

The Guild of Scholars of the City of London



Newsletter No 18 February 2005

An * after a heading indicates that, if you are reading this on the Internet, you can click on the heading to go to a fuller version of the article. Mailed (paper) copies of the Newsletter will not, for reasons of cost, have these fuller versions but you can see them now by logging on to the John Carpenter site (<http://www.jcc.org.uk/GoS/index.htm>).

A Message from the Master - Peter Mayhew

The recent tragic events following the tsunami in SE Asia makes us realise just how tentative our hold on this planet is, and how fragile our lives are. It also makes us realise that, as human beings we have a duty of care for one another, and that only by working together as a community can we survive as a civilisation. It is a sobering thought that each and of us will need the help and support of other people at some point during our lifetime. The fact that there has been such a huge supportive response from the peoples of the world goes a long way to restore ones faith in human nature. But, and this is a matter of great sadness, there are also those who, for political reasons, personal gain, or by their criminal activity, are making the situation worse than it already is.

The Guild of Scholars is a Community of Freemen of the City of London who, either enjoyed the considerable privilege of being educated in one of the City schools, or who have served, or are serving, in those schools as governors or members of staff. In recognition of that privilege, and as a mark of our appreciation for the life benefits that we all have enjoyed, we have a duty (not a popular word these days) of care, not only for each other, but particularly for those young people who will follow after us as pupils in the City schools and who, we hope, will become in their turn, Freemen of the City.

The Guild of Scholars Charitable Trust, a registered charity, has been established to eventually provide scholarships and bursaries to enable those who would otherwise, for financial reasons, be unable to enter our schools. The fund is slowly growing, we are already awarding prizes to all three schools, and this year we have been able to provide one place per school for Sail Training which is one of the finest schemes for character building and the development of team spirit. I would encourage all members to give their support for our undertaking by making 'Gift Aid' donations, & arranging to leave a legacy in their will to the Trust Fund.

We also need members, who are Freemen but not Liverymen, who would be willing to give some of their time by becoming a Master to an Apprentice for the Freedom of the City whilst the young person is still at school and university. This is not an arduous task and the time required is minimal. The reward is seeing the smile on the face of a young person whom you have assisted in achieving their aspirations. Further information about the Charitable Trust or how to become a Master to an Apprentice is available from the Clerk Ivor Bennett.

Thank you all for your support which is hugely appreciated; together we can achieve much. May I wish everyone a successful and, hopefully, a more peaceful year in 2005.

Annual Assembly - 18 March at CLSG

Book now for this year's extravaganza.

Visit to Haberdashers' Hall - 7 March

Book now for another fascinating visit.

The Big Issue - Major Changes Ahead

Editorial

You will have seen from the last newsletter that the Master and many of the Court are keen to forge ahead with moving the Guild on from its present status as an unofficial or "Adulterine" Guild towards becoming a "Regular" Guild regulated by the Court of Aldermen.

The Guild is not in financial difficulties; part of the reason the Master sent out his request for donations with the last newsletter was to gauge the number of members willing to provide financial support if the decision is made to press ahead. It is understood that approximately 85 members responded (well on the way to the minimum of 100 members required to form a regular Guild).

This newsletter is mailed to approximately 400 members so it could be argued that three quarters of the membership would prefer to see the Guild remain in its present format. What is more likely is that opinion is divided between those who would wish to see the Guild remain in its present form as an inexpensive (in fact free) association of former pupils who share an interest in the City, those who would like to see it change, and those who don't care & will quietly drop out when they are first asked for a compulsory subscription.

The argument for remaining in our present state is briefly:

1. We are currently unique in offering former pupils, who cannot or do not want to become liverymen, an association with the City which costs nothing and requires no commitment. This is useful particularly for young people with heavy financial commitments and those living far from London. The argument goes that by allowing them to retain a link with the City they will be kept in touch and can always take a more active role if/when their circumstances change.
2. That, if we change, the hugely increased emphasis on the Guild's charity activities would find us "fishing in the same pond" as the former-pupils' associations and for the same objectives (funding scholarships) and that this would

upset both the associations themselves and our members who would find themselves being solicited twice for - effectively - the same beneficiaries.

3. That we were originally formed as a social group of former pupils and that we should continue to concentrate on that, rather than deliberately to reduce our membership by imposing additional costs and obligations upon it.

4. Finally, it is argued that there are over a hundred City Companies and Guilds which our members could join if they can afford to do so and have the disposable income to support serious charity donations. By contrast we are unique as a low profile, low cost, largely social group of, former-pupil, Freeman.

Rather than assuming that only those members willing to "pay up" are interested in the future of the Guild I thought a small unofficial referendum might be useful.

Please tick the line below which most nearly represents your views:

I wish the Guild to move towards 'Regular' status

I wish the Guild to maintain its current ethos

Printed Name

& Signature (Optional)

Please return this, or send a separate piece of paper (perhaps with your expanded views), to me: *Paul Hind, 48 Grove Farm Park, Northwood, Middlesex, HA6 2BQ;* or e-mail *paulhind@supanet.com* (Inevitably it is bound to be assumed that those who do not respond do not care).

Fiona Porter

Having served the Guild, since its inception, so well as an active Court Assistant and Membership Secretary we were sad that Fiona has felt unable to continue. We wish her well as the current Chairman of CLOGA and are delighted that she remains an Honorary Court. Assistant.

Visit to Charterhouse 28 July 2004*

An excellent, and over-subscribed, visit to an outstanding, but little known, City gem. Space does not permit a full report here - complete version on the internet (see above).

By Beryl Ambrose

On a warm summer's afternoon a group filtered one by one into Charterhouse Square locating *The Charterhouse*. This area of the City was, to the majority, not regularly frequented and proved to be so quiet and calm after leaving all the traffic noise of the Clerkenwell Road & surroundings.

After entering this historic Building and grounds via the Gatehouse the next one and a half hours proved to be totally absorbing. We were privileged to have our tour introduced by Alan Scrivener (a former master at CLSG) and now one of the Brothers of Charterhouse. Following a very informative video we were gently and quietly given the fascinating historical background in great detail.

We proceeded very quietly in order not to disturb the current Brothers in residence and only when tea time was announced, by the ringing of a hand bell in the courtyard, did we notice little signs of occupancy!

JCC Dinner at HAC Armoury House

The John Carpenter Club kindly extended to Guild members the opportunity to attend the Dinner that it

arranged at the historic and interesting headquarters of The Honourable Artillery Company at Armoury House, London.

Several members of the Guild saw this as an opportunity not to be missed and arrived into these wonderful grounds on a pleasant evening in September and entered the Mess to be greeted with trays of welcoming drinks that inspired witty conversation and revived long memories.

Dinner was served at tables where the seating plan had been cleverly arranged by Janet Wickham to bring together people of similar eras and interests, and the repast was of the high standard that we had hoped for.

The President of the JCC gave an address to welcome members and this was followed by our own Past Master Alan Willis resplendent in the scarlet tunic and mess dress of the HAC of which he is a serving Regimental Member.

Alan gave an interesting and informative talk on the history of the HAC, including notable events and achievements over its significant history through to today's very real commitments as contributor to the nation's defence in the current theatres of conflict, and, of course, the ceremonial parades for which the Regiment is well known.

The evening ended with many expressions of enjoyment and the hope that this event could be repeated.

James Boyes. Headmaster CLS 1965-84

We add our condolences to those of JCC members who mourn the passing, on 6th July 04, of this most popular and respected of headmasters. (Obituary in JCC Gazette).

Contratulations to:

Robert Millett who is Master of The Scriveners' Company this year.

Philip Willoughby who has been the 2004 Master of the Clockmakers (where he followed in the footsteps of five Lord Mayors and four Astronomers Royal).

G of S Prize Winners:

Congratulations to:

CLFS: Nadia Lawes, Imogen Clarke: Classical Civilisation.
Lucinda Fento, Wesley Wong: Citizenship in the 6th Form.
CLS: Howard Amos, Jessie Nichols: Services to the School.
CLSG: Sarah Hedley, Katherine Bennett: School Mission.

Membership Records

Has your e-mail address changed? In order to maintain the Membership List in a good state, will you please notify changes of address, E-mail address, etc. to Peter Mather (preferably by e-mail). He should also be informed if you wish to have your name included on the list of members to be notified of social events. He will also be happy to supply an up to date membership list to you. Apply to: *pmather@btinternet.com* or 28 St Davids Square, E14 3WA; or Telephone: 020 7987 8987. .

Other Correspondence: The Clerk of The Guild of Scholars: Ivor Bennett, 39 Brancaster Lane, Purley, Surrey, CR8 1HJ (020 8660 3546) e-mail to: *ijandpb@blueyonder.co.uk*

[Ed: Any members who do not have access to the Internet but would like to see the expanded versions of the articles placed on the JCC site are welcome to write to me for paper versions: Paul Hind, 48 Grove Farm Park, Northwood, Middlesex, HA6 2BQ - a stamped, addressed envelope would be appreciated].

[Note: The Master's letter, which will be mailed with it, was not available at the time of publishing this newsletter.

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By Beryl Ambrose

On a warm summer's afternoon a group filtered one by one into Charterhouse Square locating *The Charterhouse*. This area of the City was, to the majority, not regularly frequented and proved to be so quiet and calm after leaving all the traffic noise of the Clerkenwell Road and surroundings.

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The Charterhouse derives its name from the Carthusian Priory that stood on the site adjoining land used as burial ground for Black Death victims, the chapel within the graveyard becoming the Priory church. Monks cells were situated around the cloisters and further buildings added during 15th & early 16th centuries. The Prior and several Monks were executed during Henry VIII's reign. In 1545 Charterhouse was held in great regard, occupying a large site on the edge of the City; an aristocratic Tudor mansion constructed incorporating some monastic features. Of particular interest during this period: the Great Hall had an elaborate screen inserted, a brick vault that had a terrace walk above was built over the cloisters, the Great Chamber was re-modelled and a tennis court was erected. Thomas Sutton, described as the wealthiest commoner in England, decided to establish and endow a charitable foundation and, in 1611, bought Charterhouse to house 84 unmarried men over 50 years old who could supply "*good testimony and certificat of their good behaviour and soundness in religion, either decrepit or old Captaynes either at Sea or Land, maimed or disabled soldiers, merchants fallen on hard times, those ruined by shipwreck or other calamity or held prisoner by the Turks, and 40 Foundation scholars*". Over the centuries further building developments continued with Pensioners Court and Preachers Court being established. The most recent addition has been further accommodation (in 2000). Charterhouse School moved away in 1872 to Surrey and Merchant Taylors' transferred their school to the site but moved away in 1933 to Northwood (Middlesex). Part of the site was purchased for the present medical school of St Bartholomew's Hospital.

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