



Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers Message from the Master

[105 engagements](#) later ... and the mantelpiece is empty



But here are some of the highlights of the second half of my year.

June Livery Dinner and July Summer Service and Lunch



St James Garlickhythe was the setting for both our June Livery Church service and the Friends and Family Summer Service.

In June the weather was kind to us for the procession from and back to Painters' Hall. The Hon Chaplain (who I'm delighted to say is soon to become an Hon Liveryman) designed a splendid "Songs of Praise" type service and we all sang with much gusto.

We were joined for Dinner by Adam Ismail, our Abbott Scholar and Glass Sellers' Apprentice, who

spoke about the benefit of the scholarship.

The Rt Hon Sir Tony Baldry QC responded on behalf of the guests and his speech focused on the history of the Company. Click [HERE](#) to read his well-researched address.

On the other hand, it absolutely tipped down with rain on the day we held our **Friends and Family Church Service and Lunch** in July and it seemed most appropriate to repeat the old *Dr Foster went to Gloucester* rhyme when we said goodbye to Guy Treweek whose wife, Rachel, was just about to be installed as Bishop. Our Service was Guy's last one in St James and there was real emotion in his voice when he said farewell.

Some 30+ Liverymen and guests joined us at the London Capital Club for Lunch including Past Master Bill Cook and his wife, Liveryman, Bron who brought their grandson.

And aren't he and Bron peas in a pod?





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Master's Commission Competition



There was a buzz in the air for the September "Glass" Dinner when the Winner of the Commission Competition, Jochen Holz, was announced. Sponsorship from specialist fine art shippers, Art Logistics Ltd, enabled the Finalists and Highly Commended artists to join us and many did.

It's often said that glass artists wouldn't want to come to our formal dinners, preferring a more informal/arty environment.



The Master with a selection of the Glass Artists.

I'm delighted to say this is simply not true. They were bowled over by the craftsmanship in Ironmongers' Hall and were delighted to see everyone's work on display and available for sale.

"The most memorable evening of my life," said one, "It took me back to my college days at Cambridge," said another.



To view all the images click [HERE](#)

The commission samples displayed above raised just over £1200 which I plan to make up to £1500. The money will be used to support the outreach work of Tim Boswell and Elliott Walker (both Glass Sellers prize winners) who have set themselves up as [The Bandits of Glass](#).

I was delighted to see Tm and Elliott at work at Liveryman Peter Layton's [London Glass Blowing](#) on Sunday 6 December when they excited the crowd that had gathered (!) to see their demonstrations. The one where they made a fishbowl and then inserted glass fish into the bowl that was full of molten glass was particularly spectacular.

The few samples that were not sold have been sent to Liveryman Barbara Beadman to sell or use as raffle prizes when fundraising for the new glass museum in Stourbridge.



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Mansion House Banquet



Jochen’s borosilicate (Pyrex) [tumbler](#) proved to be a talking point at the Banquet. “I shall use mine for shots of soup at dinner parties” said Alderman Dame Fiona Woolf DBE, the Master Solicitor (who attended as Lord Mayor Locum Tenens). “I’ll use it to toast your health,” said one my fellow Masters.

Whatever they’re used for, I hope they’ll bring back happy memories of a glittering evening.



Father and son check out the Seating plan.



The Master with visiting Masters.



The Post Horn Gallop.

To view all 500+ images from the Banquet – click [HERE](#)

The Glass Festival Doodle Competition



I was thrilled to be invited to submit a Doodle for and waited with baited breath for the items to be auctioned at Flemings in Stourbridge towards the end of October in the hope that I’d be able to successfully out-bid any rivals for the final product – a magnificent London Cityscape.

The item (measuring 90cm in length) was certainly popular and I’m thrilled that it’s now in my home. Read what the artist [Nadia Lammas](#) has to say.

The Doodles sale generated £10k for the new glass museum in Stourbridge.

Other highlights included the:

- Battle of Agincourt celebration at Westminster Abbey at the end of September.
- splendid Lunch hosted by the Remembrancer in the Members’ Dining Room in Guildhall for his friend, the Rev’d Nicholas Gandy, when he received the Freedom of the City.





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Meanwhile - our new Clerk, Caroline Gillett, joined us in July.

Caroline, and her fiancé, Andrew, invited Peter and me to their wedding in June. It was a joyous occasion on a beautiful summer's day and it was a pleasure to meet their family and friends and to learn how pleased everyone was about Caroline's new role.



Caroline takes the Oath as Clerk at Common Hall this week, but she has already proved her organising capabilities and, in keeping with my theme as Master (**Innovate | Communicate**), she's already brought in some changes, such as the more streamlined dinner booking system, that I know many of you like.

The Clerk's role is a complex one. It's not just about sorting out the dinner seating plan and accompanying the Master to a succession of dinners. The Clerk combines what, in the business world would be the roles of the Chief Executive and Chief Operating Officer and it's the Clerk's responsibility, under the guidance of the Court, to make sure that the Company continues to flourish.

Lunch at the Charterhouse



I was delighted to host a farewell lunch for nearly 60 Liverymen and guests for Past Master Vincent Emms and the Assistant Clerk, Kerry Hamer-Nel at the Charterhouse in early November.

Before Lunch we were treated to a tour of the Charterhouse given by some of the Brothers.

Following the meal Past Masters Philip Willoughby and Brian Rawles presented engraved glass gifts to

Kerry (a cake stand) and Vincent (a claret jug).

And finally, a first for the City's 100th female Master as we prepare for our new Master

During the summer I became a Liveryman of the Livery Company of Wales and was clothed in the Livery of the Needlemakers' Company at the end of September. I was particularly surprised, and pleased, to discover I was the first incumbent Master in the Needlemakers' history to become a Liveryman.

I'm looking forward to getting to know and becoming more involved in these Companies in the certain knowledge that the Glass Sellers' Company will continue to flourish root and branch.



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