



The Guild of Scholars

of the City of London

www.gofs.co.uk

Newsletter Number 30 (February 2012)

The Master's View

My thanks to our Social Secretary, Angela Banwell, for organizing a thoroughly **interesting** and **entertaining** visit to the **Houses of Parliament** last October. Angela's report of the visit appears in this Newsletter. There is also a photograph of our group of Guild members and friends with **Andrew Rosindell MP**, who kindly conducted our visit. Andrew will, at his own request, be receiving a copy of this Newsletter, so that gives me an opportunity to give a big **thank you** to him on behalf of all of us there for making us so **welcome** and the visit so **fascinating**.

I had great pleasure in **representing the Guild**, together with Ivor Bennett, at both **Freemen's** and **CLSG prize days**. I had the opportunity to meet both **prize winners** at CLSG. They are now in their final year at school, and they are, clearly, major assets of the school.

Christopher Sales – Master master@gofs.co.uk

Annual Subscription

Following consultation, the Court has decided to introduce an annual subscription from members of **only £10** per annum. **£5** of this amount will be deemed to be a **donation** to the **Guild's Charitable Trust**. This innovation will ensure both that the running costs of the Guild are met and that the **Charitable Trust** receives a **regular income** to enable it to meet its commitments, e.g. providing sail training, Prize day prizes, etc.

In the current economic climate we have tried to keep the subscription to a **nominal** amount, however the Court feel that this amount will go a long way to furthering **the Guild's aims and ambitions**. The annual subscription will be payable on **1st April each year** commencing on **1st April 2012**.

Those of you who have not yet completed **Gift Aid Declarations** may wish to do so. This is to enable the **donation** to the **Charitable Trust** to be treated as a payment under Gift Aid, allowing the Trust to recover from Revenue and Customs 25p for every £1 received.

A **Bankers Order form** and **Gift Aid Declaration** are included within this newsletter and should be completed and sent to the address shown. For our **overseas members** who may not have a sterling bank account, please contact subs@gofs.co.uk for alternative methods of payment. We appreciate that some of our members **regularly contribute** sums to the Guild and hope that this will **not discourage** you from doing this in the future.

Pub Socials

The Guild continues to hold very informal get togethers' in pubs in (or on the edge of) the City. Drop in for a drink or a meal for as little or as long is convenient. All are welcome whether members, friends of the Guild or just interested in knowing more about us. The next socials will be held on **Tuesday 8th May and Thursday 5th July**. 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**

Future Events

27th March - Annual Assembly and Dinner.

23rd April - City Walk and Lunch at Ironmongers Hall.

8th May – Pub Social.

5th July – Pub Social.

School Prize Winners 2011

The recipients of the Guild sponsored prizes were:

City of London Freemen's School

For Citizenship in the Sixth Form;
James Frewin
Laura Grayling

For Studies in Classical Civilisation;
Peter Hatcher
Rebecca Johns

The Peter Mayhew Memorial Prize was not awarded.

The City of London School for Girls

For Service (each as Deputy Head Girls);
Hannah Harley
Mollie Wintle

The City of London School

The offered prizes were not awarded.

Our **congratulations** go to all the above prize winners.

Editor's note – Thank you 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.

Guild visit to the Houses of Parliament
Wednesday 12th October 2011.

There's an old adage 'It's not what you know, but who you know'. That was certainly true about arranging our trip. I had tried, unsuccessfully to fix a **'tailor made' tour** until I spoke to two special friends, **Fr Roderick Hingley** and **Mary Moore**. **Andrew Rosindell MP**, who represents Romford, worships at St Alban's Church, Romford, where Fr Hingley is Vicar. Fr Hingley spoke to him – and Mr Rosindell agreed to be **our guide**; suggesting the Guild should make a **donation** to St Alban's Restoration Fund. (The Church is **beautiful** and well worth a visit if you find yourself in Romford). Mary accompanied us as an invited guest.

I had arranged with the very helpful landlord, Peter, at the **Red Lion** in Parliament Street that we should meet there before the tour. He had connections with the City and very kindly allowed us to use the Cellar Bar, free of charge; he also kept his chef on to provide **very tasty bar meals**. Seeing how busy the upstairs was we were delighted we had room to sit, chat and eat in comfort.

We had been told security at Parliament was stringent, and indeed it was! Very like going through an airport. After this check in, we found ourselves in **Westminster Hall**, where we were greeted by Mr Rosindell and his aid Mr Coleman. Westminster Hall was completed in 1099. It was designed to host great state occasions and to impress. It certainly still does that. It is one of the **largest medieval spaces** in existence. Today it is used for **ceremonial events**, President Obama addressed both Houses when he visited, and it was here HM The Queen Mother lay in State.

Mr Rosindell took us in to the breathtaking **Augustus Pugin Crypt**. It was decorated in rich reds greens and gold. Every surface was decorated and glinted in the light.

Mr Rosindell was so informative, he told us about the building, how it functioned etc and as we walked along was full of **revealing stories and anecdotes**.

We walked through the **Central Lobby**, a familiar place as it is where political correspondents stand to report on Parliament on television.

Charles Barry won the competition to **redesign** the Houses of Parliament in **1834**; it is built in the neo-gothic style. This makes you feel as if you are walking through some **great cathedral** which is particularly apparent in **St Stephen's Hall** with its massive stained glass windows. The hall is flanked on both sides by statues of statesmen.

We went in to the **Commons** with its green leather bench seats; as we faced the **Speakers chair** the Government would sit on the left and the opposition on the right. We saw close up, the **Dispatch Boxes** and the **Mace**. No one was allowed to sit down, one of those conventions – only MPs could squat on the green leather!

We were very fortunate to be taken up into the **gallery** of the **Lords** where we listened to part of a debate. As we faced the **Woolsack** we could see bishops, government members, the opposition and of course the crossbenchers. It was not full and the Lords lounged on the deep red benches, with dark blue carpet.

From there we moved on to the **Terrace**. It was a warm night for October; the Thames was smooth and hardly appeared to be moving. It was a magical moment, standing, looking across the river in the night sky, and also seeing **The Palace of Westminster** and **Big Ben** fully illuminated. It was a view few would see from this angle and we felt **extremely privileged**.

We walked through **Speakers Court** – where we saw the grand house where Mr Speaker lives. We conjectured which window his wife would have stood at when she posed for those notorious photographs!



We returned to the **Great Hall** where our photographs were taken to mark such a **special occasion** and where Mr Rosindell presented each one of us with splendid certificates to enable us to remember our visit. – Angela Banwell

Sail Training

The Guild continues to **support pupils** at the three City Schools with Sail Training **bursaries**.

From the **City of London School**, 2 bursaries were taken up. **Harry Bradford** who achieved a **Scott Award & RYA Competent Crew Certificate** and **Jack Goldring**.

From the **City of London Freeman's School**, 4 bursaries were taken up. **Amelia Storr** who achieved **RYA Competent Crew Certificate**, **Rebecca Fenwick** and **Tessa Tse**. **Margaret Young** did not Sail.

From the **City of London School for Girls**, 3 bursaries were taken up. **Rosie Davies** 1st voyage as **Watch Leader** and **Tall Ships Race** participant. **Adeola Olaoke** who did not sail due to problems obtaining a French Visa and **Victoria Hills-Fletcher** who did not sail as she had hoped to go with Adeola.

In all 12 Bursaries were offered 7 were awarded and 6 taken up,

So far this year, 12 Bursaries have been offered. The 4 offered at CLFS have been awarded and voyages booked. It is half term and news of awards at CLS and CLSG is awaited. Good interest was shown at both Schools and in prospect is that more awardees will sail this year than in any previous year.

At the Sail Training **Presentation** Evening in November 2011 Members of the Court listened to the accounts of our awardees **experiences** while spending their "**Week at Sea**" with **The Rona Trust**.

All the Presentations, several of them in Microsoft PowerPoint, were well received. Each Presenter **thanked The Guild** for the sponsorship. While most had enjoyed themselves, **all deemed** they had **benefited** from the experience..

The Guild's **objectives** in this scheme are, inter alia, to **widen the** experience of these young people in the hope it will broaden their 'comfort zones', and enable them to learn how to work together with **other young people** from less privileged backgrounds. Another way of putting it would be to add another positive quality to the character of those who have enjoyed a **top rate academic education**. This in the hope they will walk taller and command a little more respect from their peers. - Ivor Bennett.

Annual Assembly and Dinner – 27th March 2012.

(Dress code –lounge suits)

The **Annual Assembly** will be held at the **City of London School for Girls**, St. Giles' Terrace, Barbican, EC2Y 8BB at 6.30 pm. All **members** and their **guests** are **welcome**.

This is to be followed by buffet style dinner. The cost of this event is **£30.00 per person** with a concession price of **£25.00** for **students** under 25 years of age.

Application form for tickets attached to this newsletter.

City Walk & lunch at Ironmongers Hall – 23rd April

Meet at **The Monument** to leave at **10.30am**.

We walk (with **qualified City Guide**) through the **City** ending up at **Ironmongers Hall** for **lunch** at **12.30pm**.

We shall have a **guided tour** of the Hall (this may be before or after lunch). Lunch will consist of a **pre lunch drink** (soft or otherwise, as you prefer), a **two course meal** with a glass of **wine** and tea or coffee afterwards.

Dress code for the gentlemen is **jacket and tie, no trainers**. (If you wish to walk in trainers please change on arrival at the Hall).
Cost **£35** per person.

Application form for tickets attached to this newsletter.

If you **only wish to attend the lunch and tour at Ironmongers Hall**, this can be booked on the same form.

Is our Guild unique?

In our continuing quest we look at The Worshipful Company of **Fishmongers** who rank **fourth** in the Livery Companies of the City of London **order of precedence**.

The Fishmongers of London were recognised as an organised community long before **Edward I** granted their **first charter** in about **1272**. This, and other charters granted in the reigns of Edward II and III, maintained that **no fish could be sold** in London except by the '**Mystery of Fishmongers**'. The Fishmongers enjoyed a period of great expansion in the 14th Century. With a **complete monopoly on the sale of fish** – one of the chief necessities of life in the Middle Ages – the Company's wealth and influence had grown enormously. As well as taking a prominent part in the affairs of the city, the Company had **its own Court of Law** (Leyhalmode), where all **disputes relating to fish** were settled.

The 15th Century saw the Company gradually losing its monopoly, and with it the immediate involvement with the buying and selling of fish lessened. The connection was maintained, however, and **fish** and **fisheries** remain a **central part** of the Company's **present day role**. Today they are one of the few ancient Livery companies still intimately linked to their historic trade.

Fishmongers' Hall was destroyed by the Great Fire, rebuilt twice thereafter and then devastated by bombs during World War II but restored to its former glory.

They are the **organisers** of the UK's, and probably the world's, **sporting event** with the **longest continuous history** – the **Doggett's Coat and Badge Wager**, an annual sculling race from London Bridge to Chelsea for young members of the Company of Watermen and Lightermen, first run in **1715**.

The Company's constitution is set out in the historic Charters and is similar to other Livery Companies. **Membership, or Freedom, of the Company** can be obtained by "**Patrimony**", for sons or daughters born to existing Freeman (male or female) or by "**Redemption**" when the Court agrees to admit an applicant for a fee. **Freedom by Redemption** is normally **limited** to persons with a **close recent family connection** to the Company but whose parent was not a Freeman at the time of their birth or to long-serving members of the Company's staff. In addition each year the **Company's Fish & Fisheries Committee** nominates a candidate with **strong ties** to the UK fish sector for appointment as a Freeman (and election to the Livery).
Information courtesy of www.fishhall.org.uk.

Annual Assembly and Dinner 27th March 2012.

Please reserve me _____ place(s) @ £30.00 and _____ place(s) @ £25.00

Name (please print):

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

Special Dietary requirements: _____

City Walk, lunch and tour at Ironmongers Hall 23rd April 2012.

Please reserve me _____ place(s) @ £35.00

Name (please print):

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

Lunch and tour at Ironmongers Hall 23rd April 2012.

(only complete this part of the form if you are not planning on attending the walk)

Please reserve me _____ place(s) @ £35.00

Name (please print):

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

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

Contact details for confirmation: email _____

or tel _____

Please return to:

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

Please complete Your details (name, address, bank details, account number, sort code), sign, date and return to

Mr C Sales, 4 Pomeroy Close, Amersham, Bucks HP7 9BW

Standing Order Mandate

Your Details

From: Name _____

Address _____

_____ Post Code _____

To: Bank _____

Address _____

_____ Post Code _____

Account No: _____

Sort Code: _____

Annually commencing on **1st April 2012** and continuing until cancelled by me in writing

Please credit

Account Name: Guild of Scholars

Bank: HSBC Bank plc
1323 High Road
Whetstone, London
N20 9HT

Sort code: 40-07-37

Account: 61118560

Amount £ Ten (the amount in words) £ 10.00 (the amount in figures)

Signed _____ Dated: _____



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GIFT AID DECLARATION

To: **THE GUILD OF SCHOLARS CHARITABLE TRUST (The Trust)**
Registered Charity no 1090791

I declare that all donations I make to the Trust now and in the future are to be Gift Aid Donations.

I authorise the Trust to reclaim tax on these.

I confirm that I pay Income Tax equal to the tax deducted from these donations and I will inform the Trust if this situation changes.

FULL NAME:
(block letters)

ADDRESS:
(block letters)

.....

.....

..... Post Code

Signed Date

Please return to : Mr C Sales, 4 Pomeroy Close, Amersham, Bucks HP7 9BW