

Windsor, Eton and District Royal Warrant Holders' Association Newsletter

Issue 7

Summer 2018



By Appointment to Her Majesty The Queen



By Appointment to His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh



By Appointment to His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales



The Windsor, Eton & District Royal Warrant Holders Association



The Royal Warrant Holders Association

A Royal Windsor Wedding, and two more...



May saw the Royal Wedding of Prince Harry to Meghan Markle in the St. George's Chapel in Windsor Castle and two Windsor, Eton & District Royal Warrant members, Dege and Skinner and Cleave and Company, each made their own significant contributions to making the occasion special for the happy couple. More on page 2.

May also saw the marriage of Past President Stephen Twining of Twinings to Litt Matthews. Unlike the pomp and millions watching the Royal event, it was small, low-key and very romantic 'family and friends' event.



To round off a month of weddings, new council member Natasha O'Brien of Pulsant married her long-term partner Dr Robert Martin on May 28th. They will now be known socially as the O'Martin couple!

Romance must be in the air around Windsor this year, and we wish all three happy couples the very best for their futures together.

Cleave and Company make the Royal Wedding Bands



Windsor and Eton Royal Warrant Holders Association member **Cleave & Company** who previously delivered Prince Harry's engagement ring design vision into a sparkling reality, were chosen again to make their wedding rings.

The Duchess's ring was fashioned from a piece of Welsh Gold, gifted by Her Majesty The Queen. The Welsh mine of Clogan St David's at Bontddu where the gold was mined is now exhausted and its gold is worth five times that of its counterparts. The Duchess of Cornwall and the Duchess of Cambridge also have Welsh Gold wedding rings and the tradition of using the Welsh gold for the Royal Wedding ring goes back to the Queen Mother's ring, the Queen (1947), Princess Margaret

(1960) Anne, Princess Royal (1973) and the Princess of Wales (1981).

Prince Harry will wear a platinum wedding band also crafted by Cleave and Company. Director and Grantee Stephen Connelly said, 'We were greatly honoured to be part of the Royal couple's event and to be of service again'.

Dege and Skinner cut the Royal Wedding Cloth

Dege and Skinner date back to 1865 and in 2015 celebrated their 150th anniversary as a bespoke tailor. The Savile Row tailors, who employ 20 people, hold a Royal Warrant by appointment to HM The Queen and have been making uniforms for the likes of The Queen's Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard for decades. They also hold royal warrants from the Sultan of Oman and the King of Bahrain.



William Skinner, council member, took over the business in 2000 from his father Michael, who is a Past President of the Association. They only found out about the wedding uniforms some 8 weeks before the event which were hand made under strict secrecy at their workshops. William commented, 'It was quite a secret to keep even from family and friends but an honour to be part of such a great occasion.'

The frock coats used some 150 metres of Black Russian lace which alone required 65,000 stitches. The uniforms were adorned with ribbons, badges, gold embroidered crowns and trousers (overalls) and dress caps completed the uniforms. The page boys' outfits presented new challenges in their size and had gold monograms of each boy on the shoulder strap.



William Skinner, said, 'We have maintained the skills for making military uniforms and our involvement in Royal Weddings goes back to Captain Mark Phillips' uniform and his best man in 1973. It is a very important part of our business and very much part of our DNA and heritage.'

Environmental Seminar at Lakeside Education Centre

The very first environmental seminar included sessions with Jim Hayward, Achill Management, Steve Malkin, Planet First, David Fitzsimons, Oakdene Hollins and Norman Grundon from **Grundons**. The session covered all areas that we requested and were both interesting and helpful to us all. It was followed by a wonderful tour of Grundons furnace plant and their re-cycling centre and by a superb buffet lunch and coffee provided by the lovely Wendy Hawkes from the Education centre.



The event was attended by:

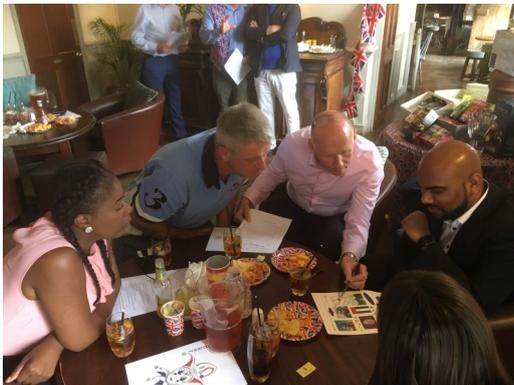
President Prue and Martin Addleman, Vice President Alec McQuin, Treasurer Chris Turner, London Rep Kevin Giddings, Council Member James Keen, Head Office representative Samantha Judge and guests.

The event was funded by national Royal Warrant Holders Association and free to our members with £150 being donated to each of Grundon's three preferred charities; Thames Hospice, Child Bereavement and Rennie Grove Hospice Care. It was a great event and one we shall have to do again.

Charity Pub Quiz

On the 12th July a special Pub Quiz night was organised at The Chequers Inn, Woodburn Green. The event was organised to raise funds to the Royal Warrant Holders **Charity Fund**.

Twenty six contestants made up six teams; TL Fine Foods and one each from Arcan Services, Barnard and Westwood and one team of Old Gentleman Codgers! (Stephen Twining, Kevin Giddings and Pramod Kumar)



Head Office's Russell Tanguay and Claire Anderson adjudicated on the night and ensured there was no cheating, hidden smartphones and that the results were correct. The Fine Food Fanatics took the prize as the smartest on the night and each member of the winning team received a delicious Balmoral Fillet (Smoked Salmon) generously donated by Christopher Leigh of John Ross JR.

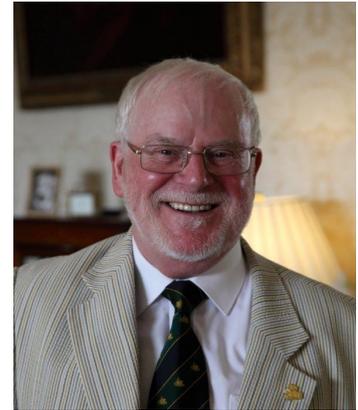
There were raffle prizes which were kindly donated by **Dartington Glass, Twinings, Milborrow Chimney Sweeps** and these contributed an extra £100 to the £400 donated to the cause. The other local Warrant Holder Associations also held similar events on the night, all of which added to the Charity Funds.



President's Summer Reception at Windsor Castle

Two years ago, the Governor of Windsor Castle **Sir James and Lady Nicola Perowne** opened up their apartments in the Norman Tower to hold our President's Reception. This year they generously repeated the event. To top it all, the weather on the night once again perfect, and the sun shone on us all.

President Prudence Addleman welcomed all and gave a short speech and Sir James explained the history of the Moat Gardens and Norman Tower. A lovely new pink champagne flowed and delicious canapes were served on the terraces and the chilled barrel of local craft beer downed happily by thirsty guests.



President's Notes

Prudence Addleman writes:

"At the invitation of the Aberdeen Association we visited Crathes Castle, with Christopher Leigh, President Aberdeen Association. The Castle boasts magnificent gardens and has a long history and is still privately owned (see picture below).

Sandringham President's weekend reception provided a visit to Lincoln with Robert Moore and his wife Debbie. On Saturday a number of us were given a tour of the recently restored Lincoln Castle with its eerie prison and grim history. Downton Abbey prison scenes were filmed here. Sunday morning we visited Lincoln Cathedral where the choir were in excellent voice and 2017 National President Nick Farrow read the lesson which concluded a most enjoyable and historical weekend.

We also, together with all the other local Presidents, attended the National Luncheon at the Hilton."



Diary Dates

October 20th and 21st 2018

President's Weekend. Black Tie Dinner Stoke Park. Park Road, Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire, SL2 4PG. Dinner Saturday Evening, guest speaker. Cost £110 per person.

Sunday visit to St. George's Chapel Windsor for 10.30 Morning Song, with Bubbles and Jazz to follow at: The Sir Christopher Wren Hotel in Windsor. (They are very proud of their chef).

Please advise prudence@irishlinencompany.com and also Douglas Hill, Hon Sec. douglas.eton@me.com

We are delighted to welcome members old and new and their guests .

Charity Award

The **Royal Warrant Holders Charity Fund** proudly presented a new saddle and bridle to East Park Riding for Disabled Association (RDA) at Newchapel. The Charity Fund supports charities where members of Royal Warrant Companies volunteer to support the cause. In this case Katie Giddings has been involved with the RDA for nearly 20 years and has been at East Park from its creation. Katie is the wife Windsor and Eton Royal Warrant Holders London Representative Kevin Giddings.

Fund Chair, Bill Gunn, presented the saddle to James Baxter Chair of RAD who said, 'This is a very generous donation as saddles and bridles are extremely expensive but vital equipment. They will last for many years.'

There are 35 RDA groups in Surrey, Sussex and Kent which provide facilities for more than 2,000 riders to enjoy riding, carriage driving, show jumping, dressage and endurance. Bill Gunn said, 'I have a very high regard for the RDA as I have supported my local group in Herefordshire for many years, as have my wife and daughter. The purpose of the fund is to assist our members who are volunteering in good causes so it's been lovely to do this through Kevin's request.'

The Team

Windsor, Eton and District Executive

President: Prudence Addleman, Irish Linen Company

Vice President: Alec McQuin, Rokill

Past President: Stephen Twining, Twinings

Hon. Secretary: Douglas Hill, C.J. Reid (Eton)

Hon. Treasurer: Chris Turner, Rokill

National Representative: Kevin Giddings, Milborrow Chimney Sweeps

Council Members

Derek Bishop, William Wood & Sons, **Peter Darville**, Darville & Son, **James Keen** Hypnos Ltd., **Anne Quigley**, Bibliophile Books, **William Skinner**, Dege & Skinner, **Paul Sturges**, J. Redpath Buchanan, **Andrew Tarrant**, Tarrant Refrigeration, **Adrian Bengé** Buttons Saddlery.

To contact the Editor with photos, ideas, articles and corrections: annie@bibliophilebooks.com

To subscribe to this newsletter and all membership requests to Douglas Hill: douglas.eton@me.com

New Members

We welcome the following companies who have also recently joined Windsor, Eton and District Royal Warrant Holders Association:

Edmundson Electrical Ltd

Founded in the early 19th century by Joshua Edmundson, the company has developed from its humble beginnings through becoming one of the first suppliers of electricity to being a leading distributor of electrical equipment.



Garter Day at Windsor Castle in the sunshine, Treasurer Chris Turner and Secretary, Douglas Hill