

THE CORDWAINER

This year pigs will fly
Meet Ruby



FOCUSING ON THE 2020 VISION

Charitable giving reaches record levels

One aspect of the 2020 Vision was the ambitious goal of doubling what is given away to charity in financial grants over the eight-year period from 2012 to 2020.

Three years down the line, it is clear that some very positive results have been achieved already.

The latest accounts of the Company's two main Charities, Minge's Gift and the Cordwainers' Common Investment Fund for the year ending 31st July 2015 show that the amounts given away to charity increased by some 82% over the three-year period from 2012 to 2015.

Clerk John Miller commented, 'Financially the Company and its charities have been performing very well. Taken together with the wonderful generosity of our members and their friends through their donations and vibrant participation in fundraising



Liveryman Colonel Nigel Easton receives a cheque from the Master on behalf of the Fusilier Aid Society.

campaigns such as the Blenheim Triathlon in 2014 and the Fusiliers Challenge in 2015, we have been able to increase substantially the amounts given away to our charitable beneficiaries. We are well on the way to achieving our Vision goal of doubling charitable giving by 2020.'

Raising our Profile

In 2015 our profile rose considerably. Our association with the V&A exhibition, *Shoes Pleasure and Pain* led to a wider awareness of the Company in particular and the work of City livery companies in general.

Within the trade, The Cordwainers National Footwear Student Awards continue to bring talented footwear design students to the attention of the footwear industry.

The Company's proactive involvement in the world of footwear education and encouragement of entrepreneurship within the shoe trade has been celebrated more widely in the past year.

We are keen to let the world know that although the Cordwainers have a long and proud traditional history in the City, the Company remains relevant to the footwear industry and is a strong supporter of the trade itself. The Company's support of the Victoria and Albert Museum exhibition *Shoes, Pleasure and Pain* put the Company name on the map – or at least on advertisements up and down the country – for the first time.

Thanks to the hard work of Felicities, the PR company appointed to help us improve our profile, Cordwainers were also mentioned in features in 68 publications both online and in print, including *The Daily Telegraph*,

Harper's Bazaar and Marie Claire. Alison Lowe and her team have been tireless in their efforts to promote the Company and made a strong start during the summer, focusing on our involvement with the V&A exhibition and The Cordwainers National Footwear Student Awards.

Next year Felicities will focus on PR activity that helps achieve aims of the 2020 Vision, as positive press will in turn help expand participation, increase charitable donations, and assist with the growth of the company. They will help us maximise opportunities to publicise our connections with the trade and education, as well as our very valuable work in charitable fundraising.

Forging new links with the City

Common Councilman Ann Holmes joined the Company in the summer, providing a new link between the Cordwainers and local government of the City of London. Here she gives us her first impressions of the Company.

I was extremely lucky to become a Cordwainer just before both the awards at the V&A and Oath Day. This gave me the opportunity not only to enjoy Cordwainer hospitality, but to meet many fellow Cordwainers.

I was also privileged to sit in on a meeting of the Events Committee. On all of these occasions I was extremely impressed

by how friendly and welcoming everyone was.

I hope my background in education, environment and management will help me serve the Company, along with my current role as a Common Councilman. I sit on a significant number of City Committees and Subcommittees, and am Deputy Chairman of both the Barbican Residential Committee and the City's Housing Management and Almshouses Sub Committee. I am also a governor of the City of London Freeman's School, the City of London School for Girls, as well as the City of London Primary Academy Islington, due to open in 2017.

It is unsurprising, therefore, that I am already discussing a possible Cordwainer initiative with some of the City's family of



Freeman Ann Holmes CC

schools, and have arranged a Court Supper in Guildhall's private members dining room.

MASTER'S COLUMN

2015-16 is the year in which our 2020 Vision is growing new vistas for the Company and its beneficiaries and in particular for blind and visually impaired people. I am honoured to be the 743rd Master of this ancient and venerable Company, which was founded to exercise control and influence in shoe and leather crafts, and to undertake charity for its needy and disabled constituents.



It is gratifying that, even after 743 years, the Company remains true to its honour, heritage and responsibility. I recently joined the Fusilier Cadets at Swynnerton Camp in the wilds

of Staffordshire. It was wonderful to see 14- and 15-year-old cadets wearing Cordwainer-bought boots and engaging in their training with enthusiasm and laughter. Not only are we encouraging vigorous and exciting design through our National Footwear Student Awards, but we have also opened doors for The Urswick School which now has sufficient stringed instruments of its own for its pupils to use; we have stood uniquely as sponsors of Innovation in Footwear at the Footwear Friends Awards and we have entertained our Fusilier heroes to a happy and joyous knees-up.

The Court is looking forward, through the 2020 Vision, to raising the Company's game in all it does. We have significantly increased our Education charity support to Cordwainer and shoe trade students across the board. We are preparing ourselves for a future when the trade for which we have responsibility will increasingly be a significant part of our constituency. We are on the threshold of exciting times, with the Court having been given a footwear challenge to raise awareness for the need for design and fun in men's footwear. We can and will influence the increasingly important realisation that everyone marches on their feet and it's time our feet were fêted in the male community – our lady members are way ahead of us and the men have a lot of catching up to do. We owe it to St Crispin and St Crispianus, the patron saints of shoemakers, to carry our privilege forward for the benefit of future Cordwainers and give them a legacy of enjoyment, excitement and reward.

2016 is the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's death. We are proudly hosting a Cordwainer Extravaganza for the Blind to act as their ambassadors and to spread awareness of their needs amongst a wider community of those who take sight for granted. Before we get to our extravaganza, Cordwainers are going to be put to the test at the Events Committee Pub Quiz in January. Both events will raise much-needed funds for blind beneficiaries and we will carry on our great tradition of doing good while having fun.

Have a very joyous Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.



The Master, John Rubinstein



The Master with his consort, Mary Ellen Barton.

John Rubinstein

John Rubinstein was born in Kensington in 1952. Educated at Marlborough College and Magdalen College, Oxford University, he was admitted as a solicitor in 1977, and in 1979 he qualified as a New York attorney.

With his experience in intellectual property, media and art law, he founded Rubinstein Phillips in 2003. He qualified as a Solicitor-Advocate in 2013. He has served on the boards of a number of charities including the Cordwainers' Education and Training Charity, the Royal Opera House Benevolent Fund and the Equity Charitable Trust.

John is the third generation of his family in the Company, being apprenticed in 1966 and admitted to the Livery in 1973. He has served previously as Master Musician (2004-5), is a member of the Trafalgar Pastmasters' Association, and Ritter von die hohe Kammer, E.E. Zunft zu Schuhmachern, Basel.

He enjoys conversation, bridge, armchair politics, music of almost all types, and the arts on a regular basis. He speaks French, Italian, and some German, and loves travelling when he has arrived.

He is divorced and has two sons: Henry, a Freeman of the Company, is in PR, and Hugo, who works in corporate finance.

Neither out of sight, nor out of mind: fundraising for blind beneficiaries

RLSB

The Royal London Society for Blind People

The Master's charity for this year supports Cordwainer charities for the blind and visually impaired people. Cordwainers have supported charities for blind people since 1781, when John Came made his first donation of £100 to support 20 poor blind men and women. The Royal London Society for Blind People (RLSB) is a charity with which the Cordwainers have been associated for more than half a century. Past Master Mike Uren is a former Chairman of the RLSB. No one who has heard the Master speak can doubt his passion for this cause.

The RLSB focuses on empowering young people with visual impairment, with the aim of improving their life chances. Statistics from the RLSB show that visual impairment has a detrimental affect on the lives of young people way beyond the very considerable practical problems of blindness or seriously reduced visual capacity. They may be depressed, have trouble finding employment and therefore be on the poverty line. It is critical to start young, and the RLSB works with babies and toddlers, as well as older teenagers to help prepare them for independent living. Through an expert blend of education, sports, creative and developmental services, the RLSB helps young people with visual impairment live and learn for the life they want.

Live life without limits

The RLSB has introduced a number of initiatives which give blind youngsters opportunities to enjoy the sort of activities that sighted teenagers take for granted. Sports without Limits provides specially trained coaches to teach sports such as cricket, football and tennis to 12-25 year olds. RLSB chief executive Dr Tom Pey said 'The clubs are not just about giving our members an outlet for physical activity and the opportunity to tap into skills they didn't know they had, but it's also a fantastic way to form new friendships and gain confidence.'



Charlie has benefited from the Sport without Limits programme.

'The clubs are not just about giving our members an outlet for physical activity and the opportunity to tap into skills they didn't know they had, but it's also a fantastic way to form new friendships and gain confidence.'

resound in-action?video=QUtukslaoXE

Cordwainer funds have already proved valuable. Our Musical Outreach project has supported a workshop run by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and students from the Royal College of Music. Led by composer Hannah Conway, participants from the RLSB explored the music of Puccini's opera La Bohème and created their own pieces in response. It was clearly an amazing day. 'I was not expecting it to be that good', said one student. A video of the day's work can be seen (and heard) here:

<http://www.rpo.co.uk/rpo->

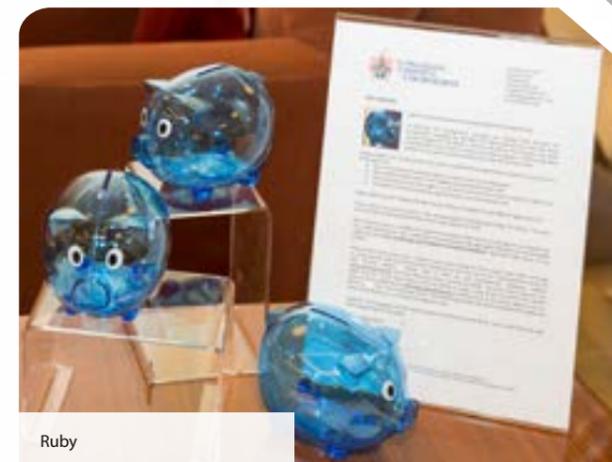


How we can help – fill Ruby

By now, everyone has met Ruby and we hope, is keeping her well fed with legal tender. Like many pigs, Ruby will eat anything: in this case coins or notes are equally acceptable, and Ruby likes to be emptied and refilled as many times as possible. Count the money and either send a cheque to the Office made payable to 'The Cordwainers' Charity', or donate it online at:

www.justgiving.com/CordwainersCharities4theBlind

'By now, we hope everyone has met Ruby and is keeping her well fed with legal tender.'



Ruby



Archie has a cortical vision impairment and attends a specialist RLSB nursery.



The Musical Outreach project in action with RLSB students.

Musical Extravaganza

On 21st April, the Company will host a cultural extravaganza of music, drama and sculpture, a multi-sensory evening of exceptional and uplifting entertainment. Our guests will include many blind beneficiaries.

OUR CHARITIES

Footwear Friends Awards 2015

The ninth Footwear Friends Annual Awards were held at St Mary at Hill Church in Eastcheap on 22 October. Recognised as one of the key awards for developing British designers, they also pay tribute to the extraordinary entrepreneurial talent emerging in the footwear industry.

The Company is pleased to provide the Worshipful Company of Cordwainers Award for Innovation, a prize of £5,000 that is accompanied by 12 months of mentoring. This year it was awarded to the independent Lancashire company, Swift & Co, who have developed a less labour-intensive and more eco-friendly means of constructing traditional yet lightweight shoes. Using an ingenious process known as 'turn-shoe', shoes are constructed inside out, which minimises the use of solvent-based glues when the upper is attached to the sole. Footwear from Swift & Co combines tradition with technology: welted brogues in leather and suede, Chelsea boots and lace-up boots.

Richard Swift, the Managing Director went on to receive another award, the BFA/FN Platform Award, which recognises his company's commitment to developing an innovative British product with international potential. Swift and Co will be given the opportunity to showcase their brand on a sponsored

stand at the USA's premier footwear show in Las Vegas.

Although Swift and Co is only just over a year old, the company's roots are in the Lancashire shoe industry of the last century. Richard Swift is the third generation of his family to work in shoe manufacturing and although the trade has declined in Burnley, Richard is determined to recapture at least something of the past glories with his new company.

Judges for this year's awards included two Cordwainers, liverymen Georgina Goodman and Caroline Groves, who joined Rachel King of Clarks and retail consultant Malcom Collins, who commented, 'The judges were extremely impressed with the standard of this year's entries and well thought out presentations. What was especially impressive this time was the high level of creativity and innovation. I am also delighted that so many people attended the event and by doing so supported the trade's unique charity.'



Staff changes

Most of us have only a hazy idea just what it takes to run the Worshipful Company of Cordwainers. The Clerk combines the role of chief executive, charitable fundraiser, finance director, marketing manager and entertainments manager (hi de hi!) Of course, the truth is that his assistant Sue Cummings is the true work horse of the Company and the person who knows exactly what should happen when, where and to whom.

On a serious note, the scope of the Company's work has increased considerably over the past few years in line with the 2020 Vision and the office has undoubtedly been stretched. So we are delighted to announce that Sue Cummings has been appointed Assistant Clerk – the first such appointment in the Company's history. Sue and John will be assisted by Nancy Treves, who joins the office on 7 December. Nancy joins us from the charity, Living Streets and she will be working on our charitable endeavours and events.



We offer our congratulations to Sue and a hearty welcome to Nancy.

OBITUARIES



PAST MASTER DONALD BIRTS 1936-2015

The company received the news of the death of Past Master Donald Birts, on 17th June 2015 with considerable regret.

Having joined the livery in 1959, Donald became Junior Warden in 1974 during the mastership of John Rodney Peal. He joined the Court in 1990, and was Master in 1994–1995.

Donald was an exceptionally accomplished man and enjoyed a remarkable career in the City as an adviser and broker in the field of personal pensions where his reputation was unrivalled.

Throughout his time on the Court, Donald's contribution to the affairs of the Company was of the highest quality. Everyone listened carefully to his views and, more often than not, the Court was persuaded by his arguments.

He was one of a succession of Masters in the 1990s who saw the need for change in the way we ran our affairs and the need to manage them in a more focused way. He saw very early, and before others, that the Company would have to abandon

'Donald saw very early, and before others, that the Company would have to abandon automatic succession and in its place introduce selection in deciding who should join the Livery and who should be appointed to the Court.'

automatic succession and in its place introduce selection in deciding who should join the Livery and who should be appointed to the Court. Then, as a member of the Freedom Committee, he helped to introduce the selection processes.

He was invariably firm and fair in his handling of the Court, and his wit, particularly his one-liners, kept things light and enjoyable and the Court on its toes! He was a regular Court attender even when Parkinson's disease started to make life more difficult for him.

Donald Birts was much admired and respected and the Court will miss his contributions to their deliberations, as well as his company at their dinners.



PAST MASTER RICHARD STILLWELL 1941-2015

Past Master Richard Stillwell died on the 6th October 2015 after suffering from pancreatic cancer.

The nephew of Past Master Jim East, Richard was a true Cordwainer, from the top of his 6 foot 3 inch head to the soles of his Church's brogues.

Richard worked in administration and facilities management, initially in the construction trade, and his job took him around the world in the 1970s and 1980s. Latterly, he worked at the Royal Society before his retirement. He was also a member, through his father's family, of the Worshipful Company of Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers.

He was elected to the Court in 1998 and became Master in 2002. He must have served on every committee and board of the Company (the wine committee was probably his favourite!) Consequently, his knowledge of the Company and City itself was second to none and it was put to good use when he served as interim clerk in 2006–2007.

A very welcoming, convivial and occasionally conspiratorial liveryman, he was instrumental in forming the Company's relationship with Northampton University and was delighted to serve on the Royal Free board, partly because of his wife Jenny's links with the hospital. On the Freedom Committee, he worked to ensure that the Cordwainers links with the shoe trade remained relevant. The father of two daughters, Liveryman Judith Millidge and Past Warden Eleanor Stillwell, he was very proud when Eleanor became the first female warden in the Company's history.

Despite his illness, Richard continued to take great interest in the activities of the Company and he was posthumously awarded the post of Honorary Assistant in November. Richard Stillwell loved this Company and the great family that we are. With his wise counsel friendly demeanour and ready smile, he made the Company a richer place.

'Life should not be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well preserved body, but rather to skid sideways, chocolate in one hand, wine in the other, body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming, 'Woo hoo what a ride!'

New Freemen

Admitted on 3rd December 2015

BY REDEMPTION

Elisa Anniss

Sarah Day



BY PATRIMONY

James Michael Charles Hodson – son of Past Warden Peter Hodson

Freddie George Hooper – son of Court Assistant Jonathan Hooper

Elizabeth Frances Millidge – daughter of Liveryman Judith Millidge

Peter Edward Charles Taylor – son of Past Warden Christopher Taylor and Lady Freeman Sarah Taylor

New Liverymen

Clothed with the Livery on 3rd December 2015

Alice Selina Bowen

Laura Cicely Caldecott

Georgina Goodman

Charlotte Anna Peal

Sian Rosemary Williams

Laura May Witherow

Births

Montgomery Arthur Fairweather

on 31st July 2015, son of Liveryman Edward Fairweather and his wife Claire.

Clara Eloise Poppy Thorne

on 11th November 2015, daughter of Past Warden Alex Thorne and his wife Liz.

Oscar Foyle on

17th November 2015, son of Liveryman Camilla Foyle and her husband Christopher.



Marriages

Beadle Christopher Peter Thomas

to Claire Webster on 23rd August 2015.



Deaths

Past Master Richard Martin Digby Stillwell, who died on 6th October 2015.

Freeman Major Stanley Baldwin, MBE, TD, RRF, who died on 10th November 2015.

Events Calendar

2016			
Jan 7th Thu	Court Ladies' Dinner	18:30	
Jan 12th Tue	AGM Royal Free Hospital Nurses Trust	15:00	
Jan 19th Tue	Quiz night	TBA	
Feb 3rd Wed	Court	17:15	
Feb 11th Thu	Junior Members' Event	TBA	
Mar 8th Tue	Harben Armoury Trust AGM	12:30	
Mar 11th Fri	United Guilds' Service and Lunch	11:15	
Mar 14th Mon	Events Committee	18:30	
Mar 18th Fri	Past Wardens' Dinner	18:30	
Apr 13th Wed	Court	15:30	
	Came's, Minge's and Shawe's Anniversary Sermon	17:15	C
	Apprentices' Supper	18:30	C
Apr 21st Thu	Spring Extravaganza (Clothworkers' Hall)	TBA	
May 13th Fri	Ladies' Dinner	18:30	B
Jun 6th Mon	Events Committee	18:30	
Jun 9th Thu	Cordwainers National Footwear Student Awards (Clothworkers' Hall)	TBA	
Jun 15th Wed	Court	16:30	
	Election Day Common Hall	18:00	
	Supper	18:30	
Jul 7th Thu	Oath Day Common Hall	16:15	B
	Fisher's, Minge's and Wild's Anniversary Service – St Olave's	18:00	A
	Supper in Livery Hall	19:00	A

A - All Liverymen, Freemen, Court and Company Widows invited.

B - All Liverymen invited.

C - All Freemen and Freeborn children (aged 14-20) of Liverymen invited.

Cordwainers.org

Visit the website

www.cordwainers.org for

the latest news about

Company events. The

Members' Area contains

the Livery List with

contact details of all

members. If you have not

yet sent in a picture of

yourself for the new

members' database, please

do so as soon as possible - email office@cordwainers.org.

We welcome contributions and suggestions from everyone.



Social Media



Our Facebook page is private and restricted to members of the Company. Find it here:

www.facebook.com/groups/2454201583/

Finally, follow us on Twitter @Cordwainers.

The Clerk is delighted to hear from all Cordwainers. Please remember to tell the office about changes of address and your family news. 

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