



The Guild of Scholars

of the City of London

www.gofs.co.uk

Newsletter Number 21 (November 2006)

The Master's View

I am delighted to say that a number of young people have shown a great interest in the Guild and would like to play their part in the life of the Guild- this is very encouraging indeed because although we are delighted to have many older members on board we do need new blood if we are to prosper in the future.

One of our particularly successful activities is sail training for the 3 Schools and we are about to have one of our periodical evenings focusing on this.

In the New Year we are also organising an informal get together in central London over drinks- this was the idea of one of the younger members that I have mentioned. We are, of course, also organising other activities, for example, a City Walk and hopefully a tour of the Old Bailey.

We are also proposing to go into the 3 Schools with the permission, of course, of the Heads and tell the older pupils more about the Guild and what its aims are- that way we hope we will be able to build a bridge to the Schools.

As ever if anyone has any ideas generally please feel free to let me know.

Christopher Gooderidge – Master
master@gofs.co.uk

A View from our Youth

As two former City of London Freeman's School pupils, we were both invited to attend the September court meeting of the Guild of Scholars at the Guildhall. This was an opportunity to represent the views of the younger members. One of the primary aims of the Guild is to promote the history of the City to current and former pupils of the three City Schools. This is done through a variety of different events which include presentations, City walks, dinners, museum visits and the odd trip to a City bar.

The Guild of Scholars provides a fantastic opportunity to younger members by offering them support and encouragement, providing a relaxed environment in which they can learn about the City and mix with a range of professionals all of whom will gladly offer the benefit of their wisdom. Both of us have been involved with the Guild for some years (Stephanie – 8 years, James – 5 years) and we are both honoured to now be in positions where we can actively contribute to the Guild by enhancing its visibility amongst younger members and emphasising the many benefits of being a member.

Stephanie Roe (CLFS 1993-2000) James Arnold (CLFS 1989-1999)

News of our Youth – part 1

Congratulations to **Gavin Dabrera** (Candidate) who left CLS in 2000 to study **medicine** at **University College London**. Gavin has **graduated** and received a **prize** for **public health**. He was also awarded a **prize** by **The Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene** for research focusing on Malaria in Sri Lanka.

Events – 2007

Social Pub gathering – January 4th

Annual Assembly – March 21st

Visit to the Old Bailey – April 12th
(date to be confirmed)

Please see over page for more information.

EVENTS

4th January 2007 – Social Pub Gathering

A social get together after the hectic Christmas period. After work drinks (5.30 pm onwards) to be held at **The Knights Templar**, 95, **Chancery Lane**, London, WC2A 1DT. There will be an area reserved for us and this is ideal opportunity to **meet** other members of the Guild in a **social** and **relaxed** environment. If you can only pop in for a quick drink at any time throughout the evening, we would still love to see you. This event is being organised by Stephanie Roe (one of our younger members). If you are planning on **attending** this event, please **email** Stephanie – stephanie@gofs.co.uk – so that we have an idea of numbers. If you do not have access to email, please **call** 020 8668 8575 (Edward Andrews) who will pass the information to Stephanie.

21st March 2007 – Annual Assembly and Dinner

We expect to hold the Annual Assembly at the City of London Girls School. Details are yet to be confirmed, but please put this date in your diary

12th April 2007 – A visit to the Old Bailey

Again this date is yet to be confirmed and more information will be available in the next newsletter.

Other events scheduled for 2007 include visits to

Greenwich to include a trip around the Fan Museum,
Wood Street Police Station,
Borough Market.

We are also hoping to have another **City Walk** in late spring.

Billy Dove, a long standing **Common Councillor** and **Chairman of Governors'** at CLS has kindly offered to give a **talk** to the Guild regarding some aspect of **City Life** and **Traditions**. This will hopefully take place around Easter 2007 and we expect to have more details for the next newsletter. If, however, you wish to be contacted as soon as dates, etc are confirmed then please drop me an email (editor@gofs.co.uk) or call me on 020 8668 8575.

We are always looking for ideas of new and interesting events that would appeal to our members. If you would like to suggest an event or visit, please email editor@gofs.co.uk or call me on 020 8668 8575.

Editor's Comment 1 –

Many thanks to those members who have agreed to **receive** their **newsletter** via **email**. If you have received a **physical** copy of this newsletter and would be happy to **receive** an **electronic** version instead, please email editor@gofs.co.uk with news in the subject line.

Not only will this reduce running costs, but also do our bit to help save some trees.

The City Walk 10th June 2006

A Group of Guild Members and Friends assembled at the top of Dowgate Hill alongside Cannon Street Station and perambulated around The City in a version of "The Day we went to Birmingham by way of Bethnal Green" in as much as our route was anything but direct to our destination. We were to tack our way to The Bishops Finger Pub in Smithfield. On the way we noted the entrances to Skinner's Hall, Tallow Chandler's Hall, and Dyer's Hall, all on the Hill.

We moved over the road and into Cloak Lane along which, your informant and others from the Southeast who taught or who were taught at CLS in Blackfriar's days, walked after commuting in to the terminus. Among those recalled on the staff side were Nobbs who walked with Ellingham and Riddle who walked with Carruthers while Riddle jnr, White and Bennett tracked them at a respectful distance talking about rowing.

In Cloak Lane we noted the site of the former Church and Commune of St John the Baptist. According to record a number of miscreants who lodged at the Commune were brought to book, for their misdeeds at the Old Bailey, and sentenced to swing or to be deported, or some to lesser punishment. The site of The former Church is noted with a plaque which records its existence. (.....continued over page)

The sound of District, Inner Circle and other line, underground trains passing beneath can be heard through a grating. Just occasionally the odd dosser secretes himself here and one wonders at the how the 'comfort' he enjoys now might compare with that enjoyed by the lodgers in the former commune.

On the other or south side of the lane is the 50 meter frontage of Pellipar House currently undergoing refurbishment and to be leased from real estate advisors BH2 at prices from £15 to £25 per square foot for the 9000+ square foot available. We took another look at this House from a different viewpoint later on.

Further along the lane towards its junction with College Hill we noted College Chambers which now occupies the site of the former Whittington College, a Seminary for Clerics, but before turning south down College Hill it was recalled that in earlier days small boys had been impressed by the six-foot plus City Police Officers wearing steel helmets who had descended a flight of steps from a Police Station on the southwest corner of the Junction.

We moved on down College Hill noting that Richard Whittington had lived in a house on the east side. At the bottom of the Hill we found St. Michael Paternoster Royal, for one of the constructions of which the thrice Lord Mayor had once paid. Turning east and walking back towards Dowgate Hill again we found Innholder's Hall, which to the observant eye had been extended more than once. Such observations were confirmed by the notices on the face of the building. Were they carved wooden grapes or hop vines that flanked the doors? Take a look and decide for yourself, they are fine examples of the carver's art.

Walking back along College Street until opposite St Michaels we entered Whittington Green a pleasant little bit of lawn with large trees and furnished with benches, a fountain which features many near equal sized pebbles in the base and elsewhere. Of note were two equestrian statues at the west end of the green unveiled in January 2006 in the presence of The Italian Ambassador and The Lord Mayor. They are a gift to The City from Italian President Carlo Ciampi. A restful green hedge to the south absorbs some of the noise emanating from Upper Thames Street traffic. To the south side are Distiller's Hall and also the former wine cellars of vintner John Chaucer the father of, inter alia, Collector of Customs for the Port of London Geoffrey Chaucer. Looking up and to the north (if you want to see well use binoculars) we were able to see the handsome sundials on the south and west faces of Pellipar house.

Moving on west along College Street we came on Garlick Hill. At the south-east corner of Garlick Hill stands the Church of St James a sacred place since 1100. In ancient times there was a garlic market nearby, called Garlick Hythe, from being a wharf on the bank of the river. Burned to the ground in 1666, a new St James was completed by Wren in 1682, it is notable for the profusion of natural light enjoyed within. From the church projects a large clock dial, on the top of which is a statue of St James. This Church is remarkable in the number of City Companies closely associated with it, 11 out of 104 at the 2003 date of record, there are now 105, ranging from the Skinners who were chartered in 1327 through Vintners 1364, Dyers 1471, Painter-Stainers 1502, Joiners and Ceilers 1571, Horners 1638, Needlemakers 1656, Glass Sellers 1664, Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers 1693, to Fanmakers 1709. Those alert among you will note I have only listed 10 so far, the eleventh is not strictly a Livery Company being without Livery but is a City Company and is the second oldest of those associated with St James having been chartered since 1442. Does this year ring a bell with some of you ex-scholars from CLS?

We continued along to the west and to the south of what in the late 40's and early 50's was the province of the Hudson's Bay Company which now serves as the London HQ of The Royal Bank of Canada, before heading up Little Trinity Lane past the elegant façade of Painter Stainer's Hall which has been on this site since Alderman Sir John Browne Sergeant=painter to Henry VIII donated the first Hall in 1532. Further up the lane we turned left into an attractive garden area with several informative notices, one of which tells us it was started on a then recently bombed out site, in the days when the Nazis were about their damnable pursuit of trying to precipitate our surrender.

To be continued at a future date.

News of our Youth – part 2

Well done to **Sarah Tiller** (Candidate) who is at **Christ Church, Oxford** and was elected **Captain** of **Christ Church Women's Boat Club** earlier this year. Sarah does say that in between coaching and training she still has time for (some) studying.

"The Guild of Scholars Sail Training Scheme. (Report by Ivor Bennett – Clerk)

"I must go down to the sea again" Masefield-Sea Fever

In this Scheme **The Guild of Scholars** through the Agency of The **Rona Trust** aims to provide (through the medium of sea training in offshore craft) opportunities for The School's pupils to acquire those attributes of a seaman, namely; **confidence, resourcefulness, a sense of responsibility, the ability to work well as a member of a team and stoicism** which will help them throughout their lives: and in the eye's of their peers to "Walk Tall".

On 19th October last the Master, Wardens and Court met in The Lecture Theatre at CLSG to hear the Presentations of those who went on **Sail Training Voyages** with The Rona Trust, after they had been awarded **bursaries** by The **Guild of Scholars**.

The Master had invited several Guests including those who had sailed previously with the aid of Guild Bursaries, the Masters i/c Sail Training at The Schools and the Project Manager with The Rona Trust. I am happy to report the Presentations using Microsoft PowerPoint software were of a **very high standard** and the presenters had **worked hard** to produce interesting accounts of their experiences.

The Presentations were videoed and video discs are being prepared to enable those who presented to get an audience-eye view of themselves presenting, in the hope this will enable them to further enhance their presentation skills.

Chaslav Frim one of our **Candidates** for The Freedom who has progressed from being a first time sailor with The Rona Trust, and is now a **Watch Leader** also spoke of his enthusiasm for Sailing and his hopes to become a **Watch Officer** shortly; and to go on to make further progress with a view to becoming a **Skipper**.

To date the **record** of those who have been sailing with our sponsorship has been pretty **good**. In 2005 of our five Bursary awardees four went sailing and three **won Amory Awards** and the fourth was invited back to sail again in the year following (2006) .

With the gaining of an Amory Award goes an **invitation** to attend a selection weekend the following February, during which the crew members, to man The Rona Trust's Yacht entered into the **Tall Ships Races**, are selected. Of the three award winners two opted to go for selection and participated in the Tall Ship's Events during the Summer of 2006. The third award winner is to become one of our **Apprentices** and hopes to sail again next Summer(2007).

In 2006, in addition to those who went on the Tall Ships Events, two from CLFS were awarded **bursaries** and both won **Amory Awards**. The girl who went from CLSG also won an **Amory Award**. Two boys from CLS , one of them already an Apprentice to the Freedom, went sailing; of which the younger won a **Scott Award**, the equivalent of an Amory Award for younger sailors, and an **RYA Competent Crew Certificate**. He further distinguished

himself by displaying leadership qualities and has been invited to go for **Watch Leader selection**

The Presentations were followed by an excellent Supper provided by the Catering Manager at CLSG during which many a yarn was swapped and ideas for the future development of The Guild's Sail Training Programme exchanged.

If you would wish to lend your **support** to this venture, **contributions** to enable us to sponsor **more young pupils** would be a valuable expression of it. In my view the commendable attention given to the amelioration of that which is bad in our society, is way in excess of that which is given to the promotion of that which is good; I would like to see us doing more of the latter."

(Note – we hope to have these presentations available for viewing on the web site in the near future)



Editor's Comment 2 –

I am looking for a volunteer to take over the creation of the newsletter. Although this is not an arduous task, I have no publishing experience and feel certain that there will be a member of the Guild who is better suited to this role. You would not need to be a Court member and all the material would be provided. If you are interested in helping please email me. Edward Andrews
(editor@gofs.co.uk) .