

# From the Clerk's Office

AT THE LIVERY DINNER in November 1990, I was asked by the guest of a Liveryman what it was that the Clerk of the Livery Company actually did. In answering him, I realised that the question was one which really needed an hour's answer or none, and then that others - including even Liverymen might well be unclear as to his role.

The Clerk of our Company is, with the Treasurer, Deputy Treasurer, Assistant Clerk and Beadle, a "permanent" officer of the Company; the inverted commas are there because the appointment is nonetheless an annual one, the subject of election (with the other officers mentioned) at the October meeting of the Court of Assistants each year. In the absence of a Hall of our own, the Clerk's place of business is the Company's official address. The Clerk is the Company's "man of business", authorised by the Master, Wardens and Court of Assistants to further the Company's work in all its various aspects in accordance with the settled policy of the Court as laid down over many years. Examples of the former

will include the administration of the Company's Scholarships and other awards, inviting nominations and applications, convening meetings of the appropriate Committees to adjudicate between the candidates, and, once the award has been confirmed by the Court, distributing the Scholarship or other monies (and, less cheerfully, writing to the unsuccessful candidates).

The Assistant Clerk currently performs this role in relation to a number of the Company's awards, notably the W T Best Scholarship and the Maisie Lewis Young Artists Fund. All of this activity continues from year to year without perhaps being obvious to many Liverymen, but it constitutes the majority of the Company's work in fostering "the Art or Science of Music" in its various forms and is thus the Company's principal *raison d'Être* in the latter half of the twentieth century.

The part of the Clerk's work where Liverymen are more likely to meet him of course concerns the arrangements for the binding of Apprentices in the Company and the Admission and Clothing of new

Freemen and Liverymen at one of the quarterly Court Meetings. Subsequently the Clerk is to be encountered at the Company's social functions, which it is his pleasant task to arrange in accordance with the dates agreed by the Court, and, as to the detailed arrangements, musical entertainment and so forth, in deference to the wishes of the Master for the year.

Liverymen are asked to believe that, should the Clerk wear a harassed look on these occasions, this is not to be regarded as typical of his demeanour! Regular attenders at these functions will in any event have realised that much of the burden of ensuring their success and smooth running falls on the Clerk's secretary, both on the day itself and beforehand.

In this connection, may I indulge in a little special pleading to ask that Liverymen note and where possible observe the procedures for applying for attendance at our dinners and luncheons, and in particular the "closing date" for applications; a small point, but one which can ease — or the reverse — the Clerk's lot out of all proportion to its apparent importance.

M.F.

## THE COMPANY DIARY to 31 March 1992

### ITEMS IN BLUE ITALICS DENOTE LIVERY CLUB EVENTS

Wed 18 Sept	<i>11am Club Committee Stationers' Hall;</i> 12.30 for 1.00pm Livery Luncheon Stationers' Hall
Mon 30 Sept	11.45am at Common Hall. Election of the Lord Mayor
Wed 9 Oct	Court Meeting
Wed 23 Oct	<i>Talk and demonstration "The Electronic Keyboard &amp; Synthesizer" followed by Buffet Supper GSMD</i>
Tues 29 Oct	8.00pm Maisie Lewis Recital Purcell Room
Wed 13 Nov	Installation Court followed by 6.30pm for 7.00pm Livery Dinner Stationers' Hall
Wed 20 Nov	12 noon Festival of St Cecilia Service in St Paul's followed by Livery and Livery Club Luncheon in Stationers' Hall
Wed 8 Jan 92	<i>Special Event Ladies Night Dinner at the English Speaking Union.</i> <i>Details later</i>
Wed 15 Jan	Court Meeting
Mon 10 Feb	6.45pm Joint function with the Stationers' Company. Details later
Tues 17 Mar	8.00pm Maisie Lewis Recital Purcell Room
Fri 20 Mar	12 noon United Guilds Service at St Paul's

## The Constant & Kit Lambert Prize Fund

FOUNDED IN 1989 upon the bequest of the late Mrs Camilla Hole. The Constant and Kit Lambert Prize Fund is the most substantial endowment received by the Company in recent years and exists to fulfil two distinct purposes. First, to award up to twelve prizes annually with at least one being awarded for each of: Composition; Vocal Performance; Instrumental Performance; Accompaniment; Ensemble Playing; and Conducting.

The number and amount will be decided by the Court upon the nomination of the Director of the Royal College of Music to the most promising first degree course or postgraduate students under the age of 35.

Secondly, to award a Fellowship or Fellowships for Composition, Research (historical or critical) or Performance (including conducting) to one or more advanced students or graduates of the Royal College of Music for a period of one year with the possibility of extension for a second.

The nominations will be referred by the Clerk to a Committee of the Court which will have the power to co-opt ad hoc not more than two independent Members who may be Liverymen of the Company. Candidates must not be less than 21 nor more than 35 years of age. Further information will be published in subsequent editions.

## The Social Committee

THIS NEW COMMITTEE held its first meeting on 10 May 1991. It is comprised of the Master, Senior Warden, Immediate Pastmaster, one Editor from Preserve Harmony, Chairman of the Maisie Lewis Fund, Livery Club President, Livery Club President-in-waiting, Hon. Secretary of the Livery Club, Clerk and Assistant Clerk. The primary purpose of the committee is to co-ordinate the activities of Livery and the Club thus avoiding clashes of events and to obtain the widest spread of functions and activities. It is hoped that mutual help and exchange of ideas should follow.

The next meeting of the committee will be held on 18 September 1991. Liverymen are invited to submit their suggestions and ideas as soon as possible.