



The Guild of Scholars

of the City of London

www.gofs.co.uk

Newsletter Number 33 (March 2014)

The Master's View (a note on Sail Training)

We started this Scheme in **2005** when we dipped our toes in with the offer of **one Bursary** at **CLS** and one at **CLSG**. At **CLFS** we offered **two bursaries** one for a boy and one for a girl. All four Bursaries were taken up but one of the Awardees was offered a much longer working trip to South Africa. His award was held over to the next year and another pupil made a voyage in his place. Each of our **four awardees** made their voyages and **honoured their commitments** to come and regale us with accounts of their experiences. All were very **positive** in their accounts and expressed **their thanks to The Guild** for having introduced them to Offshore Sailing and for largely funding the cost.

The Sail Training provider we chose was then known as The **London Sailing Project** though their LONDON Connection was becoming somewhat tenuous. They had moved base to Southampton.

A bit about the Project. It started when **Viscount Amory** a Conservative luminary wanted a Crew for his yacht "Rona". When parliamentary duties allowed he sailed the yacht down the Thames and out into The Channel and North Sea. The crew were regularly found from among Sea Scouts living close to the Yacht's berth in the East End. Viscount Amory had a partner in one **Walter Scott** a very Able Seaman who organised and mentored the Sea Scouts and took them to sea both with and without the Yacht's owner.

We have **continued** to offer Sail Training Bursaries at all **Three City Schools** and now offer **four** each year at **each School**. In the years to 2013 we have **funded more than 50 bursaries** and our **awardees** have each year come along to a **Sail Training Presentation Evening** at which each of them has thanked us for our sponsorship.

Each of our voyagers gets a report on their contribution to the voyage on which they have sailed.

If Sail Training was not for them they are not invited back to Sail Again. However with very few exceptions those we have sponsored have done better than that. **Younger Voyagers** who have done well are given **Scott Awards** after Walter Scott and more senior sailors who have performed to their credit receive **Amory Awards**. Implicit in these awards is an invitation to Sail Again with The Project.

The Project is also alert to those showing **potential** as **Watch Leaders** who are **invited** to attend on an **Assessment weekend**. If they pass muster on the Assessment Weekend the Project will try to find them a berth as a Watch Leader on their next voyage.

Rona find many of their Skippers from among their first time sailors who graduate via Amory Award Winner to Watch Leader, Watch Officer, and Mate until once they have been judged sufficiently competent they become Skippers. No matter under what name they sail from Master to Trainee they all contribute to the cost of their voyage.

It is in the hope that the experiences our awardees have help them to walk tall and command rather more than demand the respect of their peers.

Given a bit of **Member's Support** we would like to do **more** in this direction.

Ivor Bennett – Master master@gofs.co.uk

Future Events

Annual Assembly
and Dinner - 1st
April 2014

(Dress code: lounge
suits)

The Annual Assembly will be held at **6:30pm** on the **1st April 2014** to be followed by a **buffet dinner**. It will be held at the **City of London Girls School, EC2Y 8BB**.

Tickets cost **£37.50** (students **£27.50**). A booking form is attached this newsletter and can also be downloaded from our web site www.gofs.co.uk and follow the events link

City Walk focusing
on World War 1 -
Monday 12th May

A **World War I walk** to commemorate the **outbreak** of this conflict using 10 **well-known buildings and memorials** to highlight the causes, some of the main characters involved and the nation's homage to the dead. For **instance the walk begins outside of the Houses of Parliament** and sets the scene in Europe in 1914 and the pressures which led to the crisis erupting
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Back Stage Tour of the Royal Opera House Covent Garden
Monday September 16th 2013.

Members of the Guild and several friends met in the foyer at **Covent Garden**. Our **guide** was a delight – an **actor / writer** who supplemented his income by conducting tours. He was very **knowledgeable** and rather **flamboyant**...he was easy to listen to and his stories and anecdotes were full of humour and fun.

He explained every tour was slightly different – it was not fair for those who worked backstage to be continually disturbed while visitors gawped at what they were doing!

He started by telling us about the **history of 'The Garden'**. **The first theatre** dated from **1728** with actor manager **John Rich** and his actors called '**Dukes Company**'. For the first hundred years it was a playhouse. We learnt that the building we were standing in was the **third building** on the site – following **two disastrous fires in 1808 and 1857**. The façade, foyer and auditorium date from 1858 but almost everything else is from 1990s. During **1990s there was extensive reconstruction**.

The technical, rehearsal, office and educational facilities were all renewed and extended. It is claimed by the ROH that it is the **most modern theatre facility in Europe**.

We were shown **the massive backstage area**. This space allows the ROH to store and easily move scenery so several productions can run concurrently.

We were told that all the **scenery** is actually made at High House in **Purfleet** and transported up to London.

We were **enthralled** by the Props **Department**. This was a huge space which was full of paint, construction materials and the wonderful smell of school art rooms.

For many of us the **highlight** of the visit was watching members of the **Royal Ballet rehearsing**. We stood behind a two way mirror and watched open mouthed while dancers effortlessly moved across the floor. It was a **great privilege and something I shall not forget**.

I believe this was the **first theatre tour for the Guild** – but as it proved quite **popular** we think we shall visit another – perhaps the Theatre Royal, Dury Lane next time.

Sail Training Presentations and Dinner – Monday 24th February 2014

Members of the Guild attended this event held at the **City of London Girl's School** on the 24th February. **Eight** of our **Nine sponsored trainees** turned up (accompanied by teachers) to give us an insight into their experiences from the voyage. The presentations were informative (and in some cases amusing) and ranged from power point to a presentation given in prose. All felt they had **benefited greatly** from the experience. This was then followed by an **excellent dinner** at the school. Of the nine awardees of our Sail Training Bursaries:-

From **CLS**

Archie Buchanan -**Scott Award**-Plans to Sail Again in 2014

Jorrit Donner-Wittkop - **Invited back** by Rona Sailing Project-Plans to Sail Again in 2014

From **CLFS**

Chloe Au -**Amory Award**

Emily Wang-**Amory Award**

Lucy Harrison-Brown -**Amory Award**

Arnold Chong -**Amory Award**

From **CLSG**

Mercedes Thompson- **Scott Award** -Will Sail Again in 2014

Saumya Venkasheta-**Amory Award**

Elizabeth Pollard-**Invited back** by Rona Sailing Project to Sail Again.

Cont...
in 1914 as well as British government's approach. The walk is about **2.5 miles**, takes **2 hours**, is completely within central London and is **suitable** for **wheelchair** and **disabled walkers** but is in a busy area.

Meeting at **10.30am** by the **statue of King George V** which is **opposite** the **Victoria Tower, Houses of Parliament**.

After the walk, we will adjourn to a **local tavern** for lunch at **own expense**. The walk will cost **£15 per person**.

A booking form is attached this newsletter and can also be downloaded from our web site www.gofs.co.uk and follow the events link.

Pub Social

The next social will be held on **Tuesday 10th June (to be confirmed)**.

Drop in for a drink or a meal for as little or as long is convenient.

Venue is the **Green Man**

(Wetherspoon's) at Bank Station (underground, not street level). We have an **area reserved** which is **usually** down the stairs and turn immediately left. So see you there **any time from 5.30pm**

Annual Assembly and Dinner 1st April 2014.

The cost of this event is £37.50 per person with a concession price of £27.50 for students under 25 years of age.

Please reserve me _____ place(s) @ £37.50 and _____ place(s) @ £27.50

Name (please print):

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

Special Dietary requirements: _____

World War 1 City walk 12th May 2014.

The cost of this event is £15.00 per person.

Please reserve me _____ place(s) @ £15.00

Name (please print):

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

Contact details for confirmation of booking:

email _____

or tel _____

Please return to:

Angela Banwell, Guild of Scholars, 28 Spratt Hall Road, Wanstead, London, E11 2RQ