



La Flèche

The Newsletter of the Worshipful Company of Fletchers

Welcome to the Fletchers' new Master and Wardens

Upper Warden
Captain Tony Poulter
OBE RN



Renter Warden
Alderman Robert Hall



The Master—Ian MacLellan

The Court of Assistants

Deputy Master—Peter Scott

Past Masters

J R Fenner OBE
J L Dumbrell
F A Neal CMG
Alderman D H Wootton
D W Clark

Assistants

J R Owen-Ward Deputy
Captain D C Goodall RN
Mrs R Agutter
A C McMillan

Other Past Masters retain their positions as Honorary Assistants

The New Master

As a youthful forty-seven year old, Ian MacLellan may well be the youngest New Master of our Ancient Company in modern times (though Past-Master Tony Taylor may wish to comment on that matter!).

Ian established for himself an impressive career in the financial City, before moving into a totally new role that was both creative and also medical.

An alumnus of Harrow School, Ian was awarded an Honours Degree in Modern History, Economic History and Politics at Royal Holloway College, University of London, in 1981. He then progressed to become Senior Vice-President of Guy Carpenter Ltd., the re-insurance arm of Marsh MacLennan Companies Inc. (formerly C. T. Bowring Insurance), the largest insurance brokerage firm in the world. Ian became Non-marine Executive for Japan, Taiwan and India, specializing in Catastrophe Re-insurance (earthquakes, typhoons and floods), a role especially topical at this time, in view of recent tragic events both in this country and abroad. Following on from this role, Ian was engaged on a temporary basis as a consultant to Marsh MacLennan Companies following the 9/11 atrocities in the USA.

However, prior to then, it was 1999-2001 that was a turning point in Ian's career, when he achieved Licentiatehip in Acupuncture at the London College of Traditional Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine, followed by Licentiatehip in Oriental Herbal Medicine at the same College. In 1999, he became a self-employed practitioner of acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine in a Group Practice in Earls Court Road, Kensington, where he continues to help a steady and loyal number of (mostly elderly) patients. A member of the British Acupuncture Council and of the Register of Chinese Herbal Medicine, he has lectured at the College of Traditional Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine, and was a Module Co-ordinator there for four years. In 2005, he was awarded a BSc in acupuncture at the College, and is currently undertaking research for a Master of Science degree into treating diabetes with Chinese herbal medicine. In 2007, he had a three-week Internship in herbal medicine at the town of Hangzhou, on mainland China. He has a particular interest in Qigong, a meditative equivalent working with energy.

Ian's wife Yomei, great grand-daughter of Chiang Kai Shek, is an accomplished artist, poet and writer. She has recently exhibited at the Maya Gallery in London and is planning to publish a collection of her poetry – Ian's computer skills have been tested (successfully) in preparing for this event! They have a daughter, Zöe, aged ten.

Ian was admitted to the Livery of our Ancient Company on 12 April 1988, his distinguished Sponsor the late Sir Robert Bellinger. He served as a Director of Farmers' and Fletchers' Hall Ltd from 2002 to 2006, and was its Chairman 2004 – 2006.

In his programme for his Master's Year, Ian hopes to include a charity event, perhaps a concert, and a visit to Vienna. To ensure effective succession to High Office in our Company in the longer term, he is keen to encourage younger people to join our Livery. To this end, he is seeking "fewer but even better" events, in addition, of course, to such time-honoured functions as the Ladies Banquet, Installation Dinner, and October Luncheon.

In parallel with this, Ian feels there to be scope to expand the Company's charitable activities, in the area of archery for the disabled. The annual Disabled Archery Day together with support for archers in the Paralympics must continue to be valued and maintained, but there could be scope for exploiting in a wider context the almost unique value of archery as a sport where the physically (and indeed mentally) challenged person can compete almost on an equal basis, with others without disability.

Not surprisingly, Chinese medicine and oriental philosophy bulk large in Ian's spare-time interests, but he also enjoys jazz and soul music, history and politics, and – not least! – the delights of the epicure. **MVR**

Our New Assistant

ADMITTED 12 JULY 2007

Andrew McMillan is currently a Senior Director in the Global Banking Markets Division of Royal Bank of Scotland, having enjoyed a long, challenging and varied career, spanning both domestic and international banking. He is a Fellow of the Association of Corporate Treasurers, was a former member of its Council, and currently serves on its Editorial Committee.

Andrew joined our Livery in 2000, becoming a Steward in 2005. He is Senior Court Assistant of the Guild of Mercers' Scholars, having served four years as their Guild Apprentice Warden.

Married to Caroline with two children, James and Charles, Andrew is closely involved in local activities in his home village of Ashted, not least the parish church of St. Giles. Orienteering has been and remains for him a major interest, as well as ski-ing in Norway. A member of the Anglo-Chilean Society, an Associate of St. George's House, Windsor Castle, he also does sterling service as Treasurer of his wife's Cub Pack.

Our New Liveryman

ADMITTED 12 JULY 2007

Jane Rowand Cummergen worked in the pulp and paper trade on its shipping side from 1962 to 2000. She is a Life Member of the British Wood Pulp Association. Following her husband's death in 2002, she took over running his insurance business for three years, and is still an introducer, mainly through G. P. Hodson, part of the Oval Group.

Like our new Assistant, Andrew, Jane is a member of the Guild of Mercers' Scholars. Living in the country village of Mark Cross near Crowborough, East Sussex, Jane is closely involved in local parish, social, and political activities. Her interests cover the widest spectrum including history, current affairs, books, antiques, music, food and wine, travel, rugby, cricket and motor-racing.

Our New Freeman

ADMITTED 12 JULY 2007

It is a particular delight for the Company to have welcomed into its yeomanry a practicing fletcher, the first time that this has occurred for a number of years. **Lindsay Julia Head** took up archery in Malawi in the early 1970s, and after her return to the UK, became National Longbow Field Archery Champion (she is still rarely out of the top three).

Lindsay's full-time fletching began in 1990, making arrows for members of the Royal Company of Archers and Archery Club members worldwide. She set up her own fletching business, Mothers' Arms, in 2004. She is a member of Bath Archers, Hereford Bow Meeting Society, and The Royal Toxophilite Society.

Our New Apprentice

BOUND 12 JULY 2007 TO P.J.L. SCOTT

Charles McMillan has enjoyed a distinguished career at the City of London Freeman's School, with Junior and Senior School Scholarships, and as a Prefect and Peer Mentor, winning science prizes, and most recently the Physics Challenge Gold Medal. He is a representative for the School on the Mole Valley Youth Parliament. A keen actor and amateur musician, he holds the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, with work for the Gold Award underway.

A regular worshipper at his local parish church, Charles' interests range from medieval history to war-gaming, badminton, ski-ing and orienteering.

INSTALLATION DINNER

THURSDAY 17 APRIL 2008

Ninety-eight Fletchers and their guests foregathered at the Hall on 17th April to celebrate the Installation of the New Master, Ian MacLellan. A sumptuous dinner centred on Bullotine of Duck was most effectively complemented by the playing of Miss Holly Cullen Davies, appearing by kind permission of the Principal of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

After the Loyal and Civic Toasts, the Upper Warden Captain Tony Poulter rose to propose the toast to the guests. He began by remarking that it was "like father like son"! He wished Ian on our behalf, all the very best for a most enjoyable year.

Welcoming the guests, he noted that Simon Mackenzie Smith was born the year that he (Tony) was sent to Nautical College, Pangbourne. Simon then went to school at Radley, frequent opponents of the College, so (give or take the odd decade) they might have played rugby together. With a BSc from University College of Wales and an MBA, Simon, a Chartered Marketer, spent eleven years with Morgan Grenfell, and was now Managing Director and Head of UK Investment Banking with Merrill Lynch. Simon is, Tony noted, also on the Appeals Council of the skin cancer charity, DebRA, helping to raise nearly £3m in 2006.



Tony then greeted ex-Harrovia John Lumley, an insurance broker who had joined Nicholson Chamberlain and Colls as their youngest director at the age of 32, followed by over twenty years with AON Aviation, being appointed their youngest ever executive, travelling all over the world, albeit above the surface of the seas, unlike him (Tony) who as a sub-mariner, was generally below it. John is, he noted, a member of Windlesham Golf Club ("Where members come first and visitors are members for the day!") and the Lloyds Croquet Society.

Michael Sanderson, Master Clockmaker, was then welcomed. With a PhD in metallurgy, Michael had pioneered, with Wilkinson Sword, the "reactive sputtering process" for coating the tips of razor blades, thereby the continuing gratitude of all wet-shavers!

Finally, Eric Fraunfelder, Master Fruiterer, was welcomed. Said to be a Democrat supporter, and educated in Baltimore, Eric is a stockbroker and merchant banker. He is also on the Board of Governors of Washington Home, a hospice for palliative care.



Responding on behalf of the guests, John Lumley recalled the days (not so long ago!) when he and Ian were schoolboys at Harrow, home to its own Silver Arrow Competition for many years, until its cessation in the eighteenth century, caused by the incursion of undesirable characters from London! His friendship with our Master had continued as they both entered the City as young insurance brokers, Ian with C. T. Bowring (now Marsh MacLellan) "transferring Earthquake, Fire, Flood and Pestilence Insurance around the world – sort of God's re-insurance broker!". Ian had now pursued a career-change, practicing the ancient arts of acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine. (At a time of nocturnal torment, John recalled seeking and receiving brief but effective advice from Ian, "take two drawing pins and call back tomorrow"!).

Simon Mackenzie Smith then rose to propose our ancient toast, always given on this occasion, "The Worshipful Company of Fletchers, root and branch, may it continue to flourish for ever, coupled with the name of the Master".

He recalled his first experience of the City Livery back in the 1980s, at a Chartered Accountants Dinner (a lowly Company forty-nine places below the Fletchers!). Remembering our new Master's re-insurance skills, he noted his expertise developing business for Bowring's in the Far East. Now, Simon noted, Ian uses his small "arrows" solely for healing purposes, as a fully fledged practitioner of Chinese medicine. Simon spoke warmly of the Fletchers' Company's support for archery for the disabled. He regarded Livery Companies as bastions of stability through their philanthropic, civic, and social roles, at a time of financial turmoil as a result of the credit crunch. A strength of Ancient Companies such as the Fletchers was, he felt,



their ability to welcome members from diverse professions, such as Liverman Clare James, an actuary, whom he congratulated on being elected a Common Councilman for Farringdon. He wished Ian good luck, for a year that he was sure would be a one of great success for the Fletchers.

Replying, the Master congratulated Peter Scott and Toni on a highly successful Master's Year, and presented Peter with his Past Master's badge. He thanked Farid of Chester Boyd's who is now leaving us, for all



his good work running our Hall's functions. Among several distinguished guests, he welcomed the Master Fruiterer and the Master Clockmaker, as well as our newest Liveryman, Andrew Marsh. He looked forward to a great year ahead, especially the trip to Vienna, with a turnout already booked of nearly sixty people. He then reminded us that the Fletchers are basically a charity, albeit a modest one. His main aim over his year would be to expand the Company's charitable aspect. In this regard, he was planning a concert at Leighton House, Holland Park, on 30th June – he looked forward to having a good showing of Fletchers at this event, to raise funds in support of our work for disabled archery, the coming Paralympics providing a unique opportunity. Very recently, too, he had attended and handed out prizes at the National Indoor Championships in Shropshire organized by British Blind Sport, and sponsored by the Fletchers.

It was very heartening to see that the Company had assisted extraordinarily talented blind and visually impaired archers, men and women, young and old.

To end on a personal note, this was my fourteenth Installation Dinner with the Fletchers, and also, as I have noted to our new Master, the briefest. This is really a commendation sincerely felt. We had pithy speeches, good fellowship, and great satisfaction that brother Fletchers had come together to launch Ian MacLellan on what promises to be an exciting Master's Year.

Bob Roberts

FLETCHERS TEST THEIR WEAPONS AT NOAK HILL

Despite a light covering of snow and virtual gridlock on the M25, ten fearless Fletchers mustered at Noak Hill Archery Club for an instructive and varied shoot on 7th April.

We were warmly welcomed by the Club and defrosted with hot drinks and biscuits. Even before the snow had melted, our enthusiastic and encouraging instructors began the one-to-one tuition at very short range.



Once most of our arrows were hitting the boss, we moved on to attack three inanimate creatures, badger, boar and deer, set at unmarked distances which developed our skills at estimating range. Between us we managed to inflict some vicious wounds on these immobile beasts but probably not many kills.

follow the flight of the arrows but impossible to judge whether they were falling short or beyond the target.

The next challenge was the "clout", shooting high in the air at a white-robed crusader almost two hundred yards away. It was easy to



Dick had brought his own longbow and a slightly medieval-looking outfit complete with mop, traditionally used to wipe mud and blood from the recovered arrows. He seemed well able to defend the realm or at least

to participate in the next filming of Henry V.



The wintry weather was receding and in the afternoon the sun came out and the serious competition began. Each of us shot three volleys of six arrows at each of the three targets, three volleys at the crusader, followed by the surprise field event: shooting at various targets, wolf, boar, deer and a bumble bee (somewhat larger than life size) viewed through a gigantic spider's web.



After three sessions we were beginning to converge on the crusader and were promptly invited back into the warm pavilion for lunch, which was a magnificent spread of jumbo prawns, pizza, wraps, sandwiches, profiteroles, and cheesecake and a chance to mingle with the club members.

By now the sun was really warm and a large black and white cat was spotted sunning itself in the practice area. As we approached the cat must have realised that although we were unlikely to hit it by intent, it was perfectly possible to be wounded by collateral fire if it remained within our range. When the cat had left and all our arrows were spent, we retired for tea and cakes and more jumbo prawns while the adjudicators calculated the results: Lesley first, Jeremy second and the Master third. Medals were presented.



This immensely enjoyable event was inspired and executed by Lesley Agutter. She contacted GNAS (the Grand National Archery Society) to find an archery club in the south-east with suitable amenities and was directed to Noak Hill near Romford (most clubs just have a field). The Club was very keen to have us, planned the day meticulously, provided high quality tuition and made us most welcome.

All the Fletchers present enjoyed themselves enormously and hope that Lesley will arrange regular repeat events. The Club is willing to have us again and could handle up to 20 trainee archers each time. Several Fletchers were unable to come this time for various reasons and we suspect there are others who may be interested. If you would like details of the next archery day, please ask Lesley to put you on her mailing list at lesley@cfassociates.co.uk.



Nudity, scandal, and men in kilts

By Jennie Erdal

First Published in the FT : 19th January 2008

It comes with the conjugal territory that you sometimes find yourself signed up to a joint enterprise that you would never in your life have agreed to as an independent person of sound mind. This week, my other half and I travelled from our home in St Andrews to Farmers' and Fletchers' Hall in the City of London to deliver, respectively, the toast to the Lassies and the response to the toast to the Lassies at a Burns Supper. Possibly as a result of leading a sheltered life, I had never before been a guest of the Worshipful Company of Fletchers, far less addressed them in bawdy rhyming couplets in the Scots tongue. The fletchers, so I discovered, along with their comrades-in-arms the bowyers, are among the oldest of London's livery companies. Multiple wars in the Middle Ages kept both trades busy. It was a barrage of arrows - medieval weapons of mass destruction - that defeated the Scots in 1298 under William Wallace. Skilled archers were able to fire 12-15 arrows per minute, and at short range an arrow could penetrate four inches of seasoned oak. Archers were also responsible for victories at Crécy and Agincourt, leading the French to call the longbow an unchivalrous weapon that should be banned from the battlefield.

On the day we were due to travel, Scotland was virtually cut off. The Tay and Forth bridges were closed, and all flights suspended because of 90mph gales. "That's it," declared Other Half, "we have to cancel." I had wanted to cancel weeks ago but now I had my arduously generated rhyming couplets to consider. We must see it through, I said. A minor miracle got us to Edinburgh where we boarded one of the few trains running that day. If all went well, we would arrive in time for the piping in of the haggis.

All did not go well. After limping out of Scotland, we picked up speed only to be halted south of Doncaster. Overhead lines were down at Finsbury Park in London and trains were stacked all the way back to Newark in Nottinghamshire. Our National Express train guard kept us comprehensively informed, even when there was no information. The poor man sounded terminally disheartened, his tone becoming ever more elegiac, like a requiem. After Newark, he began to refer, darkly, to our "final destination" - a chilling phrase of hideous historical connotations. Mobile phone use rocketed, adding to the grim comedy. Everyone rang someone - husband, wife, colleague, anyone - to relate travel woes. We rang the master fletcher, by now in full magisterial robes, with the piper warming up his bagpipes. In the train's miniature, malodorous loo, I changed into my gladdest of rags. Boldly, in open carriage, Other Half donned full dress kilt. The woman across the aisle pretended to look away but she gazed into the black window where the *divertissement* was starkly reflected.

In the end, we arrived just in time to toast the Queen and hear The Immortal Memory - the disquisition on the life of the bard and the mainstay of all Burns Suppers. Another three bangs of the gavel by the red-coated beadle, and it was our turn. We both (unintentionally) breached etiquette by failing to start with the allocution: "Master, Wardens, Aldermen, Prime Warden, Masters, Liverymen, Guests." But the terror and embarrassment I felt were leavened by a sense of the absurdity of being there at all. Our hosts were kind and chivalrous to a fault, just as you would imagine fletchers to be. Afterwards, over the stirrup cup, I found myself lamenting the rise of the gun.

Explicitness of an altogether different quality permeates Diana Athill's memoir *Somewhere Towards the End* - my reading for the journey north. This memoir is the latest (I hope not the last) in a series of what she calls "late bloomers" - candid confessions of her time in publishing and of her personal relationships. Athill's fierce, matter-of-fact honesty is turned on every subject she considers, be it sex, death or God. Because she is 90 years old and her background is quintessential English respectability, her lucid, unsentimental prose packs an even greater punch. A few years ago I asked if she ever consciously aimed to shock her readers. No, she said, the important thing always is to try and get it the way it really was.

Back in Edinburgh, it was the turn of artistic truth - at the National Gallery's retrospective of the work of Joan Eardley, best known for her paintings of the coastline around the village of Catterline in the north-east of Scotland and the spirited children of Glasgow's tenements. Eardley, who died of cancer in 1963 aged 42, is said to have been painfully shy but she succeeded in doing with paint what Athill does with words. Significantly, she painted only one nude, of her friend and fellow artist Angus Neil. When the picture was exhibited at the Glasgow Institute in 1955 it scandalised the tabloid press, who sought to shame Eardley by printing her home address. This resulted in lots of men turning up on her doorstep, raring to get their kit off. She never painted another nude.

Jennie Erdal is the author of 'Ghosting: a Memoir' (Canongate)

LIVERYMAN SUCCESS

Liveryman Sophie Wootton, who doubles as Past Master David Wootton's daughter, was successful in her professional examinations in June 2007.

Sophie is a jeweller, at Bentley & Skinner in Bond Street, and her professional body is the Gemmological Association of Great Britain. In the Diploma Examination Sophie passed with Distinction. She was the only UK person to do so, the other seven coming from China, Japan and France, the Gemmological Association being effectively the internationally-recognised examination body of the worldwide trade.

Gem-A Graduation & Awards Ceremony

The magnificent Livery Hall at Goldsmiths' Hall in the City of London was filled to capacity with Gem-A graduates and members for this year's Graduation Ceremony on Monday 29 October.

Gem-A's Gemmology Diploma course, which is regarded as the highest status international gemmology qualification, is taught at centres throughout the world. This was reflected in the graduates who attended the ceremony, some having travelled from as far as Canada, Finland, France, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and the USA to receive their diplomas.

The diplomas and prizes were presented by David Thomas MVO, Crown Jeweller from 1991 to July 2007 and a Director of Gairard. Following the presentation of the Diplomas the special prizes were awarded. In this year's Gemmology Diploma examinations two

graduates achieved sufficiently high marks to warrant the top award in gemmology – the Tully Medal. Sophie Louise Wootton from London was awarded the Tully Medal as well as the Christie's Prize. Taisuke Kobayashi from Tokyo, Japan, resplendent in his national costume, received the Tully medal as well as the Anderson-Bank Prize. In the Gemmology Foundation examination the Hirsh Foundation Award and the Anderson Medal were awarded to Holly J. Barker from South Africa.

The presentation of the Gem Diamond Diploma prizes followed. Both the Deeks Diamond Prize and the Bruton Medal were awarded to Peter Alexander Jansch from Luxembourg. This year the Gem-A Council had awarded a special prize for the candidate submitting the best set of theory papers in the Gem Diamond examination. This was awarded to Gregory Peter Hall from Brighton, East Sussex. ▶



Tully Medal winners Sophie Louise Wootton, London, and Taisuke Kobayashi, Tokyo, Japan.



On her performance in the exam, Sophie was awarded the Tully Medal, which is awarded to the candidate "who submits the best set of answers in the examination, which in the opinion of the Examiners, are of sufficiently high standard." (i.e. sub-text, Sophie came top).

Sophie was also awarded the Christie's Prize for Gemmology for the "best candidate of the year in the examination who derives their main income from activities essentially connected with the jewellery trade" (i.e. she works in the trade as opposed to being an investor or a researcher).

Sophie is now an FGA, a Fellow of the Gemmological Association.

LADIES BANQUET

On 6th February 2008 the Company welcomed the Lord Mayor, the Lady Mayoress, together with the Sheriffs and their Ladies at the Annual Banquet, which as ever was well supported by the Livery.



Entertainment during the evening was provided by Lara Dodds from the Guildhall School of Music, who was at the piano this evening.



The Master presented a cheque from the Fletcher's Trust to the Lord Mayor for his appeal which is supporting two charities: Wellbeing of Women and Orbis, which works to provide demonstrations and training in the care of those needlessly suffering from blindness.

The Master also presented the Lord Mayor with a presentation arrow made by our Freeman, Lindsay Head.

LIVERY DINNER

The Livery Dinner, which is a relatively new event in the social calendar, and is mainly aimed at being a family event for Fletchers, took place in the Hall on Tuesday 20th November 2007. The evening was well supported, and during the dinner John Harte and the Claritones entertained us splendidly.

The Master welcomed the Master Patternmaker and his wife. As a Livery Company, the Pattenmakers are younger than the Fletchers, but the Master understood that that was all a misunderstanding, based on the loss of all the Patternmakers' earlier records in the Great Fire of 1666. The Master was reminded of the fire at the Royal Ordnance store at Castle Donnington a few years ago, following which it suddenly emerged that every piece of equipment anyone in the army had mislaid in the previous ten years had, in fact, been shipped to Castle Donnington for refurbishment only the week before the tragic fire which had, of course, consumed it along with all the paperwork.

READER SURVEY

Enclosed with this edition of La Fleche there should be a Reader's Survey form. This is aimed at all those in the Company in order that the PR Committee can assess the readership and usefulness of La Fleche in its current form.

If your form is missing, one can be downloaded from the website www.fletchers.org.uk.

Please take the time to complete and return the form. If the forms are not returned, the PR Committee can only assume that La Fleche is not being read, and this may lead to its demise. Please be honest — if you do not read La Fleche in its current form, please say so. If something of similar content was produced and made available online, would you read it? Again if you would not, then please say so. The PR Committee would welcome suggestions. There is space on the form.

Past Master Frank Steiner, MA

Past Master Frank Steiner passed away peacefully last December, at the truly splendid age of ninety-five. His long life encompassed a distinguished civic career and a close involvement with the Livery and other City networks, all this combined with an active professional life in a greatly respected legal practice. He was also a keen hands-on follower of the sport of archery.

Frank was born 19 June 1912, and was educated at St. Paul's School, going on to read Law at St. Catherine's College, Cambridge, where he graduated in 1934. There then followed a long association with the City firm of Dehn and Lauderdale, where he retired as Senior Partner in 1971, remaining with them as a Consultant until 1978.

From 1962 until 1980, Frank served as Common Councilman for Bread Street Ward. During this long civic innings, he was a member from time to time of no fewer than seventeen Corporation Committees, and two Sub-Committees. His longest memberships were with the Improvements and Town Planning Committee (1962-1968) and its successor Planning and Communications Committee (1969-1980), which he chaired from 1973 to 1976, the General Purposes Committee, which he chaired 1968/9, the Central Markets Committee (1962-1971), and the Committee of Managers of West Ham Park (1971-1978). The high point of his civic career came in 1977, when as Chairman of the City Lands and Bridge House Estates Committee he was the City's Chief Commoner, and travelled the world in support of the Lord Mayor, Sir Robin Gillet.

Frank Steiner had an active involvement with the United Wards Club, serving as its Honorary Secretary from 1978 to 1984, the City Livery Club, and as Chairman of the Bread Street Ward Club (I recall personally his telling me a few years ago of his not unsuccessful efforts to expand the social activities of that Club).

Although Frank's Mother Company was the Worshipful Company of Solicitors, which he joined in 1948, his major hands-on associations were with the Gardeners' Company and our own. He was Clerk to the Gardeners' Company from 1958 to 1969 (and it was then that I first had sight of his genially smiling face, as the Company's own Library had been for many decades deposited with us at Guildhall Library. Remarkably, he still remembered me when I met him to be enrolled in the Fletchers' many years later).

Which brings this tribute on to Frank's long involvement with the Fletchers'. In April 1971, Frank succeeded David Eldridge as Learned Clerk to the Worshipful Company of Fletchers. Our *Newsletter* for 1971/1972 recalled that "Mr. Steiner's sport is Archery, and he is a Committee Member and Ground Secretary of the Royal Toxophilite Society, of which his wife Joyce is House Secretary. It is hoped that the new Clerk's connection with active archery will lead to a closer association of the Company with the craft from which it derives its origin". These hopes were, in succeeding years, richly fulfilled. With his enthusiastic support, the Company developed its association with disabled archery via the British Sports Association for the Disabled, and enlarged its charitable role, a priority that he emphasized very forcibly in the 1983/1984 *Newsletter*, in his farewell article as our Clerk.

Frank became Renter Warden in 1989, Upper Warden in 1990, and our Master from April 1991 to April 1992. In his report on his Master's Year in the 1991/1992 *Newsletter*, he recalled laconically "When my doctor heard that I was Master of a Livery Company he expressed surprise that I should have been elected at my age. I said he was no more surprised than I was".

Returning now to Frank as an active archer and supporter for the craft and sport, he and his wife competed in 1972 at the 100th Open Meeting of The Grand Western Archery Society at Dunster Castle. He was a Founder Member in 1951 of Gerrards Cross Archers (the town where he lived for many decades until his move in 2003 to Sunningdale). In 1961, he accepted the invitation to join the Royal Toxophilite Society. He was closely involved in the Society's move from 1 and 2 Albion Mews, Bayswater, to 102 Dropmore Road, Burnham, Bucks, (Archers' Lodge) in October 1967. He was elected President of The Royal Tox in 1990.

Even during the time of his Mastership of the Fletchers, Frank was able to fit in Committee membership of Gerrards Cross Men's Club and Covenants Secretary for his home parish of St. James Gerrards Cross with St. James Fulmer.

Frank Steiner was truly a giant of a man, and our Ancient Company was hugely privileged to have been able to welcome him into our Livery.

Bob Roberts

AFFILIATED SERVICE UNITS

HMS Southampton

On a wet and blustery day in March a small party of Fletchers, consisting of the Master, Simon Walsh and myself, together with the Clerk, made their way to Portsmouth for an Affiliates Day on HMS Southampton. The planned sea trip was cancelled, because of the excessively violent gales sweeping the Channel, but Commander Richard Morris and his officers and crew were most welcoming and proud to show off their ship, despite being confined to dock.

The ship's primary rôle as anti-air defence to a task group of ships was explained and we were treated to demonstrations and explanations of the crew's fire-fighting abilities, her weapon systems – the Lynx helicopter and the Sea Dart missiles had been removed but we were shown the workings of the 4½" main gun – the Ops Room and the Bridge. Alistair, a young Midshipman who was our guide for the morning's tour of the ship, was remarkably well-informed and enthusiastic – "Mr Keen", our Clerk dubbed him. But then, everyone who showed their part of the ship's workings was well-informed and enthusiastic about what they did. As an IT person, I was interested to see the computer equipment, relying on banks of hard-wired relays. Museum stuff now, but it still works well. Southampton has just been testing a new release of the software, so the MoD clearly thinks there is still life in these systems.

The visit ended with an excellent lunch served in the Wardroom where many of the officers were keen to talk about their work and their life in the Navy. Everything we saw and heard was highly interesting – but what impressed me more than anything that day was how the pride and motivation shown by every single officer and every single rating.

The good news for would-be seagoing Fletchers is that Southampton's operational service has been extended for a few months and Commander Morris promised us that they would arrange another Affiliates Day in July. There is every chance that this will be a proper Sea Day – and almost certainly the last we will be able to enjoy with Southampton.

Andrew Dyke

Stop Press: This date is now provisionally Friday 11th July, with a Sea Day. The plan is to meet in Portsmouth at 8.30 am, returning about 4.00pm. Please contact the Clerk by e-mail if you are interested in this exciting opportunity of a day at sea onboard HMS SOUTHAMPTON.

The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers

The Immediate Past Master and the Clerk attended a Drill Night of the 136 Cadet Detachment Balham at which the Immediate Past Master presented the Unit with a Company Crest.

The Detachment had a small corps of drums which would be keen to support the Company at events such as the Ladies Banquet and the Tower Shoot.

Royal Air Force Northolt

The Master had recently accepted the invitation by the Station Commander to a Guest Night at Royal Air Force Uxbridge to mark the 90th Anniversary of the founding of the Royal Air Force.

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