



# The CARMAN

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## 500 TARGET & MORE FREEMEN

At Installation, the Master declared his theme for the year as 'Involvement'. In a wide-ranging, affectionate and inclusive address at Skinners' Hall, Neil Coles made clear his determination to widen the Company's appeal to all relevant transport sectors, and especially younger members. This follows substantial progress in recruitment planning with the Senior Warden.



Rev Canon Huw Mosford, newly appointed Honorary Chaplain, conducts the Installation Service.

Four 'seekers' have volunteered at or since the July Common Hall, to specifically approach relevant organisations, media and individuals across a range of transport interests. These include waterways, airports, ports and academe, as well as the traditional road transport industries.

Events in 2013 will include low cost, weekend and family occasions. The 2013 lecture will extend invitations to British Transport Commission and Institute of Logistics and Transport members.

The emphasis will be on two fronts – achieving the Livery membership ceiling of 500, with a waiting list, within three years, and extending the corporate Freedom membership well beyond the existing 160.



Master Neil Coles, Junior Warden Paul Holder and Senior Warden Robin Bawtree on Installation Day in October.

## Of civic service

The civic year that welcomed a new Lord Mayor bade farewell to the Carmen's remaining Alderman and past Lord Mayor, Past Master the Lord Levene of Portsoken, under the modern retirement rules. Peter Levene and his predecessor as Carman Lord Mayor, Sir Christopher Leaver, both gave outstanding service to the Corporation and City of London, introducing progressive change with enduring respect for tradition.

Still serving on Common Council, Past Master Gerald Pulman, past Chief Commoner, remains the contemporary link between Company and City civic, while the Company is fortunate to have yet another Past Master (Emeritus), Jeremy Gotch, as a past Sheriff, still active on the Court.

As always, there is still an opportunity for one or other competent Carman with the will and the means to essay election, towards the day when the Company can once more proudly support an Alderman, Sheriff and future Lord Mayor.

## NINE YEARS TO MEDIATION

It has taken nine years to bring HMRC to the table, to debate the case for relief from VAT on members' dues, but that milestone was reached at the close of 2012. Following many requests for consideration, the Company's claim was finally rejected by the taxman. The Company appealed, and the appeal was reviewed and rejected in 2011. Notice of appeal was lodged, a statement of case tabled but HMRC disputed the grounds. The matter was due to go to tribunal.

A stay of hearing was sought in view of comparable appeals and to prepare argument. Counsel's opinion was taken last summer, and led to the Company's proposal that the matter go to Alternative Dispute Resolution, where mediation is possible, rather than a confrontational hearing. The Revenue originally declined

this proposal, so the Company lodged cogent arguments for reconsideration.

In December, just before Christmas, HMRC reconsidered and agreed to the ADR process, and the Company is now preparing for a spring session with HMRC before an accredited mediator.



The Master and Liveryman Maggie Coles give presents to Sophie and Pippa Harkin at All Hallows by the Tower after the Carol Service in December.

### DIARY

- 30 Jan Charity Lunch, Clothworkers'
- 27 Feb Visit RAF Brize Norton
- 12 March Mansion House Banquet
- 22 March Foundation Day
- 17 April Car Club, Aston Martin
- 24 April Joint Services Dinner

**InterLivery:** We are always on the lookout for volunteers for the Inter Livery competitions including; bridge, clay pigeon shooting, golf, ten-pin bowling and even skiing; if you are interested please contact the office.

## Letter to Carmen

Dear fellow Carman

As a white Christmas receded and the yule log floated off on flood plains, various thoughts turned first to old Saint Nick and a letter up the chimney. What a wishlist – please Santa, can we have some cashback from the Vatman? And a hold on event costs and thus ticket prices. Plus short speeches and plenty of port. With the Festival of Carols, mind gave way to spirit, with prayers and promises – to reduce others' needs and increase our benefactions, to protect our forces friends and help us support them. Plus less committee chat, and more action – Lord, please forgive one's own shortcomings.

Stocking fillers abounded – calls from quiet Carmen, then a glass or two together, the pleasure of greeting new members, other Carman meeting in service to the elderly, the Carman choir in full and resonant voice, the lulling cadences of our new Chaplain.

The tree itself twinkled with 478 lights – one for each Liveryman, though I noticed 22 other bulbs needed renewal to make the 500, and the crystal baubles sparkled, all 160 hanging free, with room to spare; must get some more in 2013.

Underneath the tree a cornucopia of gift wrap, ribbons and loving tags heralded an opening orgy. Among the good things were some recycleables – yet another ticket refund for places booked but not taken, or opportunity missed to covenant the Ben.

The best sometimes come more modestly wrapped, like the promise of events for younger members, and prospects of a collective 500 year legacy for future Carmen.

Which naturally leads to lunch time, with all the trimmings, rounded off by crackers. Ah! those excruciating riddles – Why did the Carman cross the road? Because European directive, subsection, para ... you know what it's like. And the charades. It's a celebration, no it's heritage, or is it simply a spectacle? All of those, and that otherwise known as CartMarking, always beautifully scripted, directed and performed.

After Christmas, a new year looms, and with it the diary with all its promises: Charity Lunch, Foundation Day, Mansion House, Joint Services. Then it's time for thank-you letters – first, to our new Master, for his quiet, commanding presence and recruitment resolve, then to our Clerk and his diligent deputy, for all their hard work; to the Ben Trust for harvesting, storing and circulating our aims; to our Wardens and Court for their time and skills, and finally, this thank-you letter to all of you, who make the Company what it is – a great good fellowship.

Happy New Year!

Senior Past Master Clive Birch



Cart Marking brought the crowds to Guildhall Yard in July – the largest public attendance ever – and a full house for luncheon in Guildhall itself.



The Rt Hon the Lord Mayor, Sheriff Wendy Mead and the Master admire Liveryman James Hyatt's cart, at Cart Marking.



Echoing an earlier tradition, Royal College of Art post-graduates displayed winning designs at Guildhall once more.

## High standards – FOUR AWARDS

December saw the annual meeting of the Awards Committee under its new Chairman, Past Master Bob Russett. Military awards broke new ground with the Royal Logistic Corps submitting alternative candidates for the Sword of Honour and the Soldier of the Year. Civil awards considered ranged from

rail development to road safety, lifeboat to electric transport.

Awards were recommended for the Viva Shield, RLC Safety Award, Herbert Crow Memorial Award and Award of Merit. Members and advisors did not consider any submissions worthy of the Environmental or Sir Henry Royce Awards.

## Arrivals and Departures

The Company has lost a major transport personality with the death of Liveryman Peter Foden CBE. The new Honorary Treasurer, Freeman Mark Ivinson, joined the Company in 2012, alongside Liverymen Dr Ibrahim Ibrahim and Graham Howell, when Philip Newman, Thomas Williams and Jeremy Lucas retired. Miss Felicity Small was apprenticed to then Warden Neil Coles and Andrew Baxter to Liveryman Mrs Patricia Snelling. Rev Canon Huw Mosford was admitted to the Honorary Freedom and appointed Honorary Chaplain, while Peter Elliott was clothed with the Livery.

## On the house

Carmen sitting as Trustees of the Camberwell Housing Society have determined to seek a partner to resolve the issue of ageing properties and a reducing lease, and are meanwhile aiming to further improve tenant facilities. Last year the Carman trustees met the majority of tenants at the first such meeting since the Company's members took an interest in the Society, ten years ago, a move that was welcomed by the tenants and will now become an annual event.



The Pearly King and Queen Harry Mayhead and Doreen Golding brought the costermonger tradition to Cart Marking.

## By design

The Carman Research Reader at the Royal College of Art has led efforts to secure funding for the Automable project, to develop an alternative to the disability scooter, which individual Carmen supported. An overseas car manufacturer has expressed interest. The Carman RCA Research Archive is under review, and Carman branding on the RCA display case at the London Transport Museum is being redesigned. The Carman Visiting Tutor is now serving on the Museum's Futures Board, helping to develop galleries reflecting transport innovation. The autumn term included events supported by Liverymen Rita Beckwith and Robert Scott; the Metro Project was Global Van.



## From the Master

A little less than a couple of months into my year which, following for me a most enjoyable Installation Day, has been busy to say the least. I've attended over thirty events, mostly with our old Livery connections, but also with some others with whom contact has been both interesting and pleasurable.

Carmen are held in high esteem in the City with comment frequently made of our friendliness and much envied connections with the Forces.

A programme of events built round my theme of 'Involvement' is being arranged and I would ask you to keep your eye on the Carman Diary on our website. Apart from visits already booked for the Battle of Britain Museum at RAF Northolt and Bletchley Park we have been fortunate to get a substantial block of tickets for the events around and including the Queen's Birthday Parade next June. This includes the Parades of the Major General on the 1st June and The Colonel's on the 8th plus the Beating of the Retreats on the 12th and 13th. Primarily for younger members, we hope to have an 'off-road' driving day at LandRover, a visit to the control centre of the Victoria underground and a clay pigeon shoot with barbecue afterwards. Details will be posted on the website in due course.

Please always consider which of your friends, either personal or from business, especially if transport connected, would be suitable additions to our cause. Contact Walter Gill, the Clerk, or Commander Robin Bawtree, the Senior Warden, who will be delighted to help you.

The next core event is the Charity Lunch on 30th January, when 'Medical Detection Dogs' will be our guest of honour and will talk about their incredibly interesting work in training dogs to help the life styles of people with, for instance, type 1 diabetes. Generally monies raised this year will go to our own charity, the Benevolent Trust, and to enhance the fund for the celebrations of our quincentenary in 2017.

Neil Coles, Master

# 1517 – 2017: towards 500

In 1517 the Company was founded. In 2017 Carmen will celebrate. The Livery year of that celebration effectively starts in 2016. That means Carmen have three years and some months to prepare. Funding for enhanced events was launched in the 1990s, and in 2010 a 1517 panel was formed to consider ways and means, events and commemoration.

The Court has approved the prior freedom, clothing and election to office of a 2017 Master of national distinction, and relevant approaches are in train at the highest levels. The panel has also considered and costed a number of potential legacy options for further fundraising – painting, statue, sculpture, reproduction 1517 cart, stained glass window, Master's chair and fine print among them.

Mindful of the incremental costs of leasehold premises, a further legacy prospect has also been costed – a permanent home for the Company, to house administration, Company treasures, modest meeting and small event facilities and rentable offices. It is felt that funds might be raised, possibly towards an anniversary purchase, or towards a substantial building fund, which might be developed consistently thereafter.

Another prospect is a charitable legacy with a specific purpose, which might be generated during the celebratory year, when a

physical legacy has been generated, or in the run-up, instead of a physical legacy. Panel and Court are discussing the options.



The Carmen's Choir prepares the first performance of the Hon Editor's new lyrics to *The Carman's Whistle* at the Court Dinner at the Victory Services Club in September.

## PARALYMPIC SUCCESSES

In 2010 the Carmen donated £25,000, from funds raised through the then Master's special events programme, to support the Variety Club Children's Charity's 'Reach for the Stars' appeal. Liveryman Anne Wadsworth chaired the Appeal Committee which awarded grants to young disabled athletes aspiring to compete in the London 2012 Paralympic Games.

Of the 55 young athletes thus sponsored, 17 represented Great Britain at the Games, the highlight being the Gold, Silver and Bronze medals won by 17-year-old Oliver Hynd in swimming.

Oliver's Gold came in the men's SM8 200m individual medley, a European record of 2 min 24.63 sec. He won a Silver in the men's S8 400m freestyle and bronze in the men's S8 backstroke. Among other outstanding performances was Louise Watkin's Silver medal, again in swimming.

Carmen's generosity brought immediate and essential financial aid to talented young athletes, helping to create role models to inspire other young people with disabilities, and moving disability well up the nation's agenda.



Transport Design winner Niels van Roij receives his award from the Carman Visiting Tutor at the Royal College of Art degree show in July.

## From Five Kings House

Happy New Year to you all. Your new Master, Neil Coles, is well and truly in the chair and maintaining the Carmen's honour by attending everything he is invited to.

The Membership Committee has agreed that Carman sponsors related to candidates do not need to attend for interview so, if your partner, children or other family would like to become a Freeman or Liveryman, please let me know. We are running a major recruitment campaign this year with the run-up to 2017 and our 500 celebrations, so we want numbers to reach the magical 500 Livery limit. Please look around for suitable candidates.

Also we are now fully up and running with direct debit so all events, quarterage and any purchases can be paid in this way. We are not taking credit cards. The Company website has photographs from all core events available to purchase. Go to the Members Area. If you have not used this and would like some help then please call me.

We are also sending more by e-mail, saving the Company postage and stationery. We are hoping to eventually have everyone online by 2017. You can also book your events by e-mail, if you are on direct debit.

Your next few events are listed; if you have any questions on events, please call the Deputy Clerk, Helen Ashworth.

## MASTERING THE TIMES

For two years, Lord Mayors have exhorted City Liveries to increase their links with the Armed Forces, where there are currently 216 affiliations across 108 companies. In the summer of last year *The Times* featured the Master, HRH Princess Royal and the winner of the Carmen's Sword of Honour in a four column picture and article, which extolled the Carmen's remarkable and unique association with the three Services at senior level.



The Times features the Carmen.

The Second Sea Lord, Air Officer Commanding 2 Group and the Army's senior logistic Major General all sit on the Court as Honorary Assistants, the Company makes eight annual awards which are highly prized, and maintains links with the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Service, 24 Squadron RAF, the Defence Movement School, 2 Mechanical Transport Squadron RAF, RFA *Victoria*, and 19 Tank Transporter Squadron RLC, visits to all of which are fully subscribed every year. The Lord Mayor has also emphasised the value of cadet links, which the Court will consider.

## Golf Livery Cup



Liveryman Peter Smith won the Carmen's Livery Cup at the Golf Society's annual golf meeting at Effingham Golf Club on 4 October. Kaplin Kaye won nearest the pin, and the Master's lady, Maggie Coles, won the best ladies' score. Awards were presented by the Master, and the Captain, Freeman Stephen Pawson.

## Car Club goes overseas

The Carmen's Car Club made its first expedition overseas, visiting the Channel Island of Guernsey.

Some 50 Carmen and guests and a dozen classic cars attended and were welcomed by the States of Guernsey with the distinction of a 'Vin d'Honneur' reception at the historic Castle Cornet in St Peter Port. Carmen dined with the Island's first citizen, the Bailiff Richard Collas, and met local classic car enthusiasts in a display on Albert Quay, which featured in the local paper.

In the person of Liveryman Barry Cash, President of the Guernsey Chamber of Commerce and Senior Constable of St Peter Port, Carmen have a direct link to the island. Organiser PM Brian Wadsworth was invited to lead another Carmen party across for 9 May 2015, which will mark the 70th anniversary of Guernsey's liberation from Nazi occupation. Watch this space.....



Car Club Chairman Jack Henley presents funds raised by members to the Benevolent Trust in July.



Carmen visit RFA *Wave Knight* at the Royal Naval Dockyard in July.



Carmen assemble on the parade ground at Bulford in October.



The Company meets 2 Mechanical Transport Squadron at RAF Wittering in November.

## By sea, land and air

In 2012 Carmen joined the Fuellers and other companies in the Royal Naval Dockyard at Portsmouth, to meet the captains of RFA *Wave Ruler*, *Wave Knight*, *Fort Victoria* and *Cardigan Bay*, lunching aboard RFA *Wave Knight* and then touring HMS *Victory* – in July.

The Company was also welcomed in October by 19 Tank Transporter Squadron, lunching in the Sergeants' Mess after meeting officers and men, then driving the Squadron's Oshkosh tank transporters and other vehicles.

In November Carmen visited 2 MT Squadron RAF, were treated to a display and updated on the Squadron's activities, then participating in the '2 MT

experience', driving numerous vehicles on and off road.

The proposed visit to 24 Squadron was postponed due to operational demands, but the Company has been invited to visit RAF Brize Norton in February, where 24 Squadron is now located, to experience the aircraft simulators, witness a Movement School display, and perhaps enjoy a flight – all as guests of the Station Commander.