



# THE FAN MAKER

Issue 23

18 May 2020

## Fan Makers consider further support for Charities

This year, thanks in large part to the generosity of Fan Makers, we have made grants from the Poor Fund of £81,500. The Grant Secretaries have been in contact with all the charities that receive grants and have seen the flexibility and energy of their response to the Covid-19 lockdown.

Charities that rely on face to face contact are continuing by telephone and video, examples being World Heart-beat Music where our grant pays for children from disadvantaged families to receive music tuition; Headway East London, working with people who have acquired head injury and their carers; and IntoUniversity that encourages aspiration and supports children from disadvantaged backgrounds through their school years - although facilities at home and lack of support from less well educated parents can be a problem.

Some charities have seen an increase in demand; for example the Soup Kitchen on Tottenham Court Road is now serving 165 lunches a day, up from 110 as recently as March; social distancing dictates that meals are given in lunchboxes but getting homeless clients to line up 2 metres apart presents challenge. Soup Kitchen's Director, Alex Brown, a former New York policeman, is just about coping!

Providence Row in Whitechapel provides breakfast and more for rough sleepers, and is now assisting local authorities to run two hotels being used to house the homeless. Caritas Anchor House, a 140 bed hostel for the homeless in Newham, is managing the demands of social distancing, loss of job by



many residents and the sudden non-availability of food from Prêt a Manger, upon which many residents relied.

React, which provides to disadvantaged families specialist equipment to enable terminally ill children to be at home for the remainder of their short lives, is finding it has to support these families in dealing with the NHS, which is giving priority to combating Covid-19.

Looking ahead to the lifting of restrictions amidst massive unemployment, Solace, which provides refuge accommodation to the victims of domestic and sexual violence, expects an influx of new clients who have been unable to escape abusive situations during the lockdown; St Giles Trust, working to persuade young people not to join gangs and other criminal activity, expects renewed drug turf wars, and an upsurge in gang violence; the Archway Project is poised to continue its work with troubled youngsters through the medium of off-road motor-cycling while social distancing.

All our charities are very concerned about income, which has dropped during the lockdown and now faces an economic downturn. Contributions from organisations such as the Fan Makers will be especially important in seeing them through. Our Charities Committee will meet in August (sooner if necessary) to consider what steps it would be appropriate for us to take at that time, when the post-lockdown situation should be clearer.

**Past Master Paul Hoddinott**  
**Chairman of the Charities Committee**

# Getting to know you: Members of the Company and their taste in music

## The Clerk

### Martin Davies



Martin originally comes from the Wirral, between Chester and Liverpool in the North West. After qualifying as a Barrister, Martin practiced in Liverpool for some years before moving to London where he worked on fraud cases before becoming a regulator of the financial service industry in the City.

While at the Director of Public Prosecutions office Martin was involved with the Guinness Takeover case (where the Chief Executive of Guinness, Ernest Saunders made his famous “recovery” from Alzheimer’s).

Martin’s chief recreational interest has been heraldry and he has spent some time working as a research assistant at the College of Arms as well as being Chairman of the Heraldry Society. Martin is a Liveryman of the Scriveners’ Company and since October 2019 of the Fan Makers’ Company.

#### My inheritance track :

The theme tune to the film “**Chariots of Fire**” by **Vangelis**. It reminds me of the time I appeared as an extra in this Oscar winning film (which was filmed on the Wirral). (Note from the Editor: Who knew we had Hollywood Royalty in our midst.)

Follow us on twitter @Fan\_Makers



Follow us on Instagram:

@worshipfulcompanyoffanmakers



## The Senior Assistant

### Mike Lakin



Mike was first introduced to the Fan Makers on the 13th August 1989. Serving as a Sapper in the TA unit 217 Field Squadron. On that day Mike was part of a running team that competed in Hyde Park against

another London TA unit. Mike’s unit won and the prize of a tankard was presented to him by the then Master Ray Scott-White. Contact with the Company again wasn’t until October 1994 when Mike and Peter Dove (the current Foreign Warden and a regimental colleague) met the then Master Godfrey Bilton, at the annual 101 Regimental cocktail party in Catford. Godfrey invited both Mike and Peter to their first livery dinner several weeks later, both standing out in their red mess kits. Subsequently they were invited to join the company. After 26 years Mike is still enjoying being a Fan Maker just as much as he did at his first dinner.

Mike left Cardiff University in 1984 and started a career as a Petroleum Geologist in the oil and gas industry. Several years spent learning the trade drilling, exploration and production on wells in Southern England, eventually led Mike to start his own specialist oil and gas consultancy business. He lives in London with his wife Charlotte, and having enjoyed 10 years with the TA he is an older dad, with two teenage boys who are on their GCSE and A Level trails, so never a dull moment.

#### My inheritance track:

‘**Depuis le jour**’ by **Maria Callas** (3rd Act of Opera: Louise – Gustave Charpentier)

If this does not blow your socks off at the end, please tell me what does!

# 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. The last edition of *The Fan Maker* featured the Beadle's Staff and a beautiful fan, the Lady Arthur Fan. In this edition we look at the Poor Box and the beautiful Flirtation Fan

## Object No.3 The Poor Box



English 1939

Sterling silver gilt

13.5 x 10.4 x 7.9 inches, 34.2 x 26.3 x 20.0 cm.

Weight: 201 oz. troy, 6231 g

The Company's sterling silver Poor Box is a magnificent rectangular casket with a hinged lid, tiered handles and bracket feet. It is decorated with applied bands of scroll wire work interspersed with ovals of mother-of-pearl. The cover is decorated with barley engine turning and has a central finial in the form of the Company's crest. On the front of the box is an applied enamelled depiction of the arms of the Company, and similarly on the back the arms of the City of London. The principal inscription reads:

**THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FAN MAKERS**

presented by

**WILLIAM BERNARD ROSS COLLINS**

Master 1939-1943

Admission 14 June 1927

Other panels are engraved with information relating to the Ross Collins family. The three keyholes are engraved respectively for Master, Free Warden and Foreign Warden, implying that the box can only be opened in the presence of the senior members of the Company, and the silver gilt keys themselves are in the form of fans.

It bears hallmarks for London 1939 and the sponsor's mark for Searle & Co. Ltd.

Supporting charitable works has always been an obligation for Liverymen. As part of the ceremony of admission to the Livery a Fan Maker places a donation in the Poor Box. (NB)

Presented to the Company by W. Bernard Ross Collins, Master from 1939-1943.

## Object Number 4: The Flirtation Fan



French c. 1725

Ivory brisé fan (2 + 28)

8 inches, 20.3 cm.

The central cartouche of this fan is painted with a young man flirting with two young women in a rural setting while, to the left, a female servant averts her eyes. The gilded surround and inner edge are pierced and painted with flowers and leaves. The reverse is undecorated.

The gorge and reserves are painted with chinoiserie scenes of figures holding parasols and the guards are each carved with a male figure and pot plants. The pivot has a tortoiseshell file and a paste decorated metal pin.

Provenance: Presented to the Company by HRH Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, Honorary Freeman of the Fan Makers.

# Brief Update from the Master

We seem to be settling down into a routine of weekly events which seem to have been well received. During the summer months (from 3rd June) we intend to cut them back to fortnightly. There may be some members who are shielding that want something more frequently, please can they contact the Clerk who will lay that on. (There is no room hire!) In the next month the General Purposes and Finance Committee will meet to consider amongst other matters, the likely programme of events in the second half of the year. This will be reported in the next newsletter in early June

Colin Bramall, Master

## Forthcoming Events (Free of Charge)

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 which are free of charge, this will include a Toast by one of the Master, Wardens or members of the Court to the NHS and 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. (Please bring your own bottle)

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 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 Jeff Bines, The Immediate Past Master *"Aeronautics to SOE"*

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

**Wednesday 17th June 7.45pm for 8pm** Jeff Bines, The Immediate Past Master will be in conversation with Past Master Paul Hoddinott CB OBE *"An Adventurous Life, from the Falklands to Afghanistan"*

**Wednesday 1st July 7.45pm for 8pm** Freeman Jacob Moss *"Street Fans"*

**Wednesday 15th July 7.45pm for 8pm** Past Master Paul Hoddinott will be in conversation with Liveryman Rob Owen OBE about the *"St Giles Trust"*

**Wednesday 29th July 7.45pm for 8pm** Liveryman Tom Saunders *"The Art of Decorative Painting"*

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

Today we received news that we can live stream services from our churches.

It means we are beginning to look at the post lockdown world.

We pray sensitivity and wisdom for all those concerned with the tricky details of achieving this in safety.

You will be pleased to know that your Chaplain has changed his physiognomy.

Last year at our Animal Service the pet chosen as the animal that looked most like the vicar was Sneeze - a pug. This year the pet chosen online was a terrier wearing a splendid white dog collar that spoke with a voice imitating mine!

Things are looking up.

I miss you all and what a gathering we will have when this is all over.

**David Reindorp**

**Hon Chaplain**