



Court and Livery Dinner Speech
10 March 2015

Master: Gwenllian Rhys

Wardens, members of the Court and Livery, visiting Masters, Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening and a very warm welcome to the Glass Sellers' Spring Dinner.

At the Court Meeting held this afternoon 4 Freeman were admitted to the Company. They are De Bradshaw, Jonathan Collinson, Tom Grant and John McElligott. Will you please all stand.

De Bradshaw is the Immediate Past Master Plaisterer and having attended several of our Company events as my guest she is a welcome addition to the Glass Sellers.

Jonathan Collinson works as a Senior Director, International Product Management with Vonage, a telecommunications company. His interest in glass began when he was working in Prague where he met local glass artist Tony Manto.

Thomas Grant is Managing Director of occupational health and healthcare services company MOH Limited and has an interest in classic cars and flying.

John McElligott is a consultant in the telecommunications industry and is a shooting instructor at Bisley. His other interests include sailing, fishing, ski-ing and conservation.

In addition Paul Wiltshire was clothed with the Livery and I'm delighted to present him with the livery badge of the Worshipful Company of Glass Sellers.

I would like to take a moment to point out the symbolism contained in the Livery badge which should be worn on the right breast or lapel and I hope you will wear it on all City occasions and at any other time when you think the name and fame of the Company would benefit.

The badge itself bears the coat of the arms awarded by the College of Arms in 2009. The shield in the centre bears the three items that have

been on the Company shield since the 17th Century: a stone vessel; a Venetian glass, and a looking-glass or mirror.

Flanking the shield are two Ravens representing the Company's connection with George Ravenscroft, who developed Lead Crystal. The Ravens find footing on the Sun representing enlightenment, and the Globe symbolising the global markets for all glass products.

The Flames on the Crest rise out of a furnace to represent the heat essential to making glass for any application.

The motto is "Discordia Frangimur" which may be translated as "we will be broken by discord".

I trust that you will wear the Livery to your credit and to the credit and advantage of the Company for many years to come.

CLOSING ADDRESS

Wardens, members of the Court and Livery, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Rob Ireson, Innovation Lead at Glass Technology Services Limited neatly melded together the two strands of my theme as Master, Innovate | Communicate, when he delivered the Ravenscroft Lecture to a full house of 100 last month.

I was particularly pleased to welcome 15 Masters, many of whom were accompanied by their Clerks or Consorts who joined Liverymen and guests.

During my welcome, I posed the question “What is the collective noun for a group of Livery Masters?”

Although I didn’t get an instant answer, the question reached the @GlassSeller Twitter community enabling me to communicate beyond those attending the Lecture.

“A Deck” suggested the Worshipful Company of Playing Card Makers adding in response to my question “And how many Masters in that Deck” “52 and a couple of Jokers”.

The Marketors’ company suggested “A Magnificence of Masters” whilst another follower offered “A Mystery of Masters” and when robed “A Liberace of Masters”.

Having attended the Hackney Carriage Drivers Court Dinner last week, I put forward “A Rank” to which one of its Liverymen responded “Better than a Complaint”.

Gill Moore, the Master of the Builders Merchants Company suggested I run a competition charging Companies to put forward their collective noun with the proceeds going to the Lord Mayor’s Charities. Now there’s an idea.

To continue the conversation follow me @GlassSeller.

And that's not the only conversation the @ GlassSeller twitter handle has been buzzing with. My weekly HashTag SaturdaySnippet of extracts from our recently published History of the Glass Sellers Company are being re-tweeted and favourited and my Commission Competition which I launched in early January with the help of fellow Liveryman and glass collector, Mark Holford, has received much attention with one artist, Rachel Elliott, posting "noisy videos" of her submission on her Facebook page saying "this is possibly the smallest thing we've cut in glass and simply adorable when put together" . She adds that that's not how she would normally describe her work.

Some 45 Glass Artists (ranging from established artists like Bob Cross to relative newcomers) put forward initial proposals and all have been invited to submit a sample for judging towards the end of April. The winner or winners will be announced at the International Glass Biennale in Stourbridge in May and a generous sponsor has enabled me to offer a cash prize of £750 to one outstanding entry and invite that artist to attend our Annual Mansion House Banquet on 22 October.

I'm really excited about seeing the samples and hearing the comments of the experts on the Judging Panel.

All the submitted pieces will be on view at our Dinner on 24 September and each guest attending our Annual Banquet will receive a piece of glass made by the Competition winner or winners.

Just two excellent reasons to attend our September Dinner and October Banquet.

Our next Dinner, on 11 June, will focus on our Charitable Activities when Liverymen and guests will have the opportunity to hear about the impact of our charitable work direct from the Charity's beneficiaries and will be invited to make a donation to the Charity Fund.

Our Honorary Chaplain, Canon Philip Need, has put forward some very innovative suggestions for how we can raise funds and details will be circulated soon.

Our recently opened MyDonate account has made it easy for people to donate to the Glass Sellers Charity and guests attending the Ravenscroft Lecture donated nearly £500 towards our Glass in Society educational programme which supports STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) activities in schools.

Without doubt, then, glass is central to innovation and communication - and it simply leaves me, therefore, to ask you all to be upstanding and toast that most wonderful of materials - GLASS.



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10 March 2016