

YEAR 1994 - 95

number of our members are associated. When we attended the laying of the foundation stone ceremony for the Jacqueline du Pré Music Hall, at St Hilda's College, Oxford, the smoke alarm sounded during the associated concert. For some minutes, nobody moved or reacted until the pianist decided to stop playing. I doubt that the local Fire Brigade would have approved of this form of therapy!

November also included a commemorative dinner at the Mansion House to celebrate the centenary of the City of London School for Girls.

Subsequently, throughout December and January, I enjoyed the hospitality of the Tin Plate Workers, the Curriers, the Distillers, the Fishmongers, Actuaries, Tobacco Pipemakers and our particular friends, the Stationers, apart from attending a number of concerts with which our members were involved.

For my family and me, February was clouded by the death of my father, a former President of the Livery Club and member of the Court. However, following the initiative of Master Draper and Musician, Sir Nicholas Jackson, our respective members were given the opportunity to enjoy the magnificent facilities of Drapers' Hall and be entertained to a series of three concerts. These musical events were, happily, well supported. I hope the co-operation will continue.

In March, my wife and I made the first of two visits to Manchester, this time to attend one of the Manchester Mid-day Concerts to which the Company has regularly lent support through the Percival Hart Fund. Shortly thereafter, at the whim of the then Master of the Worshipful Company of Joiners & Ceilers, I was invited to give a dinner address on the subject of our Company. Unlike our own, their Masters disappear from the Court on conclusion of their term of office! Soon after, the social round was overcast by the death of Pastmaster Sir Vivian Dunn, whom I had come to know well and in whose Company I had much enjoyed the Lords Test Match for a number of seasons. (I am happy to have found that there are at least three other members of the Livery who enjoy the game: even one member of the Court who has offered to exchange some time away from shaping sycamore for new violins, for watching the wielding of willow later this summer).

Events at the end of March included both the Spring Concert by the Junior Department of Trinity College and the South Bank Maisie Lewis Concert. Unfortunately I was unable to attend the

latter, as the date clashed with the traditional annual banquet at the Mansion House for all the Masters, Prime Wardens and Upper Bailiff of the various Livery Companies and their Ladies.

The Midsummer Banquet was a great joy because of the outstanding facilities at Drapers' Hall which attracted larger numbers than for some time; and I was more than amply supported by my immediate family and close friends. At a time of great personal pressure, the Rt. Hon the Lord Taylor, Lord Chief Justice, generously agreed to dine with us and make the principal address. I hope that those who were unable to join us in 1995 will take advantage of the opportunity to attend at Drapers' Hall this year.

Shortly afterwards we were guests of Liveryman and the Master Draper and enjoyed a performance of his opera at his hall. I am also grateful to Glyndebourne that I was able to organise a visit for some Court members and their Ladies to see a performance of 'The Makropoulos Case'. I believe that it was the outstanding production of the season.

There also took place our own Jazz Concert at what has become our regular venue Pizza on the Park, and an opportunity to hear the Andre Previn Trio at the Barbican, thanks to a member of the Court.

In July there were two Memorial Services; the first was for Sir Vivian Dunn, at which I was invited to read from "Music & the Mind"; on another fine day I attended the dignified Celebration Service for the life of Liveryman Kenn Golightly. In between,

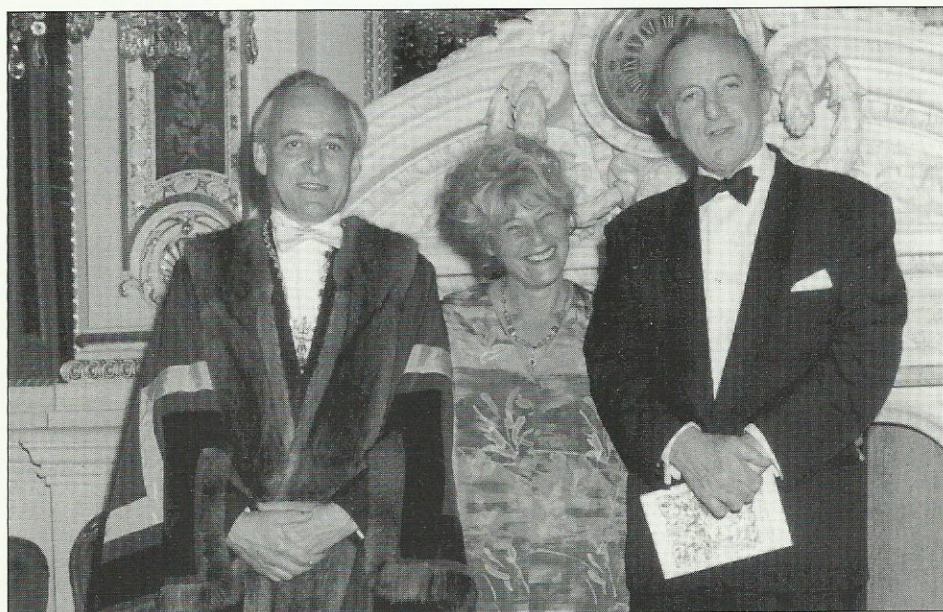
we attended the Buckingham Palace Garden Party and the Graduation Ceremony of the Royal College of Music.

With the year still proceeding apace, my diary records attendance at both the 143rd Open and 84th National Brass Band Championships in Manchester and London respectively; the launch of Liveryman Ivor Mairant's book, "The Great Jazz Guitarists" and the induction Service of the new Master Glover at Bevis Marks, the sole remaining live synagogue in the City, at which I also heard the National Anthem sung in Hebrew for the first time. On my last night in office I enjoyed the hospitality of the Barber Surgeons.

In a review of this nature, it is likely that I have committed sins of both omission and commission. The innovation which has given me most satisfaction is the introduction of our informal lunches. These have given me and other members of the Court the chance to meet many of you properly and to build upon the "hand of friendship", extended when you joined the Company. We need your commitment to take the Company forward to the Millennium year and beyond.

In conclusion, I must mention that the outgoing Lord Mayor, Sir Christopher Walford, specially commissioned a commemorative limited edition of playing cards, one for each livery Company, in thanks for the "support and recognition of his year". The packs are a special edition of the old card game "Happy Families". What could be more appropriate?

Let us continue to build upon it!



The Midsummer Banquet at Drapers' Hall with Lord Taylor, the Lord Chief Justice.

Photo: Peter Holland