and, through a family connection, he is a Freeman of the Tin Plate Workers' alias Wire Workers' Company.

Having started his career as an actor, Giles has been a stalwart at the Livery Committee's themed dinners. Who can forget his performance with Court Assistant **Tony Mash** and the Treasurer, **Ian Leggett**, in a Stationers' version of John Cleese's 'Class System' sketch (pictured left)?

We are certain that all Stationers will join the Master, Wardens and Court of Assistants in congratulating Giles on his appointment and wishing him the very best of success in his new role. ❖



# The Master's weekly video conversations with Stationers



Since his installation, the Master has recorded a video conversation with a different Stationer every week. All members have then been notified of the link to the recording, which is available on **YouTube** and on the Members' Notice Board on the Company website ([www.stationers.org](http://www.stationers.org)).

**Do have a look – you'll be amazed to hear the stories of your fellow members!** At the time of writing we have listened to a younger member undertaking further training to help his pandemic-hit career, an expert in book-binding, the

Chairman of the Shine School Media Awards Committee, a former Vietnam war correspondent, the Chairman of the Governors at SCWA and a former British Council worker in Minsk... You'll have to watch the videos to work out who is who!

## Wise, intrepid, caring and committed

From these conversations we are discovering what a wise, intrepid, caring and committed group of people is the Stationers'

Company. That's just what the Master expected to demonstrate when he decided to undertake this exercise.

There's an exciting future programme of conversations planned so why not make it a weekly habit and tune in? Each conversation is only 10-15 minutes long. ❖

Tuesday 7 July 2020

# A Most Uncommon Hall



By Liveryman **Michael Binyon OBE**

There has never been a Common Hall like it. As the Master, **Trevor Fenwick**, gowned in solitary splendour in the Hall, solemnly installed the Rt Revd Dr **Stephen Platten** as his successor, he took off his badge of office and handed it over.

Magically it travelled more than 300 miles through the ether to Berwick-on-Tweed, where Dr Platten received it, donned it round his neck and was applauded by the 126 members remotely attending Common Hall in living rooms and kitchens across the country. The new Under and Upper Wardens similarly repeated their oaths of office, the Rev Canon Dr **Alison Joyce**, the Company's Chaplain, said a prayer and all the ancient ritual was properly observed. Liverymen and Freemen raised their glasses, handily waiting beside their video screens, and drank toasts in celebration.

The Zoom installation ceremony was the climax of four months of virtual activity by the Stationers' Company. As the outgoing Master reported, the ancient Hall has been shut and all social activities and gatherings have ceased. But the Company has continued to function without a break. Court and committee meetings have been held remotely. Bursary and membership interviews have been arranged to distribute awards and bring in new members. And the all-important plans for the rebuilding and refurbishment of the Hall have been agreed.

Past Master **Nigel Stapleton** gave a report on these plans – the ambitious Vision 350 project to modernise the infrastructure, install a lift for disability access, refurbish the kitchens and offices, provide air cooling for the Hall and make the venue more attractive and versatile for future bookings. The project was due to go out to tender by the end of July, with the expectation that work would begin as soon as possible and the Hall would be closed for next year. The only unexpected advantage of Covid-19 was the eagerness of contractors for the work, with tenders coming in about 30 per cent below what had been previously expected

Past Master **Helen Esmonde** also gave a report on the Company's continuing and active involvement in education, especially

the very successful annual apprenticeship event. The first was held at Ravensbourne and attracted so much interest and participation that a year later the Lord Mayor invited the Stationers' Company to lead a second, larger apprenticeship fair at Guildhall.

The Master noted that, while the main activities of the company had continued, everyone had missed the fellowship of the dinners, functions and industry events – “the absence of old-fashioned physical gatherings”. This, he said, would be a challenge in the future, as remote meetings, although well attended and efficient, lacked the “chemistry and inclusivity” that he said was so important to Liverymen.

He paid particular tribute to the Clerk, as this was William Alden's last Common Hall in that role. He thanked William for his “huge support” and said he had kept the Company alive with good grace. He also thanked all the staff and caterers. “We have proved so many times in the past that we can adapt to new circumstances,” he said. Since the time centuries ago when stationers put down their pens and cranked up the printing presses, they had embraced new techniques and technology and would continue to do so.

Only two questions, submitted in advance, were put to the chairmen of the various committees who presented their usual annual reports in the accompanying Common Hall programme. One asked whether the Company should be worried about the much larger operating deficit, around £400,000, that appeared in this year's budget. The Treasurer, Court Assistant **Ian Leggett**, noted that in fact £200,000 of that sum was a donation to the Stationers' Hall Charity, to contribute to Vision 350. He also noted that other sums were exceptional one-off payments or were otherwise accountable. Indeed, he added with a



statistical flourish, when all this was discounted, the Company had almost broken even over the past year.

It was an upbeat and cheerful note to end a difficult year. And Dr Platten, the first Master to have attended the old Stationers' School in north London, outlined his optimism for the coming year, especially in the field of education, where he said the Company would continue to play a vital role, lockdown or no lockdown. “I am the first virtual Master,” he told his Zoom screen. “But all virtuality will end here.” ❖

## Unusual Times

*Our cover picture of Stationers' Hall, splendid but empty, illustrates the Covid-19 crisis for our Company: commercial and convivial.*

*The rest of this unusual issue of Stationers' News shows how the Livery has fought back, with energy and imagination, to serve fellow members and their industries.*

*The Company's slogans for our troubled times are:*

- **Locked down but not out**
- **Rising to the Challenge**

**Hon. Editor**



## Profile

# Former Stationers' Company's School pupil and Bishop becomes Master



By Liveryman **Di Cresswell**

The Rt Revd Dr **Stephen Platten** is the new Master of the Stationers' Company. He isn't hung up about his title but he says folk often mis-spell his surname. So, printers, don't turn him into a Platen and for the more convivial in our Livery, he is not a Platter. Rumour has it that at school he was known as Platypus! What marks out this Master is that he is the first former pupil of the Stationers' Company's School and certainly the first clergyman, the former Bishop of Wakefield.

He became a Court Assistant of the Stationers' Company just 15 years ago, egged on by his former headmaster Robert Baynes and by one-time Lord Mayor, Emeritus Past Master Sir **Clive Martin OBE**. They knew of his publishing record. He was a director of theological publisher SCM Press and was instrumental in its acquisition by Hymns Ancient and Modern, a company he went on to chair from 2013 to 2020. He has written eight theological books as well as contributing to and editing a great many more.

His wife Rossie also encouraged Stephen to become a Stationer and rekindle friendships with other pupils who had attended the Stationers' Company's School (which closed down in 1983). It was founded in the 19th century for the boys of poor Stationers in Bolt Court, adjacent to Dr Johnson's House, although it was a voluntary aided grammar school in Hornsey when Stephen attended. "I don't think she expected me to get as enthusiastically involved as I have become," he laughs.

As a Court Assistant, his roles included chairing the Foundation Funding Committee and also Chair of the Hall and Heritage Committee so he is a good choice to lead us into the next era of Hall development. This will result in a more accessible and comfortable venue for Liverymen and generate a potentially greater income from

events with the ability to rent out more than one space at any one time. "We are not like other Livery companies with huge hereditary endowments. We need to make money to keep going. This development is essential, not just a nice thing to have," he says.

As someone who benefited from a Stationers' sponsored school life, education is important to him. After undertaking a graduate trainee scheme with Shell International, he took a degree in Education before recognising his vocation, becoming ordained and taking his first post as a curate in Oxford. Rossie was a special needs teacher and both of them have visited Stationers' Crown Woods Academy, the current school sponsored by the Stationers' Company, to see how they might further cement the Livery-school relationship.

## Church of England's 'Foreign Secretary'

Stephen has had a remarkable career in the Church of England. During his time as Secretary for Ecumenical Affairs (dubbed the Church of England's Foreign Secretary) to the then Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie, he was Guestmaster of the Nikaeon Club at Lambeth Palace, which laid on dinners for visiting dignitaries. So he knows a thing or two about entertainment and he, Rossie and his younger son Gregory all enjoy the entertainments and the camaraderie at Stationers' Hall.

Today, Stephen and Rossie live in retirement in Berwick-on-Tweed, England's northernmost town. That, coupled with his international travel for the Church, makes him keen to make the Stationers' Company more outward-looking and not so London-centric. He thinks the Company has gone a long way towards lowering the average age

and attracting women professionals but he feels more could still be done in terms of ethnic diversity.

Other things you should know about Stephen are that

- he sat in the House of Lords as one of the Lords Spiritual for six years from 2009 and he still has dining rights there, even though he has retired from sitting on the benches
- both his children followed him into the Church. Aidan is Precentor at Norwich Cathedral and Gregory is Canon Chancellor at Lichfield Cathedral and a Freeman of the Stationers' Company. "The life of a clergyman is unusual, which may mean that family life is rather odd, so I believe that they have been ordained despite me being a clergyman! The church, even though it is often pilloried, sees its role as working for a better world," says Stephen.
- he has become an expert in Facetime, Microsoft Teams and Zoom meetings during the coronavirus crisis
- his hobbies include reading, walking, Northumberland, Land Rovers and music. ❖

# VALEDICTORY

## A GLASS HALF FULL

Immediate Past Master **Trevor Fenwick** reviews his year in office.

I must apologise.

In July 2019 I was introduced to you with the words:

**"Stationers welcome 'Master of Disruption'.** *The new Master of the Stationers' Company, Trevor Fenwick, will be like no other. He has been described by colleagues as the 'Chief Disruption Officer' and glories in these descriptions because he is someone who likes to break the mould, to challenge accepted norms and to look beyond the obvious."*

Well, you can't say you were not warned.

The year started so well... The day after my installation I hosted the ever-energetic Young Stationers at their annual awards dinner. Then there were a few weeks of meetings, some visits to other liveries and a trip to Leeds to support our Northern brethren, before the summer recess. The year got truly underway in September with the Autumn Livery Dinner. As day follows night the meetings, the lunches, the visits and the dinners rolled on, and on and on. Everything every illustrious Past Master had told me was true, "watch your girth, take the fruit not the dessert".

The autumn months are always the busiest in the Stationers' calendar and this past year was no exception. One memorable event was the London Open House when over 1,500 members of the public passed through the Hall learning about our history and enjoying the exhibition of printing, bookbinding and papermaking skills. One guest having taken advantage of the refreshments in the garden and having made use of our 'facilities', remarked that they were the best of the many venues they had visited. High praise indeed.

Music has always been at the heart of the Company and I was proud to host the new Lord Mayor only a week after his installation at the St Cecilia's gala concert given by the Hanover Band. This was to have been the launch concert for a series of all nine of Beethoven's symphonies to have been played in different livery halls in celebration of the 250th anniversary of his birth.

The Beethoven project, now on hold, was led by the Stationers and is but one example of

the full and active role we play in the life and work of the City of London. Past Master **Helen Esmonde's** leadership of the 'Apprenticeship in the City' initiative has brought us great respect from our peers in the city. So much of what we do reflects our ambition of staying relevant and finding purpose in supporting our communities. At the Academy we welcomed Wayne Barnett as the new Principal and celebrated the outstanding performance of the students at the annual prize giving at the Hall, at which Liveryman **Robert Pooley** presented a new and magnificent sword to the outstanding SCWA Royal Marine Cadet of the year.

In January the Stationers' ski team decamped to the Alps. Ten of us plus supporters joined

over 160 skiers from 35 other Liveries. The fierce but friendly competition encourages fellowship of our young and not so young members and raises funds for charity. Despite the lack of a podium finish, we are climbing the league table. As you would expect this was celebrated with hearty mountain fayre and generous flagons of ale and wine.

The good intentions outlined in my installation speech were to maintain our energy and ambition in embracing change, to stay relevant to our industries by encouraging education in literacy and vocational and academic skills and to

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*Inter-livery après-ski*

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broaden our horizons by supporting diversity and inclusivity and to help those in need in our local communities. I supported the Lord Mayor's charities which this year were targeted at culture and mental health as well as the young and vulnerable members of our neighbouring boroughs. I invited Sam Wells, the Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields to preach at the Cakes and Ale service and his thoughtful and challenging sermon reflected what I see as the essential core values of a Livery Company.

The role of the Stationers' Company in the life and community of the City requires us to have a fully functioning, flexible-use venue to support both our finances and our role as one of the leading venues in the City of London. Whether we are hosting inter-livery lunches after a service at St Paul's Cathedral, holding a concert, a lecture or a wedding reception we need a modernised, flexible Hall to support our purpose and in doing so to support our finances.

Much of my time this year has been spent supporting the unbelievably hard-working members of the committees involved with Vision 350. As I roamed the City enjoying the hospitality of other liveries, I realised how privileged and fortunate we Stationers are to have the Hall. It is our greatest asset. However the market has become more complex and competitive and to maintain our competitive advantage in a post-COVID world I am convinced we need to press ahead and modernise the Hall to provide more practical and comfortable use in line with the expectations of our members, our industries and our clients. Other Liveries are already doing this, so must we if we are to thrive and maintain our position and reputation in the City and further afield.

No review of my year can ignore the COVID word. On March the 11th we held our Annual Lecture given by Honorary Freeman and Liveryman Dr **Vint Cerf**. It was one of the best and most relevant lectures of recent years and reinforced the importance in the digital world of text. Little did we know that it was also the last public event at the Hall before we speedily, and in anticipation of government advice, suspended use of the Hall for public gatherings. **As the impact of the virus escalated and we went into Lockdown we adapted, as befits a Company which champions the digital economy, with great speed. Virtual video meetings were soon followed by virtual events and discussions. We did exactly what every successful membership organisation should do and**



*Trevor Fenwick and Lord Mayor at St Cecilia concert*

### **found ways to maintain communication and engagement with our members.**

Which brings me to my weekly Master's Letter. 16 letters and over 13,000 words. What started as a brief update on the situation and impact on Stationers' life developed into a wide ranging assault on your inboxes, ranging from lucid expositions by members of the impact on their businesses to random expositions on charcoal making, the lives of the saints and a filmmaker of dubious taste. Writing them kept me relatively sane and helped me make sense of the gyrations in the advice on how to prevent the spread of the virus.

We are a busy company. We are well respected by our peers. We do not rest on our laurels; we seek new members from our industries and as those industries evolve so do we. We support inclusion, diversity and social mobility through our support for literacy, apprenticeships, the academy and the post graduate bursaries. Above all we remain engaged and relevant to the Communications and Content sector.

As I write this in early August 2020 there is news of the need for slowing the easing of social distancing restrictions in certain circumstances. The impact of the virus continues and will continue to affect our lives for a while yet.

In the last four months I have missed the pleasure of representing the Company at many events and am sad not to have to have welcomed you to the Charter Dinner and, one of my particular favourite events, the Richard Johnson 'Bubble' Service. It has however been a good year which, as so often in times of challenge and disruption, has brought out the best in all of us and I thank in particular the Upper and Under Wardens for their support in what has truly been a 'Glass Half Full' year.

Nothing is more important than our health and welfare and I leave this review of my year with the cautionary words of that great observer and diarist of London life, Samuel Pepys, written in 1665 at the time of the Great Plague:

***'The Taverns are full of gadabouts making merry this eve.***

***And though I may press my face against the window like an urchin at a confectioner's I am tempted NOT by the sweetmeats within.***

***A dram in exchange for the pox is an ill bargain.'*** ❖

# The Stationers' Foundation during Lockdown



By Liveryman **Jackie Morgan**

Lockdown has had a major impact on education, with schools and universities closed and teachers and academics having to develop alternative ways of teaching at breakneck speed. So what of our own Foundation's initiatives to support education?

The Shine Awards, our bursary scheme and the Saturday Schools have all proceeded, albeit in new ways. Three key Foundation Trustees report:

## The Shine Awards: Liveryman Alison Strachan

2020 started as a year of great promise for the Shine awards, with 200 new schools attracted to the scheme as a result of Foundation sponsorship. With schools closed under lockdown, we nevertheless decided to press ahead. Schools were encouraged to enter their magazines as pdf files, podcasts and online entries, and the Awards Committee made a dispensation for those who were unable to finish them. The result was a very positive 27 entries, nine of which were new to the competition. All but three entries were digital and many, including winner of Best Magazine, were created after lockdown took place. The standard was extremely high and it was obvious that circumstances had enhanced creativity rather than dampened it.

The results as pictured below or can be viewed on the Shine website page <https://www.shine-schoolawards.org/shine-2020-winners/>

Being unable to hold a ceremony at Stationers' Hall, the Committee used Zoom to make the announcements, and created a YouTube video that was informal but effective. Feedback has been extremely positive with Head Teachers, teachers and pupils tweeting their excitement and approval. 'Ecstatic delirium' was how one teacher described the reactions of his team on hearing of their win.

We are creating framed letterpress certificates for each recipient of a Winner, Highly Commended or Rising Star award. The certificates, with names and categories filled in by a calligrapher, will be sent to the schools by post. The prizes this year will be work experience, visits or masterclass sessions with industry leaders; travel costs

for the teachers and pupils will be covered using the surplus funding we have and our Shine Scholar 2020 will be invited, in due course, to a Stationers' event with their teacher.

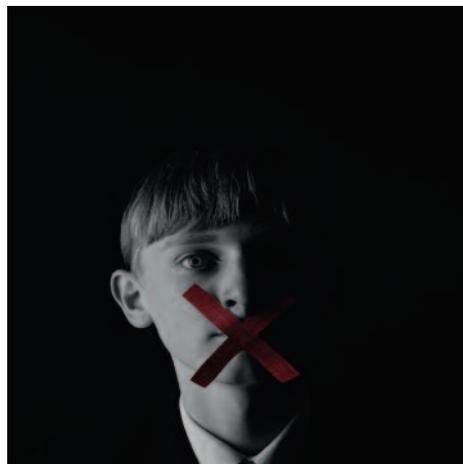
## Saturday Schools: Liveryman Ian Grant

In March, the 17 Saturday Schools run by Civitas had to make a swift transition to distance learning so that they were able to continue to provide high-impact literacy and numeracy teaching for six-to eleven-year-old children struggling to attain the reading or numeracy skills appropriate for their age. These included the two in Somers Town supported by the Stationers' Foundation.

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Best magazine cover:  
Bromsgrove School - 'Two Zero One'



Best photo: Fulston Manor School - Fulston News  
'Freedom of Speech' by Benjamin Sharp



Best cartoon: Kingsbridge Community College- Abridged  
'Political playing cards' by Jake Moses & James Potter

*Continued from page 8*

Although children are very adept at working digitally, the schools' management and teachers had to contend with significant challenges: very variable levels of digital equipment and broadband provision in poorer households; a lack of private or quiet space in the homes of many pupils; teaching a pupil when other family members and daily domestic activities are clearly in the background; and reading and reviewing written work.

However, the transition was managed and half of the pupils finished the spring term. During the summer term, the retention of pupils participating remotely increased from 50% to 72%, thanks largely to the persistence of one-to-one telephone contact with the families of the pupils, managed by one of the staff at Civitas. The rate of attendance of these pupils was 85%, which is both high and consistent with a normal school attendance rate.

This is a triumph for the teachers and the office staff – to reach families at all levels of

digital skill and facility and to keep the children engaged and productive takes great patience, determination, professionalism and good humour. All the teachers, who are trained volunteers receiving a modest fee for their services, have remained committed to the project and have indicated they will continue to do so for the next academic year.

In recent weeks, other funders have been cutting back their support because of the current economic situation and the number of schools will drop from 17 to 14 for the next academic year. We are delighted that the Stationers' Foundation is in a position to maintain its support for its two schools for the coming academic year.

## Liveryman Nick Brealey

This year's postgraduate applicants found their crucial last term abruptly shut down, any earnings from part-time work (usually in restaurants and shops) unavailable, and the

postgraduate year either starting late or online only. Despite all the disruption and uncertainty caused by the pandemic, the Bursaries scheme is going ahead smoothly with 26 candidates who have already been interviewed via Zoom. Winners have been chosen and the mentoring pairing is in progress. A further 4-6 candidates will be interviewed in September.

The quality of the students remains high. They are highly motivated and well-informed about the Stationers' Company, and we can be confident they need every penny of the £6,000 full Bursary. A major theme in the applications was diversity and I am pleased to say this is also reflected in the award winners with, for example, at least three BAME winners for ten courses so far.

With candidates' economic situation already badly affected by lockdown, and little prospect of improvement later in the year, the bursaries have been even more appreciated than usual. ❖

# VALEDICTORY Looking back, looking forward



By Court Assistant **Phil Ellaway**, outgoing Chairman of the Stationers' Foundation

The Stationers' Foundation has been a key part of my experience of the Company over the past six years, working with a group of talented, enthusiastic and energetic Trustees and co-opted members. Given my own background and interests, I don't think there could have been a better way to make a contribution to Company life.

What is there not to like about the Foundation? From our Saturday Schools that help young people improve their literacy and numeracy skills, to the SHINE School Media Awards; and from our support for Stationers' Crown Woods Academy to our Bursaries, Awards and Welfare Support – in each area the donations of time and money made by Company members have a material impact.

## Bursaries – inspiring stories

Our Bursaries, set up by Court Assistant **Sue Pandit**, have been particularly close to my

heart. The stories and ambitions we hear at interviews are so often moving and inspiring. What could be more relevant for a 21st Century Livery Company than helping build strong pathways and support for those seeking to enter and progress in our industries?

As I move on to chair the Marketing Advisory Committee, I'm also asking myself what it is we can do in future to help make our wonderful Company a 'must have' rather than a 'nice to have' as our industries continue to evolve, impacted by social and technological change. To my mind the Foundation and our work in education and training are important components of this.

## Mentoring – a clear win-win

Take mentoring as a concrete example. The work we do here today provides our members with opportunities to engage with, encourage and contribute to developing the

next generation of Stationers. And as it helps open doors for those early in their careers, it also makes new talent visible in our members' businesses and organisations – a clear win-win. We're a gregarious, inquisitive and creative lot, with an interest in the future as well as proud traditions from the past; so what's to stop us expanding this further, benefiting even more individual and corporate members?

Being a Foundation Trustee has never felt like a burden or obligation as everyone on our committee has played an active part in the decisions we've made and the relationships we build and maintain. I have to say I'm sad to be leaving a great team, though I hope to be able to continue to contribute from my new 'home' in the Marketing Advisory Committee, as the work of the Foundation continues to play a central part in the appeal of our Company to our current and future members. ❖

# Communications and Content Industries Sector Champions' Happy Hours



By Liveryman **Bettine Pellant**

You may remember my invitation, extended in the September 2019 issue of Stationers' News, to join a membership round table. My intention was to get to know the different sectors within the membership and identify the motivations and reasons for being a Stationer. Although there is much commonality between the different sectors, such as comradeship, the history of the Hall and charitable giving, some sectors have different reasons for joining.

Not only did I want to look at ways of attracting new members, but also learn from existing members what we can do to continue to engage and involve them, especially at this time when we cannot meet at the Hall.

The first meeting in November 2019 focused on Young Stationers, a vibrant and enthusiastic group. As this was pre-COVID we met over a glass of wine one evening. The discussion covered reasons for joining, the types of events that attracted them to the Hall and the barriers to attendance. One of the suggestions was around mentorship which I am delighted has been taken up by Court Assistant **Oliver Gadsby** (see below).

Unfortunately although this first meeting was successful, COVID-19 put plans for further get-togethers on hold. But as one door

closed another opened. The increased use of on-line meeting platforms such as Zoom has allowed us to continue, but with a slightly different focus. Although I am keen to better understand the similarities and/or the differences between the sectors, these new 'Sector Happy Hours' hosted by the Sector Champion allow relevant discussion in that particular sector.

To date we have had three 'Happy Hours' covering Archive, Library and Conservation; PR, Advertising, Marketing and Communications; and Magazine Publishing. Another three are scheduled for September onwards.

The discussions have varied within each group.

- During the PR, Advertising, Marketing and Communications 'Happy Hour', there was an interesting discussion about how PR has changed, partly as a result of the immediacy of social media. Everyone is a 'Brand' and comments made in haste can have a big effect.
- Two weeks later, at the Archive, Library and Conservation 'Happy Hour', there were suggestions on how to get more bursary applicants from a wider range of universities and possibly expanding work placements in the Stationers' Archive.

- The Magazine Publishing 'Happy Hour' discussed the changes in popularity of magazines, the difference between the trade and consumer publication audience as well as the emotional attraction of printed matter.

## Silver Lining

Every cloud has a silver lining and COVID-19 has thrown up opportunities that we did not realise were there. On-line meetings have allowed those who may not have previously visited the Hall regularly, to meet some of their peers and it has allowed me to meet Stationers who I probably would not have met under normal circumstances. I have also met some Members who live in America and there are plans to organise a 'Happy Hour' for mainland European Stationers. Although we would all prefer to be meeting in person in the wonderful Hall, these 'Happy Hours' have given members an opportunity to meet old friends, make new ones and in my case get a better understanding of the complexities of each sector.

**I would like to thank all the Sector Champions for their help and look forward to meeting more Stationers from different sectors in the coming months. ❖**

## MENTORING

– a message from Court Assistant **Oliver Gadsby**,  
Membership Committee Chairman



Dear Stationers

We are lucky to have a huge range of skills and experience amongst our membership. We are also fortunate to have a particularly active group of Young Stationers, who are finding many ways of enhancing the life of the Company.

An idea that has come up from the **Young Stationers** is the notion of **mentoring**, within our membership. Members – who may be amongst our Young Stationers, or beyond that group – may be looking for

some support and guidance, and would gladly receive it through dialogue with other Freemen and Liverymen.

Between us, we have a lot of experience of mentoring. Pupils at Stationers' Crown Woods Academy benefit from an active mentoring scheme, and so do many of our Bursary-winning students and apprentices. We now have the opportunity to offer a similar level of support to fellow Stationers.

We would like to initiate this new scheme from September this year – recognising that

it may well run through video links or phone calls in current circumstances. And so we would be very grateful if you would let the Office know if you are interested, either (a) to receive mentoring support or (b) to act as a mentor yourself.

We will then carefully match mentors and mentees and aim to set up programmes, which we would expect to run for up to nine months.

Many thanks, Oliver ❖

# Rising to the Challenge

Faced with the Covid-19 lockdown, the Stationers' Company responded with a lively series of 'webinars' (web seminars), tackling topics of concern to our members and their industry sectors.



Liveryman **Jonathan Grun** reports on three webinars

## 1 Business and 'pivoting'

Has the coronavirus crisis created a new generation of 'pivoters' – business leaders who seize the opportunity to dramatically change direction to keep their companies alive?

The idea that the devastating Covid-19 crisis could drive radical change was proposed by Court Assistant **Carol Tullo** OBE, industry committee chairman, during a Rising to the Challenge webinar that told the stories of four members of the Company who have been faced with the unprecedented challenges of the pandemic.

Carol said: "The new word that we are going to get used to is 'pivoting' – grabbing innovative opportunities to look at other ways of doing business.

"There is this feeling – probably slightly optimistic – that the pandemic is going to bring a wave of new innovation as we pivot to do different things. Necessity is the mother of invention."

## Stories of hard times – and innovation

The webinar brought stories of plunging sales and furloughed staff – but also shining examples of innovation.

For Freeman **Iain Bullock**, managing director of Renz (UK), Monday, 16 March heralded a week to remember.

On that day he came to Stationers' Hall to become a member of the Company – and

## Rising to the Challenge 1 – Speakers



*James Duckenfield  
CEO, Hobs Group*



*Dave Jones  
Group Marketing Director  
Premier Paper Group Ltd*



*Iain Bullock  
MD, Renz (UK) Ltd*

then spent the rest of the week preparing his business to work from home as the gravity of the crisis became apparent.

"By the following Monday – within a week – there was a complete sea change in the way the company worked," Iain said.

And within weeks the company fought back by starting to produce face shields. Soon the company had sold 200,000 good quality face shields at a time when the country was crying out for personal protective equipment.

Liveryman **James Duckenfield**, CEO of Hobs Group, said his company had also helped with the response to the Covid-19 crisis, including printing signage for the new emergency sites.

"We have helped to set up at least 35 new test centres and we have helped with Nightingale Hospitals," he said.

The company had produced a visor for the NHS, care homes and construction companies. And a 3D-printed valve had been developed to allow two patients to share one respirator in intensive care.

One positive from the crisis was the way his team had pulled together. "The inter-branch spirit that has built in the business has been really encouraging and lovely."

Corporate member Dave Jones, group marketing director of Premier Paper, reported that the crisis had led to sharply increased sales in some critical areas. The demand for social distancing in buildings had led to a huge demand for floor graphics.

Looking ahead, Dave suggested that permanent changes might result from the lessons learned as a result of the lockdown.

He asked: "Can we work differently? Can we have more people working from home?"

Is there a work-life balance that we can achieve by having more home working, rather than spending half your life in a car or on a train? What can you do differently, what can you do better?"

Liveryman **Tyler Carey**, who is based in the USA, also reported one positive lockdown trend that might be a pointer to the future. "Children's books sale are very much up," he said. ❖

## 2 Education and young readers

When children's book publisher Kate Wilson was cycling to work on March 18 she was worried that her young readers were becoming frightened about the looming coronavirus crisis.

By the time Kate arrived at the offices of Nosy Crow she had decided to publish an ebook explaining Covid-19 to a young audience.

At 8.22am Kate emailed Axel Scheffler, the world-renowned illustrator who has delighted millions of families with his pictures of the Gruffalo, and asked if he would collaborate on the project.

"By nine o'clock he came back and said he would," said Kate, adding: "We wanted to do it fast and we wanted to do it free."

The genesis of the book was a conversation with Kate's best friend Sarah, a headteacher in Tower Hamlets, who told her how children were very scared about the epidemic.

"She was talking about how challenging it was for the children in her school and for their parents to find ways to understand the coronavirus.

### Kids crying

"She had kids crying in the corridor, saying they were going to die. They had no real sense of it other than fear."

The book was published on the company's website on April 6 and it was also offered to publishers overseas on condition that it was a free publication.

It has now been downloaded more than 1.2 million times and has been translated into 60 languages.

Here is the ebook: <https://nosycrow.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Coronavirus-A-Book-for-Children.pdf>

Kate said: "It felt like a small thing that we could use our expertise to do. There was no financial gain, but I think it is a thing that has helped our staff to think about what our purpose is as a business."

## Rising to the Challenge 2 – Speakers



*Kate Wilson  
Nosy Crow*



*David Barker  
Chair of the Information  
Technologists' Education  
and Training Committee*



*Ben Mason  
Founder and CEO  
Online Platform  
Globalbridge*

Kate's initiative was one of three inspiring stories presented at the Company's second Rising to the Challenge webinar, which focused on how the pandemic has proved to be a catalyst for innovation – particularly to help young people.

Social entrepreneur David Barker, chair of the Information Technologists' education and training committee, described how an inspirational video he made about the challenges of Covid-19 has been viewed more than 270,000 times and has reached 50 countries. You can see it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vlwaE7JXr-c>

The video – Overcoming Crisis with an Entrepreneur's Mindset – was suggested by Canterbury Christ Church University, which felt that students graduating into a post-Covid world needed advice.

In it David draws on his own experiences of overcoming challenges, which started even before he left school.

He said: "I was told at 15 by my own careers adviser that if you're from a poor background you will never get into technology – give up now.

"Thankfully I didn't listen and I left school at 16, unemployed, rather than change my dream."

David added: "Everyone's got a dream. It may have been disrupted by Covid, but the dream's not gone, it's just that the route to get there might have changed."

And the response has been positive. "One person said they were sat in a dark place, thinking their life was destroyed, and this was exactly what they needed to hear."

Ben Mason, Founder and CEO of online platform globalbridge, a pioneering EdTech

platform connecting young people and education with employers and opportunity, has uploaded over 12,000 students to the platform in the last five weeks. The site is here: <https://www.myglobalbridge.com/>

Ben told webinar chairman Carol Tullo that the pandemic had shown up flaws in the education qualifications system.

"What Covid, and the cancellation of exams this summer has done, is actually to identify a key shortcoming in the system – of grades being the sole source of evidence of a young person's ability."

His platform gives young people the opportunity to create a digital profile that demonstrates their ability – and helps them compete with students from well-connected families.

"If I have had a rough start in life, if I am from a lower socio-economic background and my school doesn't do me any favours, how do I actually have the same links as a student whose parents might work in a great industry and who has got teachers who will make connections for them?"

Ben's platform is a hybrid mix of Facebook and LinkedIn for education.

He said: "It is giving students a digital multimedia profile to evidence their skills, talents, qualifications."

Carol Tullo said of the webinar: "The three personal stories reinforced the importance of support and help to young people, particularly the vulnerable or disadvantaged, who may feel they are a lost 2020 generation who have put their education on hold. Our speakers demonstrated that was far from the case." ❖

## 3 Technology and fun

Rachel Murphy's telephone rang at 9pm on a Sunday evening in mid-March, as the dark clouds of the Coronavirus crisis were gathering over the country.

The call was a plea for help with the government's digital response to the pandemic.

"We mobilised in 24 hours," Rachel, CEO at Difrent Group, told the Company's third Rising to the Challenge webinar.

The work produced by Rachel's teams has had a high profile direct impact on the Covid-19 fight-back.

Hundreds of thousands of emergency volunteers have been recruited using one of the products, the NHS 111 helpline has been able to bring retired clinicians back to work and a system for testing medical staff who were isolating at home meant some key workers could go back to the front line.

Rachel told the webinar chaired by Carol Tullo: "Lots of businesses plan for eventualities but I never conceived of something like this happening in my lifetime.

"I have spent twenty years doing turn-around stuff in organisations where things are normally on fire, so I like it dramatic – but this is a different league."

Rachel was struck by how the different suppliers called in to help all freely collaborated in the emergency. "One of my observations is that suppliers leave their badge at the door – it is the drive around delivering the outcome that is the most important part."

Rachel acknowledged that mistakes had been made – and referred to efforts to build the now-controversial track and trace app. "The approach around trying to build a world class solution was a dangerous one because the NHS is a provider of health services, it is not a tech start-up."

An alternative approach would have been to use a tried and tested system already in use elsewhere.

Neil Westwood, senior associate at lawyers Simmons & Simmons, also spoke of how the crisis had confronted lawyers with challenges understanding the legal implications of tracing applications.

## Rising to the Challenge 3 – Speakers



Neil Westwood  
Senior Associate  
Simmons & Simmons



Rachel Murphy  
CEO, Difrent Group



Tom Bryant  
Founder of TFB

"Not many lawyers knew about contact tracing before the pandemic emerged – there is not much hard law that frames how these applications can operate," he said.

"The pandemic has been horrible in many ways but the way in which technology has helped combat the pandemic – or not – has been fascinating."

There have been concerns about the privacy of the tracing app but Neil said: "There are arguments to say we can be a little more relaxed – when we think about how people use commercial digital services that will involve the collection of vastly greater data in a less controlled fashion."

Millions of people have been forced to embrace new technology as a result of the lockdown – and that has included Zoom, which has been used by the Company to host webinars.

Tom Bryant, founder of TFB and a specialist in digital transformation and digital culture, said: "You can imagine a worldwide case study on how we are culturally and psychologically adopting new tools."

He added: "So often we focus on the technology itself but the technology is just a tool. We don't need to become the slaves of technology."

## Have fun!

**And he urged people trying a new application to have fun experimenting.**

"Just try, experiment, push your comfort zone, try these new tools and really get the benefit.

"Sometimes it's going to go well, sometimes it's not – but you will learn. You are not going to break the Internet, you are not going to break Zoom – the more you do that the more confidence you will have." ❖



# The Stationers' Company Archives zoom with the times



By Freeman **Richard Gilpin**

The 2020 Stationers' Company Archive Evening, in the diary for April, was an early casualty of the coronavirus pandemic. In place of a convivial, cultural gathering in the Hall, the event was transferred to mid-July and transformed into a virtual encounter, using Zoom.

The new Master, the Right Revd Dr **Stephen Platten**, in his first Company engagement, introduced the proceedings and recalled the importance of Clerk George Tokefield's actions in 1666 when saving the early archives from the flames of the Great Fire. Without his intervention, these records would not have been available for preservation by digitisation. He observed that the Company had always been distinguished by its willingness to accept innovation, and then handed over to another distinguished Liveryman, Dr **Gordon Johnson**.

Gordon echoed the Master in saying that the Stationers, with their tradition of moving with the times, were using digital technology tonight in presenting aspects of the daily life of the Company, which through the centuries had successfully navigated its way against an ever-changing legislative background. On its journey it had become a socially concerned entity, welcoming foreigners, providing loans to members and making grants to widows.

## Social responsibility

The first speaker was Karen Waring, whose talk on the establishment and development of the Stationers' Company made great use of Archive sources, in particular Register A and Liber B (one of the Archive's most remarkable documents). This enabled her to trace the progress of two very different Stationers, **Thomas Dawson** and **Abell Jeffes**, from apprenticeship onwards. The records showed that in the late 16th and early 17th centuries the former had enjoyed a successful career in the Company, progressing from apprentice to Master, while the latter had led a rather less distinguished life.

Entries in Liber B for 1592 record an occasion when Abell 'contemptuously proceeded in printing a book without authority' and 'used violence to our officer'. Despite this behaviour, for which he was jailed, when he and his household were significantly affected by the plague of 1593 (which killed about 15,000 in London), the Company was compassionate enough to give him financial assistance. On 1 March 1595, the Court decided 'Abell Jeffes to have 2s. given him, Who here this day made petition for Relief being in prison.' This immediate response by the Company was indicative of its acceptance of social responsibility for its members and their dependants.

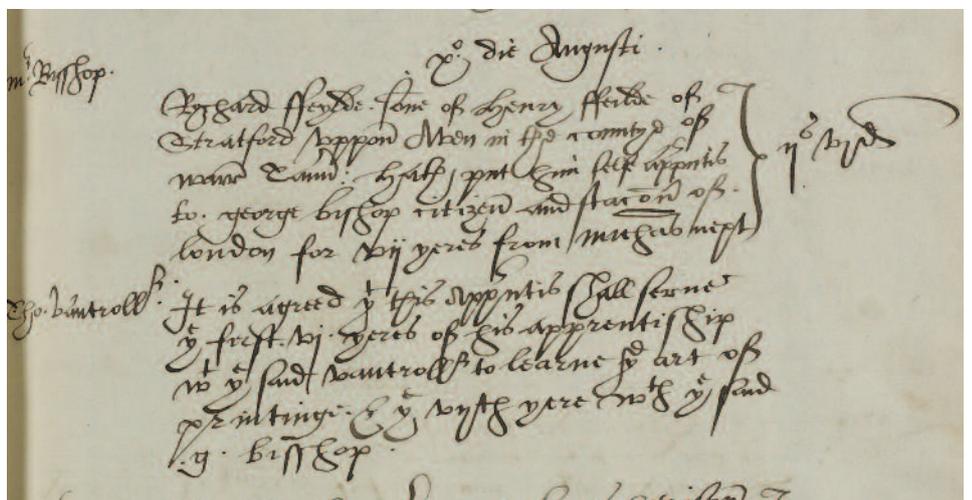
## Pageantry

Liveryman **Margaret Willes'** subject was a different aspect of the Company, and looked at its pageantry, feasts and celebrations. Purchases were painstakingly recorded, and the Archive was rich in

documents giving details of celebratory occasions in the Hall, including bills for the ingredients of feasts (mostly meat, but with occasional vegetables). Herbs were bought in bulk: not just for food but to strew on the floor of the Hall, presumably to make it smell better. Slides presented by Margaret included illustrations of such herbs from John Gerard's *Herbal*, 1597, printed by **John Norton** (later Master of the Company in 1607, 1611 and 1612). Since the water was not regarded as potable, the drink to accompany the food included beer and wine, to which sugar was regularly added; even children were given 'small beer'. The Loving Cup ceremony formed part of the pomp and ceremony, and music was played at all feasts.

Another example of pageantry was the Stationers' Barge, which took part in the procession of barges held on the Thames to celebrate Lord Mayor's Day. From Archive material, Margaret was able to give information about the Barge and the Barge

*Continued on page 15*



Field apprentice detail



Globe artichoke from John Gerard's *Herball*, 1597, printed by John Norton  
Copyright Bodleian Library, University of Oxford

Continued from page 14

Master's responsibilities, adding that the vessel was also strewn with herbs, while records showed that nosegays were purchased to combat the smells. Music was played on board, and there are records of which instruments were played.

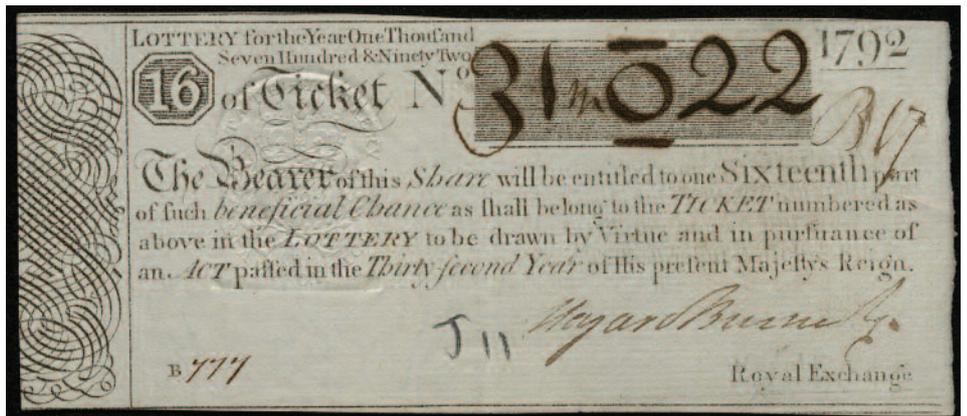
Gordon Johnson, when introducing the Company's Archivist, Dr Ruth Frendo, explained how her work was building on the foundations that had been established by Liveryman **Robin Myers**, Honorary Archivist Emeritus. He added that, contrary to some perceptions, the role of an archivist could be both lively and creative.

## Compassion

Ruth's contribution to the evening embodied this approach, showing how



Stationers' Company Barge Master's Badge: Embossed silver badge, unmarked, c. 1680



Lottery receipts and tickets 1738-1797



The triumphal entertainment of ye King and Queenes Maties Etching by Dirk Stoop 1662  
© The Trustees of the British Museum

records in the Archive could be brought together to provide context and illuminate aspects of the Company's activities in the past. By linking up records from documents such as Liber B, the Registers, the *Inspeximus Exemplification* of August 1667, the Poor Book, the Court Books and the Wardens' Accounts, she was able to show how the Company was run from a financial view and give an insight into its response to prevailing social conditions. In this respect the records demonstrated how the Company

had shown compassion to the plight of Stationers' widows and orphans who had fallen upon hard times, and how it had made payments to them.

In an example of how the Court Books could be used as a source of such information, Ruth pointed out that today's charitable lottery funding was nothing new. At the meeting of the Court on 19 February 1789, it was decided that in consideration of the effects "on the Poor of this Company occasioned by the extraordinary Severity of the Season" the Company would distribute money to and amongst such poor – drawn from the "Bridge Lottery".

In conclusion, she hoped that others would feel inspired to use the Company's Archive resources for their own research.

Liveryman **Sarah Mahurter**, Chairman of the Library and Archive Committee, closed the transmission by offering her thanks to all of the panellists, while observing that the occasion had been almost as rewarding as a live Archive Evening. ❖



Stationers' Company: Charles II silver two-handled cup. 1676 (Inscription reads *The gift of Tho Vere*)

# PUBLISHING

## Values in Publishing – What Matters?

Report: Court Assistant **Oliver Gadsby**

There is a widespread determination that a better society should emerge from the horrors of the first half of 2020. How is that determination expressed in the publishing industry? How can publishing reflect and embody the diversity of our society?

That was the topic for a lively session on Zoom on 1 July 2020, hosted jointly by the Stationers' Company and Byte the Book, a membership organisation for authors and publishers. Ninety people connected from around the world to join the event, which was jointly chaired by Justine Solomons, founder and CEO of Byte the Book, and **Oliver Gadsby**, publishing Sector Champion.

In the introductions, Oliver had the opportunity to introduce the Company to many for whom it was new, stressing the role it has played in the industry over six centuries, and ruefully mentioning that that Hall, previously shut for the plague in 1630, now had its doors closed again for the current pandemic.

The panel represented a wonderful range of experiences, opinions – and locations, with

Bibi Bakare-Yusef connecting from Nigeria, and Katrina Gutierrez from the Philippines.

Covid-19 was much in the minds of the speakers, as they talked of how they and their businesses had coped over recent months.

But the dominant theme was the issues thrown up by the **Black Lives Matter** movement: all of the speakers were determined that the impetus for fair representation for black and minority ethnic communities should lead to lasting change in the publishing industry. David Shelley talked of the programmes used at Hachette, including their collaboration with Creative

Access, to bring better representation into his large company. For Katrina Gutierrez, Lantana's work to represent minorities in children's books was central, whilst Bibi Bakare-Yusef talked of the vibrant list published by Cassava from its Nigerian base. Gift Ajimokun challenged the panel and the audience to think beyond token representation, and Isabelle Dupuy joined her in calling for profound change.

As ever, the Q&A was lively, with Stationers and Byte the Book members racing to get their questions in as the clock ticked towards the hour. ❖



*Inclusion Advocate:  
Gift Ajimokun*



*Co-founder of  
Cassava Republic  
Press:  
Bibi Bakare-Yusef*



*Author and critic:  
Isabelle Dupuy*



*Lantana Publishing's  
Chief Communicator  
Officer:  
Dr Katrina Gutierrez*



*CEO of Hachette UK:  
David Shelley*

## Publishers' Happy Hour

Report: **Deborah Rea**, Communications Manager

Six pm on a mid-May, mid-week evening saw Stationers from the publishing sector exchanging experiences about the new challenges facing their business sector. In the course of a convivial hour together they chatted over a glass of wine. Socially distanced of course, but brought together by Zoom.

The session was moderated by the Company's Publishing Sector Champion, Court Assistant **Oliver Gadsby**.

Once comment had been passed on the various choices of virtual backgrounds and how pleasant it was for the US contributors to be sitting in their gardens, the main topic

of the conversation was how everyone was coping in the COVID-19 crisis. With contributions from both the east and west coasts of the US, from children's publishing to academic publishing and hard copy to digital, it was possible to get an overview of the challenges they had faced, such as quickly setting up staff with the technology to work from home, getting to grips with furloughs (both standard and rolling), and tackling the applications for bounce back loans, etc.

It was evident that most attendees had seen their businesses take a huge hit in one form or another, but also that some parts of their lists were actually doing quite well, all things

considered. A couple of people were in businesses where they had been able to contribute to 'the war effort' – with some free material for home schooling for example – and others were quick to recognise that their situation had been helped by the sterling efforts of their distributors and of course their own staff.

Overall it seems that although a horrible time had been had and the current situation was not brilliant, there were positives to hang on to and these publishers were certainly not cracking under the strain, but rather they were cracking on! ❖

# Literary e-Cocktail Parties

By Liveryman **Margaret Willes**

In October last year Past Master **Christopher McKane** launched his book, *The Thunderer*, in Stationers' Hall. As he spoke, the bells of St Paul's Cathedral rang out in commemoration of Trafalgar Day.



Christopher McKane

Now, less than eight months later, 69 of us had the opportunity to hear him in our own homes, talking about the book in conversation with Liveryman



Peter Day

**Peter Day**. This was thanks to Zoom, a technology that most of us had never heard of before the onset of the Covid virus, while monuments to Nelson are being protected against threats of destruction because of the Royal Navy's role in keeping slave trading routes open during the Napoleonic Wars. It is another world.

Court Assistant **Mike James**, in his introduction, likened our June event to a literary cocktail party, and so it proved, as Peter led us through a mixture of topics. He began by asking Christopher about *The Thunderer*, an account of the life of John Walter Thompson II. John was the son of the founder of *The Universal Daily Register*, which on the first day of 1788 became *The Times*.

Taking advantage of steam printing technology, the paper enjoyed the biggest circulation by the reign of Queen Victoria, sold all over the country thanks to a burgeoning transport network. John Walter II was a qualified apprentice, knowledgeable in all areas of newspaper-making, and he was a strike breaker, prefiguring 1986 and the move of *The Times* to Wapping.

This enabled the discussion to move on to Christopher's own career in journalism, which began fifty years ago, when he 'fell into' a job at the *Oxford Times* as a trainee sub-editor and went on to become deputy editor at *The Times*, with a spell as the picture editor at the newly created *Independent*. As that new paper laid great emphasis on the quality of the images, the job was made in heaven.

Christopher recalled the Wapping clash as a bruising experience, with the printing unions proving intransigent. It was ironical therefore that as a Stationer he found himself on the

Court in 2000 with the late **Brenda Dean**, general secretary of SOGAT during the 1980s. Although previously on opposite sides of the fence, they got on famously. Characterising the Court as a body of thirty opinionated people, he felt that the time to do things was as a Warden, with the role of Master as a front man, although great fun.

As questions from guests were passed to Christopher by Peter, so interconnections were made between the newspaper industry in the time of John Walter II, and what is happening today. *The Times* described the outbreak of cholera as a 'disgraceful case of negligence' for which the government was unprepared. In an age of digital newspapers, *The Times* is in a relatively strong position during this period of pandemic. No doubt this will feature in Christopher's next book, on the paper in recent times, drawing upon the people with whom he has worked.

On a note of optimism, our cocktail party drew to a close. ❖

## 3 September 2020

Literary Evening with Liveryman **Margaret Willes**



# 'From Gamekeeper to Poacher'

Report: Liveryman Dr **Gordon Johnson**

A holiday excursion to Westminster Abbey when she was five set **Margaret Willes** on course to be a historian; and a casual exchange with a friend determined that she would take 'Architecture in the Age of Wren' rather than 'American Documents' as her special subject at Oxford. This settled the period of history she would become most passionate about. These were two among many delightful insights elicited by Liveryman

**Peter Day** in the scintillating conversation that made up the third of the Livery Committee's virtual literary events.

After graduation Margaret tumbled into publishing culminating in a distinguished career at the National Trust. Finding on arrival that the Trust used many publishing partners, she decided, very successfully, to set up the Trust's own imprint.

On retirement a friend at the British Library suggested she should take up historical research full time and become the publisher's bane, an author. This has led to a stream of exciting, enjoyable, and deeply learned books on the cultural and intellectual history of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and beyond.

*Continued on page 18*

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## The very heart of English publishing

Over fifty-five Stationers 'attended' the event and toasted the publication of Margaret's

newest book, 'The Domestic Herbal' (Bodleian Library, 2020). They looked forward to her next book from Yale University Press in 2021: a history of St Paul's Churchyard from the Anglo-Saxons to the Second World War – the place at the very heart of English publishing and of the Stationers' Company's activity.

I hope that the Livery Committee will continue this innovative form of a Stationers' event beyond lockdown. The Day-Willes interview is available on the website for those who missed it on 3 September. ❖

## 5 August 2020

Literary Evening with Court Assistant **Paul Wilson**



# When the Stationer crossed the Bridge of Spies

Report: Liveryman **Jonathan Grun**



During the Cold War, the Glienicke Bridge in Berlin was known as the Bridge of Spies.

Many of us will have seen Tom Hanks in the aptly-named film *Bridge of Spies* waiting anxiously at one end of the bridge as the agent

Rudolf Abel – played by Mark Rylance – headed over in exchange for downed U-2 spy plane pilot Gary Powers.

For **Paul Wilson**, later Stationer, that kind of drama became a reality when the eyes of the world focused on him as he attempted to make what was supposed to be a routine crossing from the west to the east.

The highlight of Paul's 10-year army career was to be part of BRIXMIS – the British Commanders'-in-Chief Mission to the Soviet Forces in East Germany

The unit's role was to liaise between the British and Soviet armies to defuse any tensions that might erupt

But the reality was somewhat different and Paul told a Company literary evening: "It was well established that it was a licensed form of spying, because we and our American and French counterparts were doing all we could to photograph new Soviet tanks or East German equipment and the Soviets in the west were doing exactly the same to British, French and American equipment."

It all went horribly wrong just as Paul was about to make his first trip to the east.

## American officer shot and killed

"Shortly before I went on my first trip to East Germany there was quite a serious incident when an American officer had overstepped the mark, tried to get too close to a Soviet tank and got shot and killed.

"It hit the headlines all around the world and I was out on my first tour to Germany about 48 hours afterwards, with strict warnings to play everything very cautiously."

Any attempt to maintain a low profile was ruined when the world's media descended as Paul's military mission queued to access East Germany over the Glienicke Bridge.

Renowned BBC correspondent Charles Wheeler thrust a microphone at the mission and encouraged them to speak of the crisis.

Paul said: "We turned the other way and when it was our turn to go we went across and played it very low key."

Paul was in conversation with Liveryman **Peter Day** about his new book *Hostile Money: Currencies in Conflict*, which describes how money has the power to make nations and fuel wars.

In it Paul draws on a long and successful career with De La Rue, the world's biggest commercial banknote printing company, and

in a wide-ranging book he examines what happens to money during conflict.

## Cyber attacks and bank heists

He told the audience of Stationers that hostile countries will use currency as a means of attacking another country – and cyber attacks are a new way of doing it.

The Internet has allowed access to money and the ability to carry out transactions with ease and convenience. Paul warned: "As you make a system easy you also make it very vulnerable".

Paul said there have been a number of attacks – including one on the Bank of the Philippines that had stolen 80 or 90 million dollars.

He said: "That is small fry compared to what could be achieved if a seriously capable state – and there are probably at least two out there – decided they wanted to wreck a country's economy. They would do it by means of a large cyber attack."

It might involve a denial of service attack, which stops people accessing their money and prevents transactions using online computer payments.

Paul warned that commercial banks might not have the necessary levels of security to prevent such an attack, adding: "That has to be in the hands of the Bank of England and the government to prevent them." ❖

# Dateline – London 1945

In 1945 Bert Morgan started in Fleet Street to become Lord Beaverbrook's new kid on the block

## Copy Boy Extraordinary

By Liveryman **Bert Morgan**

When I first walked into the Evening Standard building in Shoe Lane at the age of 14, World War II had been over barely a week, following the first atomic bomb that had changed a few things a bit. I was offered a job as a copy boy. "Can start tomorrow, 25 shillings a week," offered Mr Dyer, a rather pleasant, ageing personnel manager. "On the way in, pick up your cards at the Moorgate employment office – but I tell you, son, don't reckon on a high-flying career in Fleet Street."

The following day I was on the editorial floor of the Standard being shown round by Ken Ward, a lanky 15-year-old lad straight out of the Walworth Road. He introduced me to a colourful cast of characters from wartime Fleet Street.

"That's Phil Grune, deputy news editor, always smokes a cheroot." "Isn't he wearing an American Air Force uniform?" I asked. Ken explained: "Yeah, he worked here pre-war and lived in Leather Lane, went into the army, but somehow caught the eye of a senior American officer and talked himself into the US Air Force as a war correspondent. Like his Glenn Miller rimless glasses? His dad still has a barbers' shop in Leather Lane if you want a haircut."

"That bloke wearing an RAF uniform is James Stuart. He was the air correspondent for the Standard for most of the war, don't know if he ever flew, but he certainly looks the part in that officer's uniform. Like a Hollywood star. Very polite to the lads... especially when he asks for a cup of tea from the canteen. By the way, the canteen's on the top floor."

Ken was a fount of knowledge in every direction. "That's the picture desk. See that chap, photographer Vic Drees, first day back in civies. Served his time as an RAF cameraman, used to go on bomber raids over Germany during the war... or so he tells everyone. He was in here last week, saying he was going to talk the Beaver (Beaverbrook) into buying a converted RAF aircraft to get aerial crowd pictures of Brighton beach on bank holidays. Fat chance."

I asked: "Who's the bald headed man in a petty officer's uniform?" Ken had the answer, of course. "That's naval correspondent Gordon Holman. No chicken, but as observer he went on that St Nazaire raid to destroy the U-boat pens when the old Campbeltown destroyer was packed with explosives to ram the dock gates. He went ashore with French commandos after the explosion. Royal Navy torpedo boat got him out. Uniform goes with the job, not for long now though."

### The star of Shoe Lane

"Now we come to the star of Shoe Lane. The Standard's quite fearless wartime reporter, Evelyn Irons. Doesn't have much to say to the youngsters here," says Ken. He pointed out a woman, with a mannish hairstyle, in uniform, huddled over a typewriter.

Phil Grune on the News Desk took up the controversial story of Evelyn's part in the invasion of France. "She went over to Normandy just after D-Day. Apparently she upset Field Marshal Montgomery right away. Seems she went into his first press address, in a barn not far off the beach. Monty spotted her and called up his adjutant to find out who she was."

'No women reporters on my command,' he ordered. 'Put her on the next landing craft out of here!' Evelyn was escorted outside, bristling with anger, accompanied by an unfortunate officer, full of apologies. She dismissed her escort and buttonholed a nearby RASC jeep driver. 'Where are the French?' she demanded.

"The surprised driver started to say: 'Well, love...'" The deeply offended Evelyn snapped back: 'Don't you love me. Just drive me to the French!' The British driver complained that the road was under fire. 'Don't argue, just get going!' Seems the bullying was all too much for the stressed-out driver, not sure whether he was more afraid of German artillery fire or the Irons broadside.

My knowledgeable guide Ken continued in full flood, relishing the story: "Anyway Evelyn



Liveryman Bert Morgan



First historic day in Fleet Street

#### Dress for success

SIR – In the late 1940s, I was a 15-year-old copy boy on the London *Evening Standard*. The best-dressed reporter on the editorial desk often sported a Prince of Wales check, double-breasted, of course (Letters, February 5).  
He gave me the following career advice: "Don't worry about this reporting lark; always wear a good suit – even if you have to nick it."  
**Bert Morgan**  
Shenfield, Essex

Career advice

joined the French lot for the rest of the war, she was even awarded a French medal for bravery – think it was called the *queer de gerr*, or something like that," he added in his best South London accent.

Then he added, as if it explained everything: "Evelyn is Lebanese." Lebanese? I asked him: "How can she be Lebanese and have been involved in the war?" "Nah, nah, Lebanese like. I don't mean real Lebanese, you know what I mean, women who fancy other women." ♦

- Bert Morgan retired as Chief Sub-Editor of *The Daily Telegraph* in 1996
- Ken Ward joined the Royal Navy in 1949 and became lead signalman on HMS Belfast in the Korean war
- Evelyn Graham Irons (1900 – 2000) was a Scottish journalist, the first female war correspondent to be decorated with the French Croix de Guerre. ♦

# Beethoven, The Hanover Band and St Cecilia: A Bulletin



By Past Master **Noel Osborne**

**Julius Caesar famously divided Gaul into three parts. Thus inspired and provoked by the pandemic, this piece falls into three distinct parts: Past, Present and Future.**

## Past

Stationers will have read (SN 145) of the launch of *Beethoven in the City* at a dinner/concert in November 2019, presided over by the then Master, **Trevor Fenwick**, and in the presence of the Lord Mayor. This adventurous programme, to perform all nine symphonies in City Livery Halls during 2020, Beethoven's 250th birthday year, opened on 2 March in Stationers' Hall.

The Hanover Band, under the baton of conductor Benjamin Bayl and in its 40th anniversary year, gave an all-Beethoven programme, the central feature being the Fourth Symphony. But first, we were locked back in our seats by the fortissimo opening chord of the overture to Goethe's play 'Egmont', with its extraordinary driving musical force similar to the energy of the first movement of Beethoven's Fifth. The composer, always a champion of civil liberty, greatly admired Goethe, whose play tells of the Flemish uprising, led by Count Egmont, against the rule of Flanders by Spain.

There followed a Romance, in which the violin soloist was the Band's leader, Jorge Jiménez, who was more than equal to its emotional and technical demands, while capturing the quiet gentleness and soothing nature of its simple song-like melody.

The symphony itself has been unjustly neglected, sandwiched as it is between two popular giants: the Third 'Eroica' and the famous Fifth. But it demonstrates Beethoven's perpetual ambition to innovate. In this he benefited greatly from the generous patronage of Prince Joseph Lobkowitz, who spent a great deal of money supporting musicians and concert series, converting the largest room in his palace in Vienna into a concert room with an ensemble of some 22 players. Prince Lobkowitz offered a new, more accommodating form of musical patronage and Beethoven had this invaluable opportunity to try out new musical ideas. The audience capacity was about thirty and here

the Fourth Symphony was premiered in 1807. In our Hall and for a larger audience, The Hanover Band gave a virtuoso performance of this mercurial, Haydnesque work, and the series was under way, spurred on by the Master's fine words.

## Present

Then came Covid 19 and Lockdown. The consequences for *Beethoven in the City* and the musicians have been drastic and severe: the rest of the series is postponed in the hope that it can be fully revived next year, while the musicians, most of whom are freelance, have lost significant income.

Stationers' Hall has come to the rescue. After much hard work and negotiation with Public Health England and the relevant bodies by Liveryman **Stephen Neiman**, CEO of The Hanover Band, it is now planned to rehearse, perform and record, without audience, Symphonies 1-8 in the Hall from 20 August to 6 September. This, thanks to generous sponsorship, will enable the musicians to be paid much-needed fees, while contributing substantially to Hall Hire income. These eight symphonies will be streamed every Wednesday from 9 October until mid-December. (At some time in November the 9th 'Choral' will be recorded, without audience, in Buckingham Palace.)

Throughout 16 December, Beethoven's actual 250th birthday, all nine symphonies will be streamed.

All this, even now, is subject to change or cancellation depending on government directives.

## Future St Ceciliatide

As we go to press in mid-August, it is not known whether there will be the usual lunchtime concert on the saint's day, Sunday, 22 November, but the signs are that we shall not be able to perform to a live audience. The Consone Quartet and principals of the Hanover Band have been booked to play Beethoven's Septet. First performed in April 1800, the Septet proved to be an immediate success, but, perversely, Beethoven grew to dislike it the more popular it became with



musicians and audiences alike. It is now a much-loved element of the chamber music repertoire. Live-streaming of this concert is an option.



The accompanying illustration tells a remarkable story. It is a Boxwood high-relief panel illustrating Psalm 150 (O praise God in his holiness) and shows King David playing a harp and St Cecilia playing an organ. It was executed by Grinling Gbbons, 1668-70, when he was based in York as a journeyman to John Etty, the great architect, builder, and carver. This is his earliest extant work, astonishing in its virtuosity for someone barely 20 years old. In 1670 he moved to Deptford, and caught the eye of John Evelyn, after which his career took off. In no time he was recognised as Britain's greatest carver, to whom all others deferred. It is almost certain that he actively encouraged and advised Stephen Colledge when in 1673 he was carving the screen in Stationers' Hall, just a few short years before St Cecilia herself came to be celebrated in music in our Hall.

Pandemic or no, we must do all we can to foster the tradition of musical performance in Stationers' Hall, 'the finest acoustic in the Square Mile', under the watchful gaze of St Cecilia. ◆

# Stationers' Crown Woods Academy

## Covid-19 in school: challenge to the most battle-hardened



By **Wayne Barnett**, Principal, Stationers' Crown Woods Academy (SCWA)

Joining Stationers' Crown Woods Academy in September 2019 I was clear, in my own mind, what was required. The focus would be on the core business of raising standards and expectations, implementing a consistent approach to tackling poor behaviour, training teachers in the most effective pedagogical practice and minimise bureaucracy, in an attempt to buy time. From September to March we made good progress. Pupils were better behaved and displayed better attitudes to learning, teachers were teaching more focused, time efficient lessons, underpinned by neuroscience, and pupil outcomes were starting to improve as evidenced by our winter mock examinations.

Fast-forward to March. A global pandemic hits; schools close and the country goes into lockdown.

Schools find themselves in uncharted waters and we have been marooned there ever since.

School leaders are accustomed to managing change and uncertainty but the events of the past five months have challenged the most battle-hardened. It is worth noting that schools have, for relatively small numbers, remained open throughout with staff braving lockdown to attend work in support of the children of key workers and the parents of the most vulnerable.

Whilst the school has remained open, for the few, the majority have been housebound, working independently through the excellent resources produced daily by our teaching staff. For the majority this has been successful. Many pupils have completed the work set and remained connected to their teachers. Our digital platforms have allowed pupils to ask questions, discuss topics and concepts and receive feedback on work. For some this connection has been more difficult either through poor personal engagement or a lack of appropriate device or connectivity. Where these inequalities exist leaders have managed to supply pupils with devices or hard paper copies. Where these difficulties

were insurmountable leaders made provision to educate those pupils on-site.

### Re-opening

In June, SCWA partially reopened for years 10 and 12. A half-hearted attempt to bring pupils back into education under the weight of expectation. The outcome was our year 10 and 12 pupils being allowed to attend one day per week.

We now turn our attention to re-opening in September. The Department for Education advice: Get all of the pupils back into education, deliver the full curriculum but don't let the children mix. *This was the point when many school leaders started to question their position.*

To put this into context, we will return in September with year groups arriving at separate entrances; each year group given a designated social space with marquees to offer shelter; staggered breaks and lunches to allow pupils to use the canteen and every classroom has a sanitiser station so that pupils can clean their hands on arrival. Risk assessments and health and safety reviews

have been conducted on every subject and for every eventuality in order to mitigate the potential for cross contamination of the virus. Oh! And everything that pupils touch has to be sanitised before another pupil can use it.

If this wasn't enough we end the academic year with the awarding of A-Level and GCSE grades. Having spent weeks devising robust centre assessed grades (CAGs) for submission to the examining boards, the DfE have opted to apply a standardisation formula, based on historical averages, to award pupils' grades. The, not yet released, formula used to calculate grades has resulted in grades that bear little resemblance to the grades awarded by the teacher. The DfE have simply looked at historical averages achieved by a school and altered pupil grades to fit the model. There is also a serious discrepancy in the application of the formula depending on the size of cohort in a particular subject. Watch this space.

**I've enjoyed my first year at SCWA but I will be glad when it is over. ❖**



Rainbow welcome back

# APPRENTICE 20

## Be amazed



The Stationers' Company's campaign to promote modern apprenticeships, *Apprentice 20*, was all set to take the stage at the City of London Guildhall this summer, for the second year running. A prestigious event, hosted by the Lord Mayor.

Then, like so many other events, it was struck down by the virus.

The organisers reacted rapidly. In place of a physical event, they set up a new website as a resource for apprentices and employers, bringing the two sides together: [www.apprenticefutures.com](http://www.apprenticefutures.com)



Past Master **Helen Esmonde**, Chairman of the Company's Education Committee, announced the new site: "This will enable young people and

other stakeholders to explore the world of apprenticeships and some fantastic career opportunities. It will open doors that lead directly to over 40 employers offering an extraordinary and dynamic range of career pathways.

"We think those who make use of this website will be amazed."

The site is simple, clear and easy to navigate. It highlights information on apprenticeships, the stories of individual apprentices and links to videos and webinars. It will pave the way towards *Apprentice 21* which should be

back at Guildhall within the London Careers Festival on 5 and 6 July 2021.

We encourage you to take a look. Just one click through could light up a young person's future. Spread the word *#apprenticefutures*

**For further information please contact:** [apprenticeships@stationers.org](mailto:apprenticeships@stationers.org) ❖

# The Stationers' Company Membership Survey 2020

A big thank you to all those who responded to the call.

In June, 500 members of our Company were randomly selected and invited to take part in a survey designed to assist front-line committees plan the future schedule of events and activities. The survey management team of Court Assistant **Tony Mash**, Liverymen **Sir Robert Worcester** and **Peter Smith** from the Marketing Advisory Committee worked with an external consultant, Mark Gill, to build a questionnaire which over a three week period received a response rate of over 40%; significantly higher than previous surveys in 2012 and 2018.

Under the guidance of Sir Robert, who founded MORI Polls, the survey will be sent out in a year or two's time to the 500 who were not involved this year to check again on how members' views are changing as we emerge from the Vision 350 shutdown.

The team was delighted with the response from over 220 Stationers and wishes to thank those who have participated. Tony Mash reports that the information that has been received covers a wide range of interest groups providing not only strong commendations for the work of the

Company but also many suggestions for improvement which will now be shared with committees. A final report of the 2020 survey results will appear in the next edition of Stationers' News (December). ❖



Tony Mash



Sir Robert Worcester



Peter Smith

## 2021 Warrants Scheme ready to launch

The Stationers' Company will shortly be launching its 2021 Warrants scheme. A scheme that recognises the hard work, research and quality companies put into their products and services.

We feel the time is now right for us to promote our 2021 Warrants which are designed to recognise and promote excellence within our industry.

The scheme will be open to anyone in our sector who has a product or products or service that stands out. It doesn't have to be new, but it does have to denote quality.

The Warrants are awarded on a set of criteria including original design and high-quality manufacturing/production techniques, as well as features like appropriate and sustainable packaging and relevance to its industry or market sector. Examples of current/previous recipients include: Office Power, Brown Fox, Collins Debden, Manuscript Pen Company, Gopak, Victor Stationery and Prima Software.



**Liveryman Chris Geer, Chair of the Warrants Committee, states: "We are really looking forward to the 2021**

**Warrants. During these incredibly challenging times, we are seeing many companies adapting and providing products and services beyond their usual remit. We believe, this year more than ever before, that businesses should be recognised for the quality products and services they offer. Warrants are important in highly competitive markets; they offer the holder a valuable USP and something to differentiate them from the rest of the crowd. We want businesses to come forward and shout about the great things they are doing."**



If you have a product or service that fits this description, please get in touch. We will be proud to award a fellow member with this prestigious award. There is also no better endorsement for what we do, than the support of our fellow members.

Applications will be invited from 1 October. The application process will be available to complete and submit online from the Stationers' Company website or by requesting an application form by emailing [warrants@stationers.org](mailto:warrants@stationers.org) If you would like to know more, please contact Chris Geer at [chris.geer@chrisgeerassociates.com](mailto:chris.geer@chrisgeerassociates.com) ❖

# Arcs, baselines and counters – the ABCs of typographic anatomy



Freeman **Benedict Richards** is a graphic designer with a special interest in typography.

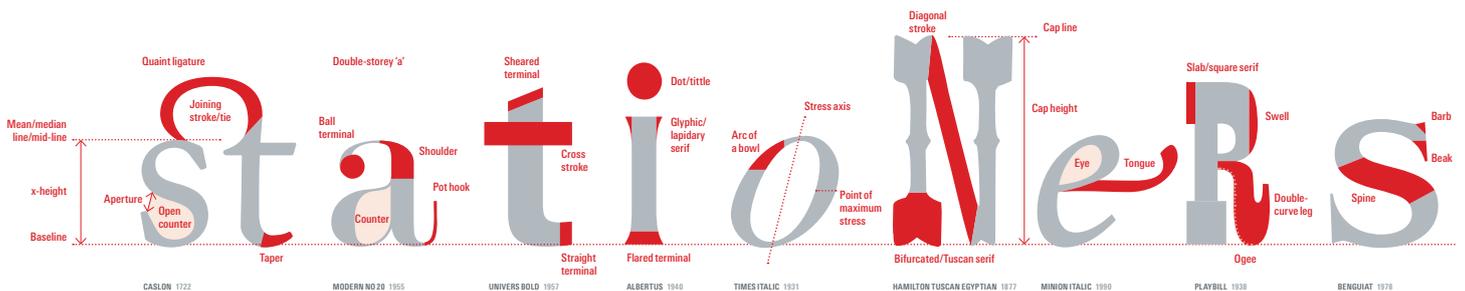
In his capacity as a design tutor at the London College of Communication – and purely to satisfy personal curiosity – he researched, collated, designed and produced a comprehensive diagram, which illustrates 'typographic anatomy' – the name given to features of letterforms.

Benedict explains: "The illustration below shows a few of the terms which I collected

on what I call **'the most comprehensive typographic anatomy diagram – ever!'**

I first became interested in the subject 30 years ago when I was a student at the London College of Printing. Then when I started teaching design, I put together a good handout, but nagging doubts remained about its thoroughness. The more I researched the subject, the more

terms I found. And there is often no consensus on the terminology. Typographers can be extremely pedantic and detail oriented – I'm no exception. So after several years of looking for a comprehensive diagram I realised that I'd have to make it myself." ♦



The final diagram is B2 and printed on a GF Smith stock by fellow Stationers FE Burman.  
 The diagram is available at [www.graphicacy.shop](http://www.graphicacy.shop) – with a 20% Stationers' discount code **'STATIONERSNEWS'**

# Tri-Livery DMG Roundtable

## 'The power of AI to deliver Economic and Social Good'

By Liveryman **Andrew Marsden**



As a Stationer, a Past Master Marketor and Chairman of the Financial Services Group of Livery Companies, of which the Information Technologists are members, I felt very much in my element among 200 other virtual participants at this year's excellent online Tri-Livery Roundtable on the power of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

We hear so much about how AI will change the way we work in the future, how it will cause structural unemployment amongst the lower middle class repetitive professional jobs and of those in low skilled areas, but this evening's panel, expertly chaired by Marketor Roz Morris, revealed that Artificial Intelligence is not only already well established in our lives but is often a force for good.

Maxine Ricketts, Chair of 'AI4C' created by the WCIT to help charities, gave us a simple working definition of AI... 'Any computer system that performs tasks previously performed by humans' usually by using a big data reference table. She told us that charities are already triaging incoming calls using chatbots to answer simple questions and focus enquiries, getting to deeper issues quicker and amassing data faster than humans.

Dr Christina Messiou, the distinguished radiological researcher, in a riveting presentation, showed how AI is driving forward innovative imaging for the benefit of oncology patients. She showed how Myeloma patients (bone marrow cancer) are benefitting from whole body MRI imaging to accurately detect the disease. The process is non-invasive, with no injections or radiation and reduces the time from 30 to 2.5 minutes. She reminded us however of the significant shortage of both qualified people and investment, with only 1/10 NHS treatment centres currently able to deliver this analysis. This emerging form of 'Precision Medicine', using algorithms to measure disease beyond that

possible by human experience, will need a digital ready workforce – informaticians, data scientists and medically qualified programmers.

### Organised Crime

Jonathan Sinclair, of Bristol Myers Squibb, told us how organised crime are ever more active, meaning that AI-driven cyber security is required to deliver the scale, speed and high levels of accuracy necessary to defend our networks and drive the global information security programmes now required.

Ben Gancz, a former Met Police/NCA detective who specialised in child protection, which is both psychologically demanding and repetitive work for humans, then told us of the 'human-in-the-loop' AI systems and automatic image classifiers which detect indecent images of children that he has developed and which have the benefits of not suffering fatigue, of getting 'accustomed' to images or suffering psychological harm which can automatically look at millions of images in support of the ultimate human decision.

As is often the case, the question and answer session which followed was revealing. AI – more accurately referred to as 'machine learning' or 'scale computing' as machines are not 'conscious' except in science fiction – will unquestionably deliver improvements and efficiencies in our lives but does raise some profound societal questions.

The use of AI will require the digital 'upskilling' of existing workforces, or their reallocation towards more added value roles rather than repetitive tasks. A lot of junior staff roles will disappear. Many new job titles will emerge, especially those related to training and validating the algorithms used. Of the need to avoid data riddled with unconscious biases, detecting and removing obtrusive data and moving 'black box' solutions to more 'white box' transparent ones.

Then there are the issues of the collation of mass data points and of ensuring personal privacy by anonymising the data. Legislation, even in local geographies, is always slow to catch up. Who will regulate this emerging global phenomenon is as yet unclear.

As ever, we were reminded that the key issue with any computer system will remain the need to clearly define the problem we are actually trying to solve.

Ben Gancz concluded the evening by reassuring us that all the research still shows that 'People do like speaking to another human being'. Thus ended an altogether fascinating evening. ❖

# Company news

## New Master and Officers

The Company recorded the appointment of the Right Revd Dr **Stephen Platten** as Master for the year 2020-21, in succession to Immediate Past Master **Trevor Fenwick**. **Robert Flather** was appointed Upper Warden and **Moira Sleight** Under Warden.

**The Company has recorded no new Cloathings or Admissions to the Freedom since the last edition of Stationers' News due to the Covid-19 emergency.**



*and here are the latest winners:*

### MARCH 2020

*Mike Clark, Charles Hull, Anthony Jackson  
Brian Humphreys, Donald Trelford*

### APRIL 2020

*Martin Woodhead, Christopher Bell, Alistair Hill  
Holly Mayor, Marian Hill*

### MAY 2020

*Sabrina Randall, Nigel Southey, Elizabeth Richardson  
Jeremy Ryman, Geoffrey Baker*

### JUNE 2020

*Clive Message, Neil Charlesworth, Neil Haslam  
Shelia Needham, Nick Brand*

### JULY 2020

*David Pitman, Stephen Bourne, Stanley Vaughan  
Neil Richardson, Sabrina Randall*

## In Memoriam

### LIVERYMAN PETER BERTRAM JAMES SARGENT

8 November 1932 – 9 August 2020  
Cloathing: 11 April 2000

### SUPERNUMERARY LIVERYMAN AUBREY THOMAS HEYER

29 September 1926 – 17 July 2020 aged 93  
Cloathed on 7 March 1967

### LIVERYMAN DENNIS GEORGE OSBORNE

3 June 1934 – 19 March 2020. Cloathing: 6 March 1984

### FREEMAN THE REVEREND JOHN HAROLD SHEEN

25 October 1932 – 14 April 2020  
Freedom: 7 November 2005

### LIVERYMAN TERRY GORDON MANSFIELD CBE

3 November 1938 – 28 March 2020. Cloathing: 1 April 1997

### LIVERYMAN BRIAN ERNEST AMOR

30 November 1935 – 26 March 2020  
Cloathing: 1 October 1985

### LIVERYMAN SIR JOHN SPARROW KT

4 June 1933 – 21 March 2020. Cloathing: 9 April 1991

### PAST MASTER ALAN BERNARD BROOKER DL

24 August 1931 – 7 March 2020  
Cloathing: 5 May 1970. Master: 1995-1996

## New Renter Wardens

In June each year four Liverymen are chosen by the Court to undertake the role of Renter Warden, which they fulfil for the following Company year. Their duties include assisting the Clerk and Deputy Clerk with the smooth running of Company functions and guarding the Court from intrusion. They wear a gown similar to that of a Liveryman but with a thin vertical red stripe running down the full length of each side.

The Company is grateful to last year's Renter Wardens, **Jane Bickerstaffe, Charles Hull, Peter Lake** and **David Pearson**, whose year of office was somewhat curtailed by the COVID-19 crisis.

We look forward to seeing this year's cohort, **James Duckenfield, Matthew Payne, Christopher Smith** and **Tim Webb**, on duty at Company events as soon as normal Company life can resume.



*James Duckenfield*



*Matthew Payne*



*Christopher Smith*



*Tim Webb*

## Future Events

### October

- 19 Virtual New Members' Evening
- 21 LivCom Virtual Literary Evening: Peter Day in conversation with Jon Drori

### November

- 2 Virtual New Members' Reception
- 3 LivCom Virtual Tour given by Liveryman David Harry
- 9 Virtual New Members' Evening
- 10 Virtual New Members' Reception

### November

- 16 Virtual New Members' Reception
- 19 LivCom Virtual Literary Evening: Peter Day in conversation with the Master, the Rt Revd Dr Stephen Platten

### December

- 9 Virtual Shakespeare and the Stationers' Tour given by Freeman Ian Fagelson

### January 2021

- 14 Virtual Bi-Livery DMG with the Marketors

# Obituary

Liveryman Terence Gordon Mansfield CBE, 1938-2020

## Terry Mansfield: a giant of UK magazines for 50 years

By Liveryman **Colin Morrison**

It is with enormous sadness that we record the death of Terry Mansfield, one of the giants of the UK magazine industry, at the age of 81. He had contracted the Covid-19 virus and passed away on 28 March. It was just a year since Hearst Corp celebrated Mansfield's 50 years with the company, 20 years as its UK managing director.

His career began in a London advertising agency as a 16-year-old office boy. After military service (spent on Christmas Island, in the Pacific, famous for its atomic tests) and a spell as a 'redcoat' cheerleader at a holiday camp, he joined Condé Nast in London, where he worked on a number of titles before becoming advertisement manager of *Queen* magazine.

In 1969, he joined Hearst UK (then known as The National Magazine Company, 'NatMags') as advertisement manager of *Harper's Bazaar*. In 1975, he became publisher of the merged *Harpers & Queen* and, in 1980, was appointed deputy managing director. Two years later, he became managing director of NatMags.

It was all a long way from a childhood in the then poor East London suburb of Walthamstow (shared decades later by David Beckham) and an education at the local 'technical college' to becoming the first Brit to be a Hearst Corporation board director. He once said: "I've done better working for an American company. They don't care about where you come from, it's never a big issue. What is the drama about where you come from? What's exciting about life is where you're going."

The contrast with his long-term competitor, the gilded Nicholas Coleridge, managing director of Condé Nast, could not have been greater. But in 2002, when Mansfield stepped down as managing director (to be succeeded by Duncan Edwards), Coleridge was effusive:

"Having worked for, with and against Terry for 20 years, I feel well qualified to comment. He gave me my first editorship (of *Harpers & Queen*) for which I am forever grateful, since he was taking a bit of a risk on me at the time.

Since then, we have competed vigorously and publicly for 14 years, sometimes reduced to name-calling and dirty dealing. He's an extraordinary figure, almost surreal – there will never be another Terry Mansfield. I admire his incredible energy and ridiculously youthful looks. His heart is certainly in the right place – he's a loyal person and wants things to be for the best. I shall miss his daft stunts, such as working for a morning in a newsagent's shop to discover which magazines readers buy, and dressing up in strange costumes (magician, Arab, Chinaman, etc) to give speeches."

You can feel the contrast and so did Mansfield. But he was winning where it mattered. In his last 10 years as managing director, NatMags increased its revenue by 50% to £312m and doubled operating profit.

Throughout his career, he was a consummate networker and salesman. He sold advertising in 38 countries including, he claimed, to the notorious former Ugandan leader General Idi Amin. As Duncan Edwards says: "He was a ball of energy and enthusiasm who never saw a challenge he didn't want to tackle."

### Learning, earning and returning

He never really stopped working and, in the 18 years since he stepped down from his executive duties to become a consultant at Hearst, he volunteered tirelessly for UK charities and organisations including Victim Support, MOBO Music Awards, the Peace Alliance, Historic Royal Palaces, Graduate Fashion Week, Arts Thread, and the World Heart Beat Music Academy. He firmly believed there are three stages in life: learning, earning and returning.

Terry Mansfield was awarded the Commander of the British Empire (CBE) by Queen Elizabeth at Buckingham Palace in 2001, and the Marcus Morris Award (named in honour of his predecessor at Hearst) by the UK Professional Publishers' Association.

He could be prickly, didn't want to talk much about his background, and could be caught



### The Clerk's Tribute

*Terry Mansfield enjoyed an illustrious career in publishing across seven decades and is seen as a legend in the industry. From humble beginnings on the Walthamstow Guardian, he rose to become Managing Director of The National Magazine Company, which became Hearst UK, for 20 years. He was the first non-American invited to join the Hearst Corporation Main Board and liked to describe himself as an Ambassador for Hearst. He was Chairman of the magazine trade body, the PPA, for two years.*

*Terry became a Freeman of the Stationers' Company in 1991 and a Liveryman in 1997. He gave a huge amount of support to our Shine Awards and was a mentor at the Stationers' Academy. His many other causes included being Chairman for Victim Support, MOBO Music, the Peace Alliance and Graduate Fashion. He has also held the position of Campaign Board Member of Historic Royal Palaces.*

*We will miss him terribly.*

*William Alden*

looking around just in case he missed someone or something while he was talking to you. But he was imaginative, creative, enthusiastic and warm-hearted. Generous with his time and advice and always pleased to see you. That is what his former colleagues, competitors and the rest of us will remember most about him.

Mansfield's enthusiasm for magazines was lifelong and, throughout his time at NatMags, he never lost his appetite for the detail: cover lines, sales propositions, promotional opportunities, and events. He never tired of the business and turned up for everything. He was a lovely man. A giant of UK magazines in the industry's heyday. ❖

**RIP**

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# A sea of scaffolding



*Before:* If you had walked past Stationers' Hall in July you would have seen the East wing (which houses the Stock Room, Reception area and Crush Landing) under a sea of scaffolding to enable essential maintenance work to re-slate the roof. The degradation of the slate was such that it required complete replacement.



*After:* In the second image the fine new roof and brilliant paintwork stand out splendidly, while work on the balustrade continues. The project will be completed by Friday 25 September and the East wing will be the envy of Ludgate Hill, with the smartest roof in the neighbourhood.

**Giles Fagan**, Clerk Designate



THE  
STATIONERS'  
COMPANY

## STATIONERS' NEWS

**Honorary Editor: Stephen Somerville**

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