



The Guild of Scholars

of the City of London

www.gofs.co.uk

Newsletter Number 25 (February 2008)

The Master's View

The Guild is in **good heart**- we had an excellent visit to the **College of Arms** recently- see elsewhere in this newsletter for a report on this - and we have a visit to **Wood Street Police Station** coming up on the 11th March We have our **Guild Annual Assembly** on the 18th March and an **informal pub evening** on the 17th April You will be very welcome to attend these events and if you have not been before I think you will find them very **friendly** and **enjoyable** affairs We have a number of people receiving the Freedom of the City through the Guild which is one of our prime purposes We are **increasing** the number of **bursaries** for **sail training** this year for pupils at the 3 City Schools - this is rapidly becoming a hugely **successful** facet of the Guild's work We are open to **suggestions** to further the purposes of the Guild, so **do** attend the Annual Assembly and you will really feel part of our set-up

Christopher Gooderidge – Master master@gofs.co.uk

Is our Guild unique?

In our continuing quest, we look at the **Worshipful Company of Mercers**.

As laid down by the Court of Alderman in **1516**, the Mercers rank number 1 in the order of precedence. Their Charters are dated 1394, 1425 and 1559. The original aims were fully religious, social and trade and although the individual members were all merchants the company exercised only moderate control over their activities' There is some **confusion** over the origin of the name **Mercer** which may be derived from the French for merchant or more likely from the trade of 'mercery' itself is first mentioned in the 1130s. This term derives from the Latin *merx*, *mercis*, meaning wares or merchandise.

Famous Masters of the Mercers include **Dick Whittington** (1395, 1401, 1408), **Sir Thomas Gresham** (1569, 1573, 1579) and **Lord Baden-Powell** (1913). Other well known Mercers include **John Colet** and **Henry Howard**, Earl of Northampton).

The records of the Mercers' Company date back to **1348** but the Company is certainly older than this for in that year new ordinances were drawn up for the conduct of its affairs.

The Company's links with the active trade **died out** over the centuries. This was mainly because admission to the Company was mainly possible by **patrimony**. In effect a member could become a member, because his father was a member, without necessarily practising the trade of mercery itself. The other form of admission to the Company was by an eight year **apprenticeship**. Apprenticeship had to be genuine, rather than token, but as links with an active trade declined this became difficult. By the 18th and 19th centuries apprentices were being bound to Masters who were **no longer practising mercers**. No more apprentices were bound after 1888.

Although the Company no longer has any trade to control, its modern life is busy and productive. Through the charitable trusts under its control, the Mercers' Company administers a large programme of **charitable grant making**.

The Company also provides housing for the **elderly**, wide ranging **support** for **education** and has active links with many **churches**.

Membership News

We congratulate candidate Chaslav Frim and Sarah Tiller who both received the Freedom of the City of London in November 2007.



Photo taken in the Chamberlain's Court, Guildhall as Sarah is welcomed as a citizen of London by the Beadle of the Chamberlain's Office.

Obituaries

Sadly we record the Death of our Honorary Chaplain **Rev John Tadman** (CLS 1946 – 51) who passed away 29th December 2007. John was a strong **supporter** of the Guild and the **traditions** of the City as well as a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Scriveners. He will be **sorely missed**. John is survived by his wife Rosemary and daughter Rosamund to whom we send our condolences.

Visit to the College of Arms

On 10th January members of Guild of Scholars and guests made an evening visit to the College of Arms. **Windsor Herald**, Mr Hunt welcomed us and then escorted the group into the **inner sanctum** where the books and records are kept.



(photo shows the Court of Chivalry which is as far as the public normally get)

The time soon passed as we were shown records dating back over 500 years and treated to an insight of the work of the Heralds. After some light refreshment and a glass or two, the evening was over. With huge thanks to the Windsor Herald for an unforgettable evening. A visit, hopefully to be repeated and surely not to be missed.

Events

Visit to Wood Street Police Station – 11th March 2008

(Dress code – smart casual/lounge suits)

A **unique opportunity** to visit the City of London Police at their main headquarters in Wood Street. We hope that the evening will include a tour of the station, a visit to the mounted section and stables, the dog section and the in-house museum (full details to be confirmed). Starting at **18:00 for 18:15** the tour should conclude around **19:45 to 20:00**, after which we will then retire to a nearby hostelry for a light **supper** (which is included in the price). Due to **security** at Wood Street we do require **the full names of all attendees**. The evening will cost £25 for members and friends and £20 for students and apprentices.

Annual Assembly and Dinner - 18th March 2008.

(Dress code –lounge suits)

The Annual Assembly will be held at the City of London Girls School, St. Giles' Terrace, Barbican, EC2Y 8BB at **6.45 pm**. All members and their guests are welcome.

This is to be followed by dinner. We have changed the format of the dinner this year to a buffet style and have therefore managed to **reduce** the price to £25.00 with a concession price of £15.00 for students under 25 years of age.

If you wish to attend the dinner, please reply using the form attached with your remittance payable to "Guild of Scholars".

Applications for the Dinner must be **received** by **7th March 2008**. Confirmation of received applications will be given by 10th March 2008. Please supply an email address (preferable) or telephone number so that we can confirm receipt of your application.

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

Social Pub Gathering – 17th April 2008

The next social pub get together after work drinks (5.30 pm onwards) will be held at The Shakespears Head, 64-68 Kingsway (Africa House), WC2B 6BG which is near Holborn station. 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 our newest court assistant Angela Banwell. If you are planning on attending this event, please email Angela – angela@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 Angela.

Editor's note - 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.

We are very grateful for the continuing sponsorship from WSI for the newsletter

Where are they now?

We have had some correspondence returned as "moved away". If anyone has contact details for the following, please let me know via email (editor@gofs.co.uk) or at the address shown over the page and we can update our records:

Col James D Thomson	(Kent)
Paul Emson BA	(London)
Roland O Brandman	(Herts)
Samuel M Brandman	(Herts)
Graham NG Mason	(Kent)
Richard M Freeman	(London)

Sail Training Update

Following the success of the Sail Training program and as part of our ongoing support for the City Schools, we have pleased to announce that we have **increased** the number of assisted places for Sail Training from 9 to 12.

Data Protection Act 1998

We wish to ensure that you are happy to continue to receive our newsletter.

With that in mind we have enclosed a form (overleaf) that we are asking **all members** and **friends** of the Guild of Scholars to complete and return.

At the same time we are asking you to complete a short **survey** with regard to events. We hope that you will take a minute to complete this and aid us to run the Guild as you would wish.

News of our Youth

Congratulations to **Apprentice Charlotte Matthew** (as part of a team from Nottingham University) for reaching the **semi-finals** of the 2007 SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise) **World Cup** competition. Held in New York City and ranking the team as one of **the top 16 in the world**. For an unprecedented 3rd year in a row, SIFE Nottingham won the SIFE **UK National championships 2007**, earning the team a slot at the SIFE World Cup. During this spectacular 3-day event hosted in the Hilton New York, USA, SIFE Nottingham presented the outstanding results the team had achieved this year, focusing on two exceptional projects. Firstly, the "Crocus Café project" saw the team **transform a struggling local business** into a **profitable enterprise** through careful marketing and price modifications. Located in the Church Square Community Shopping centre in Nottingham, the Café has become a thriving focal point of the Nottingham community, recently voted as one of the top 15 vegetarian cafes in the UK by national newspaper, The Observer. Secondly, the team presented their "Beevelop" project which saw students from the University **hosting conferences in Ghana** to improve the current beekeeping practices—a project which has affected one third of the beekeeping industry in Ghana, and seen many beekeepers **triple** their **income** through improved knowledge and practices. For more information, please visit www.sifenottingham.co.uk.

Data Protection Act 1998

With regard to the Data protection Act 1998, we wish to ensure that you are happy to continue to receive our newsletter. With that in mind we are asking for a **positive response** to the statement below:

“Please keep me on your mailing list. I give my consent to receive information from the Guild of Scholars”

(Please complete information below and return, or email consent@gofs.co.uk or telephone 020 8668 8575)

Name (Please Print): _____

Address (Please Print): _____

Post Code: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

We would like to take this opportunity to find out the best time to hold events for our members and also any suggestions you may have for a future event. We would be very grateful if you could tick **all that apply** from the boxes below:

Event time: morning afternoon evening

Event day: weekday weekend

Suggested Future Event (s) _____

Event booking forms

As **numbers are limited**, payment must be made at the time of booking and you will be informed if your application has been successful. If you are booking for both events, please send a **separate cheque** for each event. Cheques will only be **cashed** if your application has been **successful** and applications will be treated on a **“first come, first served basis”**

**Visit to Wood Street Police Station –
11th March 2008**

Please reserve me _____ place(s) @ £25.00 and _____ place(s) @ £20.00

My guest(s) names are (please print):

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

Contact details for receipt confirmation: email _____ or tel _____

Annual Assembly 18th March 2008.

Please reserve me _____ place(s) @ £25.00 and _____ place(s) @ £15.00

My guest(s) names are (please print):

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

Special Dietary requirements: _____

Contact details for receipt confirmation: email _____ or tel _____

Please return to:

**Edward Andrews
Guild of Scholars
8 Grovelands Road
Purley, Surrey
CR8 4LA**



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