



The Guild of Scholars

of the City of London

www.gofs.co.uk

Newsletter Number 31 (October 2012)

The Master's View

Since our last Newsletter there have been some changes on the Court. **James Arnold** has had to resign as Renter Warden owing to pressure of work. I should like to express my thanks to him for his endeavours. I am delighted to say that **Adam Lovick** has been appointed by the Court to succeed James as **Renter Warden**. Adam has been associated with the Guild for some time and has recently acted as **Master** to our **Apprentice Charlotte Rule**. My congratulations to Adam on his appointment.

Adam Kramer has been elected as an additional **Court Assistant**. I met Adam for the first time at this year's Annual Assembly and already he is coming up with some good ideas for the advancement of the Guild. He also organised the **City walk** on Saturday 6th October, a report on which will appear in the next Newsletter.

Ivor Bennett and I together with our wives attended the **CLFS prize day** in July. Ivor and I had the pleasure of meeting all three of the **Guild's prize winners**. The whole event was impressive and memorable, but the most amusing part of the day was when the Junior School was lined up to applaud the guests from the main building to the Sports Hall where the prizes were presented and I went down the line doing "high fives"!

Christopher Sales – Master master@gofs.co.uk

Guild visit to Pewterer's Hall on Wednesday 13th June 2012.

This visit included both a **Tour of the Hall** and a visit to the concurrent **Pewter Live Exhibition**.

At the Exhibition **recent work** of those aspiring to become **Craftsmen** in **Pewter** as well as that of those already established in the art, are on Display. For the most part the creating Craftsmen are in attendance and ready to discuss **details of their work**. **Prizes** are awarded to the exhibitors of **pieces of merit**. Some pieces on exhibit are up for purchase while other exhibitors will take orders for copies

On arrival we were greeted by **The Clerk, Mr Watson** and a Court Member and offered drinks. This ahead of touring the Exhibition in which we **learned** about the various processes used **to craft Pewter**, from those who were exhibiting.

The **enthusiasm** of the young exhibitors for working in this material was evident and the **skill demonstrated**, in the results achieved by the more experienced, was remarkable. **Bowls** in **spun Pewter** particularly took my eye; those with some money to spare could, I believe, **purchase the same in gold!** Examples of the latter are showcased in **Goldsmith's Hall**.

Pewter Live is an **annual event**. If you have not been to a previous one, it is worth going!

It was a most enjoyable event. Not only is the **Pewter** and **hospitality** to be enjoyed but the **attractions of the Hall** are also to be **admired**.

Ivor Bennett

Future Events

15th November – Sail training presentation and Dinner.

16th January 2013 – Pub Social.

Event -Pub Socials

The Guild has continued to hold very informal get togethers' in pubs in (or on the edge of) the City. It has been great to see some new faces as well as catch up with old friends...

The next social will be held on **Wednesday 16th January 2013**.

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. 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**

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.

The Guild walk around the City and lunch at Ironmongers Hall on Monday 23rd April 2012.

Monday 23rd April 2012 wasn't a glorious spring day... in fact it was rather damp and cool; but that did not perturb the spirits of **Guild members** and **friends** who were eager to **find out more** about the **City**.

We met our guide, Peter Cooper, a City Liveryman and qualified City Guide at 10.30am at the **Monument**.

Peter was a mine of information. He likes to lead walks on weekdays so everyone can feel the buzz and vibrancy of the City. After a close look at the Monument – something none of us had done before we moved on **to Leadenhall Market**. I have always had a soft spot for the Market; my father worked all his life in the City and ate lunch in the Market most days. When I went to CLSG one of my best friend's Dad had a meat, game and poultry shop there. Guess what her surname was? Butcher! At eleven we thought this was hilarious. Did you know that the Market was the **centre of Roman London**? And it dates back to **14th century** And for **Harry Potter fans** – **'The Leaky Cauldron'** and **'Diagon Alley'** are actually in **Leadenhall Market!**

It was in the Market we had our first encounter with the **Morris Dancers**...as it was S. George's Day Morris Dancers were marking the event by dancing their way around the City. Although the music was quite infectious we resisted the urge to join them.



We made our way to **Lloyds of London** and on to **Cornhill** where, just by the **Jamaica Inn** we bumped into the Morris Men again. We learnt about **the Royal Exchange, the Bank of England** and **the Mansion House**; Peter was extremely informative and knew lots of quirky facts. We made our way from **St. Olaves Church** to the **Guildhall** up Wood Street (where in the past the Guild had visited the Police Station) past the **Pewterer's Hall** (another place visited by the Guild) and by **Goldsmith's Hall**. One of the most moving places we stopped at was **'Postman's Park'**. It's a little green space tucked in between King Edward Street, Little Britain and Angel Street. On a wall covered by a shelter are **plaques** commemorating ordinary people who **lost their lives** trying to save others. It was the idea of the painter **G F Watts** (1817-1904). He was a social radical who disliked the upper classes. This memorial celebrates people who would have been forgotten. One read "David Selves aged 12 of Woolwich supported his drowning playfellow and sank with him clasped in his arms". Postman's Park is a **very moving, and unique place**.

By now we were feeling quite peckish. We made our way to **Ironmonger's Hall** where we were joined by other Guild members and their guests. We were greeted with a glass of most welcomed 'fizz' in the Court Room. We made our way to the Luncheon Room; we had a delicious tomato soup followed by a very tasty chicken dish, a glass of wine finishing with coffee.

After lunch we had a **guided tour** of the **Hall**. It was built in the 1920's but the rich wooden panelling of the **Banqueting Hall** resembled a Tudor Hall – it reminded me of a country house. Ironmongers' Company is ranked 10th in precedence among the Great Twelve Companies.



Peter is a superb guide – we send our **thanks** to him for a great day out, not only did we discover so much about the City, but enjoyed each others company too.

Angela Banwell

The following events will be reported on in the next newsletter

Guided walking tour covering history of Freemasonry and it's links to the City on Saturday 6th October 2012

Prize winners of Guild sponsored prizes at the city schools

Sail training awards from our sponsored pupils.

Sail Training 2012

This year we offered **12 Sail Training Bursaries** to the value of £120 with The **Rona Sailing** Project based at Southampton. Of these **8** were taken up. **Four at CLFS** and **two** at each of **CLS** and **CLSG**.

Awardees are required to find the berth booking fee of £60 as an earnest of good faith and once this is paid the Guild provides the balance of the £180 each voyager is required to find. The Guild gets a **report** back from The Rona Trust advising us on how each of our **awardees has fared**.

As a part of their deal the awardees are each expected to make a **presentation** regarding their **experiences** here-to-fore to **Members of The Court** after which we entertain them to Supper when we learn more about them and how they may have benefited from the support we have given them.

As a matter of interest the **approximate cost** to **The RONA Sailing Project** of providing each week long berth is **£400**.

Event - Sail Training Presentations and Dinner - Thursday 15th November 2012

As per the report above, we do ask **our Sail Trainees** to give a report on their **experiences** and we provide them with **Dinner**. We would like to open this experience to **Guild members** who may be interested to join us to witness the **Presentations** and meet our Awardees; as well as partake of a **good Supper** with us afterwards. The cost of the evening is **£25.00** per person (cheques made payable to the "Guild of Scholars") and payable on the evening. The Presentations this year are to be on **15th November** and as in previous years, will take place in the **Lecture Theatre** at **CLSG** at 1830hrs.

Those interested should apply to **Chaslav Frim** (email sail@gofs.co.uk.)

If you do not have access to email and would like to attend, please telephone me (Edward Andrews) on 020 8668 8575 with name, number of tickets and a contact telephone number. All applications will be confirmed.

Represent the Guild at your old school

The Court is exploring the possibility of having a **representative** from the Guild for **each school** attending **school events** and **promoting the Guild** to current pupils. If you feel you have some time to give, would like to represent the Guild and attend some fun events at your old school, please contact us with your details (schoolrep@gofs.co.uk or 020 8668 8575).

Is our Guild unique?

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

The Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths, more commonly known as the **Goldsmiths' Company**, is one of the Twelve Great Livery Companies of the City of London and received its **first royal charter** in **1327**.

Founded to **regulate** the **craft** or **trade** of the **goldsmith**, the Goldsmiths' Company has been responsible since 1300 for testing the **quality** of **gold**, **silver** and, from 1975, **platinum articles**. In 2010 Palladium was brought into this regime. The word **hallmark** originates from the **fifteenth century** when London craftsmen were first required to bring their artefacts to **Goldsmiths' Hall** for **assaying** and **marking**. This requirement continues **unchanged today** and the Company still carries out its statutory function through the operations of The Goldsmiths' Company Assay Office.

Other responsibilities of **Assay Office** London include the annual examination of **coins** manufactured by the **Royal Mint**, known as the **Trial of the Pyx** and, with the assistance of the Antique Plate Committee, the checking of items of antique silver plate suspected of having contravened the Hallmarking Act.

Cont...

The Trial of the Pyx

The history of the Trial of the Pyx dates back to the **twelfth century**, making it one of **the longest established judicial procedures** in the country. The purpose of the annual trial is to **check** that UK coins produced at **the Royal Mint** are within the **statutory limits** for **metallic composition, weight and size**. The name **Pyx** refers to the **chests** in which the coins are **transported**, and derives from the **Pyx chamber in Westminster Abbey** where historically the chests were kept, along with other important items of state and church.

By the thirteenth century the Trial of the Pyx had begun to take the form that we know today. Early trials were held first in **Westminster Hall** and later in the **Exchequer at Westminster**. But in 1870, as laid down in the **Coinage Act** of that year, **Goldsmiths' Hall** became the established venue for the Trial. This made good sense with the Goldsmiths' Company Assay Office collocated in the Hall, as it is today. It is the Assay Office, whose familiar hallmark is synonymous with quality, which has the task of testing the metallic composition of the coins.

The **benchmark** against which coins are tested is called a **Trial Plate**. These **metal plates** of **gold, silver, platinum** and **cupro-nickel**, which used to be under the **personal charge** of the **monarch** in the Exchequer, are now the responsibility of the **National Measurement Office**, along with the weights against which the coins are measured.

In **February** each year, officials from the **Royal Mint** bring chests (pyx) to Goldsmiths' Hall, containing coins put aside in the course of manufacture during the previous year. These coins, normally **more than 50,000 in total**, represent **one coin** from **every batch** of **each denomination** minted.

The **trial jury**, comprising members of the Goldsmiths' Company, is **summoned** to the Hall by the **senior judge** in the **Courts of Justice**, known as the **Queen's Remembrancer**, and is a **formal court of law**. During the opening proceedings the coins are counted and weighed, and a selection put aside for testing by the Assay Office.

The **Delivery of the Verdict**, presided over once more by the Queen's Remembrancer, takes place some **two months later**, once the Assay Office has verified the coins. It is **attended** by the **Chancellor of the Exchequer** (who is the **Master of the Mint**) or his representative.

*(editor's note: This year the Opening Ceremony took place on Tuesday 7 February, **Free tickets** were available to allow **members of the public** to observe the proceedings.)*

Membership

The membership is made up of approximately **1550 freemen** and **285 liverymen** (whether male or female). **More than half** the membership of the Company comprises men and women **engaged in the trade**, which includes silversmiths and jewellers, and those in allied areas including design, retail and auction. The remainder of the membership incorporates a broad range of backgrounds and experience, with industry, commerce, education and the arts well represented.

Information courtesy of www.thegoldsmiths.co.uk

Editor's note – Sponsorship of this newsletter helps keep the running costs of the Guild down. If anyone would like more information about sponsoring please contact me (Edward Andrews – editor@gofs.co.uk)



This newsletter is sponsored by: [WSI Vital Web Solutions](http://www.wsvitalwebsolutions.com)

We Simplify the Internet – From Internet Marketing to Web Design – If it can be done on the web, we can do it.

info@wsvitalwebsolutions.com 020 8405 8033