



The Guild of Scholars

of the City of London

www.gofs.co.uk

Newsletter Number 32 (May 2013)

The Master's View

Dear Fellow Guild Members

I am **honoured** to have been elected **Master** of the Guild of Scholars and have **promised** to work hard to promote the **Aims and Objectives of the Guild** during my year of Office.

I pay **tribute** to Past Master **Chris Sales** for his efforts during his term. His achievements have included helping to improve the overdue revision of the **Ordinances** to the satisfaction of the Court (initially revised by **John Hazel**) and the **introduction of Annual Subscriptions**.

Previously the bulk of the **Guild's expenditure** has been funded by a subset of Members who have **donated**. In future we will know who are **members** of their volition because they **subscribe**. Until now we supposed many to have been on board because their names appeared on a list of former pupils who had been admitted to the Freedom. The subscription has been deliberately set at a **nominal** amount, and we are still **grateful** for all **donations received** on top of this subscription.

My **aims** during my term are to **increase** the number of **subscribing Members** to the point where the Subscription Income covers our current expenditure and hopefully to increase **'the putting back into the pot'** of a little more **support** for the **schools**. We aim to do this in recognition of the privilege we enjoyed while we were being educated at the city schools, and the significant benefits it enabled us to enjoy in our subsequent lives.

We need to continue to **nurture** the acorn that **Peter Mayhew** the **'Father of the Guild'** persuaded us to plant if in time, the Guild is to grow into the Oak Tree he envisaged.

My Very Best Wishes to you all.

Ivor Bennett – Master master@gofs.co.uk

City and Freemasonry walk – 6th October 2012.

On Saturday 6th of October 2012 members of the guild were treated to a walking tour which delved into the **history of Freemasonry** and its **links** to the **City**.

Like many other members of the guild I am not a freemason and so this tour gave me an **insight** into what **impact** the **masons**, like many other organisations that are rich in history, have had on the City over the years.

Accompanied by fine weather, we set off from the **Royal Exchange** in Bank. We stopped at several sites including the location of the **original hall** which belonged to the **Worshipful Company of Masons**, the **Old Bailey**, **Cleopatra's Needle**, **Temple Church** and **Freemasons' Hall** in Covent Garden.

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Future Events

20th June 2013 – Pub Social.

We are also trying to arrange a back stage tour of the **Royal Opera House** in Covent Garden (possibly in September) and a private tour of **St. Paul's Cathedral** (possibly in October/November). More information to follow.

Results of the Election Court for 2012/2013

Master – Ivor Bennett
Upper Warden – John Hazel
Lower Warden – Edward Andrews
Renter Warden – Adam Lovick
Apprenticeship Warden – Adam Kramer
Immediate Past Master – Christopher Sales

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 **Thursday 20th June 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.

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At each location our guide went into great detail, listing from memory various names and dates (which I have to admit often went over my head). This tour is very much **suited** to those keen on **Masonic history** and who have some prior knowledge of the subject area.

The walk was followed by a **pub lunch** near Freemasons' Hall in Covent Garden where we had a chance to chat in an informal setting any ask questions about what we had seen. A very pleasant day indeed.

Any guild members who missed the tour but would have liked to attend please get in contact with me and I will pass on the organisers details so enquiries can be made about future walks.

Adam Kramer (adamk@gofs.co.uk)

Sail Training Presentations and Dinner - Thursday 15th November 2012

Members of the Guild attended this event held at the **City of London Girl's School** on the 15th November. All **eight** of our **sponsored trainees** turned up (accompanied by 2 teachers) to give us an insight into their experiences from the voyage. The presentations were informative (and in some cases amusing) and all felt they had **benefited greatly** from the experience. This was then followed by an **excellent dinner** at the school.

Of the eight awardees of our Sail Training Bursaries:-

Millie Tsang, Phoebe Chetwynd, Tiffany Liu, Ellie Irwin, Freya Duffey, George Florentine, Hamish Rae & Jack Emlyn Jones

their voyage Skippers rated **six** of them worthy of **The Rona Sailing Project's Amory Awards**, and **George Florentine** was further recognised as a potential **Watch Leader** on subsequent voyages.

News of our Youth

Many congratulations to **Benedict Hazel** who has completed his **Apprenticeship** with the Guild and was "**turned out**" on the 10th January 2013 to receive the Freedom of the City by rite of **servitude**.



Benedict Hazel with the Clerk and Beadle of the Chamberlain's Court

Those attending the ceremony included Jeffrey Easingwood (his Master), Mr and Mrs John Hazel, Chris Sales and Edward Andrews

Annual Assembly and Dinner – Tuesday 12th March 2013

The Annual Assembly and Dinner was held on the 12th March at the **City of London Girl's school**.

After a welcome and report from the **outgoing Master Chris Sales**, we then had the **swearing** of the **oath** from the **new officers of the Court** (Master – Ivor Bennett, Upper Warden – John Hazel, Lower Warden – Edward Andrews and Apprenticeship Warden – Adam Kramer.) The new **Renter Warden** (Adam Lovick) was unable to attend and so will be required to swear the oath at the next Court meeting.

The new Master then spoke about his **thoughts** and **ideals** for the **future growth** of the **Guild**. After a brief talk from Adam Kramer on the **City and Freemasonry walk** (see elsewhere in this newsletter), we then retired for a buffet dinner. **Many thanks** to **Fred** and his team for an **excellent meal** and to **CLSG** for use of their facilities.

Thoughts from the immediate Past Master

I had great pleasure in attending the **turning out ceremony** as a **Freeman of the City** of **Benedict Hazel**. The event took place on January 10th in the Chamberlain's Court and was presided over by **Murray Craig, Clerk of the Court**. Also present were proud parents John and Lesley Hazel (John is of course the Guild's Lower Warden), Edward Andrews, our Apprenticeship Warden and Benedict's Master Jeff Easingwood. Jeff is of course a **master at CLS** and was in fact my son Philip's first form master at the School.

After the ceremony we adjourned to the **Green Man** where we shared a bottle of **champagne** and toasted the **youngest Freeman of the City**, ie the newest Freeman.

Back in November I had equal pleasure in presiding at the Guild's annual evening at **CLSG** at which young people who have been awarded **sail training bursaries** by the Guild come along and give short presentations about their **experiences** on their voyages. All eight of those receiving bursaries were able to attend and they all gave power point presentations and **very entertaining** they were too! The evening finished with an **excellent meal** provided by the CLSG chef. At the next "sail training" evening we would like to invite Guild members (although you will have to pay for your dinner) so that you can meet the brave youngsters involved and enjoy a thoroughly entertaining evening.

Both these events **illustrate the work** that the Guild is able to do to **benefit** the boys and girls at the City Schools. I feel **privileged** to have been a part of it.

Chris Sales

Editor's note – just to avoid any confusion, the Court positions mentioned in this report were correct at the time of the ceremony.

Visit to Westminster Cathedral – Monday 22nd April 2013

Monday 22nd April saw members and friends of the Guild meet in the **Windsor Castle** in Francis Street SW1. We walked the short distance to **Westminster Cathedral**: a building many had passed by, but only a few of us had entered.

Our Guide, **Patrick Rogers** is the Cathedral's **Historian**. His **enthusiasm** was **infectious** and his **knowledge superb**. He explained the Cathedral is the **mother church** of the **Catholic community** in England and Wales and the metropolitan church and cathedral of the Archbishop of Westminster.

Patrick Rogers told us the land that the Cathedral was built on had been acquired in **1884**. It had previously been occupied by **Tothill Fields Bridewell prison**.

Construction started in 1895. The style is heavily influenced by Byzantine architecture.

John Betjeman called it "a **masterpiece** in striped brick and stone in an intricate pattern of bonding, the domes being all brick in order to prove that good craftsmanship has no need of steel or concrete".

The nave is very wide with many different **coloured marble columns**. Some of the marble was obtained from quarries used by the ancient Romans, but most came from Greece.

Unfortunately as we moved from our seats in the nave, and were about to walk round the Cathedral to look at the various chapels and wonderful mosaics – the **organ started up**. Sadly not 'Carillon de Westminster' (the final movement from suite no 3 (op.54) of 'Pieces de Fantaisie', was composed for it and dedicated to the builder)... but just a very loud noise. The organ was **being tuned!** This continued on and off for the rest of our visit

We learnt a great deal about **mosaics**, how they were designed and installed. The **indirect method** – where much of the mosaic was prepared face down on canvas, and the **direct method** where each glass tesserae is inserted individually directly into the putty.

My favourites were those installed between 1912 and 1916 and were heavily influenced by the **Arts and Craft Movement**. We saw this in the Lady Chapel and the chapel dedicated to St. Andrew.



"We were very lucky as part of the tour to be able to go behind the "roped off" areas. This is the view from behind the altar."

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Although I had visited the Cathedral before I had not had time to look at the **Stations of the Cross** in such detail. They are carved low relief in limestone. They were made by Eric Gill after he had become a Catholic.

Three of us ventured up the **Viewing Gallery** (there was a lift). It is 64 metres (210 feet) above street level. It was great fun to spot some of the sights in our ever changing city.

It was a fascinating visit, to a building that many of us might never have stepped inside to see...only a little **disappointing** that it was on that afternoon the **organ had to be tuned**.

Angela Banwell

Editor's note: This was a fascinating tour. Not only (in the scheme of the City) was the Church young, but the building work is carrying on to complete to the original design, however they still have some artefacts in the church which predates it



Our Lady of Westminster is a Medieval statue of the Madonna and child probably carved around 1450 AD

Opportunity to get involved in a new Guild project:

During our last court meeting we formed the "membership, marketing and events" committee. Our **vision** is that the committee will facilitate the recruitment of **new members** of all ages to the guild by **arranging events, photography/writing competitions etc.** to spread the message of what the **Guild is about** to the **students** and their parents (and alumni, even if they left many years ago) and invite those that are interested in maintaining strong links to the city and giving something back to join us.

The committee will be made up of a **couple of members of court, teachers** from the city schools, and a number of **alumni of the schools** of various ages who represent our potential membership and have direct access to their peer groups.

I would like to invite any of you who may be interested in **joining this committee** and helping take it forward to **contact me directly** (adamk@gofs.co.uk) to discuss. The time commitment will be reasonable with around three short meetings a year and then the attendance or planning of events as your schedule allows.

We are due to get started within the next couple of weeks, so if you are interested I would ask that you make **contact by Friday 14th of June**. Many thanks.

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)

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