



# La Flèche

The Newsletter of the Worshipful Company of Fletchers

## This Year's Master and Wardens



**The Master  
Alderman Bob Hall**



**Upper Warden  
John Owen-Ward MBE**



**Renter Warden  
Captain David Goodall RN**

### Court of Assistants

**Captain AM Poulter OBE RN (Deputy Master and Immediate Past Master)**

Mr JL Dumbrell	Mr FA Neal CMG	Sheriff DH Wootton	Mr PJL Scott
Mr IKR MacLellan	Mrs R Agutter	Mr AC McMillan	Mr SJ Fraser CC
	Mrs NJE James CC	Mr AJ Scott Knight	

### Honorary Assistants

Mr BJ Brown CBE JP	Mr CJ Brown	Mr CA Coward	Mr DJ Eldridge
Mr JR Fenner OBE	Mr JR Garnett	Mr MG Hart	Mr RSG Hewett JP
Mr LS Johnson	Mr AIF MacKenzie	Major General APW MacLellan CB CVO MBE	
Mr JAB Redgrave	Mr AN Taylor	Mr RH Upton JP	Mr HR Vogt

**Clerk: Captain Michael Johnson RN**

# ALDERMAN ROBERT HALL

## OUR NEW MASTER

Bob Hall was born in Birmingham on 20<sup>th</sup> September 1943, the third of the five children of Dr Gilbert Steward Hall MD, FRCP, and his wife, Dr Mary Elaine Hall MBBS, née Gould. Dr Hall was a consultant neurologist at Queen's Square, and subsequently the Birmingham United Hospitals. Bob was educated at the Dragon School, Oxford and Rugby School, where he was Head of his House and Head Boy of the School. In 1962, he was awarded an Exhibition to St Edmund Hall, Oxford, where he took an honours degree in English Language and Literature. As an undergraduate he was President of the Oxford University Critical Society, a society concerned with literary criticism.

In 1967-68, Bob attended the College of Law at Guildford, and in 1970 he qualified and was admitted as a solicitor. From 1970 to 1974, he was an assistant solicitor with Norton Rose Botterell & Roche, after which he worked for a year as the research assistant to a Member of Parliament. Bob joined the law firm of Baker & McKenzie as an associate in 1975, and he was appointed a partner in 1980. He became a consultant to that firm in the year 2000 and retired in 2003.

From 2002 to 2006 he was the United Kingdom Government's representative on and chairman of the Intergovernmental Working Party at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), dealing with legal and commercial aspects of the development of trade. He was also chairman of the Real Estate Advisory Group at UNECE from 1996 to 2006.

Closer to home, Bob is a Trustee of Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors' Foundation, a Director of the TERRE Initiative Ltd (a company promoting the importance of secure land rights to the establishment of a viable market economy), a Director of International Real Estate Advisory Network Ltd, an Honorary Member of City & Guilds of London Institute (Council member), and Vice-President of the British Red Cross Society City of London Sector. In 2005 Bob and his wife were co-chairmen of the British Red Cross, City of London Sector Christmas Market.

For three years, Bob wrote a four-weekly column for the Ham and High.

Bob has enjoyed a long and distinguished local government career. From 1977 until 1994, he was an elected member of the London Borough of Haringey Council and from 1984 to 1990, he was the Leader of the Conservative Opposition.

In 1995 Bob was elected to the Court of Common Council for the Ward of Farringdon Within. As a Councilman, Bob served as chairman of the Traffic Management and Road Safety Sub-Committee (1999-2002) and of a Reception Committee for the American Bar Association visit to London in July 2000. In 2002 he was elected Alderman of the same Ward, since when he has been chairman of the Barbican Residential Committee (2002-2005), the Barbican Listed Buildings Management Guidelines Working Party (2004-05), the Barbican Lakes Working Party (2004-05), Sir John Cass's Foundation Primary School Governors (2004-08) the Management Committees of Hampstead Heath, Queen's Park and Highgate Woods (2006-09) and Keats House Management Committee (2006-09). He has also served on nearly all Corporation Committees. Bob has a particular interest in new initiatives in relation to Keats House, to the extension of its facilities, and the establishment of a Keats Poetry Prize.

In his Livery career, Bob joined the Fletchers' Company in October 1995, becoming Renter Warden in April 2008 and Upper Warden in 2009. He is also a Liveryman of the Solicitors' Company. Bob very much hopes to see greater participation by members in our wide range of Company events, particularly on the charities side.

Astonishingly Bob still finds time for reading and music, especially the viola, with a special interest in the National Youth Orchestra.

Bob's wife, Felicity Anne, is a Liveryman of the Farriers' Company. They have four children, Sophie, Caroline, Daniel and Alexander.

**MVR**

# OUR NEW LIVERYMEN

*Admitted 15th April 2010*

Management Consultant **Benedict John Scott-Knight** graduated in Chinese Studies from Edinburgh University, after spending a third year in Taiwan studying Mandarin. He then joined Jardine Matheson as a graduate trainee. During his seven years with Jardines he worked in Hong Kong, Taiwan and Shanghai.



In 1998, he left Jardines to take an MBA at Lausanne. He then spent eight years with A.T. Kearney, travelling extensively working on various projects in retail as well as with Nokia and Vodafone. In 2008, he moved on to become Director of Concentra Consulting.

Ben is married to Gemma, and they live in Hampshire with their three daughters. An Associate Member of the MCC, he plays golf, and has run in both the New York and London Marathons.

*Admitted 14th January 2010*

Business interests of **Stuart Victor Robbens** have been both extensive and varied, taking in, over the past forty years, travel and leisure, publishing, and property management and investments. Through these interests he has travelled extensively in the Middle East and elsewhere, working with Embassies, Government Departments, and Chambers of Commerce.



Stuart served for ten years on the Committee for Middle East Trade, advising the Department for Trade and Industry. From 1980 to 1985 he was on the Board of Pinnacle Housing Association. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Travel and Tourism, and a Member of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings.

Married to Margaret Ann Jane, he lives in Hildenborough, Kent.

## Christmas Lunch

This was an excellent and very relaxed luncheon in the Hall with many guests, including both of the ship's officers from HMS Defender, Colonel Nigel Easton from our army affiliation, and a contingent from RAF Northolt. The Master presented the Fletchers' Golden Arrow Award to Flight Lieutenant Mark Adams of RAF Northolt.



# CURRENT CHALLENGES FACING THE CITY CORPORATION AND THE MAYORALTY

The final event of the Master's year was a fascinating evening at the Guildhall. Arranged by Court Assistant Clare James it took advantage of the fortunate coincidence of two Fletchers filling key roles in the City Corporation. Past Master Alderman David Wootton is one of the two Sheriffs and Court Assistant Stuart Fraser is Chairman of the powerful Policy and Resources Committee.

David set the Sheriffs' and Mayoralty's role in their historic context and Stuart dealt with current issues. The office of Sheriff dated back to Saxon times when the Sheriff (or Shire Reeve) was responsible for all aspects of civic government, including law and order, in each shire or county. From 1066 the role had gradually diminished with Magna Carta in 1215 establishing the post of Mayor (now Lord Mayor).

Whereas in the rest of England the incoming Normans had taken over lands from the Saxon aristocracy, in London the power of the City was reflected in a treaty with William that guaranteed existing rights and succession. The importance of the City to provide cash for the Monarchy continued over the centuries and led to the effective sale of Derry and Colerain to the City to enable the Plantation of Ulster in 1613. Today the Lord Mayor assisted by the Sheriffs, acts as an Ambassador for UK financial services and spends a quarter of his time overseas leading business delegations. His visits are organised by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and a dedicated Mansion House team.

Apart from assisting the Lord Mayor, the Sheriffs look after the Old Bailey where they live for their Shrieval year. This responsibility is not just for the fabric of the building, but also for many of those who work in it. The Sheriff hosts lunch for the judges each day and invites guests to interest them and to learn more about the City. David said he was also often out at official dinners 5 nights a week, but always found a point of interest with his neighbours. All in all it was a full and testing commitment.

Stuart said the role of Policy Chairman was relatively recent and was a key response to the challenges which the City had faced in recent years. Following Big Bang the City was no longer a club ruled by the Bank of England. The big players now had no domestic reason for basing themselves here and regulation was now handled out of Brussels. With the creation of Canary Wharf, UK financial services were no longer confined to the Square Mile. On the political level the City Corporation had faced moves to abolish it.

Despite all the foregoing, the City continues to thrive and currently ranks with New York as the leading financial centres of the world. The Corporation continues to play an effective role in facilitating this. Current challenges include how to deal with any new ministerial team set up after the elections. Following the recent economic problems we also face potential changes to our regulatory environment driven from outside the UK. To help ensure London's interests are protected we have to present ourselves effectively to a number of parties overseas eg to the new Commissioner appointed in Brussels for financial services and to those involved in regulatory issues in the USA and the European Parliament.

All this absorbs a huge amount of Stuart's time. He speaks to the City's Brussels office twice a day and visits the USA twice a year as well as holding frequent meetings with the UK players often together with the Lord Mayor. He meets the Lord Mayor formally every two weeks. The presentations were followed by a good range of questions which included:

Was there too much regulation? Given human nature regulation is essential in the City. However the task is to ensure the pendulum did not swing too far. Real problems include the technical complexity of financial instruments and the relative short term view of results taken by investors.

What did the future hold? Stuart felt the main challenge to the City would come from China (Hong Kong and Shanghai) while those from the Middle East, India and Latin America would come later.

In the City's favour were the size and quality of the existing cluster of financial and support businesses and our culture of freedom and fair dealing. However we could not be complacent; key firms and players were highly mobile. The next government needed to commit itself to competitive levels of personal and corporate taxation; otherwise the trend to Asia would be strengthened.

# Inter Livery Bridge Competition 2010

*Bobby Johnson reports on her participation for The Fletchers*

This popular annual competition, organised by The Worshipful Company of Makers of Playing Cards, was held in the magnificent setting of Drapers Hall in March. Sixty Pairs entered, the maximum allowed, and were divided into two groups with a qualified Tournament Director from the English Bridge Union (EBU) in charge.

So - the scene is now set!!

My partner, Norma Macmillan, a member of the Guild of Freemen, and I selected our pair number and it was 'eyes down' to represent The Worshipful Company of Fletchers in this prestigious and keenly fought event. As is usually the custom in EBU competitions we produced our Convention Card which is designed to tell one's opponents what 'system' you are playing – to our surprise we were the only pair to do so! Whether this proved an asset or a hindrance we were about to find out as play began. Alas we did not rise to glory in the first half being placed 47<sup>th</sup> at 'half time'. However refreshed by an excellent supper, worthy of any Livery event, and just a touch of the grape we returned for the second half. By now some seeding of the players as to 'rabbits' & 'serious players' had taken place which spurred us on - Straight and True - we stormed to 16<sup>th</sup> place overall, one place outside the top quartile. The winners were – would you believe it – The Tax Advisors. Bridge is an inscrutable mind game for the numerate and somehow The Tax Advisors must fit that mould quite well!

I'm very sorry that we did not bring back any of the silverware that was up for grabs but now we know the form we will hope to do better for The Company next year.



*Photo by Gerald Sharp Photography (see [www.sharpphoto.co.uk](http://www.sharpphoto.co.uk))*

# INSTALLATION DINNER

There was a full house at Farmers' and Fletchers' Hall on Thursday 15 April 2010, when Fletchers and their guests met at Dinner to celebrate the Installation of our new Master, Alderman Bob Hall. A splendid meal including Tuna Nicoise and Rump of Welsh Lamb with samphire was further enhanced by musical entertainment provided by Berrack Dyer, appearing by kind permission of the Principal of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

After the Loyal Toasts and the Toast to The Lord Mayor and City of London Corporation, by The Master The Upper Warden Mr John Owen Ward MBE, Deputy, proposed the Toast to The Guests. The Reply was given by The Very Reverend Dr John Moses, KCVO, Dean Emeritus of St Paul's. The Company's Traditional Toast, The Worshipful Company of Fletchers "Root and branch may it continue to flourish for ever" coupled with the name of the Master, was given by Dr Geoffrey Hamilton.



Replying the Master expressed his pleasure at the honour accorded him at being called to high office in our ancient Company, and looked forward to a busy and enjoyable year ahead for himself and for his wife. He very much hoped to see a good attendance by Liverymen, Freemen, and their Guests at Company events over the year, particularly those in support of the Company's charitable activities.

At the conclusion of the formal proceedings, it was time for a stirrup cup, as all agreed that a worthy and supremely enjoyable send off had been given to Bob, as he embarked on his Master's Year.

**MVR**



# NOAK HILL

On a bright, though chilly, morning in May, sixteen Fletchers descended with great enthusiasm on the superb grounds of Noak Hill Archers, just outside Romford. With just one exception, everyone present had already experienced the delights on offer and were well aware of the challenges as well as the enjoyment in store. In view of our undoubted progress on past visits, the initial target practice, as a short refresher course from our



kindly instructors, was set at a greater distance than previously and for a shorter period of time, meaning we could embark on the seriously competitive element of the day with greater time, therefore, for point scoring!

With the customary stop for a first class buffet lunch – and a welcome break in the warmth of the clubhouse – we then embarked on the field shooting and its challenges of aiming through bushes, from above in tower structures, as well as varying distances. All great fun, not least because some of the targets were thinly disguised members of the club!



As a spectacular finale, we all loosed our arrows in unison at a distant crusader, with interesting and varied accuracy! By this time, the scores had been calculated and after a magnificent tea, a new champion was declared – well done to Tim Eltringham.



We are all most grateful to our instructors, who are incredibly patient and encouraging, and who have clearly put in a great deal of time planning such a successful day. On top of this technical expertise, we are very fortunate in being able to enjoy the culinary expertise of the ladies who produce such delicious fare for us throughout the day. We now much look forward to our next visit on Thursday, the 7<sup>th</sup> October and if there is anyone who has not already indicated they would like to come, please contact me at

[lesley.agutter@cfassociates.co.uk](mailto:lesley.agutter@cfassociates.co.uk).



**Lesley Agutter**

# BOOK REVIEW

Histories of the City of London and its livery companies tend to be of two kinds, the chatty and colourful and those densely packed with the results of primary research. David Palfreyman's book *London's Livery Companies* strikes a happy medium between these two. Helpfully arranged under chronological chapters followed by thematic chapters, a particular strength of the work is its account at every stage of the companies interaction with the outside world, City Corporation, central government and the wider world. Often in the past these histories have addressed more particularly the internal activities and polity of the companies. As an added charm, the author's approach is highly idiosyncratic, to the extent of giving us a twenty-two page "rant" (his term!) on current financial policies and practices as part of the medieval chapter.

With so vast a subject it is inevitable that the author should be dependent on secondary sources, and also that one can always claim to find gaps in the narrative. The virtual or entire eclipse of many companies in the Victorian era is not addressed at any great length, though it is clearly of interest to my brother Fletchers as our own Company went through lean times at that period.

These are small points. A more significant one is the writer's adoption of the current practice of giving source references in the body of the main text, which at times the reader hiccoughs through, with a danger of losing the thread of the narrative. (As my editorial mentor, the late Albert Hollaender, said to me forty years ago: "My dear boy, make sure you quote your source references where your reader can find them if he wants them and can ignore them if he doesn't.")

Nevertheless, this book provides a thoroughly good read, and could yield innumerable topics for discussion across the luncheon and dinner table at Company functions.

**Bob Roberts**

(David Palfreyman, *London's Livery Companies: history, law and customs* (Olney, Bucks, Oracle Publishing, 2010) available from College Publications Ltd, 29a Davenport Road, Oxford, OX2 8BU, price £29.95 plus PandP £2.95)

**Please order this book through the link on the Fletcher's website as the Fletcher's Charity then gains a £10 commission for each book sold.**

## Calendar of Events

8 Jul 10	*	Visit Keats House	S
13 Jul 10	*	Fletchers Golf day Worplesdon	S
22 Jul 10	c	Court Meeting and Court Dinner at Hall	
4 Sep 10	*	Fletchers' Day at Burnham	S
23 - 26 Sep 10	*	Master's Weekend away Rome	S
29 Sep 10	l	Election of Lord Mayor and lunch at Hall	S
7 Oct 10	*	Archery Day at Noak Hill	S
22 Oct 10	*	Court meeting, Thanksgiving service and luncheon.	S
13 Nov 10	*	Lord Mayor's Show and lunch at Hall	S
18 Nov 10	*	Livery Dinner	S
9 Dec 10	*	Fletchers Luncheon in the Hall	S
19 Dec 10	*	Carol Service in St. Bartholomew the Great	S
13 Jan 11	c	Court meeting and Court Dinner in the Hall	
2 Feb 11	l +	Ladies Banquet	S
1 Apr 11	l	United Guilds Service in St. Paul's Cathedral and lunch	S
14 Apr 11	l +	Installation Court and Livery Dinner in the Hall	

\* Livery and Freemen    l Livery    c Court    S Spouses included    +To be confirmed

# The Fletchers' Website

## www.fletchers.org.uk

Our website continues to develop. It is intended to be a live resource for Fletchers, with up-to-date information about our events and activities, complementing *La Flèche*, not replacing it, although you will find copies posted of *La Flèche*, including back numbers.

All the events in the Fletchers' year are listed and you can download fliers for forthcoming events and even send an email to the Clerk to book – one day we may even move to a full on-line booking system.

The Master's blog – his informal diary of everything our Master gets up to (well, nearly everything) – is proving popular and our new Master Bob Hall has promised to keep it up to date.

Recent posts include an update on our new affiliation HMS Defender and details of David Wootton's Shrieval Chain.

The members' section has a current membership list and a list of partners' first names, our Organisation and Procedures Manual and the most recent accounts of the Company and of the Fletchers' Trust. You will need a password to get in – if you don't have the current password send me an email.

If you have any thoughts on what we might include then please send them to me. I can't promise to include everything but I do want to know what you think.

If you send me pictures – and I hope you will – please note that for website purposes a low resolution is better, since they will download far more quickly and the results on screen are perfectly adequate. High resolution versions are really more suitable for making good quality prints but can be tiresomely slow to open in a website.

Please take a moment to look at your site and tell me what you think and what you would like to see included – better still, send me some material!

**Andrew Dyke**  
Webmaster  
[webmaster@fletchers.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@fletchers.org.uk)

## La Flèche—New Editor(s) found!

The Company is delighted that Ross McGregor has volunteered to take over as the honorary editor of *La Flèche*, and in view of the likely extra PR load as we approach 2012 he will be assisted by Pieter Cox. Ross has a background in publishing, so things can only get better.

May I thank all of you who contributed to *La Flèche* over the past few years and may I encourage you to keep on sending in reports and photographs to the editor for use in the magazine? It is always better to have twelve pages rather than eight, and that is only possible if there is sufficient material. It is hoped that there will be special editions in 2012, so if you have been thinking you would like to write a piece, or can think of something you would like to see in *La Flèche*, now is the time to act. 2012 will be upon us very quickly.

I wish Ross and Pieter the best of luck!

**DCG**

# Mountbatten Festival of Music

The Master, accompanied by some 30 Liverymen, Freeman and their guests spent a highly enjoyable evening at the Royal Albert Hall on 4<sup>th</sup> March being entertained by the massed bands of Her Majesty's Royal Marines at the annual Mountbatten Festival of Music.

The evening started with an excellent supper in the hall's Café Consort after which the party took their seats for a very full and varied programme of music compèred once again by Dan Snow.



The concert covered a wide range of music, ranging from traditional military music including *Sarie Marais*, the regimental march of the Royal Marine Commandos and ending with *A Life on the Ocean Wave* – which all enjoyed, despite the fact that the master spent much of his life UNDER the ocean wave! In between we were treated to some excellent solo work by a number of the more junior members of the band as well as rousing performances by the Corps of Drums – who also performed a very un-traditional percussion piece involving brooms and oil drums.

The festival takes place over 3 evenings, with all profits distributed to a number of charities, chiefly CLIC Sargent, which cares for children and young people with cancer.

For those who enjoyed the evening, or who wished they had been able to attend, the massed bands of Her Majesty's Royal Marines have planned a crowd-pleasing show as the climax to this year's Portsmouth Festivities, with concerts on Whale Island on 25 and 26 Jun, with all proceeds going towards service charities. For those unable to wait there is further information, including free musical downloads, on the RM band on their website: <http://www.royalmarinesbands.co.uk/>.

Pieter Cox

# 2010 Christmas Card



This dramatic picture of Danielle Brown, a disabled archer who won a gold medal in the Paralympics in China, features on this year's Christmas Cards. There will be a short history of the Company on the reverse of the card, with the story behind the picture, and a description of how the Company plays its part in supporting archery, particularly for the disabled, in the UK as we run up to the Olympics and Paralympics in London in 2012.

The cards will be available from the Clerk in due course.

All profits from the sale of this card go to our Charitable Trust.

# HMS DEFENDER

Commander Nick Boyd, the Senior Naval Officer onboard HMS DEFENDER has written regularly, saying:



Now that Easter is over and spring is starting to blossom, even in Glasgow, I thought it appropriate to give you a report on progress with your affiliated ship. Now that the underwater work I outlined in my last letter has been completed she is now afloat and has been moved to a 'wet dock' at Scotstoun where we will remain until shortly before our first set of sea trials; now programmed for the autumn of next year.

On the upper deck painting of the weather decks is being carried out and this explains the large tent you can see on the

flight deck in the attached photograph. The rectangular black long range radar has been fitted. To do this the aft mast needed to be swathed in scaffolding and this, as you can again see from the photographs, is still in place. Similar scaffolding is being erected to allow the Multi-Function Radar to be fitted to the foremast in the early summer. On the forecastle the Sea Viper missile silo is covered in a tent as the fitting out of this compartment continues. Slightly further forward the mounting for the main Medium Calibre Gun is just about to be machined.

Internally the majority of the cabinets that will house the electronics controlling the weapons systems have now been and the lengthy process of wiring them up continues. At least the Weapon Engineer



Officer, Cdr Peter Walton RN, has something to look at. Now that the ship is afloat and water, used in many systems



as a cooling medium, is readily available the process of commissioning these systems has started. The other photographs aim to give a flavour of how the ship is progressing. So the ship is definitely taking shape and her builders are on the cusp of starting to run machinery and bring her to life.

Most importantly are people and the first tranche of my Ship's Company have started to join and at the time of writing we are at a grand total of 7! Others will join at the rate of one or 2 a week throughout the 'summer term' to bring us to a strength of 29 by the autumn.

The ship's website is now active and is available at: [www.royalnavy.mod.uk/operations-and-support/surface-fleet/future-ships/air-defence-destroyer-type-45/defender/](http://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/operations-and-support/surface-fleet/future-ships/air-defence-destroyer-type-45/defender/)

La Flèche is the Newsletter of the Worshipful Company of Fletchers and is published by the Company twice a year in May and October. The Editor is Ross McGregor and material for publication should be sent to him, preferably by e-mail at [wrossmcgregor@gmail.com](mailto:wrossmcgregor@gmail.com), or by post to Flat 303, Shakespeare Tower, Barbican, LONDON, EC2Y 8NJ. In view of the extra editorial and PR load as we approach 2012, an Assistant Editor, Pieter Cox, has also been appointed. Liverymen attending events are encouraged to write short articles for publication and send them to the editor. Articles should be short and to the point and accompanied, where possible, by colour photographs with a resolution of 300dpi. The opinions expressed are those of the contributors and not those of the editor or the Worshipful Company of Fletchers. The closing date (deadline) for entries is 15th April which is about one week before the Installation Dinner, and 15th September, usually a few days before the Master's Weekend.