



# THE FAN MAKER

Issue 22

27 April 2020

## Fan Makers may it Flourish Root and Branch

It has become clear that the severe restrictions on movement and gatherings that are currently in place will probably mean that we are going to be unable to meet together for dinner events and fellowship for some while.

At this difficult time, Fan Makers are taking three initiatives which go to the heart of what we strive to be as a family:

Firstly, we have put in place measures aimed at looking after one another, particularly those currently living in isolation - approximately a third of our membership. Led by our Almoner, Past Master John Allen, ten members of the Court are contacting those in isolation, be they over 70, infirm, single or widowed, to check on their wellbeing. If you would also like to receive a call, please contact the Clerk who will put you in touch with a member of the team.

Secondly, the need for charitable support is now greater than ever, either because many existing charities are receiving reduced income or no income at all, or because new needs are emerging caused by the consequences of the medical emergency. Led by the Chairman of our Charity Committee, Past Master Paul Hoddinott, we have contacted all the charities we currently support and reviewed their new and emerging needs. This has been balanced against the knowledge that our investment income will be markedly reduced this year. For the time being we have opted to keep close to our regular charities and reassess the need for our grants in August.

Finally we have given a lot of consideration as to how to develop an interesting calendar of weekly events to



enable you to interact with each other. We have many talented and interesting members and a team, comprised of Mr Assistants Jeffery, Turner, and Block have corralled some of our number to participate in a chain mail interview (interviewed one week, interviewing who they choose the next). The first to be interviewed will be Past Master John Hughes who served with the Metropolitan Police as a protection officer for many years. The format will be that the interview will last for about 30 minutes, after which there will be an opportunity for questions and some social interaction, before a senior member of the Court calls on all present to toast the Fan Makers. These interviews will be held fortnightly on Wednesdays. On the alternate Wednesday, a series of talks on fans will be given, co-ordinated by the Keeper of our Fan Collection, Miss Assistant Honorary Causa Anne-Marie Benson. More details will be available soon.

Booking for all these events is through the Members' section of the website. The Zoom video-conferencing platform that we are using is very easy to navigate, and Mr Liveryman Richard Lovell will be on hand to help anyone needing assistance.

We may not be able to meet face to face, but I hope we can continue to enjoy the benefits of Livery life.

**Colin Bramall**  
Master

# Getting to know you:

## The Wardens

### The Free Warden

#### Jonathan Bewes



Jonathan's great grandfather, Oscar Berry, had been Master of the Company in 1911, the year of the coronation of King George V and Queen Mary (to whom he presented a Coronation Fan, which is now in the Queen's collection). After Oscar, the family connection died out until 1990 when

Jonathan joined the company.

Having worked in London for over 30 years, first as a Chartered Accountant and then as an Investment Banker, Jonathan now has a portfolio of roles including a part-time role in a bank, as a non-executive director and chairman of the audit committee for two U.K. public companies, a trustee and Council member of a University and a School Governor.

Married to Caroline, with 4 children, home is in London, but they spend as much time as they can down on the south coast of Devon, where they are fortunate to have a bolthole, and he can indulge his hobbies of playing golf and tennis, and playing around in his boat!

#### "My Inheritance track:

**Supertramp – The Logical Song.** I went to the same school as Roger Hodgson the lead-singer. As Supertramp were in their heyday, it was a very regular sound around the school at the time I was there, and the music evokes many memories." (Editorial note: this newsletter was put together to a background of Supertramp)

### The Foreign Warden

#### Peter Dove



Peter joined the company in 1994 from our affiliated Army unit 217 Fd Sqn at the same time as Mike Lakin. Both 'press ganged' by the then Master Godfrey Bilton during an army cocktail party and the then Clerk,

Ian Green, ensured their sign up with a large glass of whisky after their first dinner in the flat Fan Makers then had at Skinners Hall. Peter says he has never looked back since, even after leaving the TA in 2000, and he is amazed how quickly the post of Foreign Warden has come up. He has worked for 40 years in London and is a chartered surveyor and fund manager. Peter lives with his wife Annie on a small farm in Dorset where the Good Life plays a big role but with sheep and cattle as much as hens and bees. Shooting is a main indulgence along with fishing salmon and military history, although his secret is philately where he has an obscure obsession in POW letters.

#### My inheritance track:

**Pink Floyd – Echoes (Pompei version).** It reminds me of long hot summers in my salad days chilling out without a care in the world." (Further editorial note – the Wardens both being aging rockers have agree to lay on a Concert after the lockdown)

Follow us on twitter @Fan\_Makers



# The History of the Fan Makers Company in 20 Objects

Like many Livery Companies, the Fan Makers has a collection of historic artefacts, some of which may be familiar to you, others not. In this edition we feature the Beadle's Staff (the oldest treasure the company owns) and one of our more beautiful fans, the Lady Arthur Fan

## Object Number 1: The Lady Arthur Fan



French .Circa 1860

Double paper leaf with White mother-of-pearl sticks (2+14)

10½ inches, 27 cm.

The narrow leaf of this fan is painted with a suitor bowing to a young lady whose servant stands beside her holding a parasol. Meanwhile other male and female companions, all dressed in 17<sup>th</sup> century costume and some carrying fans, enjoy their leisure in a garden. The *reserves* are decorated with musical instruments and sheet music. The reverse of the fan depicts flowers and blossom.

The mother-of-pearl sticks and guards with *burgo* insertions in the gorge are ornately carved, pierced and gilded with figures in a garden, scrolling branches, flowers and leaves. The gilt metal loop has a sea-blue silk and metal thread tassel.

**Provenance:** Presented to the Company in October 1973 by HRH Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone. The fan had been given to Princess Alice by Lady Arthur.

## Object No.2 The Company Mace



English Possibly 1696 with later additions

Wood and Sterling silver

Mace: 70 inches, 179 cm.

Fan Finial: 7.25 x 4.75 inches, 18.1 x 12.2 cm. Weight 2.5 oz., 78 g. AR No. 396

The Mace is the oldest piece in the Company's silver collection and is carried by the Beadle in front of the Master at all official occasions.

# We want hear from you

As the Master's message spells out, we are adapting members of the Company. to the difficult situation in which we find ourselves. So many members of the Company have interesting We aim to produce this newsletter at least every occupations or hobbies and we would like to hear month so that you can be kept abreast of the from you. Likewise, if you feel that the Newsletter upcoming programme, secondly to remind you of could be improved let us know. the Company Treasures and tell you a little of their Please feel free to get in touch with Mr Assistant Ian history, and finally provide some pen portraits of Block at [ian@atcronin.co.uk](mailto:ian@atcronin.co.uk)

## Forthcoming Events

The Programme of events which we published in the newsletter delivered to your home in early March is clearly looking largely like a work of fiction, though we do hope for some form of resumption as soon as the Government believes it to be safe.

In the meantime we are organising a series of interviews and talks, this will include a Toast by one of the Master, Wardens or members of the Court to the Livery Company and the opportunity for you to join a Virtual Stirrup Cup where in the comfort of your own home you will be put at random into a group of four to six people to enjoy company of other Fan Makers.

Success will be judged by when we meet again, you will know many more Fan Makers.

The events which we have in the diary at present :

**Wednesday 29th April 7.45pm for 8pm** In conversation with Past Master Hughes "*What didn't go well as a Personal Protection Officer*"

**Wednesday 6th May 7.45pm for 8pm** Miss Assistant Honoris Causa Anne-Marie Benson talks about "*The Fan: Leaf, Sticks and Guards*"

**Wednesday 13th May 7.45pm for 8pm** In conversation with The Hon Chaplain, The Revd Canon David Reindorp "*A life in Cloth and other places*"

**Wednesday 20th May 7.45pm for 8pm** Miss Liveryman Mary Kitson "*Dreams of Italy: Grand Tour Fans*"

**Wednesday 27th May 7.45pm for 8pm** David Reindorp will be in conversation with a Fan Maker yet to be announced

**Wednesday 3rd June 7.45pm for 8pm** Dr Liveryman Helen Marr "*Advertising Fans*"

*As soon as the Wednesday speakers are known the Members' Area on our website will be updated.*

PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU CAN ONLY BOOK PLACES THROUGH THE EVENTS SECTION IN THE MEMBERS' AREA - THE CLERK IS UNABLE TO TAKE DIRECT BOOKINGS

## A Thought for the Day from Our Chaplain

The novelty of lockdown is wearing off for all of us.

Whenever I am tempted to bemoan our fate I think of an Indian priest reported in the Church Times last week, saying,

"For us, social distancing and washing hands is a luxury we do not have".

I for one, will never take for granted our happy meetings.

Our family of Fan Makers feature in my prayers morning and evening.

God bless you all and I miss you very much.

David Reindorp  
Hon Chaplain