



The Guild of Scholars

of the City of London

www.gofs.co.uk

Newsletter Number 19 (February 2006)

A message from the Master – Peter Mayhew

Young bodies go through growing pains, and come out fitter, stronger and better prepared for a useful life. The Guild is still in its infancy compared with many City institutions. During the term of my office as Master it has been challenged to consider what it is here for and where it is going. The Guild's Objectives are well-recorded in the Ordinances, and the Corporate Plan that I sponsored is set to carry the Guild forward to achieving those.

At the Annual Assembly we will share with you our plans and intentions for the future. The Clerk's initiative to introduce the Sail Training activities has been very well received, and we will sponsor more of that this year. We will also go on to other similar and varied ventures.

We will continue to include social events in our calendar as they are part of a larger picture of strengthening the links of the scholars of the City Schools with the City and its wealth of institutions – public and private.

We in the Court are encouraged by the strong support you showed for continuing the principles under which the Guild was established, under the guidance of the Chamberlain's Court. You have also shown your strong support for the Sail Training activities, and we thank you for that.

The Election Court for 2006 is imminent and I wish all the officers appointed the very best of fortune in furthering the cause of the Guild. I regard my term as Master as the crowning privilege of the many formative years that resulted in the Guild's introduction and of its early years to establish itself.

I take this opportunity to thank all Members for their support, and ask you to continue this for the new session, and to encourage other ex-scholars to reflect on the benefits they gained from their excellent education in joining and supporting the Guild's future activities.

Results of the Election Court 2006 for the year ensuing

Master – Christopher Gooderidge
Upper Warden – Mira Chatterjee
Lower Warden – Peter Mather
Renter Warden – Christopher Sales
Apprenticeship Warden – Edward Andrews
Clerk – Ivor Bennett

Annual Assembly and Dinner

Wednesday 29th March 2006 @ 6:30 pm

The Annual Assembly will be held at the City of London Girls School, St. Giles' Terrace Barbican, EC2Y 8BB. All members and their guests are welcome.

This is to be followed by the now traditional 4 course dinner, the cost of which is held at last year's prices, a modest £27.50 with a concession price of £22.50 for those under 25 years of age.

If you wish to attend the dinner, please reply using the form with this newsletter and send to:

The Clerk, GofS Dinner, 39 Brancaster Lane, Purley, Surrey, CR8 1HJ
with your remittance payable to "Guild of Scholars".

Please note, places are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Future Events planned for this year include:

April – A visit to the Old Bailey
June/July – City Walk
October – Boat Trip to Greenwich to visit the Fan Museum.
Also possibly Wood Street Police Station and a visit to the College of Arms.

The Guild of Scholars pushes the boat out!

The Guild has made another step forward in support of pupils at The Schools and hopefully in time The City.

In the Autumn of 2004 The Court decided to sponsor a Lower Sixth pupil from each of the City Schools to go on week-long Sail Training Voyages. The Rona Trust (alias The London Sailing Project) was selected as the voyage provider since it was able to offer heavily subsidised voyages and had a long and successful record in this activity. Our sponsorship was achieved by awarding bursaries to cover a substantial part of the cost. The balance of the cost was to be found by the pupils as an earnest of their serious interest and intent.

In the end five nominees were funded using additional support from Court Members. Of these five three actually went sailing. A substitute for one unable to go was found late in the day resulting in four young people making voyages. Where no substitute for another nominee could be found at the 11th hour, funding has been held over and the nominee will take up the bursary in 2006. In similar manner additional funding has been provided to the other nominee, unable to go in 2005, to enable a voyage to be made in 2006.

Last November the four voyagers met at a reception with Court Members, members of Schools' Staff and several significant donors to the Guild. Each voyager made a presentation in which they recounted their experiences.

Every one of them evidenced having enjoyed themselves and expressed themselves as having benefited from the experiences. For having facilitated these they expressed their sincere gratitude to The Trust.

Three of those who went sailing received Amory Awards from The Rona Trust as a reward for their contributions towards the success of their voyages. Commendable as this is it carries with it an invitation to attend a selection weekend in February at which the members of the crew to campaign the Trust's yacht in the Golden Jubilee Tall Ships Races are decided.

A video has been made of these presentations and it is intended to provide a copy of the video of each presentation to the presenter, so that they may see what their audience saw. Whilst the presentational skills were of a high order it is hoped that sight of the videos will aid further improvement.

The Court review of this exercise in sponsoring has resulted in a decision to double to six the number of bursaries for Sail Training Voyages offered by The Trust in 2006.

We are hoping to get additional feedback from the Schools at the end of this school year with regard to any beneficial effect the making of the voyages has had on the pupil's confidence and stature and contribution to School Life while in the Upper Sixth.



Our intrepid adventurers:

Charlotte Matthew – City of London Freeman's School

Imogen Whittam – City of London School for Girls

Martin Eden – City of London School

Peter Sherwin – City of London Freeman's School

For more information on the Rona Trust, please visit www.ronatrust.com

News of our Youth

We have had applications from three recent leavers from CLS to become apprentices, one of whom, Adrian Hodgson, has already been bound. His master is Lionel Knight, who retired as Head of the History Department at CLS in Summer last year. We wish Adrian a happy apprenticeship, and Lionel a successful four years inculcating citizenship into his new apprentice. The brief ceremony at which Adrian was 'bound' took place in the Guildhall Art Gallery, as the Chamberlain's Court is temporarily out of use, owing to an extensive refurbishment of the building which will take some time, we understand. Though the room in which the binding took place is sufficiently grand and imposing, there is nowhere to wait before the ceremony except the art gallery, and we had to fill in the indentures on the public benches in the upper level of the gallery. This was a little awkward, but quite exciting!

We also have admitted two new candidates.

We have a substantial number of apprentices and candidates who are ready to become freemen of the City of London and whom we urge to go ahead. Many simply need to write a short essay about the City to qualify, as they have otherwise finished their time as candidates or apprentices.

If anybody who reads this is in the position of having served his or her time and is ready to be 'turned out' I would ask him to get in touch with me, preferably by telephone or email, and we shall embark on the arrangements.

I wish all our apprentices and candidates, present and past, a happy 2006.

John Hazel, Apprenticeship Warden. 020 887 45108 jnohazel@btinternet.com

The Guild on-line (www.gofs.co.uk):

You may have noticed a new web address at the top of the newsletter. It is very much hoped that this "New Look" site will be live by the time you receive this mailing.

Please note that this is very much work in development and is aimed to furnish the members of the Guild with general **information** on the **City**, its **traditions** and **customs**, details of **Guild events**, information on the **City Schools** and most importantly information on the **activities of the Charitable Trust**.

There will also be a section for the Venture Group activities and regular updates (we hope) on our apprentices and candidates.

If you have any thoughts or comments on how to improve the information on the site or indeed information that you would like to see that is not currently there, we would really like to hear from you.

Please email web@gofs.co.uk



Annual Assembly Dinner – Wednesday 29th March 2006 to follow the Annual Assembly –

Please reserve me _____ place(s) @ £27.50 and _____ place(s) @ £22.50

My guests names are:

I enclose a cheque made payable to "Guild of Scholars" for £ _____

Name: _____

A St. Paul's visit never to be forgotten.

There can be fewer more dramatic settings than the striking interior of St. Paul's Cathedral. Here I found myself a fortnight ago, at the helm of one of the world's most powerful organs. The original 'Grand Organ' was completed in 1695 by Bernard Smith, but it was not until 1872 and the intervention of renowned 19th Century organ builder Henry Willis that the St. Paul's organ became the unique instrument that we see today. Willis completed an essentially new instrument for the Cathedral and some 200 pipes of the original Smith organ were retained. The original Wren case was divided in half, modified, and placed against the pillars supporting the Dome on either side of the Quire. Father Willis made further modifications in 1897 and 1900. In 1930, his grandson, Henry Willis III was responsible for more changes, including the electrification of the whole organ, a new console, and the instillation of the spectacular Trompette Militaire placed in the Dome.

I was aware of its capacity, its supreme craftsmanship and the immense sound that such a combination could produce; yet none of this prepared me for what emitted from those 7,698 pipes that evening. As I worked through my repertoire culminating in that most magnificent of organ works, C. M. Widor's *Toccata from Organ Symphony No 5*, I felt the most amazing exhilaration; never before have I played an instrument that has responded so well, so fully and with such clarity. I have played a number of cathedral organs, and I play regularly at Guildford, yet St. Paul's Cathedral organ is an instrument quite aside from its counterparts across the country and I have been privileged to play it. This unique experience would not have been possible however, without Peter Mayhew (Master of The Guild of Scholars) who, as a Friend of St Paul's and a former chorister introduced me to the organists there. I am also sincerely grateful to Huw Williams and Mark Williams (Assistant Director of Music and Sub-Organist respectively) for patiently explaining the instrument to me, and allowing me a very special time playing it.

By Ashley Bowes (Candidate of the Guild of Scholars.)

Editor's Comment:

Welcome to the first Newsletter of 2006 and a very Happy New Year.

In the interest of **saving costs** and trees, we would like to be able to send future **newsletters** and **event** details **via e-mail**. If you would like to receive your Newsletters and/or event information electronically, please email editor@gofs.co.uk with your name and address and with the following in the subject field:

"News" if you wish to receive Newsletters electronically

"Events" if you wish to receive event information electronically

"News/Events" if you are happy to receive both Newsletters and event information electronically.

Edward Andrews

The Clerk
GofS Annual Assembly Dinner
39 Brancaster Lane,
Purley, Surrey,
CR8 1HJ