



# The CARMAN

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## THE HOME PLAN



An engraving of St Dunstan-in-the-West.

### Trust Trio

The Benevolent Trust currently has some £1.95m funds in hand, and presently sponsors India Hogan as an presentee. It has now chosen Megan Richards as its second. In 2017 a third has been approved – Marcus Mebenga. This is a first for the Carmen, who agreed their first presentee in 1974. The Trust has bid farewell to one of its Trustees, Past Master Emeritus Michael Power, after 17 years' service and, with the Court's approval, appointed Junior Warden Stephen Britt in his place.



Hon Treasurer Mark Ivanson is the newly elected Assistant.

After five centuries, the Carmen bid fair to come home – to an historic City building, the Old School at St Dunstan-in-the-West in Fleet Street, and in the Mastership of the first lady commoner and American-born Britisher.

The only other known Carmen's Hall was in Harp Lane, in the parish of St Dunstan-in-the-East.

The Company expects to pay £1.1m for a 125 year lease with affordable renewal options, and to restore and equip it for a further estimated £0.5 million.

At Gibson Hall on 16 November, the Master and Past Master Ratcliff disclosed two years of hard work and negotiations, to announce the new home. In October, with Court approval at a special meeting, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Company, the Church Council and the London Diocese. Legal process is now in train.

The 2017 Panel first proposed a building as the 500 year legacy. Past Master Ratcliff identified the

building and, with IPM Griffiths and PM Neil Coles, negotiated its planned acquisition with the London Diocese and the Church Council.

The building may be held by a newly formed charitable trust. The facilities will be used for philanthropic work, Company and Ben Trust meetings, and education.

Its two storeys would be entirely refurbished, providing a lobby, lift, meeting room and museum, offices, storage and the potential for future expansion.

The premises adjoin the neo-gothic octagonal church, with a small courtyard entry, flanked by statues of King Lud and his sons, and a porch surmounted by the 1596 statue of Elizabeth I.

Carmen plan at last to come home – and in historic style.



The entrance to the Old School at St Dunstan-in-the-West.



On 19 October, the Carmen's 500th anniversary year commenced with the Installation of MarshaRae Ratcliff – first lady commoner Master, and the first Master not born in the UK.

Born in Iowa and raised in Oregon and Washington State, she holds British nationality. Her 2017 themes are Commitment, Compassion and Continuity.

The Installation was marked by the cart hiring of a 19th century Royal Mail coach and four, celebrating the Mail's 500th anniversary. With the service at St Lawrence Jewry, lunch was held at the Livery Hall, Guildhall, after a reception in the Crypt. At lunch, a limited edition 15thC model Carman's cart was presented to Immediate Past Master Mark Griffiths.



Master Marsha Rae Ratcliff celebrates the Carmen's and Royal Mail's 500 anniversary years with waggoner Martin Horler in Guildhall, hiring No 109 mail coach for 5 shillings on Installation Day on 19 October.

### Moving Carmen

1517 Foundation  
1562 Thames Street: home ground  
1582 Sealing house at Christs' Hospital

1668 Hall leased in Harp Lane  
1678 move to Blacksmith's Hall  
1680 to Painter Stainers' Hall  
1710 to Irish Chamber, Guildhall  
1838 sealing carts in Guildhall  
1863 to Blue Anchor, Coleman St

1946 move to Tallow Chandlers'  
1968 Hall Appeal – £50k raised  
1984 City of London's School for Boys a possible shared buy  
1986 move to St Olave's Rectory  
1988 to Britannic Tower

1991 Lease at Ludgate Hill  
2000 back to Painter Stainers'  
2004 Austin Friars – another possible buy, declined  
2006 Lease at Five Kings House  
2015 move to Plaisterers' Hall



## Letter to Carmen

Dear fellow Carman

In 2017 we celebrate 500 years of service to the City and lay the foundation for a millennium of moving fellowship with our new home.

Our new charter, trust and governance also lay the foundation for proactive philanthropy.

With a consistently full Livery of 500, we can also lay the foundation for reinforced civic, military and industry interface.

The combination of objectives, system and premises offers a major challenge.

Enhanced remits and new groups set the scene for wider participation.

The Awards Committee has already attracted major new advisors, is increasing its University graduate reach, and is looking at sponsorship and charitable needs.

The new Military Panel has met with its first triple liaison officers to uplift their remit, and considered where our benevolence might help meet less obvious needs.

The new Education Panel meets in January.

In January the first committee to work to both Court and Trust, the Charitable Development Committee, will convene to discuss how best to enable more charity.

That and the other groups will need you to expand and improve our fellowship and force for greater good, especially new outreach and associated funding.

So 2017 is a year of great achievement – looking back on our great heritage, and forward to a challenging future, while celebrating, and settling into our new home.

Let's raise a loving cup to our forefathers, our benefactors, our fellowship and our future selves – and to all those whom we hope to help to a richer, better life.

Yours in history and hope

Clive Birch  
Senior Past Master

# FAITH FOR ALL

For this year's Carol Service, St Lawrence Jewry greeted Carmen with two Christmas trees – by the entrance and near the altar. Hon Chaplain Huw Mosford presided, and a heartwarming wheelchair presentation represented Christmas giving. With 500 years of historic service behind them, Carmen gave Illias, a Moroccan-born Muslim boy, the gift of wheels, sponsored by Murray and Maruja Lugash. The help of Eliot, an Egyptian Jew and Joanne, an Ashkenazi English Jew, with a Welsh Chaplain and an American-born Master, epitomised faith in all its forms and across all beliefs.

For the first time, Carmen held a Children's Party alongside the traditional Supper, reflecting Continuity through the service,

Compassion to Illias, and Commitment to our future with the Party, showing youngsters what Carmen represent.



Freeman and past Apprentice Amy Jackson (née Greenhalgh) with Nancy (2), husband Joseph and Ruby (4), with Father Christmas and the Master at the Children's Party after the Carol Service in the Livery Hall.

## Name your space



The first and second floors of the Old School at St Dunstan-in-the-West.

The proposed Carman home is well located – Fleet Street is within the City, accessible to mainline rail stations and tube – and offers nearly 3,000 sq ft of space. Carmen will be invited to donate funds to enhance and equip the building and commemorate their contributions.

Arranged over two floors, it can provide a panelled reception area and meeting space, suitable for Court meetings and special events, and a museum gallery and members' room, for Carmen to drop by, have a coffee, and meet friends and fellow Carmen – and for students.

There would be ample space to display Carman silver and a storage area for archives. Staff offices can be customised, with some space to

accommodate peripatetic clerks of other liveries, generating income. The meeting room could also be made available.



Senior Warden Patrick Marsland-Roberts (left) and Past Master Robin Bawtree (right) with the apprentice challengers (l to r) Morgause Lomas, Tracey Worth, Julia Scott, Finlay Scott, Dominic Turner, Sian Rodney, Rupert Bagge, and Andrew Turner at Plaisterers' Hall in April.



Eliot and Joanne with the Master and Illias at the Children's Party in the Livery Hall at Guildhall in December.

## Apprentice challenge

Young Carman apprentice Rupert Bagge won the Company's first apprentice challenge with a time of 2 hours 23 mins. Past Master Robin Bawtree, chair of the apprenticeship panel, launched the event in April which was organised by Assistant Carl Lomas. Four teams rallied in tube line colours, visiting Canary Wharf and Boadicea at Hyde Park Corner, crossing the Thames above and below water and finding a livery hall that was not the home of the Carmen.

Countdowns rang out from the Carman office as the next generation of Carman logisticians raced a route of their choice.

Winning yellow team Rupert Bagge and Andy Turner took the DLR, Jubilee and Piccadilly lines, taxi, then a walk over the Thames and a bus into the city. Two hours 23 minutes.

Second (pink) team, led by Morgause Lomas, with Tracey Worth, used the Northern line under the Thames, bicycle, DLR, then pushed for Jubilee tube and the walk bridge at Waterloo. 2 hours 36 mins.

Green team Finlay Scott with Julia made for the Emirates sky line as a bonus form of transport but were defeated when the cable car was closed for wind and rain.

Black team, last away, Dominic Turner with Ms Sian Rodney, made for the river and took a Thames boat to get the east-west leg.

The Challenge was to achieve shortest time, variation of vehicles with a limited budget in pairs, always travelling together, with photo evidence, no licensed vehicle and publicly available maps.



## From the Master

My heartfelt thanks to all my fellow Liverymen, to our Freeman and Apprentices and dear friends who attended my Installation in October as Master of this incredible Company – and a big “thank you”, too, to the Royal Mail for bringing its beautiful Mail Coach and four splendid horses all the way from Wales for me to hire for the year ... for just 5 shillings!

It was a very special, joyful and humbling day for me, and set the Company off to a flying start of our landmark 500th year.

We were soon into the Lord Mayor's Show. Our stunning entry led off with the Evan Cook ancient handcart, pulled by historically costumed Carmen and escorted by a look-alike Henry VIII, and that was followed by a 19th century horse-drawn omnibus carrying beautifully attired ladies. Next came an eye-catching, huge inflatable wheel some 4 metres high, and then our 45 ft. long main float on a trailer pulled by a special gold tractor, donated by Alan Ball. It featured ancient City buildings at the front and the modern City buildings at the rear, with the two landscapes joined by a bridge which carried our gowned officers and our Clerk.

Just four days later, my Master's Reception was held at Gibson Hall and enjoyed by 170 people: Carmen and their partners. It was a huge pleasure for me and my husband, John (Past Master), to be able to announce during the evening the purchase of the Carmen's new and first “home”, an old City school building next to St Dunstan-in-the-West Church. It will be wonderful, but is in need of total refurbishment; so, if anyone can help with skills, materials, financial support or just good old “elbow grease”, please get in touch with our Clerk and let him know.

We enjoyed a wonderful and well attended Carol Service at St Lawrence Jewry on 9th December, specifically focused on children this year.

Only a short while into my very special year, and there are already more people to thank than I have space. But I must give special mention to Asst. Richard Buswell for pulling off the triumphant success of the Lord Mayor's Show; to PM Neil Coles for leading the 2017 Committee so efficiently and enthusiastically; to Walter Gill and Helen Ashworth, our Clerk and Deputy Clerk, without whom a Carmen Master's ambitions would never be realised; and finally, again, to all of you – as it is you who make the Worshipful Company of Carmen the very, very special livery that it is.

Marsha Rae Ratcliff

## The carriage of goods

Twelve new memorabilia have been chosen to celebrate the Company's quincentenary, and can be ordered from the office. Chief among them is a reproduction of a 15th century Carmen's cart modelled in pewter. A limited number have been made to a larger scale with the option of a panelled plinth, and 200 have been ordered in toy scale form. They carry a simple celebratory legend on the base.

Special edition carts will be presented to the Rt Hon the Lord Mayor and other leading friends of the Company. Members can order their own.

A special ladies' brooch is being made, and a ladies' scarf and unisex handkerchief are under enquiry. Soon every Carman will receive a special lapel wheel badge SoR and Carmen's children will welcome a box of wheel chocolates. There are Carman 500

specially engraved boxed fob-watches with cufflinks.

Imaginative additions, which can profile the Carmen to the wider world include Carman car ‘tax’ discs, and truck stickers, a pallet paper block for notes, and ladies' shopping and hand bags. In the spring Harkness Roses will release a Carmen's Rose, specially cultured and grown by Philip Harkness as a gift to the Master for the 500th anniversary.



Carmen and soldiers's families watch the Household Cavalry at work in Hyde Park opposite the Barracks at the Master's Special Event in April.

## DUE PROCESS

During the year the Court has reviewed its governance, and has appointed chairmen and members of two new panels – Military and Education – charged with supporting and enhancing existing relationships and considering future ones, with the additional remit to advance charitable proposals to the third new body – the Charitable Development Committee, which will report to the Trust and inform the Court – a direct bridge between the two key components of Carman governance.

The Court has also approved revised guidance to Membership Committee and to the intending candidates for Court elections, which enables discretion in listing those finally nominated for the hustings. In addition, the Court has agreed a revised remit for the General Purposes Committee,

ensuring it works to Court instruction and encourages Court debate on all matters of substance.

Finally, the Court has extended the attendance requirement at Court to all Committees and Panels, so that consecutive absence normally requires retirement.



Carmen visited the mediaeval Crosby Hall in Chelsea in May.

## From the Immediate Past Master

Shortly after my installation I was invited to the Agincourt 800th anniversary celebrations at Westminster Abbey. Livery masters and clerks suitably robed processed up the great nave. We sat opposite Prince Michael of Kent, when I became very aware of the importance of the Carmen and all the livery companies as an integral part of the structure and indeed power and wealth of the City.

At the charity lunch, the heartfelt speech from Anne Edward moved most of us to tears and the Mansion House banquet was extra special as we were able to celebrate the 100th birthday of a wonderful lady, Carolyn Ratcliff, with the Lord Mayor of London. Her son is our very own Master's consort.

The Princess Royal graciously attended the Joint Services Dinner and at Cart Marking in July, Lady Juliet Mountevans, the lady Mayoress, rearranged her diary to be with us and celebrate the birthday of Liveryman Roland Billson along with, as he reminded me, 500 of his friends.

We had a convivial weekend in early July in Bath.

At a Buckingham Palace garden party with the Master Fueller and his wife, Prince Phillip remarked with a twinkle in his eye that he was surprised that we were talking to each other!

In August we were invited to Ascot by the Royal Logistic Corps' carriage club. We rode through the great park driven by the Master Farrier and pulled aside for the Royal convoy to pass – Her Majesty's smile and acknowledgement is something that I will never forget.

At the end of August, the Woodmongers' Lunch at Hyde Park Barracks enhanced our relationship with the Fuellers.

I cannot thank our military connections enough for their generosity. Having only as a boy served in the school CCF I had not realised how much our military friends value their Carmen links. Colonel Darren Corey at Deepcut reminded me that as a Carman I was part of the Corps' wider family – reiterated by General Mark Poffley, Head of Logistics.

Being Master Carman has been the greatest privilege and highlight of my life.

Mark Griffiths



# Lord Mayor's Show: Carmen 500



The Young Set twirl Carman brollies at the Lord Mayor's Show.



Carmen, partners and friends watch the Lord Mayor's Show.



Pearly Queen Doreen, with Harry 'Nobby' Clark, the Lady Mayoress, Lady Julia Mountevans and the Master, who marked Carman Clark's 1953 M type Bedford truck at Cart Marking at Guildhall in July.



The Carmen's float passes St Paul's Cathedral in the Lord Mayor's Show.



HRH the Princess Royal shares a joke with Immediate Past Master Paul Holder RLC and Master Mark Griffiths at the Joint Services Dinner at Drapers' Hall in April.

## National Youth Choir Carman

Apprentice Isobel Reid, grand daughter of the late Past Master Bob Reid and daughter of Liveryman Bob Reid, sings with the National Youth Choirs of Great Britain, six choirs for young adults totalling 750.

'The Choir is invaluable to my musical enrichment ... [and] helps with my music A level, as we also do lots of musicianship.'

Currently a member of Training Choir South (one hundred 16-18 year olds from the south of England from Cornwall to London), she attends two courses a year, one in Easter which celebrated British choral music at the Royal Albert Hall.

## Master's events

IPM Mark Griffiths arranged Master's events at Hyde Park Barracks in Knightsbridge in April, the College of Arms and also Crosby Hall in May and the House of Lords in June and a weekend in Bath in July.

The Carman Car Club visited the multiple classic car collection at Studio 434 in May and the Morgan Motor Company in October.

The Lord Mayor's Show in November witnessed an extraordinary spectacle with the Carmen's float and display: 20 Young Set children in historic costumes twirled Carman 500 umbrellas, a Carman 500 balloon preceded the float and the Master, when Wardens stood on a bridge spanning the City old and new in a golden tableau with an encircling roadway with moving model vehicles.

The float was preceded by a 19th century handcart originally made and used by then Carman Evan Cook and still held by a Carman member of the family, and followed by Carmen riding in a 19th century horsed omnibus.

During the Show, the Master was

interviewed by the BBC, which aired the conversation.

Arrangements for the Carmen's exceptional display were developed and organised throughout by Assistant Richard Buswell – the Carmen's very own pageant master.



Joint Services Dinner Carman military award winners (left to right): Lt Nicholas Travers RLC, Sword of Honour; Sgt Gareth Lundy, RAF Medal; Flt Lt Gwen Durban, RAF Cup; PO Andrew Collins, RN Medal; Pte Megan Walford, RLC Soldier of the Year; Lt Darren Walton, RN Cup, and John Rodell of FTX Logistics, winners of the RLC Safety Award.

## MILITARY MOVES

The new Military Panel held its inaugural meeting in December, chaired by Past Master Paul Holder. The Panel includes three newly appointed Military Liaison Officers – Past Master Cdr Robin Bawtree (Navy), Assistant Col Simon Bennett (Army) and Liveryman Wg Cdr Mike Summers (RAF).

The Panel will monitor and enhance the military interface at senior and unit levels and look at events, awards and charitable needs. It is also considering future cadet links for all three services, and an informal annual tri-service Carmen's event.

During the year, Carmen have visited HMS *Northumberland*, in June and 2 Mechanical Transport Squadron RAF in October. Together with the Fuellers and other liveries, they also visited the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Service and RFAS *Wave Knight* in June.