

Distillate

2025



The Worshipful Company of Distillers

IN THIS ISSUE: The Master's Year • Distillers One of One Auction
People of the Livery • Round up of Events



The Worshipful Company of Distillers

The Editor

Ewan Lacey Court Assistant

W elcome to this year's edition of The Distillate. It has been another remarkable year for the Livery.

We completed an important strategic review, the results of which the Master reflects on in these pages. This work sets a clear direction for the years ahead, strengthening the foundations of a Company that continues to grow in scale, ambition, and relevance. The Clerk's Office continues to drive change, and this year saw the official opening of our office situated at Apothecaries' Hall.

It was also an auction year, and the One of One surpassed even the most optimistic forecasts, setting new records and demonstrating once again the extraordinary generosity of our industry and of whisky enthusiasts around the world. The impact this enables for The Distillers' Charity is remarkable. Behind that success sits an exceptional group of people whose dedication, professionalism, and creativity deserve our deepest thanks.

My sincere thanks go to everyone who contributed to this edition of The Distillate and to all those across the Livery who give their time and energy so freely. Your commitment ensures the Company continues to flourish and makes this publication a true reflection of our shared spirit. We owe a great debt of gratitude to the fantastic team at Paragraph Publishing, led by Court Assistant Damian Riley-Smith, along with Tim A'Court and Lucy Schofield, for bringing this magazine to life.

I hope you enjoy this edition, which captures a Livery moving forward with confidence, fellowship, and purpose. ■

Contents

The Master's Year.....	4	The Distillers' Car Club	33
The Court Trip to Vienna.....	7	The Distillers' Golf Society 2025	34
Strategy Report	8	Inter-Livery Pétanque Competition	35
The Scottish Dinner	9	Distillers' Vélo Challenge 2025	36
A Year in Photos.....	9	Mission accomplie!	36
People of the Livery: Ruchira Neotia	12	The Spirit and Wine Committee.....	37
The Distillers One of One® Auction	14	View from the City	38
The Distillers' Charity: How We Work	20	Meet the New Renter Warden: Trevor Stirling	39
The Youth Action Fund	21	The Installation Dinner	40
City & Livery Giving Getting Involved.....	23	Meet the New Master: Dan Szor	41
Vocational Training and Education	25	The Distillers' Annual Spirits Tasting	42
		Military Affiliates	43
		London Scottish Pipes and Drums	43
The Gin Guild.....	28	42 Squadron Royal Air Force	44
The Communications Committee	30	825 Naval Air Squadron.....	44
The Scottish Committee	30	603 Squadron Royal Air Force	45
The Past Masters' Committee.....	31	HMS Campbeltown.....	46
Distillers & Marketors Event	31	The Household Cavalry.....	46
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion.....	32	List of Appointments 2025	48

Diary of Dates

26 January 26.....	Freedom Declaration Ceremonies & Lunch	Guildhall/Ironmongers' Hall
28 January 26.....	Burns Supper (with Scriveners, Master Mariners, Painter Stainers, HR Professionals)	Painters' Hall
23 February 2025.....	City Food & Drink Lecture	Guildhall
26 February 26.....	Court Meeting & Livery Lunch	Saddlers' Hall
20 March 26	United Guilds Service & Lunch	St Paul's Cathedral/Brewers' Hall
13 April 26.....	Freedom Declaration Ceremonies & Lunch	Guildhall/Ironmongers' Hall
16 April 26.....	Lady Mayor's Big Curry Lunch	Guildhall
21 April 26.....	Court Meeting & Charity Dinner	Mercers' Hall
04 June 26	Distillers' Forum.....	The Athenaeum
18 June 26.....	Court Meeting & Lunch.....	Apothecaries' Hall
09 July 26	Summer BBQ.....	Doggett's Coat & Badge
13 July 26	Freedom Declaration Ceremonies & Lunch	Guildhall/Ironmongers' Hall
30 July 26	Inter-Livery Pétanque Competition	London Pétanque Club
10 September 26.....	Court Meeting & Livery Dinner	The Signet Library
27 September 26.....	Woolmen's Sheep Drive	Southwark Bridge
05 October 26.....	Freedom Declaration Ceremonies & Lunch	Guildhall/Ironmongers' Hall
09 October 26.....	The Distillers' Annual Banquet.....	Mansion House
19 November 26	Installation Court Meeting & Livery Dinner.....	Vintners' Hall
07 December 26	Company Christmas Lunch.....	Ironmongers' Hall
10 December 26	Carol Service & Supper.....	St Lawrence Jewry & Guildhall

A Year of Purpose and Pageantry

Nick Carr Master 2024-2025

After a terrific Installation in November 2024, when my nerves had settled just a little, it was time to relax into the Christmas season with great fellow Liveryman Lorne Mackillop at the Christmas Carol Service.



That was followed by pushing the boundaries of creativity and innovation with my very own Christmas Spirit in the form of a new cocktail. Try it at your peril... if you haven't already.

Kim's Goodbye

February was a busy month for us as we all said our thanks and goodbye to Kim Lyons, our Assistant Clerk of 15 years, wishing her well in retirement following her unwaveringly sterling work and loyal support. The Cutlers' Hall — a favourite of Kim's — was the venue, and it did not disappoint.

February Lunch

February lunch saw a 'double first' as we booked the stunning Mercers' Hall and invited spouses and partners to join and learn more about what we do and enjoy a tour of the Hall before lunch.

April Dinner

In April, at Saddlers' Hall, a favourite of ours, we showcased the Livery at its best. In a historic first, we welcomed all three Armed Forces to sign the Armed Forces Covenant.

Representatives included Admiral James Parkin from the Royal Navy, Lieutenant Colonel Ralph Griffin from the Household Cavalry, and Air Marshal Sir David Walker from the RAF.

We were delighted to be joined by Lord Peach, His Grace the Duke of Hamilton, and other distinguished guests.

As our guest speaker at the dinner, Lord Peach gave a very impressive speech. We welcomed both him and Sir David Walker as Honorary Liverymen — a privilege to have such esteemed and valuable support for our Livery.

If that was not enough, our hard-working Charity team organised an excellent sharing event called 'Our Charity Conversation', inviting our charities to share with all of us the impact we are able to make to the young lives we help. All of us present could not but be moved by the personal stories bravely shared by the young recipients who attended — bringing the work we support "transforming young people's lives" into real focus.

Highlights from Affiliates Master Reporting In!

Amongst many recent highlights, a huge thank you to our Household Regiment affiliates who kindly invited Louise and I to the Household Cavalry Standards Parade at Windsor Castle.

Plus, Trooping the Colour at the King's Birthday Parade — two splendid days out. Not to mention a Buckingham Palace Garden Party in support of



all those heroes who have made a significant civic or military contribution.

Standing Up a Squadron

This might sound as though we failed to turn up for an invitation event. Far from it! This was the ceremony to mark the reformation of our new RAF affiliate, 42 (Torpedo Bomber) Squadron based at Lossiemouth. They train pilots and crew for their work in protecting the sea lanes of interest to the Ministry of Defence/His Majesty's Government and hence our industry, being equipped with the new Poseidon 8 Low level patrol and Wedgetail Early Warning aircraft.

We witnessed His Majesty the King presenting their colours at a moving parade at their Base in Lossiemouth, Scotland where Richard Watling, Stephen Rankin, and the Master as guests of Sqn Ldr Colin Bostrom, Officer Commanding, represented our Livery with the Master giving a reportedly rousing speech at their black-tie celebration dinner with 200 in attendance.

We were able to present two rare Scotch malts to His Majesty and received a most gracious thank you letter from His Majesty — so we are being noticed!

Two very special Johnnie Walker Blue Label bottles went to the Squadron

engraved with the Squadron crest — hugely applauded on the night.

Thank yous go to Liverymen Karen Bennett and Richard Watling and the team at Diageo for making this happen.

Mansion House

A highlight of the Company's year and mine was our grand banquet at Mansion House, when we have the privilege and pleasure of entertaining the Lord Mayor and his Consort in his home.

Some 230 members of the Livery, Gin Guild, and guests, joined the Lord Mayor Alderman Alastair King, for a magnificent dinner, wines, and spectacle.

This great and glamorous occasion was a wonderful opportunity to remind the City, and indeed ourselves, of the extraordinary range of activities that our Livery undertakes every year.

My speech was aimed at highlighting the leadership role we can play in the world of spirits with our unique combination of fellowship, knowledge, and charity. We are in the most fantastic business!

These exciting elements make our Livery one of the fastest growing and relevant in an ever-changing world. The Lord Mayor spoke with his usual wit and elegance about how much we undersell the incredible City of London and its global attractiveness. We also ▶



Distillers' Delight

Please use these instructions to stir up your Christmas!

Ingredients:

- 1.5oz pomegranate juice for a vibrant, festive hue
- 1oz gin for a layful, frivolous spirit
- 0.75oz spiced honey syrup for a warm sense of fellowship
- Top off with 5-7oz sparkling wine
- Add a fresh raspberry

Method:

Mix the pomegranate juice, gin, and spiced honey syrup in a cocktail shaker filled with ice.

Shake well for about 15-20 seconds to blend the flavours and chill the mixture.

Strain the cocktail into a beautiful, chilled glass.

Top off with sparkling wine for a festive, bubbly finish.

Garnish with a raspberry for a touch of tartness and a pop of colour.

Serve immediately and enjoy with friends and family!

By Nick, Dan, Vincent, and Kirsten



congratulated Charles Maxwell on taking over from Desmond Payne as Grand Rectifier of the Gin Guild, whose ranks have been enhanced by 31 new members. It is remarkable how this valuable limb of the Livery has grown in a few brief years.

For fellow Liverymen, who were unable to join us, we had great entertainment from the pipers of the London Scottish Pipes & Drums, the ever exciting dual of the Post Horn Gallop trumpeters. Thanks to much work behind the scenes by the Clerk's office the evening went like clockwork, with enough time for a reviving stirrup cup before heading home after a splendid occasion.

The bottle in The Lord Mayor's hand is my Master's Choice Mortlach 15 Years Old, generously donated by my old company Diageo. A huge thanks to Dan Mobley and his team.

A huge thank you also to Liverymen Marcus Pickering and Matt Gammell at Summerhall Distillery for patiently spending much time labelling and packaging. As Global Director Malt Whiskies for Diageo, a favourite single malt of mine was Mortlach, and Diageo kindly donated 120 exclusive never-to-be-repeated bottles to raise funds for our charity.

They have sold like hot cakes, raising over £5,000. One bottle raised £825 at auction! (Not the Distillers One of One Auction, might I add!)

...Basel here I come!

Visit to Our Affiliated Guild in Basel, Switzerland

The Master had the honour of being a guest at the annual dinner of our affiliated Guild in Basel, Switzerland. Warmest thanks go to Master Fabian Bebler and Past Master Edi Etter for their generous invitation to the splendid E.E. Zunft zu Rebleuten celebration on Saturday 25 October. The Guild, originally founded for those working in the wine trade, dates back to 1366 — an extraordinary heritage!

It was a truly special occasion — full of fun, fine entertainment, and excellent food and wine. Although my lack of German was initially a concern, I was quickly put at ease by the kindness of so many Guild members. Their



At April's Charity Presentation



Signing the Armed Forces Covenant with Admiral James Parkin, Lieutenant Colonel Ralph Griffin and Air Marshal Sir David Walker



warm welcome and lively conversation throughout the evening reflected the shared values and camaraderie that unite our two Guilds.

Many fond memories were recalled of the Basel Guild's participation in the Lord Mayor's Show in 2021. Almost 300 members filled the beautiful hall, and we all enjoyed speeches, the stirring sound of pipes and drums, and wonderful singing, all contributing to a truly memorable atmosphere. ■



The Court Trip to Vienna

I do have to mention the Court visit to Vienna — what a city! And what music, food, wine, and culture! We all enjoyed antique tram rides; vineyards with a view; baroque music ensembles; Spanish Riding School; Austrian beer, schnapps, and wine tastings; and visits to palaces, coffee houses, and of course, traditional taverns with amazing yodelling. A true joy, in great company.



Strategy Report

Nick Carr Master 2024-2025

Every five years, the Livery undertakes a review of our Vision and Strategy to ensure we continue to thrive and build on the remarkable foundations of the Worshipful Company of Distillers — a Company we are all proud and privileged to serve. Over the past six months, this work has been carried out with care and commitment across the Livery.

A steering group — comprising the M&W and Clerk, our Charity Chair Grant Gordon, and a working group including the Chairs of all our committees — have provided thoughtful insight, analysis, and constructive challenge. A special personal thanks go to Liveryman Henri Sizaret and Development Director Clive Bairsto for their invaluable input and for keeping the process on track. Committee members from across the organisation have also played a significant role in shaping our direction. While there are too many contributors to name individually, your efforts, energy, and passion have been deeply appreciated.

The result, approved by the Court at its September meeting, is a refreshed vision and strategy that brings alignment and a strong foundation for the years ahead. It reflects who we are today, the ambitions we hold for tomorrow, and our collective commitment to ensure that all our committees and activities work together toward shared goals. It is important we live by our values and help one another.

The work increases our future focus on fellowship and knowledge sharing — two hugely important areas for us. Our Livery membership is uniquely strong in our industry experience and we can share much more to help one another. Charity continues to be hugely important, while the Court has also importantly endorsed a more global outlook. By recruiting the next generation of leaders and looking globally we will help diversify and add richness to our Livery, ensuring we provide ongoing relevance to the global spirits community.

The following slides summarise the main outcomes of this work. It serves not

only as a guide for our governance and planning, but also as a resource to share with prospective Freemen and Liverymen, helping to articulate clearly who we are, what we stand for, and where we are heading together.

The PDF presentation shared in November is something I hope you feel proud to share with family, friends, and

prospective new members. This was followed by a video — a first for our Livery — created to bring our message to life.

Thank you to all members whose energy, presence, and participation are captured in the images throughout and to everyone involved in bringing this important work to completion. ■



Values and character

When we communicate and behave, we live by the following values:

- Welcoming
- Convivial
- Professional
- Caring
- Inclusive

...whilst being proud of our tradition and decorum.

Our aims

- Continue to grow and recruit the next generation of industry leaders expanding our Freemen and overseas membership.
- Strengthen our fellowship via inclusive events and deeper engagement.
- Amplify our charitable impact Embed D101 as the world's leading whisky auction, consistently achieving £1m+ annual giving.
- Elevate our leadership and share knowledge Internally and externally, amplifying industry events, scholarships, mentoring and recognition.
- Leverage our bonds with the City of London

Our Vision

Our Vision in 10 years is to be:

Leaders in fellowship, knowledge and charity in the world of spirits -

Celebrated as a City of London Livery Company.

Everyday

We champion connections, expertise and generosity in the global spirits community.

The Scottish Dinner

Jane Cumming Liveryman

It was a full house once more for the highlight of the Distillers' calendar here in Scotland — our Scottish Dinner — in the stunning surroundings of the Signet Library in Edinburgh.

Following a poignant tribute to her late father and fellow Liveryman David Wilson, Natasha Wilson gave the toasts to the guests, highlighting her father's values of "kindness, openness, legacy but most importantly, living life with energy, enthusiasm, and fun".

Replying on behalf of the guests was Baroness Davidson of Lundin Links. Best known for her political career, she gave a hugely entertaining speech explaining her introduction to the sector began at an early age around the dinner table listening to her father talk of casks, maturation, blending, and

marketing. She clearly knew her stuff and urged those gathered to support the hospitality sector which was facing a perfect storm.

She was a hard act to follow, but the Master Nick Carr proved equal to the task, pointing to the progress the Distillers have made in recent years with an increase in fundraising from £50,000 to £1.2m each year. He highlighted how proud we should be that The Distillers One of One Auction is the single biggest one-day fundraiser in the history of the Livery.

He finished by pointing to the Livery's values and personality — welcoming, convivial, professional, caring, and inclusive, which summed up a perfect evening in the company of friends old and new. ■



A Year in Photos



The Clerk celebrates Burns Night



Toasting our new office in Apothecaries' Hall



The Haggis arrives for the Burns Supper



Guests at the Spirits Tasting

FELLOWSHIP



The Lord Mayor at Mansion House



The Lord Mayor with the Senior Company



Bugling at Mansion House



The Egyptian Hall at Mansion House



At Saddlers' Hall



Welcoming The Lord Mayor and Sir David Walker to the Livery



April Dinner



FELLOWSHIP

The Master opens our new office



February Lunch



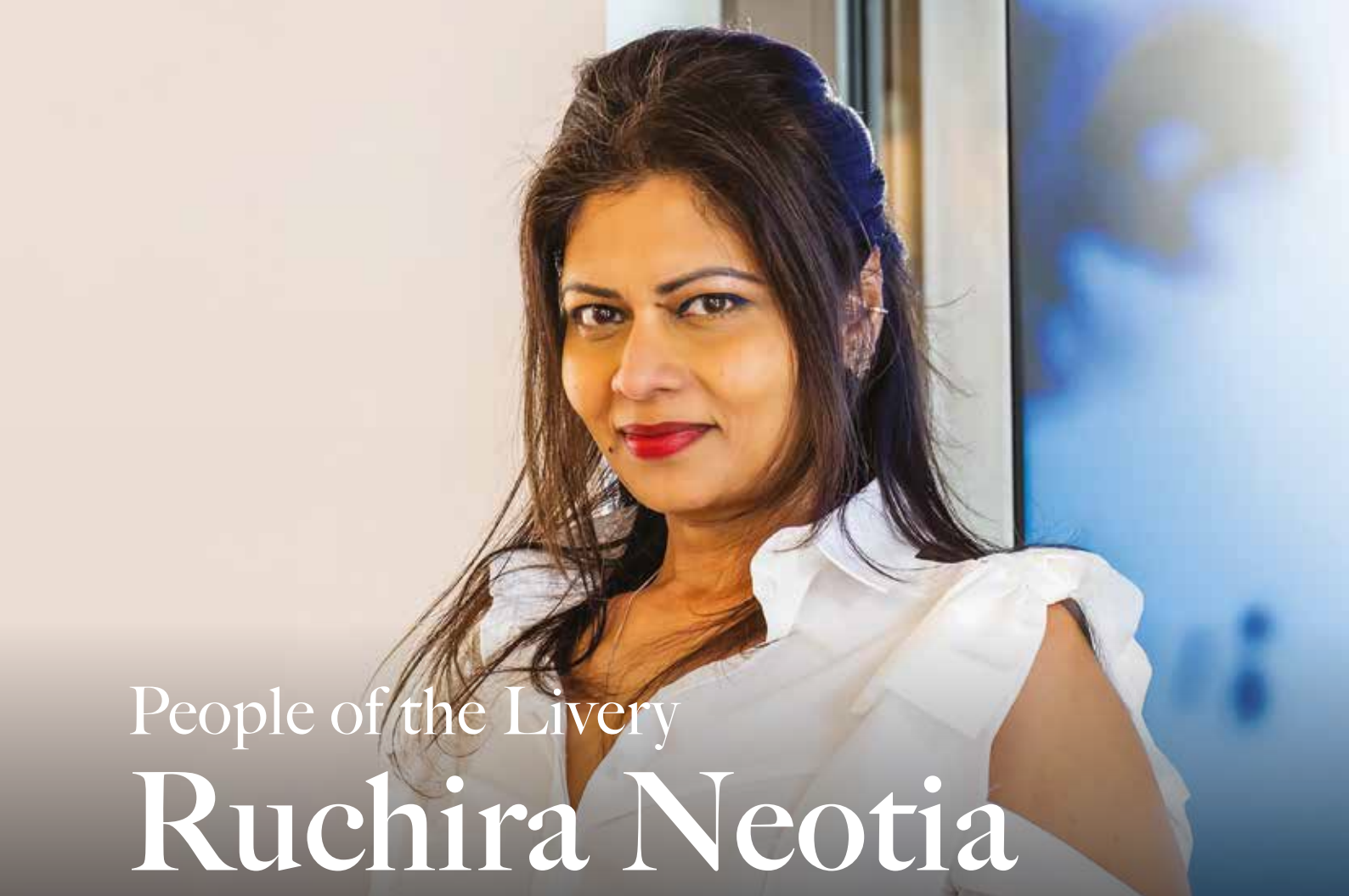
Proudly signing the Armed Forces Covenant



April Dinner at Saddlers' Hall



The Lord Peach addresses the Livery and guests

A portrait of Ruchira Neotia, a woman with long dark hair, wearing a white ruffled top, looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The background is a blurred indoor setting with a window showing a blue sky.

People of the Livery

Ruchira Neotia

Where is home?

I grew up in the bustling, humid city that is Kolkata, an original Indian metro with the lingering scent of its colonial past. Following a career start in Australia and New Zealand, life moved on and is now rooted in London, with one foot in Delhi.

What makes up your working day?

My typical day is anything but typical. Morning might find me judging a Spirits Award; afternoon, introducing a drinks journalist to the only fully Indian-owned Champagne, then advising a brand on India's market before brainstorming a bold new drink-paired supperclub with a Thai chef. In the evening, I might be speaking at an industry panel or wrapping up a writing assignment.

How did you get here?

I was always meant to get here — just took a meandering road with an FT100 Brand and Marketing international career first. A hobbyist pursuit of a Diploma in wine, fuelled by a collector's passion, and a family tragedy spurred me to focus on the more joyful elements in my life — doing what I love with all my experience and a forever curiosity for this industry and liquid.

Best bits of the job?

Breaking archaic silos that hold the industry back and knowing that no two days are the same. That and getting to taste some epic whiskies and Champagnes.

What are your aspirations?

To be a respected Indian voice on the global drinks stage, and to help shift the demonisation of alcohol to a welcome gastronomic companion, especially on high flavour tables. I also have a book (or two) in me and need to find a suitable publisher. Recommendations welcome!

Your experience of Livery life?

A welcome juxtaposition of history and modernity; of fun and learning; of ritual and progress. Above all, I increasingly find that the Livery is a necessary anchor for our industry community. I'm a proud Liveryman.

What you don't know about me

I'm an aspiring pre-solo pilot (on an extended break) and have flown the English Channel, to and from Duxford, and myriad other places on a single propeller.

"I drink and I know things" — especially when they are Indian-made. I own a selection of every Indian single malt brand, so do get in touch if you fancy sharing a dram or talking about the Indian drinks market.

Contact ruchira@neomargarita.com or 07506 584855. ■



THE DISTILLERS
ONE OF ONE®



THE
DISTILLERS'
CHARITY



The third edition of The Distillers One of One[®] Auction smashes its pre-sale estimate

Beanie Espey Managing Director, Distillers One of One

The Distillers' Charity hosted its third biennial Distillers One of One Auction in partnership with Sotheby's, at the historic Hopetoun House near Edinburgh, on Friday 10 October 2025. Comprising a selection of 39 ultra-rare Scotch whiskies, from 35 companies and distilleries across Scotland, the auction, which attracted lively bidding in the room and on the telephones, was attended by some 200 guests from across the globe. The sale saw unbridled generosity amongst the bidders, who were prepared to go the extra mile to secure the whiskies of their dreams, with bids leaping in increments as much as £140,000 at a time.

Since its inaugural event in 2021, The Distillers One of One Auction has cemented its place as the world's preeminent charity auction dedicated to rare Scotch whisky, with 100% of hammer proceeds donated to charitable causes. Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of the 49 Scotch whisky distilleries and companies who have donated 120 lots over three auctions, as well as whisky collectors worldwide, the auctions have now raised £6.6 million to date, principally directed to the Youth Action Fund. Established in early 2022 following the first auction, the Youth Action Fund supports disadvantaged young people across Scotland to unlock

- The third edition of The Distillers One of One Charity Auction achieved a hammer total of £2,316,722 against a pre-sale estimate of £793,400-£1,425,500
- 30 auction records achieved in 2025, resulting in The Distillers One of One breaking a total of 67 brand records to date
- 35 Scotch whisky distilleries working collectively in the name of philanthropy.
- 39 one-off, never to be repeated auction lots
- 85% of lots exceeded their high estimates
- 100% of the hammer price will be donated to charity
- £6.6 million raised for charity since the first auction in 2021



their potential and contribute positively to their communities.

Beanie Geraedts-Espey, Managing Director of Distillers One of One, commented: "We're so humbled to see such generosity in action for this third Distillers One of One Auction. The resounding success is the result of an incredible collective endeavour across the Scotch whisky industry to create meaningful and lasting change, with much work behind the scenes from passionate individuals who care deeply about their communities. It is very special to us to know that this exceptional sum that has been raised will have a direct impact on Scotland's disadvantaged youth."

Jonny Fowle, Global Head of Spirits, Sotheby's, said: "The third Distillers One of One charity whisky sale has once again surpassed all expectations, delivering an exceptional result that truly reflects the passion and innovation at the heart of the Scotch whisky community. Our deepest thanks to every bidder who participated and to the distillers who

contributed their rare and imaginative creations to this unique auction. The quality and creativity on offer were simply outstanding, showcasing the very best of the whisky world, in every sense. Witnessing the extraordinary response from collectors and enthusiasts worldwide is a reminder of the vibrant spirit of the industry, and it is a privilege to play a part in celebrating and supporting the craftsmanship and charity at the core of The Distillers One of One. What makes this year's edition particularly memorable is the extraordinary number of brand records achieved. The overall results are a clear indication of the trust and excitement this event continues to build within the global spirits community."

The auction was led by The Glenlivet SPIRA 60 Year Old 1965 which smashed its pre-sale estimate to bring £650,000 (est. £60,000-110,000), a new auction record for a bottle of The Glenlivet, following a ten-minute bidding battle. It was the oldest expression to be released from the distillery to date, presented in a 1.5 litre spiral decanter hand-blown and shaped by Brodie Nairn at Glasstorm.

An auction record was achieved when The Glen Grant Eternal 77 Year Old 1948, the oldest whisky to be released by the distillery and the oldest whisky presented in this year's auction, soared to £400,000, five times its low estimate (est. £80,000-120,000).

Port Ellen Prism 46 Year Old 1978 — the oldest whisky ever released by the distillery in celebration of Port Ellen's 200th anniversary year, housed within a magnum-size 1.5 litre decanter encased in a glass sculpture created by award-winning German artist Wilfried Grootens — more than doubled its low estimate to bring £375,000 (est. £150,000-300,000), a new auction record for a bottle of Port Ellen.

Ladyburn One of One 2025 Marilyn Monroe by Sam Shaw 58 Year Old 1966, comprising spirit hand-drawn from one of the very last remaining Ladyburn casks from the distillery's foundation year and distinguished by a label featuring an intimate, rarely seen photograph of Marilyn Monroe by her friend



and photographer Sam Shaw, saw bidding increments as high as £30,000, resulting in a final sale price of £225,000 (est. £30,000-50,000). It was an auction record for Ladyburn, and more than doubled the previous record set by The Distillers One of One sale in 2021 of a bottle featuring a David Bailey photograph of John Lennon.

A flurry of bids saw the Laphroaig Capsule 40 Year Old — created from spirit distilled in 1980 and 1981 to become the joint oldest release ever from the Laphroaig distillery and presented in a flawless 1.5 litre curved crystal decanter resembling a medicinal capsule — sell for a record £125,000, more than tripling its low estimate (est. £40,000-80,000).

Dragon In Clouds 60 Year Old by KANDOBLANC — a 1.5 litre hand-blown Murano glass vessel elevated with intricate Japanese lacquer work, encasing an exceptionally rare 60-year-old Speyside single malt — more than doubled the previous auction record for the visionary whisky brand, selling for £106,250 (est. £50,000-100,000). ▶





Another auction record was set with The Glendronach Arias in Time, a one-of-a-kind collection of four whiskies including the oldest whisky ever released by the distillery, presented upon a bespoke bronze sculptural artwork by Osanna Visconti, which brought £93,750 (est. £60,000-100,000).

A gallon bottle (4.5 litre) of 58-year-old Glenfarclas, housed in a unique oak presentation case, sold for £81,250 (est. £24,000-45,000) — an auction record for Glenfarclas Distillery.

The Gordon & MacPhail 130th Anniversary Collection, featuring three rare, one-off 50cl single malts from The

Glen Grant and Gordon & MacPhail's own brands and distilleries, Benromach and The Cairn, brought £68,750 (est. £50,000-80,000).

Livingstone & Elixir Distillers donated a 63-year-old single malt distilled at Mortlach Distillery, accompanied by an original, signed illustration by Sir Quentin Blake of William Shakespeare which also appears on the bottle label, achieved £67,500 (est. £20,000-26,000) — delivering auction records for Livingstone's Macbeth Collection and for a bottle of Mortlach.

Old Pulteney Polaris, a rare 47-year-old whisky and Old Pulteney's oldest

release to date, encased within a Caithness slate structure from Norse Stone symbolising the cliffs that guard the distillery, far exceeded its estimate to bring £62,500 (est. £26,000-40,000).

"Elementum" by Vicky Paul, a 21-litre vessel created by the Edinburgh-based contemporary abstract painter, housing a single malt whisky from The Borders Distillery, brought £25,000 (est. £10,000-15,000).

Undeterred by the mystery element surrounding the lot, collectors enthusiastically competed for four unique bottles of single malt donated by The Thompson Bros under the MYSTERY MALT label. Specifically



curated for this year's auction, the spirits ignited fierce competition amongst collectors in the room, before selling for £20,000. The winning bidder will only find out the identity of the exact whiskies when opening the bottles to reveal the distillery and age statement underneath the capsule.

Leading the selection of casks on offer was the Bruichladdich Cask of Biodynamic Single Malt 2013, the distillery's third contribution to The Distillers One of One Auction, which sold for £50,000 (est. £10,000-20,000) — an auction record for Bruichladdich Distillery.

Finally, a bottle of The Distillers One of One 2025 Founders' Reserve, a

specially created assemblage of Scotch malt whiskies donated by ten of The Distillers One of One 2025 Founder Donors, and blended by Master Blender Richard Paterson OBE, realised £17,500. Ahead of the auction, The Ethos Foundation and The Hunter Foundation both generously agreed to match the hammer price (£14,000), which they will donate directly to The Distillers' Charity.

"The Distillers One of One team is immensely grateful to all the donors, attendees, bidders, and

the auction sponsors and partners. Our donors, sponsors, and partners are the reason we can maintain our pledge of donating 100% of the Hammer proceeds to charity, 90% of which is directed towards the Youth Action Fund, and 10% to The Distillers' Charity for City & Livery Giving and Vocational Training and Education."



Six leading charities are funded as delivery partners by The Distillers' Charity to achieve the goals of the Youth Action Fund: Aberdeen Foyer, Action for Children, FARE Scotland, Street League, ENABLE Works, and The Talk About Trust. To date, over 3,780 young people have been engaged by the fund, which is managed by Inspiring Scotland.

The Distillers One of One has earned its reputation as a once-in-a-lifetime experience for collectors: no two bottles are ever the same, and no lot will ever be

recreated. Each lot is imbued with the spirit of craftsmanship and exclusivity, representing the pinnacle of Scotch whisky. Bidders come from all over the world, to a series of events culminating in the auction itself.

"I'm just so impressed and so proud of an industry that can hunker down, almost in totality, and do something quite extraordinary for those that are disadvantaged and need help in fulfilling their potential. And doing this because it is the right thing to do, and against

a backdrop of one of the most difficult markets of recent times.

"We can all be proud of the hard work, the endeavour and going beyond for something. In turn, this engenders pride in all who take part — to help Distillers One of One succeed is not for the faint hearted. Those companies, designers, distillers, auctioneers are individuals who walk towards the challenge, rather than sit on the sidelines and spectate.

"For the industry, this work, the extraordinary results, the collective endeavour, this creates a belief, a belief in the future of Scotch whisky.

"With decades in the industry to look back on, I can safely say that we're doing what we do best: not looking to the past but instead building a Scotch whisky category for the future, one that makes the most extraordinary products but most importantly, one that cares greatly." **Jonathan Driver**
Chair, Distillers One of One. ■



The Distillers One of One Auction would not be possible without the tremendous and continued support of our Donors, our Sponsors, and our Partners.

THE DISTILLERS ONE OF ONE DONORS

FOUNDERS

Bacardi — John Dewar & Sons • Brown Forman • Campari Group
Chivas Brothers • Diageo • Gleann Mór • Gordon & MacPhail
International Beverage • Kandoblanc • Suntory Global Spirits
The Last Drop • William Grant & Sons

MEMBERS

Ballindalloch Distillery • Berry Bros. & Rudd • The Borders Distillery • Livingstone & Elixir
Distillers • Loch Lomond Group • R&B Distillers • Rémy Cointreau • Whyte & Mackay

ASSOCIATES

Adelphi • Arbikie Distillery • The Artisanal Spirits Company • Coachbuilt
Dornoch Distillery • Hunter Laing • InchDairnie Distillery • J & G Grant
La Martiniquaise Bardinet • Lindores Abbey Distillery • Master of Malt
Tomatin Distillery • The Glenturret Distillery • Whisk-E • Young Spirits

SPONSORS

GOLD: WIM

PROGRAMME: McLaren Presentation • Glencairn Crystal • Simpson's Malt • Forsyths

SILVER: Brodies Law • Hamilton & Inches

PARTNERS

AUCTION: Sotheby's

MEDIA: Whisky Magazine • Paragraph Publishing

BEVERAGES: Hambledon Wines • Berry Bros. & Rudd

TRAVEL: The Luminaire • DM Travel

THE DISTILLERS ONE OF ONE
WILL RETURN IN 2027

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The Distillers' Charity

How We Work

Our Purpose

The Distillers' Charity is a fundraising and grant-making organisation with the primary purpose of providing funding and support to other charities. While we do not directly fund individual beneficiaries, our carefully selected charity partners ensure that our grants create meaningful, lasting impact.

Our Mission

To Transform Young People's Lives, helping young people to reach their full potential, improve their life chances, and make a positive contribution to their communities — including within the distilling industry and associated trades.

Our Sources of Funding

The generosity and support of the Livery has been instrumental in the Charity's success since its inception 70 years ago in 1955. Alongside The Distillers One of One Auction, regular giving by Liverymen is a mainstay of our charitable income. 100% of members' donations and legacies are committed to grant-making, across our City & Livery and Vocational Training & Education work.

Our Three Impact Areas

Our charitable funds support our mission through the work of three distinct but integrated grant-making programmes:

Youth Action Fund:

Funded by The Distillers One of One Auction, which is backed by the Scotch whisky industry. This strategic initiative has been designed to help transform the life chances of young people in Scotland, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds. It equips them with the skills and confidence to create positive and lasting change through achieving employability.

City & Livery Giving:

Our vision is to enhance the Distillers' endeavours as a leading charity within the Livery movement, supported by the active involvement of members of our Company and engaged with the City of London. Our funding targets support for young people, including some from within our industry, helping them to thrive and realise their potential.

Vocational Training & Education:

Inspired by the Livery's centuries-old tradition of preserving and advancing crafts, setting of standards, and passing of skills to future generations, the Distillers' Vocational Training and Education (VTE) programme is dedicated to developing the next generation of talent in the spirits trade. Through educational support, bursaries, and mentoring, VTE helps people enter and build meaningful careers in the spirits industry, while sharing the incredible wealth of knowledge within the Livery. Assisted by a growing level of funding from The Distillers' Charity, this work has accelerated in recent years, expanding opportunities for aspiring professionals.

Transforming Young Peoples' Lives The Youth Action Fund

Geoffrey Bush Trustee and Youth Action Fund Lead

As we near four years since The Distillers' Charity established the Youth Action Fund, the need to sustain our ongoing support to the most disadvantaged young people in Scotland has not diminished. The profound impact of the Youth Action Fund has already been extensive. The Fund's partner charities have to date supported 2,619 disadvantaged young people across Scotland into employability, increasing their life opportunities.

"By helping young people who face the greatest barriers to participating, Scotland can foster a more resilient, innovative, and inclusive workforce."

Skills Development Scotland Report.

2,619 of those young people have achieved an employability outcome, such as:

- Volunteering and training
- Employment and apprenticeships
- Further and higher education

18,648 soft outcomes have been realised, which is vital and incredibly positive when we consider the complex challenges faced by these young people.

These include:

- Improved wellbeing
- Self-belief and resilience
- Aspiration and motivation

14,433 progression milestones have been reached. For the young people supported it is journey of growth, and these milestones help take them on the path to employability.

- Alcohol and substance abuse awareness training
- Mentoring
- Literacy and numeracy qualifications
- Work placements
- Financial management training



The Youth Action Fund partner charities are;



An Independent Report on the Youth Action Fund was conducted by Research Scotland

Summary of key findings:

Key factors supporting young people to achieve positive outcomes included:

- Bespoke, flexible, and person-centred support, increasing resilience and self-belief
- Trusted relationships and key worker support in a safe place
- Sustained support throughout young people's journey, increasing aspiration and motivation

At portfolio level, the charity delivery partners valued:

- The long-term vision, shared purpose, and collective commitment
- The Youth Action Fund metrics which track individual progress and provide greater understanding of the impact being achieved
- The unique collaboration within the portfolio
- The way Inspiring Scotland fund managers work with funded organisations
- The links with the whisky industry, opening up new work experience and job opportunities
- The Talk About Trust training, building skills and understanding for staff working with young people around alcohol and substance abuse issues

Hear from some of The Youth Action Fund beneficiaries;

"As a result of support, I have slowly developed as a person and individual and slowly come out of my shell. I've been able to try new things and adapt over time to things I once thought would be impossible or pointless."

CASE STUDY: Max, a young person supported by Enable (one of the partner charities).

Max initially received one-to-one intensive support through Enable, to help him to stabilise his life. He then moved on to a group work programme and achieved an Employability Award.

Enable then highlighted the opportunity to apply for a paid internship with Diageo. Max was supported to apply for the internship, write a personal statement, and prepare for an interview. He was successful and offered a six-month internship.

Enable worked with Max and Diageo to complete a reasonable adjustments form. It was agreed that Max would receive in-work support for the six-month internship.



"It really did save my life when I was going through a dark time. There's no pressure, no judgement, just a safe space where I can be myself..."



"They have done so much for me, they believed in me when I felt no one else did. They have helped me to realise that I can make a great life for myself."

"They believed in me when I doubted myself and helped me get the skills I needed to succeed."



"It is very special that the Scotch whisky industry is using some of Scotland's most valuable assets to address the inequalities that many of the young people are facing."

— Louise Stevenson Inspiring Scotland



City & Livery Giving *Getting Involved*

Richard Watling Chair, The City & Livery Giving Committee

The City & Livery Giving Group leads the Distillers' work in the important area of our charitable relationships with great City institutions and key industry and benevolent organisations. In the last two years we welcomed two new charities,

National Numeracy and Equal Measures, supporting their important work in enabling people to thrive in our industry and fulfil their potential at work.

There are many opportunities for Livery members to take part in all our activities, e.g. as a Numeracy Champion at

your place of work, as a mentor, or simply going along to a Youth Zone evening.

We are always looking for volunteers, so please do get in touch and we would be delighted to discuss the possibilities. You will find it stimulating, really worthwhile, and fun! Contact clive.bairsto@distillers.org.uk.



Lord Mayor's Appeal

The Distillers continue to invest in the work of our central Livery partner whose aim is to make the City a better place for all. Many ongoing partner relationships started with their introduction, including Future Youth Zone Dagenham, Duke of

Edinburgh's Award, and most recently, National Numeracy. Presently, their portfolio helps to counter homelessness through Homewards and the Royal Foundation and improve mental health through MQ Mental Health. ■



The Drinks Trust – A Long-term Partner

The Drinks Trust is the trade charity providing financial assistance, emotional support, and opportunity for growth to drinks industry people. Its aim is to alleviate hardship, improve wellbeing, and support professional development. In 2024, they supported over 7,500 industry colleagues through charitable services offering financial assistance, wellbeing services, and education and training. The charity's new Resource Hub web platform provides universal online access to comprehensive support services and practical guidance, with its launch enabled by a recent Distillers' Charity grant.

The Livery's relationship with our industry charity grows ever stronger, with several meetings with new CEO Nicky Burston over recent months, attendance at the Distillers One of One London lunch, and a donation of a Master's Cask Bottle & Livery Glasses for The Drinks Trust's successful fundraising dinner auction. ■



Future Youth Zone

Future Youth Zone is dedicated to transforming young people's lives positively, with their East London centre providing facilities for regular visits, offering a safe and inspiring venue 365 days a year. To date, the centre has seen over a quarter of a million visits, hosted by outstanding staff who support, engage, challenge, encourage, and listen. Whether providing free winter hot meals, summer holiday clubs, or a diverse range of 20 activities, the charity's mission is to inspire young people to lead more positive lives, raising their aspirations, to help them grow into happy, caring, and responsible citizens.



In the face of heavily overstretched NHS services, the Distillers' most recent grant has enabled the charity to engage a dedicated counsellor to provide critical mental health support, helping to identify emerging issues early. Chairman Charles Mindenhall spoke at the Distillers' February lunch and FYZ featured at April's "Conversation with The Distillers' Charity" Dinner. ■





City of London Charities

We support a number of very worthwhile smaller charities, consistent with our mission to transform the lives of young people. This includes the Sheriffs and Recorders Fund, a core City charity based on the important role of the legal profession helping offenders leaving prison to reintegrate to society and avoid returning, as 60% of young people will otherwise do within six months. We also continue to support the charitable and spiritual work of St Paul's Cathedral and St Lawrence Jewry.



Talk About Trust

2025 has been a landmark year for the Talk About Trust as the charity celebrated its 15th anniversary since being founded. From small beginnings the Trust ensures, through its expert team, that each year over 500,000 children and young people in the UK are equipped with the knowledge, skills, and resilience helping them make safer choices around alcohol and other substances such as vaping and cannabis.

Helena Conibear, Founder, commented, "Our goal when setting up

the charity was to raise the age of onset of young people consuming alcohol reducing underage drinking. This campaign has had very positive results, although there is still much to be done. In recent trends vapes have become the first substance of experimentation by many children and young people, while cannabis is implicated in one in four new cases of psychosis. Our training programmes are addressing all these risks facing young people and are so grateful to The Distillers' Charity for the continuing support of our work." ■



National Numeracy

National Numeracy is on a mission to build people's confidence with numbers across the UK. It supports adults who believe they are "just not good at maths" by showing that everyone can improve. With free tools, training, and real-life support, it helps people boost their skills and unlock new opportunities. From budgeting better to landing a job, it's about everyday maths that makes a difference at home and in the workplace.

Confidence with numbers changes lives — for good. This year the Livery has welcomed its first Numeracy Champions in Liverymen Abhishek Banik and Nick Ravenhall who have volunteered to advocate for National Numeracy. They will promote the idea in their companies as the person to go to for help. We had the pleasure of hosting Sam Sims, Chief Executive of National Numeracy, at our London lunch for The Distillers One of One Auction and Ellie Cornelius-Farrelly was busy recruiting more Champions at the Joint Event with the Marketors.

"I'm hugely grateful to you and the Worshipful Company of Distillers for championing our cause. Your support and advocacy make a genuine difference, helping us keep these important conversations going in new and powerful spaces."



Sophie Sweatman of National Numeracy with Liveryman/volunteer Iain Kennedy



Nick Ravenhall (Livery Liaison) with Vicky Ilankovan, CEO of Equal Measures

Equal Measures

Equal Measures is building a better drinks industry — one where everyone has a seat at the bar. This lively new charity champions brilliant minds from all backgrounds: people of colour, LGBTQ+ communities, neurodivergent talent, and anyone who's been sidelined for not fitting in. With mentoring, education, and industry support, Equal Measures helps

people grow and thrive. They also partner with brands to create more inclusive workplaces especially in hospitality. Over the last year our Livery Liaison, Nick Ravenhall, has worked closely with Vicky Ilankovan, Executive Director of Equal Measures, who has been instrumental in developing our new DEI strategy as well as introducing Equal Measures to the Livery at the April dinner. ■

Vocational Training and Education

Supporting the Next Generation of Distillers

Chris Pitcher Chair, The Vocational Training and Education Committee

Vocational Training and Education (VTE) is dedicated to developing the next generation of talent in the spirits trade. Inspired by the Livery's original purpose of preserving and advancing specific crafts through the setting of standards, provision of training, and passing on of skills to future generations, this centuries-old tradition continues to thrive within the Worshipful Company of Distillers (WCD).

Through the funding provided by The Distillers' Charity, supported by the

continued generous donations from our Livery and the exceptional Distillers One of One Auction, we have been able to grow the value and range of our bursaries and increase the number of people we have supported in their career development this year.

The WCD has for many years provided a programme of educational support, built upon long-standing relationships with our education partners. Our three partners are the Wine and Spirit Education Trust (WSET), the now officially 'Chartered' Institute of Brewers and Distillers

(CIBD), and the International Centre of Brewing and Distilling (ICBD) at Heriot-Watt University. Each offers a distinct programme of educational support and qualifications. ■



Awards and Scholarships

The Distillers' Charity offers a range of awards and scholarships to support individuals pursuing education and training in the spirits industry. In the year to September 2025, we awarded 31 bursaries across our three education partners.

Through our partnership with The Drinks Trust, we funded 18 students through WSET Level Two and Three Spirits qualifications. The Livery, both directly and through VTE, proudly helps support The Drink Trust's wider Develop Programme which provides education and employment opportunities in the drinks and hospitality industry for low-income and unemployed individuals. Last year they helped over 680 students but were only able to honour three of five applications due to a sharp rise in demand. Our ongoing support is therefore vital in helping disadvantage people into the industry.

We increased our support for the CIBD, funding four Diploma in Distilling students and two for the General Certificate in Distilling (GCD). Earlier in the year at the WCD Charity Briefing, it was inspiring to hear how a bursary helped Sophie Pashley develop her career. She was awarded the GCD in 2022 and has since advanced to become a distiller at Ellers Farm Distillery. ■

Advancing Research and Innovation

We also support academic research to advance the understanding of distilling and promote innovation. We award an annual grant for a research project by an MSc in Distilling student at the ICBD. This year's topic highlights the rich diversity of the industry exploring seaweed-based spirits.

For the second year running, we ran an Entrepreneurs Award in which we provide funding and mentoring for an early-stage business idea from a student at the ICBD. From a strong shortlist, and in keeping with one of the Livery goals to increase

our international support, this year's winner plans to develop a climate-driven micro whisky distillery in Japan.

We not only fund qualifications but also look to promote and reward excellence. As such, we award three travel scholarships annually to WSET and CIBD students who excel in Level Three or the Diploma, across the UK, Europe, and the Americas, with plans to add an Asia scholarship next year. It was an honour to present one of the awards at the WSET annual graduation in person to Dr. Thomas Laidet, who achieved outstanding marks in Level Three spirits. ■



Sharing Our Knowledge

Beyond qualifications and scholarships, we are developing new ways in which the Livery can share its rich experience with the current and next generation of distillers. We have three such initiatives underway.

Our mentoring programme, launched in 2021, introduces young distillers to Livery members able to share a wealth of knowledge, wisdom, and practical advice. In a few short years we have built the roster of ongoing mentorships to almost 50 and are always on the lookout for willing volunteer mentors.

The Business of Spirits, our popular one-day seminar series taking place in London and Edinburgh, covers a wide range of practical topics relevant to aspiring distilling entrepreneurs.

Topics include current consumer trends, pricing, segmentation, innovation, and feature talks from successful distillers on how they built their business. We organised three this year, held for students of the ICBD, and CIBD, as well as for members of the Gin Guild.

The Memory of the Industry was launched a couple of years ago by VTE, as a new way to capture and share the unparalleled depth of knowledge within the Livery. We are developing a series of videos recorded by members which offer a lasting first-person insight into some of the most inspirational stories of our industry. Our next stage is to release these in a podcast format, to deliver "stories" more quickly and build a unique library of interviews. Coming to a screen near you soon.

Any Livery or Freeman living anywhere in the UK or abroad who would wish to be a mentor, note we have mentees available. Please contact clive.bairisto@distillers.org.uk if you are interested in mentoring. ■



Chris Pitcher presenting Thomas Laidet with his WSET award



"As you have read in these pages, our work in 2025 has continued in earnest across each of our three impact areas; the Distillers' Youth Action Fund, City & Livery Giving, and Vocational Training and Education, helping transform the lives of young people. In terms of our income, we are thankful for the ongoing commitment from the Livery as well as our industry, which enables The Worshipful Company's charitable work to deliver social impact. The support of the Scotch whisky industry, our sponsors and buyers, is the foundation for the success of Distillers One of One, the world's leading spirits auction. As ever, we are also grateful for the dedication of the many volunteers from the Livery without whose efforts all this work would not be possible, and for the generous donations by our members. Thank you all most sincerely."

— Grant Gordon OBE Chairman, The Distillers' Charity

A portrait of Henri Sizaret, a man with glasses and a light blue sash over a black tuxedo and bow tie, smiling slightly. The background is a dark red wall with gold-colored vertical trim.

People of the Livery

Henri Sizaret

Where is home?

Home is now in Porto, a city I first came to for work in 2010 and stayed for its quality of life. After years living in Latin America, Italy, France, Scotland, Germany, and the Netherlands, Porto feels like the right place to enjoy life.

What makes up your working day?

I run Brand Reveal, a marketing consultancy focused on the beverage world, with projects in Portugal, the US, France, and beyond, with over 80 projects to date for clients ranging from family producers to global corporations. My days shift between brand positioning, innovation, portfolio strategy, and working with creative agencies, a dynamic mix that keeps me constantly learning and alert.

How did you get here?

I guess it is an evolution towards independence: I first cut my teeth with iconic brands Marlboro and Johnnie Walker. Then I moved to family-owned businesses like Graham's Port, helping to drive it into the luxury port world. Eventually, I wanted to experience entrepreneurship for the full professional journey. I founded Brand Reveal in 2014 to bring out the best in brands, both centennial and newborn.

Best bits of the job?

The variety, the thrill of new projects, the satisfaction of seeing ideas come alive. I love bringing clarity, finding concrete, smart solutions with simple, elegant ideas and seeing them work.

Your experience of Livery life?

As a Frenchman (with about 30% British DNA, apparently!), I've always admired the British sense of decorum and tradition, and the Distillers do not disappoint. I've also had the privilege of contributing to shaping our next five-year strategy, which gave me a deeper appreciation of how the Livery works, and of the exceptional calibre, warmth, and commitment of its people.

What you might not know about me

I'm an electronic music producer and performer (not a DJ). For over 30 years, I've been writing and releasing music, with more than 30 albums so far and performances in London, Berlin, Lisbon, Osaka, and Santiago. This keeps my creative sensitivity alive and is a brilliant way to stay connected with nightlife — such an essential pulse of the drinks world. ■

The Gin Guild Celebrating a Year of Growth, Innovation, and Community

Pal Gleed | Director General, The Gin Guild

The Gin Guild, the UK's leading organisation representing gin distillers and members of the wider industries, has spent the last year building on its reputation for both excellence and camaraderie.

A Milestone Year for Membership

2025 marked a historic moment for the Guild, with membership surpassing the 600 mark. This growth reflects both the expanding global interest in gin and the Guild's efforts to cultivate an inclusive, internationally minded community.

"We are thrilled to welcome so many new members, both in the UK and abroad," said Director General Pal Gleed. "Each new member brings energy, expertise, and perspective, and together they reinforce the Guild's mission of celebrating and advancing the art and science of gin."

This international growth was complemented by a steady increase in younger members and new entrants to the industry, ensuring that the Guild remains at the forefront of gin innovation and education. Sixty new members have joined in 2025, including our first from Ecuador, New Zealand, and Iceland, meaning the Guild now includes members from 33 countries outside of the UK.

Leadership and Legacy

A significant leadership transition was also marked this year. Desmond Payne MBE, who has served as Grand Rectifier with distinction since 2023, handed over the mantle to former Master of the Distillers (2008-09) Charles Maxwell. Desmond's contribution to the Guild and the wider industry is celebrated with gratitude and admiration. "It has been an

extraordinary privilege to serve as Grand Rectifier," Desmond reflected. "Passing the role to Charles, who brings both vision and a deep understanding of gin craft, ensures that the Guild continues to thrive."

"Over the past two years I've had the pleasure of welcoming many new members to the Guild. It's been huge fun, and a wonderful way to finish my career — a real privilege. I wish Charles the best of luck; he has more knowledge of the gin industry than most people put together."

Charles Maxwell, taking up the position with characteristic enthusiasm, noted, "I am humbled to follow in Desmond's footsteps. Our goal is to build on the foundations laid over the past decade and ensure that the Guild remains a place where both tradition and innovation flourish."

Signature Events: Celebration and Connection

The past year has been punctuated by a series of high-profile events that have become hallmarks of the Guild calendar.

The 2025 Spring Installation was a celebration of achievement and community. Members gathered to recognise contributions across the Guild, welcome new members, and raise a glass to the year ahead. Director General Pal Gleed observed, "This dinner always reminds us that gin is not only a craft but a shared passion. Seeing so many members, old and new, together in one room is a true privilege."

Perhaps the most eagerly anticipated event of the year, and often referred to as



ABOUT THE GIN GUILD

Established in 2012, the Guild has grown from its origins as a small fellowship of distillers into a dynamic community of over 600 members – a milestone crossed in the past year, encompassing a vibrant mix of industry leaders, emerging talents, and internationally recognised mixologists. For members of the Worshipful Company new to the Guild, it functions not only as a professional network but also as a hub to celebrate the craft, history, and culture of gin, bringing together everyone from large producers to artisanal distillers, educators, and passionate supporters of the spirit to promote our wonderful category.

the jewel in the Guild's crown, Ginposium 2025 was a sellout, highlighting the Guild's ability to combine education, insight, and networking. Seminars explored everything from sustainable distilling to international market trends, featuring some of the leading voices in the industry. The event reinforced the Guild's commitment to fostering dialogue and sharing expert knowledge, and feedback from attendees emphasised both the depth and accessibility of the content. Dr Anne Brock from the VTEC committee outlined the range of bursary options available through the Livery.

"Ginposium is a highlight of the year because it allows members to engage directly with thought leaders and innovators," said Pal Gleed. "It's both stimulating and celebratory — a perfect combination."

The year concluded with the Autumn Installation, a reflective yet forward-looking gathering where achievements were celebrated and new initiatives introduced. The event also offered a moment to formally recognise notable members who have contributed to the Guild's growing reputation both at home and overseas.



INDUSTRY



Recognising Exceptional Members

Throughout 2025, the Guild continued to expand and diversify its membership. Notable inductions included distillers whose craft has achieved international acclaim, including William Lowe MW (Cambridge Distillery), Christian Krogstad (Founder of Aviation Gin), and winner of the ISC's Rising star Award 2025, Ockju Lee from Thames Distillers, along with iconic mixologist Ago Perrone from the Connaught Bar.

We also welcomed innovators pushing the boundaries of gin, and influential figures from related sectors supporting the spirit industry. These additions strengthen the Guild's mission and bring new perspectives to its initiatives.

"The Guild thrives because of its members. Whether someone has decades of experience or is a rising star, everyone contributes to the vibrancy of the community," said Desmond Payne MBE, Grand Rectifier 2023-2025.

Education, Advocacy, and International Engagement

Beyond events, the Guild has remained committed to education and the dissemination of expert knowledge. The range of seminars at the annual Ginposium equips members with insights into production safety, distillation techniques, regulatory developments, and market trends.

International engagement also saw significant growth. The Guild has welcomed members from Europe, Asia, Australasia, and South, Central, and North America, reflecting both the global reach of gin and the Guild's

growing reputation as an authority on the craft. This growing international footprint has facilitated cross-cultural exchanges and strengthened the UK's position as a centre of gin excellence.

Looking Ahead to 2026

The Guild's momentum shows no signs of slowing, and 2026 promises a calendar full of opportunities for celebration, learning, and collaboration. Liverymen are encouraged to save the following dates:

- **30 April 2026**
Spring Installation and Gin Industry Annual Dinner
- **12 June 2026**
Ginposium Seminars
- **13 June 2026**
World Gin Day (watch this space!)
- **9 October 2026**
Autumn Installation

Director General Pal Gleed concluded, "As we look to 2026, the Guild remains committed to innovation, inclusion, and the celebration of gin. Our events and initiatives will continue to bring members together, inspire new ideas, and showcase the remarkable creativity that defines this industry."

Reflecting on a year of achievement, growth, and transition, the Gin Guild has reinforced its role as the UK's preeminent gin community. From breaking membership milestones to hosting sold-out events and welcoming a new Grand Rectifier, the Guild continues to blend tradition with forward-thinking energy, celebrating gin not just as a spirit but as a shared passion. ■

The Communications Committee

Ewan Lacey Court Assistant and Chair, Communications Committee

The Worshipful Company of Distillers' Communications Committee is evolving.

Our purpose is simple: to make sure everything we share, whether in print or online, captures the spirit of the Company and reflects a consistent tone, look, and message that celebrates who we are and what we do.

Our job is not to write every story but to bring them together. We aim to amplify the work happening across the Livery and make sure it reaches the right audiences: our members and Corporate Freemen, our civic, military, and charitable partners, and the wider distilling industry in the UK and beyond.

As we put a refreshed structure in place, with clearer roles and closer links to our publications, website, and social channels, our goal is to build a stronger, more connected voice that honours our heritage while engaging with the world we serve.

Every so often, our worlds overlap in the most unexpected ways. At Mansion House recently, I found myself standing beside The Rt Hon The Lord Mayor of London, Alderman Alastair King, who, is a fellow Aberdeen supporter. Between us stood the Scottish FA Cup — a moment that perfectly captured the mix of tradition, pride, and good humour that runs through both the City of London and the Distillers' Company.



If you would like to be involved in the work of the Communications Committee, please get in touch at ewan@ewanlacey.com. ■

The Scottish Committee

Michael Urquhart CBE Court Assistant and Chair, Scottish Committee

The intrepid members of the Scottish Committee continue to travel to destinations in Scotland to attend committee meetings, although this year's distillery visits have centred on Speyside, with only one meeting held on Zoom.

Our work continues to represent the various London committees here in Scotland, where about 25% of the Livery membership is based — and it's growing! We have contributed to the strategy work of the Company alongside the support work around education, philanthropy, and fellowship.

On the educational side, we judged the Entrepreneurship Award for ICBD students at Heriot-Watt University and organised our annual lecture for the ICBD students, presented by Annabel Thomas of Nc'nean Distillery, in October at the headquarters of the RAF 603 Squadron. The lecture gave students a hands-on insight as to what could lie ahead for them, building on their academic studies as they embark on their careers and find themselves in a

position where you can't phone a friend for advice!

We continue our support of the Distillers One of One Auction in achieving the great success of the auction, as reported elsewhere. Likewise, we continue to support the MALT Committee and the two military affiliations that are based here in Scotland: RAF 603 Squadron based in Edinburgh and 42 (TB) Squadron based at RAF Lossiemouth and engaging with their members through the liaison officers.

Our main focus, and an item that is discussed at every meeting, is making arrangements for our Scottish Dinner. There is a separate report elsewhere, but suffice to say the preparations start as soon as the last dinner closes, if not before. We have one speaker in place, the venue, the Signet Library, is booked for 2026 (10 September) and 2027 (16 September), and other preparations will be put in place in the coming months. We are very grateful for the support we receive from our industry

in providing drinks for the dinner, which this year included Gordon & MacPhail, Woven Whisky, Summerhall Distillery, and Ballindalloch Distillery. Given the dinner's popularity, we are looking at creating additional event for the spring.

As I mentioned at the opening, we continue to meet five times a year. Our May and July meetings were in Speyside at The Cairn Distillery and Ballindalloch Distillery. I am happy to report that both distilleries are in good working order and producing the finest of spirits. Our October meeting was held prior to the ICBD lecture at 603 Sqdn premises, and our December meeting (and Christmas lunch!) will be held at Summerhall Distillery.

We welcomed Liveryman Kirsty McKerrow, who joined the Committee in July, and we continue to assess our membership as the Company evolves. My grateful thanks to all members of the Committee for all their hard work and dedication to their various tasks as we continue to support the work of the Company here in Scotland. ■

The Past Masters' Committee

Martin Riley Court Assistant and Chair, Past Masters' Committee Chairman

The Past Masters' Committee (PMC) is composed of seven Past Masters and the Father of the Court.

Its purpose is to ensure that the ethos and character of the company are maintained and to identify candidates as Stewards and Court Assistants who have the potential and motivation to become Wardens and Master of the Company.

The Immediate Past Master is invited to join the Committee after completing his year in that role, and the Past Master who has served for seven years steps down. This ensures a regular rotation of members and the presence and contribution from recent Masters who have familiarity and experience of all aspects of the Company.

This is very important to ensure we keep pace with the development and growth of our Livery. Most importantly, we want to ensure that we know as many of our Liverymen as possible in order to be able to make informed decisions about potential candidates.

The criteria for selection and recommendation are levels of attendance at Company events, serving on Committees, acting as mentors, involvement in charitable activities, and organising club and educational activities.

The PMC also recommends the appointment of Honorary Stewards and Honorary Court Assistants using the same criteria as above, but

offered to those who would be too old to become Master at the time of appointment, which is the aspiration of the Company.

Honorary Liverymen are also proposed by the PMC. The criteria used here are different, and the honour is conferred on those who have a leading role in the industry or in public life and who will use their position and influence to promote our Livery and its values.

All recommendations have to be approved by the Court, and if successful, the Clerk will write to advise when the installation ceremony for the candidates can take place. ■

Distillers & Marketors Event The American Whiskey Boom — A Global Takeover?

Dr Rachel Barrie Hon DSc

A joint event between the Worshipful Company of Distillers and the Worshipful Company of Marketors brought together leading voices from both sides of the Atlantic for a fascinating evening of discussion at Brown-Forman's London offices.

The panel — comprising Elizabeth McCall, Ruchira Neotia, Lisa McWilliam, and Rachel Barrie — explored the parallels and contrasts between the American and Scotch whisky industries. Moderated by David Wethey, the conversation delved into what each category can learn from the other in areas such as innovation, consumer engagement, and brand storytelling.

As the panellists noted, both traditions share deep roots and proud histories, yet face similar questions about sustainability,

inclusivity, and how best to connect with the next generation of whisky drinkers. The discussion highlighted opportunities for cross-learning, from the strength of American whiskey's bold marketing approach to Scotch whisky's enduring emphasis on provenance and craftsmanship.

The evening concluded with lively questions from the audience and a

shared sense of optimism about the future of whisky on both sides of the ocean.

The Distillers extend warm thanks to Martin Riley, Clive Bairsto CBE, David Wethey, and Nicola Wordsworth for making the event possible, and to Paula Jordan, Emily Richardson, and the Brown-Forman London team for their generous hospitality. ■





Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Chris Porter Past Master 2021-2022

Formed in 2022, the purpose of the Company's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DE&I) working group is to ensure that our proud Livery, with a heritage over 350 years, continues to reflect the trends of the current spirits industry. It is important to reflect the make-up of boards in major spirits companies and a wider and more diverse range of talented industry individuals creating, promoting, and supporting brands and products in the industry. The Distillers retain relevance to the commercial and individual creativity in today's global spirits industry.

To affirm this, the Court agreed this year to expand the Freedom Category,

easing the joining process to welcome potential Livery members from a wider demographic within the industry. Greater flexibility reflects the evolving landscape of today's spirits sector in the UK and internationally. By fostering inclusivity and broadening participation, the Livery's continued growth retains our significance amidst the changing expectations in today's business world.

The work begun by the DE&I group will now be incorporated into the Industry and Membership Committee. A new Committee, the New Members Committee, has also been created to advance the idea of informal events and tastings, put on by newer members of the

Livery. The first of these will take place in December 2025.

One of the action points arising from the work of the DE&I team was the creation of a series of informal social gatherings, The Master's Bar. We have had three Master's Bars this year, in April, July, and October, and all have been very enjoyable, convivial, and an opportunity to share drams with fellow Livery members and their industry guests. We were really pleased to be able to offer these informal get-togethers. Our thanks go to Tony and Adelaide at the Soho Whisky Club for helping us host these this year. They will continue in 2026. ■



The Distillers' Car Club Spirited Drives, Lasting Memories

Paul Finch Liveryman and Car Club Secretary

Our year started in April with a visit to Bletchley Park. You can't help but be deeply moved, standing in the quiet rooms where brilliant minds once broke codes. I think we all felt quite humbled to think how their unseen efforts helped shape freedom and history itself. The most difficult code we had to break was what to have for lunch!

Tucked away in Hampshire, this museum is a shrine to racing legends and automotive history. Its collection of over 38 Gulf-liveried icons — including Porsche 917s, Ford GT40s, and McLaren F1 GTRs — are meticulously restored machines. This collection is not open to the public, but by teaming up with The Vintners' Car Club and their connections, we were allowed a rare glimpse into this spectacular world of motorsport.

RAF Lossiemouth, Balmoral, Glamis Castle

Our trip started with a visit to our new Livery affiliate, 42 (Torpedo Bomber) Squadron RAF Lossiemouth, one of the largest and busiest fast-jet bases in the RAF. After trying out the Poseidon simulator we realised just how versatile this aircraft is to our surveillance and anti-submarine warfare, but certainly not in our hands!

Onwards to Balmoral Castle, where it felt like stepping into a storybook. The drive through the Scottish Highlands was breathtaking — green hills, tall pines, and the sparkling River Dee guiding the way. The castle itself is stunning. As we wandered through the gardens, admiring the bright flowers and neatly kept paths, we all felt completely at peace. Balmoral isn't just beautiful — it's quietly magical.

Proceeding to Glamis Castle, set in the Angus countryside, we had our own private tour, which brought to life this childhood home of the Queen Mother and birthplace of Princess Margaret.

Back at our hotel in Dunkeld we all enjoyed good food and great company, exchanging memorable stories about our visit to Scotland. "Morant Tank"

The Sparkling Story of Hambledon Vineyard

In the heart of the South Downs lies England's oldest commercial vineyard, home to award-winning sparkling wines. Standing amongst the rows of neatly manicured vines, just about to be

harvested, 20 of our members enjoyed a very convivial day learning what makes Hambledon so special.

Hampton Court

Sixty of the best cars in the world came together in this beautiful location. Good to be mixing with the best.

If you like driving the open road, visiting interesting places, and enjoying good company, then please contact me for details of our 2026 schedule. ■



XXX



2026 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **20 April 2026:** Distillers v Vintners at New Zealand GC
- **5 May 2026:** The Distillers' Annual Golf Day, Beaconsfield GC
- **18 May 2026:** Distillers v Churston GC
- **19 May 2026:** Informal golf at Honiton
- **15 June 2026:** Distillers v Brewers at Berkhamsted
- **22 October 2026:** Inter-Livery Golf Tournament at Tandridge

I look forward to seeing all the Distillers' golfers in 2026.

The Distillers' Golf Society 2025

Ian Harris Honorary President, Distillers' Golf Society

2025 was another busy season for golf at the Distillers, with a full programme of matches, all thanks to our excellent Hon. Secretary Graham Franklin.

The Distillers' Golf Calendar starts in Spring, and the Annual Golf Day for the Budge Brooks Trophy was played at Beaconsfield in April, with Farren Drury getting his name on this prestigious trophy for the first time.

The inter-livery matches also started in April with the Distillers v Vintners contest played at New Zealand GC, resulting in a resounding 6-0 victory for the Distillers. This was the 50th contest between the two companies, and the first time the Distillers had completed a 'whitewash' over the old enemy — sadly, I was representing the Vintners this year!

Thanks to Mike Keiller for organising the fixture, and at lunch we raised a glass to the late Terry Barr — a Past Master

and stalwart of the Distillers' Golf Society for many years, who had been the previous Match Manager.

The 'whitewash' went the other way in May at the annual Distillers v Churston GC match in beautiful Devon, where once again John Smith's team of Churston ex-Captains was too strong for the Distillers' team. Thanks for Paul Varney for taking over the Match Manager duties, and let's try to restore some pride in 2026!

The Distillers v Brewers match in June was played at Berkhamsted for the second year, with Nathan Last taking over as Match Manager, and leading us to a close victory as the Distillers beat the Brewers 3½ to 2½.

We all look forward to the knockout competitions both North and South of the border, and once again the England finals were played at Sunningdale, thanks to the generosity of Past Master Brian

Morrison. In the Championship, Neil Stevenson beat Nick Strachan, with the Plate Competition being won by the Master Nick Carr, who beat Paul Varney.

Brian Morrison triumphed in the Scottish Championship with victory over Ewen Mackintosh, and the Plate was won by Connal Mackenzie, with Stephen Bremner runner-up.

Our knockout competitions, so efficiently managed by Graham, are the envy of all golfing Liveries, so DO please enter in 2026, and please do your utmost to get the matches played on time. They are a great way to meet new people — and to play on some fabulous courses!

Sadly, the Inter-Livery Golf Day at Tandridge in October was washed out, but as I write this report, there is one final 2025 fixture (The Icicle) still to be played, on 18 November at Beaconsfield. ■

The Inter-Livery Pétanque Competition

Chris Porter Past Master 2021-2022

Now a firm fixture in the Livery calendar, the annual Inter-Livery Pétanque Competition was hotly contested once again. Conceived between the Distillers' and Coopers' Companies in 2022 as a fundraising event for the Lord

Mayor's Appeal, it has become one of the go-to events of the Livery social calendar. Up to 32 Livery Companies take part, selling out for the last two years.

Teams once again enjoyed a very relaxed evening under the trees at

Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens in South London Vauxhall, home to the London Pétanque Club, with friends and supporters coming along to enjoy the event, played in friendly rivalry in the best of spirits and Inter-Livery fellowship.

The team from the Butchers' Company emerged victorious, just pipping the Framework Knitters to win the coveted Coopers' Cask Trophy and a bottle of Master's Cask for each of the three members of the winning team. We were proud and delighted to have raised £1,000 for the Lord Mayor's Appeal.

A big thank you to the London Pétanque Club and the Clerk's Office for their invaluable help in ensuring the evening ran without hitch and was such a success.

We look forward to the event again next year! ■



SPORTING INTERESTS



Distillers' Vélo Challenge 2025 Mission accomplie!

Natasha Wilson Liveryman

It's that time of year again for the Vélo Club to ditch the formal attire and don our lycra, helmets, and silly clicky shoes for our annual charity cycle. This year the challenge was particularly poignant: Saint Malo to Cognac, 450km in memory of Liveryman David Wilson, my late father.

Dad was a founding member of the Vélo Club, having helped lead every ride until his premature passing last December from an undetected brain tumour. In his memory, our team set off for this year's challenge on 15 September, five years to the day since the first Vélo Club team ride.

His relentlessly positive attitude and generosity of experience fuelled the riders to their first finish line — an experience that was remembered sorely but fondly as we rode for the first time without him in the pack.

While we felt a huge absence along our route, we were determined to keep his spirit alive by sharing stories, laughter, and channelling his energy on the hills (Dad loved a positive gradient). Personally, I cannot thank everyone enough for keeping me safe and smiling as I embarked on my third vélo challenge, this time as only one half of our little father-daughter double act.

We were also encouraged by the knowledge that we were raising money for a truly valuable cause: Sistema Scotland, a charity that is changing the lives of young people in disadvantaged areas through music and community. Dad was an active supporter of the charity, and my lovely mum is a weekly volunteer worker at the Stirling centre, where she sees first-hand the difference our contributions will make.

It's with joy and relief that I say we've completed this year's challenge — though actually making it to the start line still feels like the real win of the week. It was touch and go after a dramatic rush to Portsmouth Harbour after Southern Rail (quelle surprise) almost foiled our carefully planned ferry departure... Thankfully all riders and support team were accounted for with minutes to spare and we successfully docked the next morning, rolled our bikes out into the cool Breton air, set our watches to zero, and started pedalling south. What a treat to ride in a country where bikes are nationally respected as a form of transport and motorists call out a hearty "Allez, courage!" as they trundle past at a non-life-threatening pace.



SPORTING INTERESTS

We were met with smiles and curiosity at every stop as we waddled through town squares in our Distillers' jerseys in search of coffee and ever-so-obliging town mayors who kindly (and by legal obligation, we checked) unlocked the town hall restrooms. I like to think we've recruited some new whisky consumers in our friends along the way!

As a team of nine riders, we arrived at the finish line in Cognac on Saturday: myself, Kenny and Kathy MacKay, Grant Gordon, Iain Kennedy, Lawson Doe, Ed Macey-Dare, Rebecca Wilde, and James Higgins. A big thanks to Kenny, our Chair and organiser, and of course, from start to finish, our mileage was only made possible by our fantastic support team: my mum Cara, Pilar Tienda, and our trusty Clerk, James Bryan, and Assistant Clerk, Bill Collier. Words and hugs cannot thank these four enough!

An incredible total of £16,200 has been raised — a huge thank you too to all those who donated, on behalf of the vélo team and my family. À la prochaine! ■



The Spirit and Wine Committee

Allan Cheesman Past Master and Chairman, Spirit and Wine Committee

Another interesting year for the Spirit and Wine Committee as we endeavour against the headwinds of cost, budget pressure, and availability from some regions, and to maintain our reputation as a Livery that punches above our weight in the alcohol arena.

A sad event this year was the passing of Past Master Terry Barr after a short illness. A stalwart and founder member of our committee, he has been and will be sadly missed for his knowledge, expertise, and wit!

We have, however, welcomed Past Master Lorne Mackillop MW onto the committee and look forward to his contribution.

A special thanks to all, but especially to our indomitable secretary David Hunter who keeps the show on the road. Cheers! ■



View from the City

Trevor Stirling Renter Warden

Viewed from the City, the drinks industry has been on an amazing rollercoaster over the last six years. In 2020, the entire industry was brought low by Covid-19 and the impact of the hospitality closures, even if at-home cocktail making did take up some of the slack, especially in the US.

Then there was an incredible recovery in 2021 and early 2022, as so-called revenge conviviality kicked in. Revenues were running well ahead of 2019 and quiet confidence was the pervading emotion. Little did we know that Russia was about to invade the Ukraine.

In 2023, it was if we were watching a Warner Brothers cartoon where Wile E Coyote has just run off the cliff and

everything looked fine — for now. It was too good to last.

The most extreme example of the consumption roller-coasting has been in the US. Per capita consumption of pure alcohol had been stable at 7.6 litres of pure alcohol equivalent. This increased 4.5% from 2019 to 2021 but has fallen to 10.7% below 2019, taking us to levels not seen since just after the end of WWII.

The rest of the world has not seen such extreme levels of volatility; but consumers are under pressure in Europe and much of Latin America. Demand for premium western-style spirits has slumped in China.

Even though the spirits majors have delivered solid growth on average over

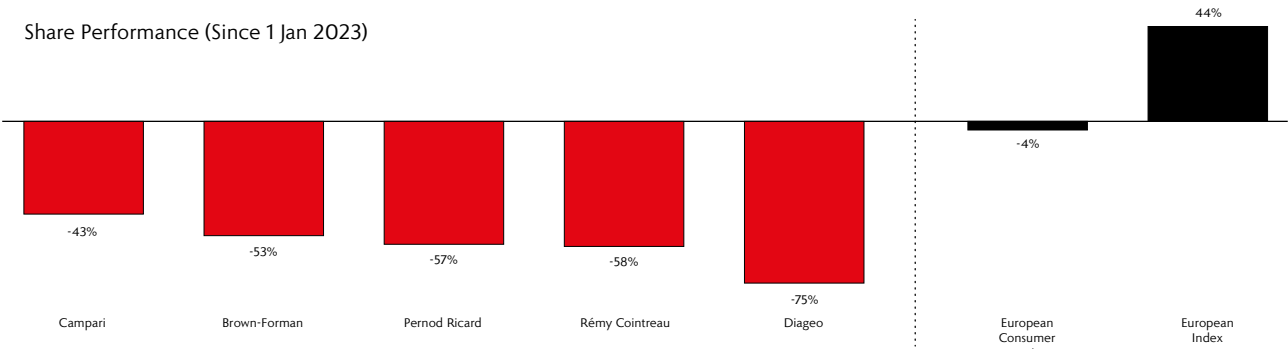
the last six years, mid-single digits for Diageo and Pernod Ricard and 10% for Campari, 2025 has been much weaker, especially for Pernod Ricard and Rémy Cointreau.

And share prices have reflected it. The spirits majors' share prices are down between 10% and 20% this year to date, compared to a broader stock market which is up 11%.

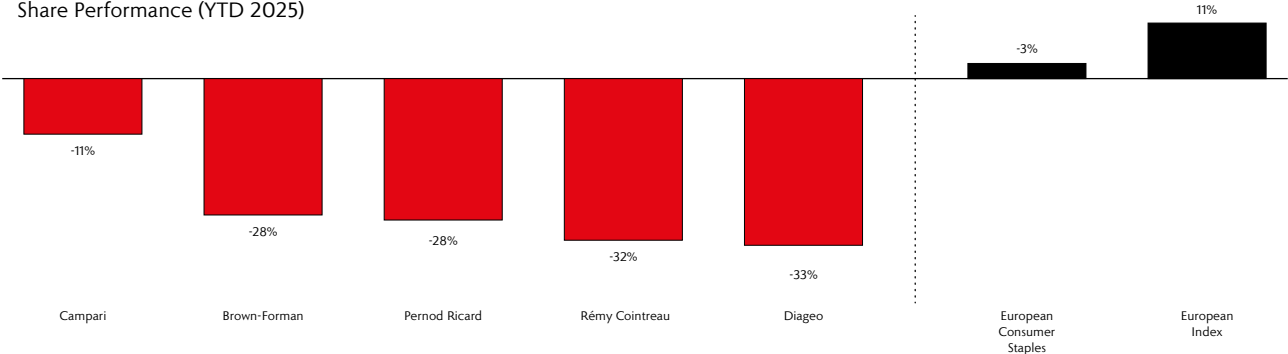
Since January 2023, the share prices are down between 40% and 70%, compared to a broader market which is up 40%.

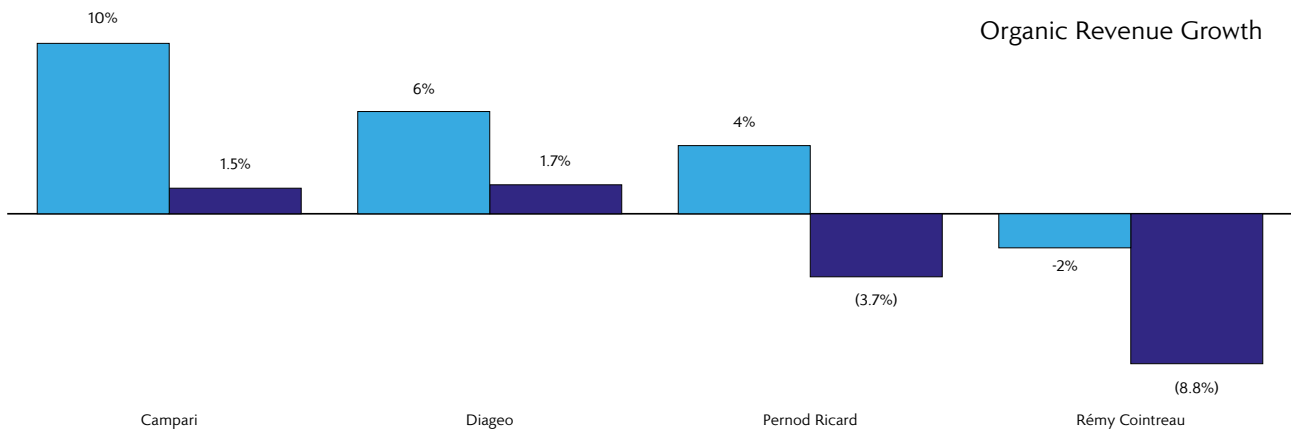
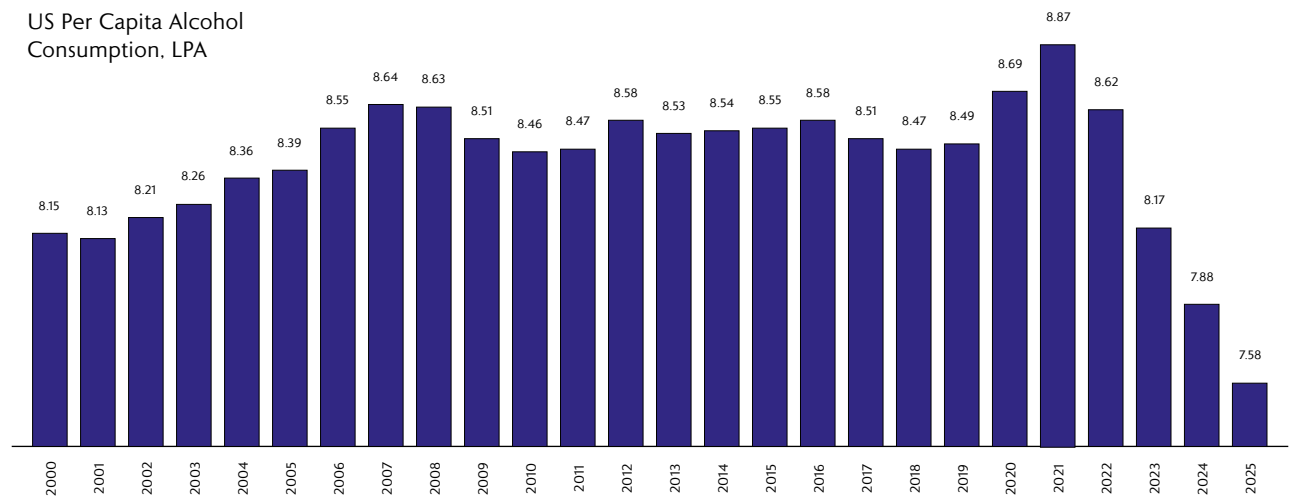
In short, it's been a miserable few years to be an investor in spirits. Let's hope that 2026 brings brighter times for the industry and its shareholders. ■

Share Performance (Since 1 Jan 2023)



Share Performance (YTD 2025)





Meet the Renter Warden Trevor Stirling

Trevor Stirling Renter Warden

Trevor was born and grew up in Northern Ireland. He studied chemical engineering at Cambridge University but has spent the last 40 years bridging the worlds of consumer products, alcohol, and finance.

He started his working life with Procter & Gamble, initially as an engineer. After an MBA, he worked for the management consultants McKinsey in London for seven years, where he focused on the consumer sector in general and beverages in particular. Then came five years at Guinness/Diageo Ireland, first as Strategy Director and



then as Sales Director for half the Irish business. When he was working in Dublin, Trevor passed his WSET Level 4 Diploma and ran his own private-client wine business.

In 2004, Trevor joined the stockbroker Bernstein as their expert in the drinks industry. He has regularly been ranked top drinks analyst in investor surveys, is often referenced in

the financial press, and occasionally is to be heard at the break of dawn warbling on Radio 4.

Trevor is married to Sarah and has two daughters (Astrid and Clara) and two stepchildren (Hannah and Archie). Outside work he revels in nerdy pursuits, such as listening to history podcasts and opera, as well learning foreign languages, most recently Italian. ■

FELLOWSHIP

The Installation Dinner



Meet the New Master Dan Szor

I am greatly looking forward to my year as Master of the Worshipful Company of Distillers. It will certainly be a year of firsts: I am American-born (though now a proudly naturalised British subject), an entrepreneur and craft distiller — and a maker of English whisky!

I founded the Cotswolds Distillery in 2014 out of a desire to escape my City career and combine two great loves — the Cotswolds and single malt whisky. Knowing very few people in the business, I joined the Gin Guild and later became a Liveryman, and the warm welcome and fellowship that are the hallmark of our Company have never ceased to amaze me.

It is this fellowship, together with our extraordinary charitable and vocational endeavours, that I hope to champion during my year. As a working Master, I will be dividing my time between the Cotswolds (where you are all warmly invited to visit our beautiful distillery) and London.

My wife Katia, a full-time consultant neurologist and part-time distillery co-owner, and I are both excited and deeply grateful for the opportunity to lead and represent this remarkable Company in the year ahead. ■

The Distillers' Annual Spirits Tasting

Damian Riley-Smith Court Assistant

Hosted by the World Drinks Awards, the annual Distillers' Spirits Tasting filled the Vintners' Hall with Masters, Clerks, Liverymen, and other guests. More than 300 award-winning spirits from around the world were arranged by country and by style of drink, with liqueur bottles providing a dazzling display of flavours from anise to chocolate, fruit to cream, adorning the tables. Of course there were many of the more recognisable styles of whisky, gin, and rum, from Scotland

to Germany, France, the US, Taiwan, Australia, and beyond.

The World Drinks Awards tasting guide allowed guests to record their tasting notes and mark those new-found delights they could add to their drinks cabinet at a later date. Sipping great spirits wasn't the only form of entertainment, with a large array of cocktails poured from the Cocktail Room by our cocktail-making supremo, alongside a selection of light food from the Vintners.

IPM Lorne Mackillop welcomed guests, with Liveryman Damian Riley-Smith

explaining the background to the awards and how his team at Paragraph, led by Nina Bullock and Anita Ujszaszi, coordinated the event. Both Liverymen then roused the room to extend their charitable warmth by participating in the now annual end-of-evening tradition offering guests two 'mystery' bottles drawn from the tasting in exchange for £20 donated to the Lord Mayor's Appeal. All engaged in the challenge and no doubt next year we will hear how much guests enjoyed their mystery drams. ■



Military Affiliates

Simon Collins Steward and MALT Chair

2025 has been another busy year of interaction with our wonderful Military Affiliates, which has seen us sign the Armed Forces Covenant and welcome the Household Cavalry as our newest affiliation. We are proud to have one of the most active relationships with our Military Affiliates of any Livery company. The Armed Forces Covenant

is our promise that we acknowledge and understand that those who serve, or have served, should be treated with fairness and respect in the communities, economy, and society they serve with their lives. The City of London and its Livery companies have a long and close relationship with our Armed Forces, so this formal recognition and commitment is entirely fitting. As

a Livery with both serving and veteran members, this should be close to all our hearts.

The articles below highlight what our commitment means to our Military Affiliates. There is plenty planned for 2026 so please do get involved. Ask anyone who has visited one of our affiliates — they are never disappointed! ■

London Scottish Pipes and Drums

Jamie Barklem Liveryman, London Scottish Pipes and Drums Liaison Officer, and MALT Secretary

The Livery's affiliation with the London Scottish Regiment is the longest standing. The London Scottish Regimental band of the Pipes and Drums continues to "bang the drum" for the Livery with attendance at the Mansion House Banquet and the Lord Mayor's parade, where the Worshipful Company of Distillers' banner flies proudly on a set of London Scottish Pipes. The Livery has also kindly contributed to the purchase of a much-needed side drum, and the Distillers' crest will be displayed on the drum as a proud reminder of our affiliation and close bond.

Summer was typically busy for the band, with VE Day, the King's Birthday Parade in Morocco, and the Musical Military Spectacular (Beating Retreat) on Horse Guards. Recruiting for the band has been going well with quite a few new faces. It is now common for over 30 members of the band to be playing at notable occasions.

Most recently, the Master and Liveryman Jamie Barklem attended the London Scottish Regiment's annual Hallowe'en dinner. By way of background, Hallowe'en is a big event for the London Scottish. Not least, it is an opportunity to reflect on the battle honour of our forebears who were the first reservists who saw action in the First World War

on 31 October 1914. Jamie is quoted as stating that "as a former Officer Commanding, it was a proud moment for me in the Regiment's annual calendar, and I was delighted that the Master attended as the band's Guest of Honour."

2025 will round off with the Distillers' Mini Band contest and Christmas social on the evening of 11 December, with

the usual good spirits! The Master and Liveryman Jamie Barklem attend this fantastic event annually, where the Distillers' trophy is presented to the winning mini-band. This takes place at London Scottish House in Westminster, and is open to all Distillers and their families.

"STRIKE SURE" ■



AFFILIATIONS

42 Squadron Royal Air Force

Stephen Rankin Liveryman and 42 (Torpedo Bomber) Squadron RAF Liaison Officer

It was a privilege for 42 (Torpedo Bomber) Squadron RAF to welcome friends, families, and colleagues to their formal stand-up parade, an event made even more special by the attendance of His Majesty The King. This ceremonial occasion marked the official reactivation of the Squadron, which had been dormant since the withdrawal of the Nimrod aircraft in 2010. His Majesty's presence made the day

truly unforgettable for all involved. Following the parade, a celebratory dinner provided an opportunity for personnel, partners, and supporters to reflect on their proud history and look forward to an exciting future.

The Squadron's operational tempo has remained consistently high. Shortly after the parade, they were called upon for operational sorties in the North Atlantic, monitoring adversary submarine activity. Additionally, the Squadron has been heavily involved in safeguarding the UK's critical national infrastructure and supporting NATO allies by enhancing maritime awareness and deterrence across the alliance.

In a significant milestone, 42 (Torpedo Bomber) Squadron RAF recently conducted the UK's first air-to-air refuelling sortie with the Poseidon MRA1. This achievement greatly extends the aircraft's endurance and operational reach, enabling crews to remain on station longer and respond more effectively to emerging threats.

Another notable accomplishment has been the graduation of the RAF's first cohort of Poseidon Weapons Instructors; our maritime equivalent of the renowned "Top Gun". These instructors represent

the pinnacle of tactical expertise within the Maritime Force. Their knowledge and skills will shape the next generation of Poseidon crews, ensuring the UK remains at the forefront of anti-submarine warfare and maritime surveillance.

As they approach their 110th anniversary next year, the Squadron is preparing to celebrate over a century of service to the United Kingdom. From Hurricanes to torpedo bombers and now state-of-the-art maritime patrol aircraft, our heritage is a source of immense pride. They are working to reconnect with their history, including plans to loan Oliver Philpot's escape outfit from the Imperial War Museum. Philpot was the first escapee via a tunnel at the infamous Stalag Luft III, using the ingenious "wooden horse" method.

Looking ahead, the Squadron is also preparing to train aircrew for the RAF's new E-7A Wedgetail. This next-generation airborne command-and-control platform will significantly enhance the UK's ability to detect airborne threats and coordinate large-scale air operations. The Squadron is proud to contribute to this vital capability, which will ensure the RAF continues to control the skies both at home and abroad. ■



825 Naval Air Squadron

Matthew Russell Steward and 825 NAS Liaison Officer

The Worshipful Company of Distillers hosted Leading Air Engineering Technician (LAET) Luke Powell, the winner of last year's Distillers' prize, at the April Dinner. LAET Powell was extremely grateful for the invitation, experience and warm welcome from all. Writing to us following the event...

"I have never felt so welcomed and surrounded by such amazing people. I really can't thank you enough, especially for making sure I was looked after during and after the event. It's a shame I cannot

win the prize again as I wish I could experience that again."

During the event LAET Powell mentioned his ambition to progress within the Navy and try to gain a commission to become an Officer. Several Distillers with experience of the process being the Admiralty Interview Board (AIB) very kindly offered him the opportunity to reach out to them to gain their knowledge and experience of this process. I am pleased to inform everyone who met LAET Powell that in June he was successful and passed his AIB, the hardest

step on the journey to become an Officer in the Royal Navy.

Through the summer the Black Cats, the Royal Navy's helicopter display team, which is manned by Aircrew Instructors from 825 NAS, were busy demonstrating the capability and manoeuvrability of the Wildcat, attending four major airshows and supporting numerous events local to their base in Somerset, with over 385,000 being able to watch the Wildcat being put through its paces.

825 NAS don't only train the aircrew and engineers to maintain the aircraft!

603 Squadron Royal Air Force

Jerry Riley Liveryman and 603 Sqn Liaison Officer

On 14 October 1925, 603 (City of Edinburgh) Squadron, Royal Auxiliary Air Force (RAuxAF) was formed, flying out of RAF Turnhouse (now Edinburgh International Airport). It was originally established with a Town Headquarters (HQ) in the heart of the community, at 25 Learmonth Terrace, Edinburgh; a grand 19th-century townhouse built by a member of the Sanderson whisky bottling family (of VAT 69 fame). This

fine building remains 603 Squadron's HQ today — the last such Town HQ left in the RAuxAF. The Squadron famously brought down the first enemy aircraft over the UK in WWII, on 16 October 1939. This year's 100th anniversary of the formation of the Squadron has been marked in a number of ways, whilst the Squadron has continued to recruit, train, and exercise for its contemporary role in the security and defence of RAF assets worldwide.

A recent period of major change has seen the arrival of a new Officer Commanding, Sqn Ldr Scottie Rankin, as well as several other changes of personality, combined with organisational changes of 603 Squadron's position within the wider RAF. Meanwhile, His Grace the Duke of Hamilton has recently taken post as the Squadron's Honorary Air Commodore. Busy times indeed, but times that have challenged the Squadron from playing as much of a positive role as it would have liked with its affiliate organisations. This is set to improve.

The 100th anniversary has been marked by exercising the Freedom of Edinburgh by marching down the City's Royal Mile with "drums beating, colours flying, and bayonets fixed" finishing on the Forecourt of the Royal Palace at Holyrood; a Civic Reception hosted by the Lord Provost of Edinburgh; a Veterans' Afternoon Tea and, supported by the RAF Association and local authorities in Holland, the laying of wreaths on the graves of 603 Squadron pilots who lost their lives there during WWII. We all look forward to many more years of affiliation with the Squadron named after their Battle of Britain exploits as "The Greatest Squadron of them All". ■



Winchmen that perform vital search and rescue duties are normally dedicated crewmen. However, when the Wildcat is operating from smaller ships and is the only aircraft in the vicinity, one of the engineers, who would normally be maintaining the aircraft, will double up as a Winchman in such an emergency. 825 NAS operate this Winchman training to provide a selected few engineers the skills and confidence to perform these vital search and rescue duties otherwise performed by specialist dedicated crewmen.

July this year successfully saw eight officers become the latest aircrew to receive their coveted Wings. All went on to join front line squadrons following their Wings parade and are currently operating the Wildcat on operational duties.

Just a few weeks before writing this year's report, in early October, 825 NAS were embarked for routine training of the next generation of Wildcat aircrew when they had to quickly react and support HMS *Iron Duke* to intercept and monitor Russian vessels in UK waters, demonstrating their ability to react quickly and switch from training to immediate operational roles as events demanded.

In short, 825 NAS has seen many successes this year and has shown how it continues to train and prepare the individuals needed by our Navy for the future. However, at the same time they have demonstrated that whilst a training squadron it is full of dedicated, capable service men and women who are all ready to react at all times whenever it is called upon. ■



AFFILIATIONS

HMS Campbeltown

Marcus Pickering Steward and HMS Campbeltown Liaison Officer

Since our previous ship HMS *Montrose* decommissioned, we have been allocated HMS *Campbeltown* as our new ship which is fantastic — she is one of the new Type 31 Inspiration Class being built in Rosyth and will be the last one to be built. In the meantime, we have established a relationship with the Type 31 community, and the Senior Naval Officer, Commander Chris Cozens, and Chief Petty Officer Jon Donovan joined us for the April Dinner.

Past Masters Raines and Cheesman, as well as Stewards Collins and Pickering, were fortunate enough to visit HMS *Venturer* as she was being built and had a fascinating tour, seeing

literally inside the ship! It is exciting to be taking *Campbeltown* from build through her commissioned life and there

will be some amazing opportunities for us to interact with her and her ship's company. ■



The Household Cavalry

Alex James Liverman and The Household Cavalry Liaison Officer

For the Household Cavalry Regiment (HCR), 2025 has been defined by major progress in modernisation and armoured readiness. The first AJAX Gun Camp on Castlemartin Ranges saw all four Squadrons and Regimental HQ complete Annual Crew Tests for the first time since 2018, under Exercise DEITY THUNDER. This was followed by Exercise TITAN STORM on Salisbury Plain, where the Regiment battle-grouped in a live environment for the first time since 2017. Following successful validation, the HCR battlegroup will now be held at readiness by the Division — a notable milestone for this generation.

Alongside its armoured work, C Squadron prepares to deploy on Operation ELGIN 17 in Kosovo with NATO's KFOR, conducting dismounted and light mobility reconnaissance in support of regional stability. This marks the Regiment's third rotation in five years and reinforces its dual role in mounted and dismounted intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR).

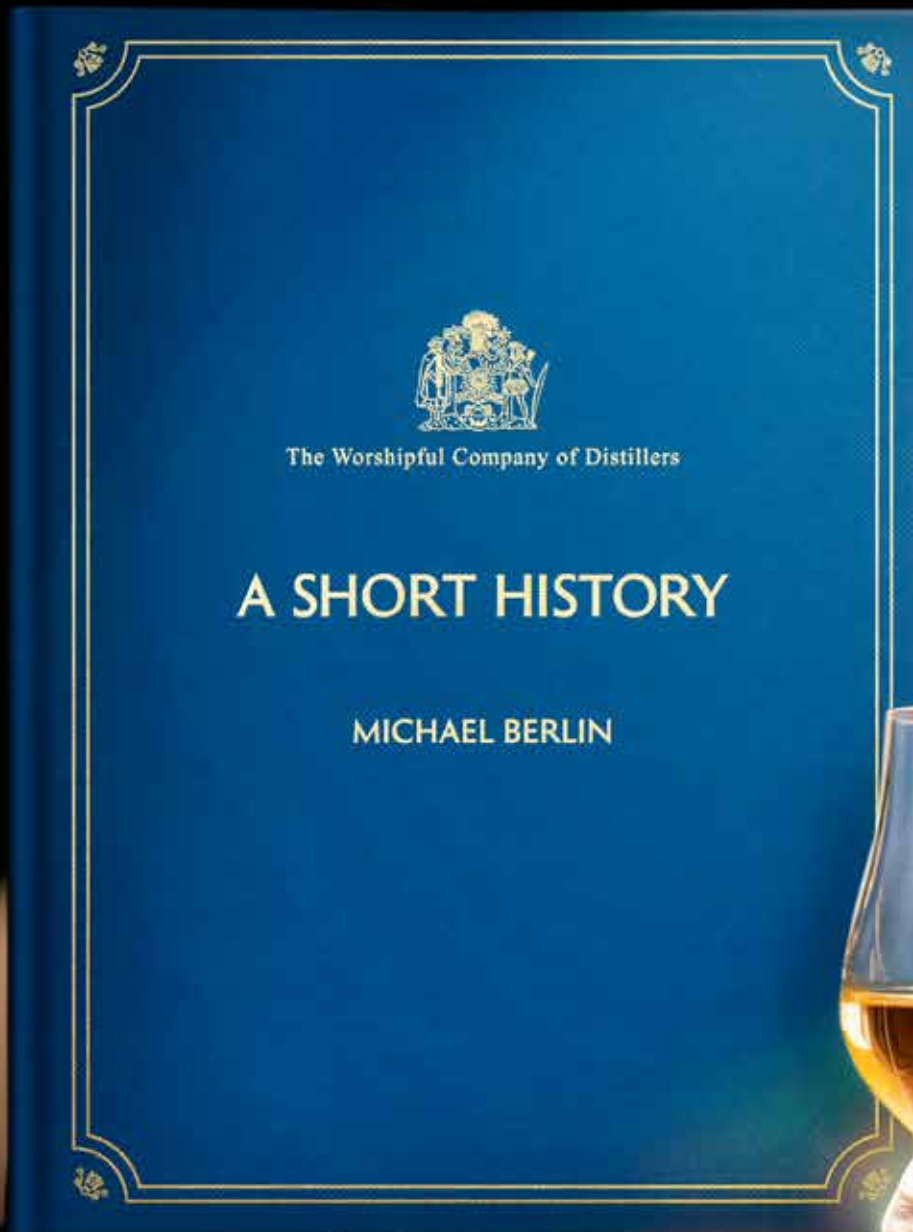
At home, the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment (HCMR) has maintained the highest standards of ceremonial excellence. The presentation of new Standards by His Majesty The King in Windsor, attended by the Master and Consort, was a proud moment for both Regiments — the first such occasion since 2014 — followed in September

by the laying up of the last Standards given by Her Late Majesty The Queen at Salisbury Cathedral.

Looking ahead, the Household Cavalry remains modernised, operationally ready, and steadfast in its service — on operations, on parade, and in the traditions that bind both Regiments together. ■



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List of appointments 2025

Freemen

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Douglas Belford
Marie Cheung-Thong
William Dobbie
Seymour Ferreira
John Hall
Ross Hastings
Lucy Horncastle
Ian McKerrow
Simon Mordant

Liverymen

Raymond Clynick
Christopher Coates
Mark Eames
Lorraine Gillen
Samantha Kirk
Bhavya Mandanna
Kirsty McKerrow
Jamie Morrison
Benjamin Murphy
Manish Rungta

Corporate Freemen

Ned Duggan
Nuno Teles

Honorary Liverymen

Air Chief Marshal The Lord Peach *KG GBE KCB DL*
Air Marshal Sir David Walker *KCVO OBE DL*

Stewards

Killian O'Sullivan
George Maxwell

Court Assistants

Matt Gammell

In Memoriam

Terence Barr, Past Master
Gareth Lawrence
Derek Plant, Past Master
Tony Pugh
Kenneth Robertson
David Wilson



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