



The Guild of Scholars

of the City of London

www.gofs.co.uk

Newsletter Number 26 (November 2008)

The Master's View

We had an excellent **Annual Assembly** with a number of VIP's from the 3 City Schools attending- we are grateful to all who came.

An **informal pub get together** was also held- these are becoming a bit of a fixture- the advantage is that you can drop in for a short time or stay longer and have something to eat- we intend to continue these.

We also went on an interesting visit to the HQ of the **City of London Police** at Wood Street- this was a rare opportunity to see their inner workings including the horses which are called upon more than ever these days- and not only on ceremonial duties- a sign of the times. More about these activities elsewhere in the Newsletter.

The **Sail Training** continues apace and we are planning a get together for those involved. We are also looking forward to further visits- see this Newsletter for some of those.

Apprentices are being turned out- the technical term for obtaining the Freedom of the City- and we are forging even closer ties with the 3 Schools- these are central to our purposes- raising the profile of the 3 Schools in the City and the City in the Schools.

Any suggestions would be most welcome and thank you for your support.

Christopher Gooderidge –Master master@gofs.co.uk

Prize Winners

As our regular readers know, we offer annual prizes to the 3 City schools. Our congratulations to the following:

City of London Freemen's School

For Classical Civilisation - Alexander Bourdas

For Citizenship in the Sixth Form - Eleanor Chapman, Nicholas Prys-Qwen, Alice Raggett.

City of London School for Girls Guild of Scholars Service Prize - Jessica Sandelson, Purany Sivaloganathan, Phoebe Janner

The **City of London School** declined our offer of prizes.

Sail Training update

Initially The Guild of Scholars offered **twelve** Sail Training Bursaries this year, four Bursaries to each of CLS, CLFS and CLSG. All four offered to CLFS ere quickly taken up by four girls and one by a boy at CLS, sadly there were no takers from CLSG.

Subsequently four additional Bursaries were offered to CLFS and one of these were taken up by a boy, the other three by girls.

Eight of the awardees made voyages, the ninth was advised not to do so for medical reasons.

Of the eight who sailed **five**(Ada Pang, Allison Lester, Joanne Spindler, Laura Stevens and Joshua Lau) gained **Amory Awards**, a sixth(Corrine Zhang) a **Scott Award**, for younger sailors, and two(Hannah Johns and William Kirkby - CLS) were invited to Sail Again with The Rona Trust.

Ivor Bennett

Future Events

13th January 2009 Social Pub Gathering

19th March 2009 Visit to the Old Bailey.

24th March 2009 Annual Assembly & Dinner

Chaslav Frim

The Court of the Guild of Scholars is pleased to introduce our newest court assistant. We asked Chaslav to give us a pen- portrait of himself.

"I am delighted to be appointed as a Court assistant. I have been waiting for this opportunity for a long time. My role is to promote the sailing training bursaries and through this scheme the Guild to all three schools. I was a pupil at CLS for 5 years and during my time I took part in many extra- curricular activities, one of which was sailing. Sailing has since become my passion and I am actively involved with the London Sailing Project.

After school I went to University of Leeds to study Russian, and I have spent a year in Moscow. I now work in the Russo-British Chamber of Commerce as Events Manager.

I was introduced to the Guild by Peter Mayhew, whilst a pupil at CLS. I am now looking forward to working closely with the Court and helping with the Sail Training Bursaries Scheme."

Pub Socials

Being a woman of a certain age, one who isn't keen on lurking in pubs alone; I was delighted that several members of GofS joined me in the Shakespeare's Head in Kingsway for our last 2 socials.

It was a very relaxed time with members popping in for a quick drink, or staying for much of the evening – whatever was convenient. We had a reserved table, which proved advantageous as the pub was quite full as the night went on. It was great to chat informally and get to know each other a little better.

It was such good fun we're planning to do it again! Please ring **Tuesday 13th January 2009** in your diary. We shall meet from 6pm in the **THE BISHOPS FINGER, SMITHFIELD**. Come for half an hour, or stay until closing time! It will just be good to see you.

Angela Banwell

Events

Social Pub Gathering – 13th January 2009

The next social pub get together after work drinks (6 pm onwards) will be held at **The Bishops Finger**, 9-10 West Smithfield, London, EC1A 9JR. 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 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.

Dates for your diaries:

Visit to the Old Bailey – 19th March 2009

(Dress code – smart casual/lounge suits)

An evening visit to one of the most famous courts in the world. This event is likely to start promptly at 5.45pm.

Annual Assembly and Dinner – 24th March 2009.

(Dress code –lounge suits)

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

Booking information for the Annual Assembly & Dinner and the visit to the Old Bailey will be in the next newsletter.

News of our Youth

Congratulations to **Apprentice Charlotte Matthew** (as Captain of a team from Nottingham University) for reaching the **semi-finals** of the 2008 SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise) **World Cup** competition as well as winning '**Entrepreneurial University of the Year**' at the prestigious Times Higher Education Awards 2008. She send us this report:

"Since speaking to you last I have spent two weeks in **Singapore** leading my team to the SIFE World Cup, then I flew straight to Ningbo, China to set up a new SIFE team over there. The World Cup went extremely well, with us reaching the semi finals. In the first round we actually got more points than Canada (who went on to win the World Cup), but we drew a really difficult league. We are now officially ranked in the **top 16 teams globally**.

Furthermore, I was in London last night representing the University alongside Nottingham University's Vice Chancellor David Greenaway in the Times Higher Education Awards in Grosvenor Hotel, Park Lane. Once short listed for 'Entrepreneurial University of the Year', David asked if I would present alongside him, showcasing SIFE Nottingham's achievements etc. I was honoured to be invited to the ceremony and pick up the award on the university's behalf.

Charlotte Matthew



Charlotte accepts the award on behalf of Nottingham University

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

Visit to Wood Street Police Station

In March the Guild of Scholars enjoyed an evening at Wood Street Police Station. Built on part of a **Roman fortress**, the station has been the **City Police headquarters** since 2002 and is home to the forces mounted division.

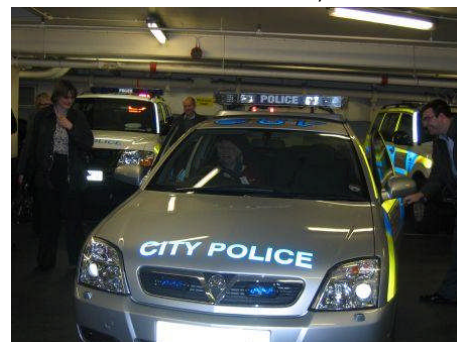


The evening began with a short introduction from our host Roger Appleby in a room surrounded by police memorabilia from around the world. We were then lead to the stables where the forces **10 horses** spend much of their operation life. In the stables that evening were 4 horses, including LuLu, and one of the female mounted officers. The horses, once they have gone through **rigorous training** including **simulated riots** and cantering on roads and pavements, are given an operational name in keeping with the City itself. LuLu for instance was given the name **Miss Temple** in recognition of the **400th anniversary** of the signing of the royal charter giving Inner and Middle Temples a level of **independence from church and crown**. But dispute her immense size and ample training LuLu has a unique fear of crisp packets which fly around in the wind sending her bolting in the opposite direction.

Whilst 4 horses were in the stables that evening the other 6 were at the larger Bushy Park premises where they are able to spend time in the fields relaxing and recovering from their busy schedules. The horses are used in the City during many of the **ceremonial events** that take place during the year such as the Lord Mayors procession and events at St Paul's and the Guildhall. But they also patrol the streets of the City and have to deal with public order offences and disturbances often caused by people visiting the many bars and late night clubs that now preside within the City.

Outside of the City itself the mounted division hires out its services to other forces. The Metropolitan Police for instance, which has 120 of their own horses, use the City Mounted Division on weekends at the many football matches across London and further a field. This all helps to keep the City horses operationally fit and raises funds that allow the City Police force to maintain its own mounted division. To raise further funds the horses can be **adopted by the local City schools and classes** (editors note "**The City of London School for Girls** adopted Police Horse 67 Ariel in June 2006") which helps to raise money for their horse whilst learning about the important role the mounted division plays in helping to maintain law and order in the City.

The next part of the evening took us to the underground garage where the City police house and maintain many of their vehicles. We were kindly shown around one of the BMW's which then had its **sirens** and **lights** turned on. The force had just received a fleet of 6 new high performance BMW's courtesy of the Bank of England. These vehicles are solely used for **escorting gold bullion** to and from the Bank. A little know fact that was shared with us by a traffic officer was that the tax disks of all police vehicles shows a value of nil as they don't have to pay road tax. We were then shown the **police motor cycles** which surprisingly carry a vast amount of **medical equipment** for use in emergencies. The penultimate part of our evening involved a short stroll through the **museum** which contained **police memorabilia** and showed the history of the police force. Finally we all retired to the Wood Street Bar for a selection of food and drinks, discussing who would be able to drive the high performance police cars the fastest and who was nimble enough to out run a police horse through the narrow City streets.



James Arnold

Is our Guild unique?

In our continuing quest we look at The **Worshipful Company of Grocers** who rank **second** in the Livery Companies of the City of London. Originally known as the Guild of **Pepperers**, whose earliest records date from **1180**, it was formed as a religious and social fraternity of merchants and moneymen who traded in spices, gold, and other luxury goods from Byzantium and the Mediterranean. Their use on occasion of pepper as a currency gave rise to the expression "**peppercorn rent**".

The merchants formed a community centred on a **church** which they built in Soper Lane - now Queen Street - and dedicated to St. Antonin. They became increasingly involved in the **import** and **export** of a variety of goods which they bought and sold '**in gross**', changing the name of the guild in 1376 to 'The Company of **Grossers** of London'. The small shopkeepers who retailed the goods bought from the wholesale 'grossers', adopted the name of grocers and the meaning with which we associate it today. Over the centuries, the Grocers' Company lost its close connections with the trade of goods, wholesale and retail, as well as its former function of controlling weights and measures at the Port of London which, since the Great Fire of 1666, has been in the hands of HM Customs and Excise.

Today, the Company, along with the other Livery Companies, continues to play its role in the daily life of the City, in the election of the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs, and carries on the traditions of one of the ancient fraternities, which, since the middle ages, have formed sounding boards of informed responsible opinion.

The Grocers' Company has always given generously to charity, when its means allow. During the past three hundred years, its **charitable endeavours**, including those related to education and the church, have been **a principal aspect** of the Company's activities. While the Company's donations to charity are mainly funded by assigned investments and annual grants from the Company's corporate income, a significant portion relies on regular support from the membership in the form of donations and Gift Aid.

The **Education and Charities Committee** is the policy-making body for the Grocers' Charity, the grant-making arm of the

(cont overleaf...)

Grocers' Company. The Committee establishes broad targets, reviews all the charitable applications, and recommends to the **Court of Assistants**, who are also the **Trustees of the Charity**, what the response should be. It is responsible for the provision of grants, scholarships and bursaries to Oundle, and seven other schools with which it has historical connections, and for relations with the churches of which the Company is patron. With the recent increase in funds available to the Charity, the emphasis of giving has shifted with approximately **one-third** of charitable donations going to **education** and **one-third** to **social welfare**, and the balance being split between medicine, disability, the arts, heritage and the church.

The Company strives to live up to the ideals expressed in its early Ordinances, that it should be 'a nursery of charities and a seminary of good citizens'. The Grocers' Charity is the charitable arm of the Grocers' Company. Although the Grocers' Company has an historic tradition of dispensing monies to diverse charitable causes, it was not until 1968 that the Charity itself was formally established. It is administered by The Grocers' Trust Company Limited, and the Directors of that company are the four members of the Court of Assistants of the Grocers' Company who hold the offices of Master, Second Warden and the Chairmen of the Finance and the Education & Charities Committees.

The Charity has wide charitable aims. Each year the majority of its annual expenditure is committed in the field of Education, by way of internal scholarships and bursaries at schools and colleges with which the Grocers' Company has historic links. The balance is spread across several areas of interest, namely the relief of poverty (including youth), disability, medicine, the arts, heritage, the Church, and the elderly, with emphasis usually given to the first two categories.

The site on which the **fifth Grocers' Hall** now stands was acquired in 1427, and in the following year, when the original Hall was completed, the first Charter was granted.

In the Wars of the Roses, the City took the Yorkist side, and two Grocers, John Young and John Crosby, were knighted by Edward IV for services in the field.

The Company can claim a share in the work of the Reformation: Richard Grafton, a member, printed the Great Bible - the first English translation placed in Churches by the King's Order - and the two Prayer Books of Edward VI. The Company also played a part in the Restoration of Charles II by entertaining General Monck at a banquet at Grocers' Hall, and conferring upon him the Freedom of the City and the Company. Moreover, the Lord Mayor, Sir Thomas Alleyn, who welcomed the King on his return, was a member of the Company.

The **Great Fire** in 1666 nearly ruined the Company, **destroying** not only its **Hall**, but its property in the City. The generosity of some of its members, notably Sir John Moore and Sir John Cutler, permitted the renovation of the Hall. The Hall was then let as a **residence** for the **Lord Mayor**.

King Charles II honoured the Company by being enrolled as a member, and in 1689 William III conferred a more signal distinction upon it by accepting the office of Sovereign Master.

The **second Hall** was leased in 1694 to the newly-formed Bank of England, of which Sir John Houblon, a Grocer, was the first Governor. The bank remained as tenants for forty years, by which time the Company had recovered its prosperity. For nearly a century, as confidence returned and its affairs improved, the history of the Company was generally uneventful. However, in supporting William Pitt in 1784 and by entertaining him at the Hall when the Freedom of the City and the Company were conferred upon him, the Company can claim to have contributed to Pitt's success during the crisis in his career.

The second Hall was replaced by a **third hall**, completed in 1802, which in turn was superseded in 1887 when the Court of Assistants decided it would be economically advantageous for the site to be cleared and a new Hall to be built in its place. This was completed in 1893 and was one of the **few Livery Halls** to **survive the Second World War**, although it suffered minor damages to the North Wing, later restored in 1957.

The **fourth Hall** was almost completely **destroyed by fire** during the night of the 22nd of September, 1965. The fire was described as the largest in the City since the Blitz. Forensic experts from Scotland Yard traced the source to a cupboard under the grand staircase where it is possible that a light bulb was inadvertently left on just below an oak lintel which smouldered and eventually burst into flames. The Hall contained a great deal of panelling and the fire spread rapidly destroying most of the building and many irreplaceable items. As with the Great Fire of London, the muniments miraculously escaped and are now housed in the Guildhall on indefinite loan. They include the first Minute Book of the Company, commenced on the 9th May 1345. The greatest loss was the Company's Charters, which were on display on the first floor landing.

Information courtesy of www.grocershall.co.uk
Edward Andrews

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